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# The Church at Antioch

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

July-September 2018

Volume 8, Issue 8

## Pastor Alexander: “A model shepherd”

August 5, the day set aside to celebrate the 49th anniversary of Pastor Cameron Madison Alexander, was deemed a special day not only in the life of Antioch but the community, state and nation.

The Rev. Edward Wheeler, president of the International Theological Center and guest speaker, made that claim because Pastor Alexander had not only served the church but made an impact far beyond our place of worship.

He likened Pastor Alexander to the Apostle Paul, whose third missionary journey, recorded in Acts 20, began at Antioch.

The text opens with Paul’s meeting with church leaders in Miletus. He reminds them of the work he had done, that he’d been faithful to God’s call on his life. He preached the pure gospel, Wheeler said, withstood opposition from the Jews and testified to both Jews and Gentiles about salvation.

“Paul had a testimony because he had done the work,” Wheeler said.

But the apostle wasn’t the only one with a testimony, he said. Pastor Alexander has been a faithful shepherd for 49 years, proclaiming the good news of the gospel.

“He’s boldly spoken truth to power, made it clear we’re all saved by grace,” Wheeler said. “For 40 years, he has comforted the bereaved, buried the dead, blessed newborns and counseled many while at the same time reminding

*Continued on page 2*

## Youth In Action

*Imagine with all your mind, believe with all your heart in Christ Jesus, achieve with all your heart. Philippians 4:13*

### 8:00 A.M. SPEAKERS



Amari Ford



Olu Baker

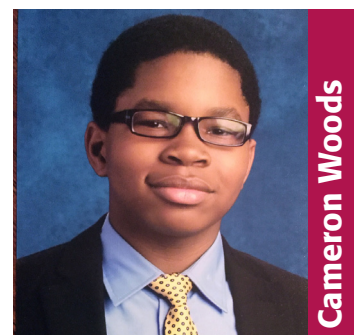


Elijah Lewis

### 11:00 A.M. SPEAKERS



Makaliah Gause



Cameron Woods



Nathan Speed

*See excerpts from speeches on page 6*

## A Message From The Pastor



My Dear Antiochians,

First and foremost, I thank the Pastor's Anniversary Committee and everyone who attended the events and worship service. You wrapped Sis. Barbara and me in a tight cocoon of love that, after 49 years as pastor of this congregation, I realize is unique to Antioch.

We have experienced a number of significant events this quarter. I especially want to thank the organizers and participants in the Mental Health Forum. Matthew 22:37 and Mark 12:30 contain Jesus's answer to the Pharisees about the greatest commandment: "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment" (KJV). Through the theme, "Breaking Barriers," mental health professionals and our Health Ministry provided resources from experts on how to heal those areas in our lives that are preventing us from truly loving God wholly as Jesus stated.

The C.M.A. Golf Classic has gotten better each year. Our beautiful venue, the Lannier Islands Legacy Golf Club, drew golfers and non-golfers alike, and everyone enjoyed the day. Most importantly, it provided a great benefit to Antioch Urban Ministries, Inc. (AUMI), which will help us continue to reach out to the least, the less and the lost.

Congratulations to our Co-Pastor, Rev. Kenneth L. Alexander, who was honored with a Celebration of Leadership Award by Atlanta Metropolitan State College. I am proud of my son for making a difference not just here at Antioch but throughout metropolitan Atlanta.

Our members continue to be involved in a wide variety of activities in various places. They take what they've learned when the church is gathered to those other groups and enlighten them as well as bringing experiences and information back to enrich our fellowship here at Antioch.

As you read the newsletter, if you are still "on the pew," I urge you to find a ministry here and get actively involved. The service you render will be fulfilling, and the fellowship will be warm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. M. Alexander". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Yours in Christ's Service,

*Alexander: Continued from cover*

us that education without God produces an educated fool. He has been both celebrated and lied on, but through it all, he has remained faithful to his calling."

Wheeler said that he has known Pastor Alexander for 40 years, and he respects him because he's confident his priority, like the Apostle Paul, is obedience to the call of God on his life.

Both were ostracized because of the positions they took. When others sold themselves to the highest bidder, he was not for sale. When others turned their backs on people with HIV, he embraced them. When some people started proclaiming prosperity gospel, he still talked about the old rugged cross.

"It takes courage to live with a shepherd's priorities because they are often in conflict with the world's priorities," Wheeler said.

