

Connecting  
 People  
 to Christ



# The Church at Antioch

Bible-based, Christ-centered, Holy Spirit-led, Mission-bound • Fellowship, Evangelism, Doctrine, Stewardship

May 2009

Volume 2, Issue 5

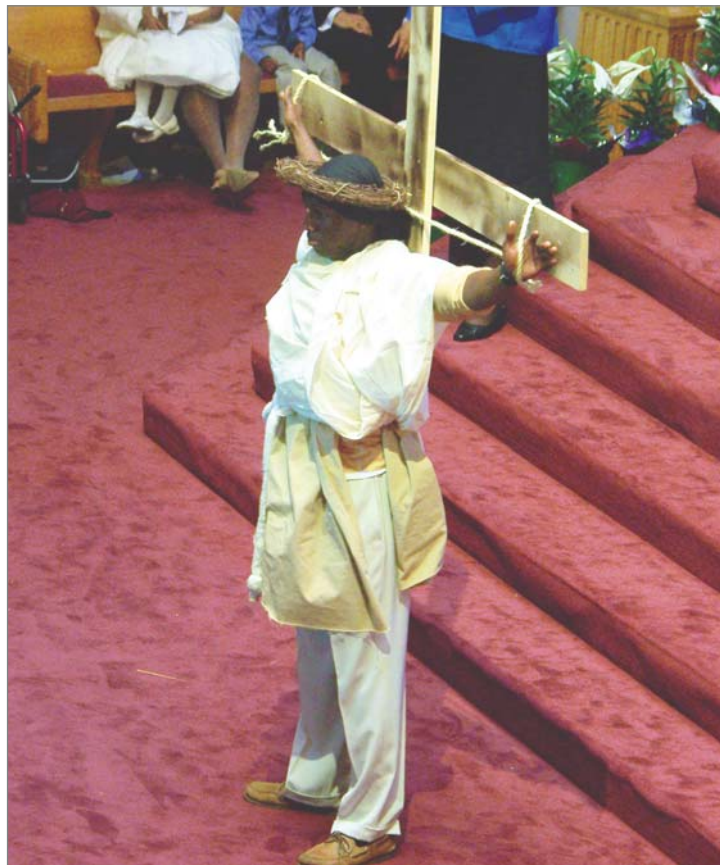
## Six yield their lives to Christ

To the untrained eye, standing on a street corner preaching when no one was there to listen may have seemed pointless, but God's Word never returns void.

That was never more evident than on April 11 when Minister Craig Johnson, president of the Minister's Alliance, preached from a ladder in front of the abandoned St. Mark A.M.E. Church, diagonally across from a known drug dealing haven.

"Brothers on that corner over there, no matter what you have done, Jesus calls you to come to him; his arms are open to you; he loves you,"

*Continued on page 9*



*Richard Corbett plays Jesus Christ on Calvary at the Easter play.*

## Senator keeps a spirit of joy

In the fast-paced and dour-faced world of the Georgia Legislature, Sen. Valencia Seay thrives with a smile.

"That's just my light shining," she said. "I refuse to let anyone take my joy."

Sen. Seay credits her joy largely to Antioch Baptist Church North, her spiritual sanctuary. Sis. Seay joined the church when she was six. This year marks her 50th anniversary as an Antioch member.

"It's been a pillar of strength for me," she said one afternoon while grocery shopping. "Going to Antioch and getting that spiritual guidance has helped keep me rooted."

*Continued on page 11*

## Pray and watch God change things!

Antioch's annual Spring Concert, featuring youth and adult choirs and dancers, kicked off with high praise April 26, setting the tone for the revival led by the Rev. Fredrick Amos Davis.

Davis, a former Antioch Youth minister, was the guest speaker during the three-day revival, which began April 27. He is pastor of First Calvary Baptist Church in Durham, N.C.

"The musicians, singers, dancers, speakers outdid yourselves," the Rev. Cameron Alexander declared after the concert. "There was a quality ... that I have not seen at that level. Singing is not hollering

and making noise; it's being used by God."

Some highlights of the concert:

- The concert opened with "He is Worthy," under the theme:

*Continued on page 3*

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



*Dear Brothers & Sisters:*

*The month of May is a time of great celebrations. It is a time to celebrate the newness of things, a time when new horizons and new beginning are fostered, a time to celebrate renewed hope. It is a rebirth and revitalization of the spirit. As we prepare for the many celebratory events coming in May, we are drawn to Biblical correlations which bring us great joy and happiness as we remember our legacy of love, faith, peace, and joy.*

### ***Mother's Day – May 10***

*Mothers all over the world will be recognized for the nurturing care that they have provided to all generations. However, who could be more revered than those Biblical mothers who in their dubious and disturbing histories gave us the Saviour of the world, thus forming the genealogy of Christ – Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary, the Mother. Therefore, on May 10, when we celebrate our mothers who have given so much for us, let us remember the mothers who gave us the greatest gift of all – Jesus Christ... and the reverence of humble beginnings.*

### ***Youth Achievement Banquet – May 15***

*Very few events are as exciting as celebrating the achievements of our youth – our future. Sharing their joys, bearing their disappointments, encouraging their dreams, and mitigating their fall, are key in defining their courage, strength, confidence, and faith. As David prepared to slay Goliath, I have no doubt that the words of his heavenly father reverberated through his heart, soul, and mind, giving him courage, strength, confidence, and faith. His aim became deliberate and deadly and his mission achieved. So, as we celebrate our youth who have made great strides throughout the year, we cannot forget young David whose achievement was a life lesson in faith and courage that has sustained Christians throughout the ages.*

### ***Pentecost Sunday, May 27***

*This is a day of hope, a festival of renewal, and a celebration of newness. Fifty days after the Resurrection of Christ, the Holy Spirit descends among the Apostles and God's work on earth continues. SELAH! There is no Biblical correlation to "the coming of the Holy Ghost." However, the joy and excitement that the Apostles experienced is shared everyday as we relive the day He came into our hearts, and God's work on earth continued – through us.*

*When we compare our programming with the events of the Bible, we begin to see more clearly that there is nothing new under the "Son." Therefore, join us for these special celebrations, and more, as we invite the spirit of our Biblical predecessors into our hearts to partake of the fellowship which they had begun and the legacy which they have left.*

*May God bless you and keep you forever in His care.*

*Rev. C. M. Alexander, Pastor*

# Teaching, preaching, fellowship

Teaching, preaching and fellowship were a major focus of this year's annual session of the 5th District of the Georgia Missionary Baptist Convention held recently at the First Corinth Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Ministering to the whole person, seminars on health care options and underutilized grants for senior citizens were among the issues addressed.

This year's convention also highlighted work being done in the district with the Rev. M. Davis, 5th District Parent Body President; Sis. Eugenia Bolton, President of the Women's Auxiliary; and Dea. John Dunn, President of the Laymen, each giving updates on the work performed this year and plans for next year.

The Women's Auxiliary is unique in that each of the ministries, including the Minister's Wives and the Deaconess, present their service using skits, readings and the march of churches - a friendly competition to see which woman brought the most guests to the convention.

This year, the new president of the GMBC Women's Auxiliary, Sis. Lois Broughton, won hands down.

# Myra Walker returns for spring concert

Nearly Thirty years have passed since Myra Walker first played for the Antioch Baptist Church North Choir.

It has not, however, taken her 30 years to discover God is faithful, she said before the April 26 concert.

Walker was first invited to play for Antioch by Everett "Duke" Ellington, a former choir director.

Ellington is long gone but for years Sis. Walker, who in the late 1990s served as director of Antioch's Adult Choir, has returned to Antioch's to help teach and direct choir members for the church's annual concerts.

This year was no different. Walker, who at age 12 played for her first church choir, re-

turned for the spring revival, bringing with her such songs as Be Blessed, His Mercy Endureth Forever and He is Worthy.

Her goal for this year's concert, she said, was to present music that is uplifting and a source of encouragement for the choir first and then those we see to minister to.

"My primary criterion for song selection is that the message is consistent with the Word of God," she said. "If that takes place, the Word (spoken or sung) will not return void." The consummate professional, Sis. Walker's musical skills have taken her to most of the world's stages from Lincoln Center (Avery Fisher Hall) to the Hollywood Bowl to Prince



*Sis. Myra Walker*

Albert Hall to the Montreaux Jazz Festival and everywhere in between. (Additional discography information can be found in Google.)