Although Paul knew he would not return to Ephesus, Wheeler said, he commanded the church elders to continue the work he'd begun.

In like manner, Pastor Alexander made the decision to share the work with his son, Rev. Kenneth Alexander.

"Rev. Alexander never made the mistake of believing Antioch was his church," Wheeler said. "He's always known...it's God's church. His love of God and God's people led him to commission another leader so the ministry can continue unaffected. It's always hard to pass the mantel, but I thank God for shepherds who know to whom the church belongs."

Because of his love for Antioch, Wheeler said, Pastor Alexander could model for us what it looks like to pass the leadership mantle so the church can continue to grow.



## Back to school event a success

Efforts to provide school supplies to Antioch Baptist Church North members and the neighboring community have been a part of the church's outreach for more than a decade. Except for a change in location, this year was no different

Instead of at the church's 590 building, back to school supplies were distributed after the 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. services on July 29 at the AUMI building.

Sisters Athena Manning, Autumn Lewis, Homerzelle Gentry and the Rev. Terry Hightower led the project team to ensure 26 college students and over 200 elementary, middle and high school students had the supplies they needed to start the 2018/2019 school year.

All registered pre-K through 5th grade students received a pre-packaged kit consisting of notebook binder, notebook paper, composition tablet, scissors, crayons, big tip markers, pencils, pencil case, pencil sharpener, index cards and ruler. Colored pencils, fine tip markers and black and blue ball point pens were added to packages for students in grades six through 12. College students also received wash cloths, towels, hangers, cleaning supplies and laundry items.

The Atlanta Community Food Bank donated 200 book bags and additional care boxes which included notebook paper, pencil box, erasers and pens.

Supplies were also donated to about 40 other families who had not registered for the event.

Manning said that witnessing the gratitude shown by parents was very fulfilling.

"The team was exhausted but fulfilled," she said. "It is so good to know you are giving back to the community."



## Sisters by Choice hosts annual walk

Walkers awoke to thunder, lightning and heavy downpours, but by the time they made their way to Piedmont Park for the Sisters by Choice Pink Ribbon Walk on July 21, the rain had subsided, and the sun broke from behind the clouds.

Antioch's team made a strong showing the 17th Annual Breast Cancer 5K event. Some ran, others walked, and a few used the opportunity for a leisurely stroll through Midtown neighborhoods and back to the Piedmont Park finish line.

The Walk benefits the Mobile Breast Care Unit, the vision of Dr. Ragsbert Phillips, renowned breast care surgeon of Metro Surgical Associates. The mobile unit provides services to the underserved, including the homeless, population.

## Youth shine at Congress of Christian Education

Antioch sent a large delegation of youth and adults to the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia Inc. Congress of Christian Education held in July in Tifton, Ga.

Delegates completed certification from the National Baptist Convention to establish a school and teach courses at Antioch.

Sis. Princeanna Walker is the Dean of the Northeast Region in Georgia.

The youth were particularly active, winning in nearly every



category of the oratorical contest. They included

Logan Kirkland, elementary division; Michael Henderson,

junior division, and Rachel Henderson, in the senior division.

Rachel will go on to compete at the National Congress of Christian Education next June in Baltimore, MD. A \$5,000 college scholarship will be awarded to the winner of that competition.

Several Antioch youth were involved in the Youth Night honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and in the Children's Rally, directed by Sis. Homerzelle Gentry.

# Youth gather in North Carolina

The Southeast Region Youth Conference was held July 26-28 at Silver Mount Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., where the Rev. Lincoln C. Lee is pastor. Youth from Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and the Bahamas gathered to participate in activities designed to assist them in growing closer to Jesus Christ and becoming bolder witnesses for Christ.

The theme, "Envisioning the Future Exceptionally Through our Commitment



to Christian Stewardship: Mission," based on Matthew 25:31-40, was the foundation of the classes for children beginning at age 5 through adults. The Bible Drill, Scripture Drill, Bible

Olympics and Text Bible Drill had youth competing to show their biblical knowledge. The Great Debate gave youth the opportunity to apply scripture to contemporary issues.

The Rose Pageant featured girls 8-17 displaying their gifts, answering questions about how their faith affects their daily lives and showing their school, church and formal white fashion. A highlight of this year's conference was the election of new officers to lead the region for the next four years. Preaching and music punctuated the entire gathering from the Welcome Program by local churches on Thursday evening through the Prayer Brunch on Saturday.

# Bible school gets a remix

Vacation Bible School, held during the first week in June each year, got a remix on Wednesday nights.