Today, Sis. Walker is Minister of Music at Fountain of Faith Missionary Baptist

Church in Riverdale, where she has served for more than 20 years.

She is grateful, she said, for the privilege to be involved in the church and various projects simultaneously because it keeps her challenged.

Most of all, she is grateful to her mother, a source of great encouragement.

In addition to her work in the church, Sis. Walker has performed in film television and CD projects, using the skills learned and honed in the church.

In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, tinkering with computers and graphic design and spending time with her son Ryan and his new bride, Stephanie.

## *Continued from cover: Pray and watch God change things*

Hallelujah Our Savior Lives. Other selections included an opening by the BWT Verse Speakers and "Jesus Lives" by the youth verse speakers.

- From Antioch's combined choirs: "How Majestic is thy Name," "His Mercy Endureth Forever," "Our God is Mighty" (featuring the Vessels of Praise dance ministry dressed as warriors), "Whatever you Want," "There is a Place," and "Be Blessed."
- There were spirited presentations by the STEP/MIME Ministry, Adult Bell Choir, Note Singers, Youth MADD for Christ Choir, and Youth Bell Choir.

- The selection "Be Blessed," which included a moving presentation from members of the Signing Ministry, filled the church with Holy Ghost



*Antioch's Note Singers perform during the Spring Concert*

fire. It was a dynamic moment of testimony in the "hook" of the song: "I pray for you. You pray for me. And, watch God change things," words felt

from the choir stand to the pews.

Pastor Alexander, requesting an encore, proclaimed: "God is in the changing busi-

ness!"

"Pray!" said Alexander. "Then step back and watch God change things."

# INFINITY PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CORP.

■ Atlanta ■ Florida ■ New York



Total Quality Management = Total Quality Service

- ➔ LEASING
- ➔ PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
- ➔ ASSET MANAGEMENT
- ➔ CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

## HISTORY

*In 1996, Infinity Property Management Corp. was established in New York. The company saw the need for effective and efficient property management and leasing in the growing commercial real estate markets through the southeast.*



Infinity Property Management is a leading retail property management & leasing company. We believe in the basic principles of property management and leasing which are to provide a hands on, proactive and comprehensive approaches to leasing and managing our clients' assets. Our leasing & management team is committed to providing high quality and professional service for all of your real estate needs. We resolve to work efficiently, effectively and with integrity to provide you with Total Quality Management and Service.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR LANDLORD LEASING & MANAGEMENT SERVICES, PLEASE VISIT:

[www.infinityproperty.com](http://www.infinityproperty.com)

OR CALL 678-564-0143



# Youth Spotlight

## Antioch's young artist

Jillian Danielle Carroll's introduction to the arts began at age 2, when she received a scholarship from the late Deacon William Harding to attend Kindermusick, the school run by his wife, Sis. Mrs. Wendy Harding.

Jillian, daughter of the late Bro. Stanley G. Carroll and Sis. Judy Davis Carroll, enjoyed the weekly visits, singing and doing other fun

activities with other Antioch children. By age three, she was enrolled in ballet at the Southwest Fulton County Arts Center in Atlanta.

"Jillian's interest in the arts has been unwavering, growing to include various styles of dance and other art forms such as creative dramatics, theater workshop, and playing piano at age six," said her mother.



*Sis. Jillian Carroll*

While in kindergarten at the Trinity School, Jillian was introduced by her teacher to the school's Spotlight On Art fundraiser. She studied Van Gogh and Monet, painted with local artist Barbara Kendall Reed and spent hours learning new techniques and

how to use different tools.

Now 9, she held her first ever art show entitled "Forever Young" on April 26.

"Jillian is inspired by everyday life and she is not afraid to show her emotions," said Reed.

Jillian's first solo show was hosted at Visual Images Design Studio.

Proceeds from the show went to the Youth Leadership for Global Health, Inc. a local non-profit run by Wilma and Guy Marbury.

Jillian, a third grader at the Trinity School, is a member of Antioch's Youth Dance Ministry and Brownie Troop No. 334. She also volunteers with Life Link of Georgia and supports the YWCA of Greater Atlanta.

# Sports leagues kick off at Antioch

Dozens of children and teenagers from Antioch are trading in their high-top sneakers for baseball bats and tennis rackets.

The church's sports ministry is working with the city of Atlanta to have Antioch youths play baseball this spring at the Ben Hill Recreation Center.

Deacon Acey Palmer and Sister Mary Palmer will lead Antioch's tennis teams.

Antioch's youth basketball teams lost in the first round of the playoffs, but head coach Fred DeVaughn said they won a more valuable prize. Six youths on Antioch's teams committed themselves to the Lord this season. Another joined the church.

"We had a lot of growth. We had kids who came to Christ.

That means the program is working," said Bro. DeVaughn. It also worked, DeVaughn said, because some Antioch members paid the \$40 registration fee required of each child to play in the league. It worked, he said, because of the parents who drove other children to practices and brought snacks to the games.

DeVaughn said he needs a similar level of commitment from parents and volunteers, particularly for practice.

"We're in need of some serious people who can teach fundamentals," he said.

Young people who are serious about basketball will be able to hone their skills at a basketball camp run by Geor-

gia Tech head coach Paul Hewitt. The camp will be for boys ages 7 to 16.

Antioch is not leav-

ing out the girls. The sports ministry will have a girls cheerleading camp in July run by Sis. Samantha Dickey, a member of Antioch's dance ministry. The girls, she said, will learn about nutrition, physical exercise and leadership.

"Cheerleading is about leadership," said Dickey, who has been an Antioch member for 10 years.

Girls interested in the camp

can call Antioch's main office.

Also, the youth will play basketball against the deacons and ministers in the Deacon William Harding Classic on May 23, which will be the same day as the Youth Achievement Banquet.

"We're going to beat up on the deacons and the ministers," Bro. DeVaughn said with a friendly chuckle.

Anyone who wants to play baseball or tennis must:

- Have their birth certificate.
- Contact Bro. DeVaughn or Rev. Skip Walker.
- Call the church or drop their information in the sports ministry's mailbox.



## ADDED MEMBERS

*Antioch added 10 members to the family in April, including seven, who were Baptized. The members, listed with their birth month, are:*

- Tiffany Evans, March
- Jackie Curry, May
- Chloe Walker, September
- Willie J. Nelson, October
- Terry Young, October
- Jayla D. Parker, May
- Durante' M. Murphy, March

*The following persons received the Right Hand of Fellowship under Christian Experience:*

- Benjamin Carter, September
- Dexter Brown, November
- Rev. Marion Kelley, July

*Antioch added 19 members to the family in March. The members are listed with their birth month.*

*The following people were Baptized:*

- La Shonda Strozier, June
- Cedric Robinson, December
- Edward Killen, March
- Jared Rose, November
- Nina Brathwaite, February
- Janae Baker, April
- Taylor Quinn Baker, April
- Douglas Gary Miller, July
- Kiersten Brown, April

*Christian Experience:*

- Endora Isom Tang, February
- Mitchell Sitton, September
- John M. Alexander, July
- Candacy Jacobs, September
- Angela Brooms, September
- Claude Brooms, March
- Tesa Smith, May
- Kayla Smith, August
- Calvin Smith Jr., September
- Ronald Elkins, April

*Source: Bonita Hammond*

# Madison House ministry— come and let God do the rest

For Minister Carlton Williams it's been 10 years of committed service to a 17-year calling of service to the least, the less and the lost.

This year marks the 17th anniversary of the Madison House and the 10th anniversary of Williams' service as the presiding minister.

"I remember the first day Minister Williams got pews and how he took the offering trays and went up and down each of the pews in appreciation for what was yet to happen even though there were only four of us here," recalled Smith during a gathering in April.

It was then, he said, that he had to answer his call to Antioch North Baptist Mission, acknowledging that "what you do for these, you do unto Christ."

Thus began the fire that consumed the Antioch Baptist Church North's downtown mission with Smith, the Male Chorus and Antioch North Baptist Mission Choirs providing the timber.

Reading Matt. 25:31-40, the cornerstone text that sparks all of Antioch's outreach to the least of these, Smith preached, "You, Me, and These."

"You and me is a relationship that is self-serving and self-absorbing, but it leaves out a very important participant in the relationship Jesus has ordained for every believer — these," Smith said.

Those who have less need the most, and we are required to look for opportunities to serve the least of these, "those who may not want to cooperate, can't reciprocate, and don't always appreciate."