Christian Education offered a 10-week VBS on Wednesday nights from July 18 – Sept. 26, breaking on Sept. 25 only to attend the Fifth District Congress convened at Antioch.

WVBS featured longer class sessions, the major feature of VBS, which allows for more in-depth study and interaction. Classes were offered for youth through adults, and as the adult attendance increased each

week, additional sections were offered.

The theme for the 10-week session was "Glow for Jesus: Let Your Light Shine" based on Matthew 5:16. The Walk in the Light series, published by Urban Ministries, Inc., focused on using one's gifts, talents and abilities for God's glory at home, in the community, and particularly in the workplace. Each lesson featured study of a biblical personality, a contemporary person and a Black history figure.

Following classes, participants marched into Fel-



lowship Hall wearing glow sticks as necklaces, headbands, bracelets or waving them to signify being lights in this dark world. One of the ministries of the church was featured each night,

such as the Deacons' Ministry and the Care and Comfort Ministry. Each ministry explained its origin, purpose and outreach activities and provided a review of the night's lesson.



## ANTIOCH FAMILY!

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)





## AUGUST

## Alexander: 'You still know the story. Tell That.'

The excitement was palpable as Antioch Baptist Church North gathered to celebrate Aug. 11 at Mt. Vernon.

For one thing, it was the 15th pastoral anniversary of the Rev. Rodney Turner. And for another, Pastor, Rev. Cameron Madison Alexander had come to preach the afternoon message. Antioch son James Hill was the guest preacher at the 10 a.m. service.

"I wanted to be here so much today because you've been through so much," Alexander said after offering greetings from his wife Barbara. "I admire you. I love you, and I assure you your dad and your mother will tell you that they're proud of you."

Then before launching into a "few scattering remarks," he added that he is proud of all the sons of Antioch and her members.



*Rev. Rodney K. Turner*

"This service today has more to do with God than it does Rev. and Mrs. Turner," he began. "God will outlast all of us."

Alexander said that because his failing eyesight won't allow him to read Scripture as he once did, he asked

the Lord what it is he could still do on His behalf. The response, he said, was "Don't worry about what you can't read. You still know the story. Tell that."

With that, he told the story of Jesus's birth, burial and resurrection. He told how he healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, straightened up a bent-over woman's back and healed another woman of dripping blood.

"He was falsely tried and accused," Alexander said, referring to Jesus. "And then on Friday, he shed his precious blood that purified our sin debt. He robbed the grave of its victory. Soon on Sunday morning, before the dew-drop kissed the ground, he got up with all power in his hand. I believe him today, and I'll believe until we all get to heaven."

## Rev. Johnson hailed as soldier at anniversary celebration

In a world that has rejected truth and adopted alternative facts, preaching is foolishness to the unsaved, Antioch Copastor Kenneth Alexander told those who gathered Sept. 23 for the fourth anniversary celebration of Antioch son Craig Johnson.

"This is not 'Star Wars' but Soul Wars, and the weapons are not light sabers, 'for we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities....'

We're in a war, and the battle is being fought for our souls," he said. "When trouble rises, who you're gonna call is not Ghostbusters, but the Holy Ghost."

Rev. Alexander, speaking at Calvary Hill Missionary Baptist Church, preached from 1 Corinthians 1:18-25.

Describing Rev. Johnson as a soldier, he walked through his journey from doorkeeper, assigned to guard the door as

an usher, to making a joyful noise in the male chorus, to the special training he received in his secular career as a federal Drug Enforcement Agent.

"God changed his title to Doctoring Enforcement Agent with experience in Homeland Security, heavenly assurance," Alexander said. Like David, who couldn't wear the king's armor, God had to refit Rev. Johnson. He had to take off the DEA uniform and put on 'the whole armor of God' because this is not a war against drugs but against the devil. He had to lay down his bulletproof vest and put on 'the breastplate of righteousness.' He had to take off his special boots and shod his feet 'with the preparation of the gospel of peace.' He had to turn in his badge and take up 'the shield of faith,' take off his protective hat and put on 'the helmet of salvation' and turn in knives for 'the



*Rev. Craig Johnson*

sword of the Spirit.'

Rev. Johnson was called by God to be a soldier not in the Air Force but the Prayer Force preaching the only way, Jesus Christ and at Calvary Hill, a place that reminds all of us of why we are here and the sacrifice of Christ for each of us.

## SEPTEMBER

*Youth In Action: Continued from cover*

### Sam Youth In Action Speakers

#### Amari Ford, daughter Richard and Franmicka Ford

As she does with her YouTube videos, Amari Ford began like this: What's Good A-SQUAD, It's your Girl AM-ARRI.... And today's theme is I-B-A.

Then, inviting the congregation to close their eyes, she asked them to imagine what Jesus looks like and what he does for each of us.

"I know I can't see him, but I know he is always with me,"

she said. "He is my Savior. He wakes me up every morning. He provides me with food & a house to live in. He takes care of my family. He covers me while I'm in school and allows me to have good BFFs. And if he doesn't do anything else, that's enough."

Ford said that God provides us with puzzles, but it's up to us to put the pieces together. "I have learned that every-

thing starts with imagination and beliefs, and with God you can turn impossible to possible," she said. It may not happen when we think it should, but He always answers.

For example, she said, when she's taking a test and asks for a 90 percent or above, He gives her the strength to study, and make the grade. And when she's performing on stage, cheering, or even

speaking before a crowd, he shows up every time to renew her strength.

It's the same when she hears her mom pray or remember her grandfather telling her to never give up and always chase her dreams.

"As Big Papa, my granddad, always said, 'Antioch, Let's Go to Heaven Together!'"

#### Olu Baker, son of Olumuyiwa and Nancy Baker

In the winter of 2017, Baker said that he was expelled from school and had to be home schooled.

"I cried for weeks," he said.

Because he couldn't bring himself to ask for help, he realized the situation was made worse, and it caused him to lose hope.

He was convinced that God had no plan for him and his relationship with the best friend he'd ever had was doomed.

"Just like Saul, my strong conviction led to the downfall of my life," he said. "Like me, Saul believed he was at the point of no redemption. I had stopped completing online homework and studying. I would sit and watch YouTube for hours. But I also opened my Bible.

"Every week I would lay in my bed and read Isaiah 43:2: 'When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the riv-

ers, they will not sweep you. When you walk through fire, you will not be burned."

Baker said he soon realized he needed God's help and believed again that God had a plan for his life.

"I want to let you know that whatever situation you are in, whatever troubles are coming your way, let God handle it because He knows all and is in total control," Baker said.

After all he went through, he

said God allowed him to attend one of the best high schools in Georgia.

"I didn't know I would even be able to speak in front of people and share my story," Baker said. "God knew, though...I ask all of you listening today to let God handle all things burdening you."

And when you're about to lose hope, read Phil. 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

#### Elijah Lewis, son of Dana and Autumn Lewis

The story of David and Goliath formed the backdrop for Lewis's remarks.

David is a shepherd who has seven older brothers who are much bigger than he is, he said. While his brothers went to fight for the Israelites, David tended the sheep with their father. One day, David went to give bread to his brothers. As he arrived at the Israelite's camp, he heard Goliath talking down about God. David got mad and decided to confront Goliath. Although

King Saul told him he was too small, David slew Goliath with just a sling and five stones.

David imagined, believed, and achieved.

As Christians, we should imagine ourselves doing good and helping others throughout life. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. didn't know how exactly the civil rights movement would go, but he imagined everyone with equal rights. He imagined an equal society, and God did the rest.

Think positively. Know that

whatever you've been praying for, you can do it. If you believe in Jesus Christ and believe that he will help you, you will succeed. Look at Steph Curry. He was told at a very young age that he was too small to be a successful basketball player, but Steph is a three-time world champion. He even has Philipians 4:13 on all of his shoes to help us to remember to believe in Jesus Christ. We all have Goliaths in our lives, but through faith in Christ, we can overcome them. Think about it

this way. The challenge is big, but God is bigger.

Last year, after nearly a decade, I decided to play soccer again. I didn't know how but I believed. I prayed before and during every drill, and I made the team. This goes to show that you can do all things through Christ.

One Friday, Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice. He didn't cower. When God gave him his opportunity, he just did it. And because he did it, you can, too.

## 11am Youth In Action Speakers

### **Makailah Gause, daughter of Sis. Sylvia S. Gause**

I live Philippians 4:13. Every time that I find myself in a situation that I am a bit nervous about, I always tell myself that “I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.” Even when I’m not nervous, I speak this verse in my head

constantly because through God all things are possible.

“We all get discouraged and that is ok, but be encouraged because God is always on your side.