Williams later testified that he "didn't realize while I was out there homeless and washing up in fire hydrants that I was training for this ministry."



*Rev. Carlton Williams*

It is that background, he said, that gives him compassion.

Williams said he carries in his wallet a letter from Sis. Karen Harris, a resident, that sums up the Madison House ministry: "I thought I had to clean up to come to God; you taught me that God would clean me up if I would just come."



# Meet Deacon Clarence Hicks

**Q:** What do you most like about serving in the Deacon's Ministry, and what excites you about being a member of Antioch?

**A:** I love being a servant and encouraging the members as I greet them, listen to them, and help them when and where I can. As a member of Antioch, I am most excited at the move of the Holy Spirit always present and evident in Pastor Alexander.

**Q:** What is your favorite hymn?

**A:** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." At the age of nine, I began listening to music on the Old Rockolla Juke Box. I loved the old jazz and blues artists, Count Basie and Duke Ellington. Later, a preacher gave me a hymnbook and told me to learn how to line hymns. I really began my love for God's Word in hymns.

**Q:** What is your favorite scrip-



*Deacon Clarence Hicks*

ture, and what advice do you have for maturing as a Christian?

**A:** Psalm 51. Growth as a Christian is most valuable when you come to realize that persecution is a stimulus for growth. It strengthens you from within, filling you with

the wisdom that comes from not only going through the trial but realizing that without the trial you would never have grown to be a wiser servant for the Lord.

**Q:** Tell us about your family? What advice do you have for raising children?

**A:** My wife's name is Mary L. Hicks. My children are Ernestine, Carlo, Gana, Gino, Gregory, Marnelaia, Alexander, David, Jamal, Mary, and Ronnie. When raising children, it's most important to be an example to them by being a responsible parent and adult. Show them the love that comes from the heart and not things.

**Q:** What is your profession, your hobbies, your talents?

**A:** I am a painter and wallpaper hanger by profession. I am also a Christian educator and teacher of deacons and laymen.

**Q:** Do you have words of wisdom that you have lived by that may help someone else?

**A:** I have learned to be careful about following crowds, all wisdom comes from God. Ask Him and He will direct your path in all things.

## Ushers and health ministries hard at work

The culmination of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. Ministry of Ushers and Health Professional's Ministries Conference held April 9-11 was like a glimpse at John's vision of "a great multitude, which no man could number ... clothed with white robes" (Rev. 7:9) as they formed a seemingly never ending stream entering the auditorium for the Worship Service of Rededication.

Antioch's own, Sister Brenda Eason, was tapped in 1994 by then GMBC Presi-

dent Cameron M. Alexander to develop a ministry to train ushers across the state.

Training occurs throughout the year at the regular sessions of the GMBC and its 12 districts and in this three-day gathering of classes, seminars, worship, and fellowship. The conference has grown so large in its 14 years that there are few hotels large enough to hold it.

If you noticed an extra spring in the step of the Antioch Ushers and Health Ministries on Easter Sunday morning, it was because a large Antioch delegation

was privileged to attend this year since it was held here in Atlanta at the Renaissance Concourse Hotel.

Antioch ushers Faye Weeks and Marie Thomas, dressed in their Sunday best, proved that it is not the uniform but the heart that identifies them as servants.

They seated and served fellow ushers and their guests at the Annual Fifth District Usher's Banquet held April 4 at Beulah Baptist Church. Only for a brief moment did Sisters Thomas and Weeks take their seats as the Rev. Jermaine H. Smith, pastor of

Pleasant View B.C., preached from a scripture very familiar to Antioch — Psalm 100. In short order they were back on their feet, first witnessing to the preached word, and then attending to others.

"We bring all kinds of things to church—snacks, toys, check books to balance," said Rev. Smith. "But the 100th Psalm tells us to bring a shouting spirit, a serving spirit, a singing spirit, a submissive spirit, and the right sacrifice as we enter into His gates."