Sometimes I do ask myself, if I can really do ALL things through Christ. I

have seen and been through many trials and tribulations where it seemed like God had tested my everything. But I’ve come to realize that ALL things does not mean EVERYTHING. I think that ALL THINGS are the things that God has purposed for

my life. The things that God has assigned for me to do. You see once I know what God has willed for me to do and I believe that this is what God wants me to do, then God will give me the strength to do ALL things needed to get it done.

### **Nathan Speed II, son of Darryl and Holly Speed**

My recent journey with God is the perfect example of living out our theme scripture. The dreams that I have imagined, the belief I have had, or in some cases have not had, in those dreams coming true, and my achievements have one common thread. So as God would have it, I stand before you outlining my personal story as it relates to our theme scripture Philippians

4:13.

“I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.”

When you say you can do all things, what things are you referring to?

For me, they are the things that I want for my life. My dreams of attending college and studying aerospace engineering, my dreams of playing in the NFL, my plans of living a holy and

righteous life, or even making all A’s on my report card. These are the things that I imagine I can do.

How can I accomplish these? First, I must believe that Christ is the Son of God, my savior, my strength, and my redeemer. Time and time again, he has shown himself in my life—a bridge over troubled water, my lily of the valley, my Great I Am. I am not on this journey

alone. He sends people to help me. He guides me in the way to go and comforts me with the Holy Spirit.

Second, I must do the work set before me. Hope is not a strategy. James 2:26 tells us that “...faith without works is dead. Put feet to your passion, put action on your desires, and put work on your faith.”

### **Cameron Woods, son of Dea. Vernon and Sis. Laura Woods**

Today’s scripture, Philippians 4:13, is motivation to me.

Homework, and my mom fussing at me to do right, has me stressed a lot of the time. I sometimes never know if I’m on the right path or not. But whenever I take a deep breath, and sometimes just not think about anything, and meditate, I believe Christ has just cleared away the rocks in my path. Everything just

becomes way easier, and I feel more relaxed and secure knowing he is guiding me every step of the way. And it is way more than just passing a test.

People ask me all the time if it is hard playing both the piano and the violin. It is hard, but with Christ giving me strength, I manage. Sometimes I believe that maybe, just maybe, Christ has blessed me with the gift of playing an instrument not

to make my life harder, but to help me in life. With having the gift to play an instrument, I have been ranked superior in an honor orchestra, played with the amazing opera singer Alison Buchanan, and had the honor to not only play for my school, but to play right here for my very own church.

Do any of you remember the story of David?

David needed God’s strength to protect his city

from Goliath. Instead of using the King’s armor, David had to use his slingshot and his five smooth stones.

We all have those Goliath moments in life. I have had a lot of Goliath moments. They can come at anytime, anywhere, on any day. But with Christ’s strength, you can defeat each one just like David. If you can imagine it, you will believe it, and if you believe it, you can most certainly achieve it.



# Alexander receives leadership award

The Rev. Kenneth Alexander, Co-Pastor, Antioch Baptist Church North, was among those honored Sept. 27 by Atlanta Metropolitan State College for their leadership, service and generosity to the metro Atlanta community.

The college recognized outstanding community citi-

zens at its annual Celebration of Leadership Awards, AMSC's signature fundraising event to support need-based continuation scholarships and financial assistance for Atlanta Metropolitan State College students.

Other honorees included: Vernon Keenan, Director of

the Georgia Bureau of Investigation; Eldridge McMillan, Regent Emeritus, Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia; Erika Shields, Chief of the Atlanta Police Department, and Willie A. Watkins, CEO of Willie A. Watkins Funeral Home, Inc.



Rev. Kenneth L. Alexander

# More than 100 attend Health Fair

On what was billed as Health and Wellness Day, the Antioch Health Ministry hosted a day-long health fair Sept. 22 in the courtyard and upper level of the church.

Over 100 church and community members turned out to receive free consultations, information and health screenings, including blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol.

Participants were also treated to healthy cooking demonstrations, chair massages and encouraged to prepare and complete personal living wills.



During the AARP-sponsored "Caregiver Conversations" attendees were given the opportunity to share their

personal resources and experiences. Pharmacist Autumn Lewis answered questions about medication.

Dr. Dorothy Wiggins, head of the Health Ministry, said the fair was one more way to honor Antioch's mission to serve the least, the less and the lost.

"It is truly a blessing when we can come together for an informational day of fun and fellowship while gaining the necessary knowledge to take care of these bodies and minds placed in our care by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ," she said.

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