# ELM STREET TOWNHOMES

## Brand New Luxury Townhomes

### From \$200,000

*Just Minutes From Downtown,  
Clark Atlanta University System,  
Morehouse and Spelman  
2 Stories*

*2-3 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths  
Hardwood On Main Level  
Carpeted Bedrooms, Garden Tub  
Gas Log Fireplace  
Deluxe Kitchen, Refrigerator  
Dishwasher, Stove  
Granite Countertops  
Washer and Dryer  
Private Detached Double Garage*

Located at 516 Elm Street  
Atlanta, GA 30318

Kennedy St. (off of Northside Dr.)  
and Elm Street

**FINANCING =  
OVER \$70,000  
IN GRANTS AVAILABLE  
TO QUALIFIED  
FIRST TIME BUYERS**

**Residential and Commercial Sales  
Property Management/Rentals**

*Celebrating 30 Years of Service*



C. Eric Alexander  
404.761.1222 Ext. 14  
404.849.7529



*Serving The Entire Metro Area*

**404.761.1222**



Barbara J. Alexander  
404.761.1222 Ext. 15  
404.312.7912

[www.bjarealty.com](http://www.bjarealty.com) • [bjarealty@hotmail.com](mailto:bjarealty@hotmail.com)

Developed by Bethursday Development Corporation





## Continued from cover: Street corner preaching

preached Johnson above the din of the traffic and blaring music.

Cars stopped, people came out of their houses, walkers paused, and drug dealers held off selling drugs at 12 sites in The Bluff as two sons of Antioch stood catty-cornered from each other and preached on John 3:3, compelling all who would listen — if even for just a moment — to turn their lives over to Christ.

Six souls heeded the call, and an unknown number had their hearts and minds pricked with God's Word.

As the preachers expounded upon the Word, members of the S.W.A.T. Team, Christian Education, and Minister's Wives handed out tracts, information about Antioch's services, and lunches as they talked with people.

Nathaniel, who lives in Stone Mountain said, "I know I'm supposed to be in church, and I need to take my three little daughters; they need God."

He was directed to a church near where he lives.

When asked why he had not been attending church, Troy, from Brooklyn, New York, said he couldn't answer. He admitted, "it's not just the right place to be, it's the only place to be."

*Minister Craig Johnson preaches from a ladder*



*Circle of Prayer at the Street Corner Preaching*



*Min. Charles Walker and SWAT member, Francis Woodward*

## The sound in our ears

In the beginning, there were just five members taping services at Antioch.

They were known simply as the Tape Ministry, formed by the Pastor's Support Committee and the late Sis. Sadie Raglin.

Today, the 25-year-old ministry works diligently not only taping and selling tapes of Sunday services, it tapes annual spring and fall revival services.

With the vast changes in technology and the growth of membership, the tape ministry expanded quickly into what is now known as the Media Ministry.

Under the leadership of Bro. Michael Williams, the ministry now covers all aspects of the church making sure adequate volume and sound is in place, positioning of the cameras, sound affects from the choir stand and the musicians.

Antioch members can now purchase recordings in multiple forms from cassettes tapes to CDs to DVD's and VHS. In addition, tapings of services are provided for the church sick and shut-in members. During the baby dedication services family members can purchase a copy for a small fee.

According to Williams, the ministry has grown from five members to a group of about 15 who perform different tasks.

To place an order, members must complete a request form and pick up the recording on the next Sunday for a small fee.

*The Church At Antioch is looking for you! Proud of the job you do or want to nominate your sister or brother in Christ to be featured in an upcoming issue of The Church At Antioch? E-mail your story idea to Sis. Gracie Staples at [gstaples@ajc.com](mailto:gstaples@ajc.com).*

# The seven last words

In 1990, Pastor Cameron Alexander instituted an annual service, known as *The Seven Last Words*, to help members of Antioch Baptist Church North focus on Christ's words from the cross as he suffered, bled and died.

Seven sons of the church preached on those words and their meaning on Good Friday, the day Christians commemorate the passion, or suffering, and death of their Lord and Saviour.



## **Forgiveness**

**Min. Ken Jelks** – Luke 23:34 – “The word forgive implies something given before as in foretold; Jesus on the cross gives us the benefit of grace even before we mess up.”

## **Salvation**

**Min. Carlton Williams** – Luke 23:42-43 – “There were two thieves on the cross, who has the same opportunity, but only one heard Jesus say, ‘Today...’ When was your ‘Today?’”



## **Affection**

**Min. Roderick Reese** – John 19:25-27 – “In his dying hour, Jesus remembered his mother and made provision for her. Who is standing by you? Who are you standing by?”

## **Anguish**

**Min. Brian Mitchell** – Matt. 27:46 – “Because Jesus was forsaken by God the Father on the cross for our sin, God will never forsake us if we trust Him.”



## **Suffering**

**Min. Brendan Jenkins** – John 19:28 – “Falsely accused, brutally abused, Christ said, ‘I thirst.’ For what? For fellowship with my Daddy, ‘My Father, who art in heaven.’”

## **Contentment**

**Min. Willie Rockward** – Luke 23:44-46 – Jesus's death allows us to be “satisfied with the dissertation of death because when you give your life to Christ, death is not a doorway but a welcome mat.”



## **Victory**

**Min. Charles Walker** – John 19:30 – “Jesus paid the price that the power of sin might not rule in our lives, and although the presence of sin will be here until he returns, Christ has the victory.”

## Continued from cover: State senator keeps a spirit of joy

Sen. Seay is one of the most influential women in state government. She represents portions of Clayton and Fayette counties and is vice chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus. The senator serves on the appropriations, public safety, state institutions and property, transportation and urban affairs committees. The Clayton County NAACP honored her in 2007 with its Living Legend Award.

With the Legislature in session, this is Sen. Seay's busiest time of the year. Georgia government is facing a \$2 billion budget deficit. Lawmakers must soon decide how the state should spend its share of the federal government's economic stimulus plan. Seay will be in the center of those issues.

Amid those challenges, Sen. Seay successfully passed legislation honoring the Rev. Cameron M. Alexander.

"For me, my pastor has been my strength, my guide, my spiritual anchor," she said. "It's pastor's time to shine in '09."

Born in Atlanta, raised near Antioch in Herndon Homes, Sis. Seay was so immersed in Antioch that she thought it was the only church in the city.

"When I didn't see [friends] at Antioch, I assumed they didn't go to any church."

Sis. Seay's political career began in 1992, when she became concerned about the state of the Clayton school system. She approached county school board members and felt her comments were largely ignored. Sis. Seay tried to encourage friends to run for the school board. You should run, Sis. Seay was told. She turned to her pastor for advice. His opinion?

"Go for it," Sis. Seay recalled. Sis. Seay won, becoming the first African-American to serve on the Clayton school board.



*Sis. Valencia Seay*

In 2001, she won a race to become a member of the state House of Representatives. Two years later, she was elected to the state Senate.

At the state Capitol, Seay is known as a well-prepared compromiser who has fought for women's issues and on efforts to improve healthcare. Seay is a heart attack survivor.

"I think the issues that she's played a prominent role in are reflective of her faith," said Sen. Vincent Fort, a fellow Democrat who represents por-

tions of Atlanta. "It's obvious that looking out for the least of these comes from her faith."

It's obvious, Fort said, because she constantly brings up Antioch.

"She talks about Antioch often," he said. "She loves her minister. She loves her church."

Here's more about Sis. Seay:

- She's married to Walter Seay with two children and four grandchildren.

- Her favorite Scripture: Psalms 100.

- Her biggest accomplishment: pushing to change the state flag that prominently featured the "stars and bars," which offended many African-Americans.

- She was most excited about meeting: Dorothy Height, chair of the National Council of Negro Women.

- One of her favorite moments: meeting Barack Obama on the campaign trail last year.

## Former scholarship winner hard at work

In 1995, Wendy Seay Oliver was a recipient of Antioch's Scholarship Fund. From time to time, The Church at Antioch newsletter checks in on members to see what they are up to. Oliver is now the owner of Outspoken Therapy Services, Inc.

Here's more on Oliver:

### Education

She is a former Presidential Scholarship recipient at South Carolina State University earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology. She is also an honor graduate from North Clayton High School in College Park. She earned her

Master of Science Degree in Speech Language Pathology from the University of the District of Columbia.

### Awards

Awarded the Minority Biomedical Research Grant funded by the National Institute of Health. This grant allowed her to serve as a research assistant throughout her tenure in Washington, D.C.

### Current Position

Oliver is currently licensed by the state of Georgia and board certified by the American Speech Hearing and Language Association. She is an entrepreneur in Speech Language Pathology. She runs

her private practice Outspoken Therapy Services, Inc. in Riverdale, Ga.

### Family

She is married and the mother of two children. She is the daughter of Walter and Senator Valencia Seay.

### Other interests

She currently hosts a baton twirling camp at her alma mater each summer and awards a scholarship in her name.

### Affiliations

- ASHA-American Speech Hearing and Language Association
- Healthcare Committee for Georgia Speech Hearing and Language Association



*Sis. Wendy Seay Oliver*

- Legislative Advocacy Committee- Georgia Speech Hearing and Language Association
- Seay for Senate field campaign manager
- NBASLH Affiliate

## God's Grace

### A Mother's Day Miracle

Back in 1998 I found myself traveling so much for my job it left little time for myself. I missed as many family gatherings as I did doctor's checkup. I was at a work site in Durham, N.C. on Sept. 19, when I became very ill and later found out that I was 16 weeks pregnant. I was excited. My husband and I wanted another child but knowing I hadn't had any prenatal care, made me nervous.

I had reason to be. Just six weeks later I went into labor. Doctors warned that within 72 hours I would probably spontaneously abort and if I didn't, my child would most likely be disabled or severely deformed.

I had three options: abort the fetus; go home and remain on bed rest; or stay at the hospital until I delivered. I knew that I could not abort my son and I was afraid to go home. I took the third option.

The goal was to carry my son for at least 28 weeks but that didn't happen. At 24 weeks I went into labor. My son was born weighing 1 pound 5 ounces and 11 1/2 inches long.

At first, I was afraid to look at him. I felt so much guilt. I blamed myself for his early delivery but by the end of the day, I forced myself to visit my beautiful little boy. He had a head full of black



Sis. Olivia Rencher

hair, 10 toes, 10 fingers and his eyes were open. He was like any other baby just very tiny.

Immediately after my visit, my son became sick. Over the next seven months, he had four surgeries and five times came close to death. The last time the neonatologist told me he'd done all he could do.

I began praying. I called my praying friends and asked them to pray. Within 24 hours James's condition improved. He was released from the hospital on Mother's Day in 1999.

God had proven to me once again that he hears and answers prayers. Not only did He deliver my son, He has made me a better mother and person.

*Editor's Note: If you have a testimony you'd like to share about God's Grace in your life, please email it to Sis. Gracie Staples at [gstaples@ajc.com](mailto:gstaples@ajc.com).*

## Join the challenge

Antioch Baptist Church North announced plans recently to form its own team to participate in a nationwide effort to improve the personal health of its members and the surrounding community.

Organizers said that joining the team means becoming part of something exciting, life-altering, historic, and beneficial.

By joining the team online, you will receive tips for healthy eating, exercise and dieting, organizers said.

### Why Join?

Participating in The Challenge is not just about shedding pounds though that is critical to your health and well-being. It's also about joining forces to fight the very real risk that being overweight poses to ourselves, our families, and our community.

### The Crisis

Two out of every three adults (66 percent) today are considered overweight, or even worse, obese. Even more troubling, 17 percent of all children in the U.S. are overweight. The statistics for African-Americans are even more alarming - almost 80 percent of women and 67 percent of men are overweight. Equally worrisome is that 20 percent of black teenagers age 12 to 19 are overweight, and the number appears to be rising."

To join the Antioch team, please go to 50 Million Pounds, search zip code 30318, scrolling to locate Antioch Baptist Church North.

For more information about the church team, email Sis. Regina Fuller at [antiochwomensdivision@gmail.com](mailto:antiochwomensdivision@gmail.com)

**Advisor**  
Sis. Barbara J. Alexander

**Managing Editor**  
Gracie Bonds Staples

**Editor**  
Monica Richardson

**Design Editor**  
Reggie Tolbert

**Writers**  
Betty Jo Cooke  
Vivian Edwards  
Karen S. McKinney  
Olivia Rencher  
Holly Speed  
Eric Stirgus

**Photographer**  
Darryl Speed

**540 Kennedy St. NW • Atlanta, GA 30318**  
**404-688-5679 • [www.antiochnorth.org](http://www.antiochnorth.org)**

**The Church  
at Antioch  
Newsletter  
Staff**

**The deadline for  
the June issue  
contributions is  
May 14, 2009.**