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*Happy Pastoral Anniversary!*

Connecting  
People  
to Christ



# The Church at Antioch

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

April-June 2017

Volume 7, Issue 3



## Marcus Bishop holds first art exhibit

Marcus E. Bishop's exhibition "Beyond the Aesthetics" consists of multiple subjects that share one common thread - reflections of daily life in this country.

Bishop, an Antioch Baptist Church North member who recently burst onto the Atlanta art scene with an exhibit, his first, at the Fulton County's West End Performing Arts Center, uses bold, vibrant colors, mixed media and collage that reflect the times and forces viewers to dig deep and ponder the messages in his work.

The oppression of black men, for instance, figures prominently in many of his pieces. So does, he said, the disadvantaged, the underserved, overlooked and oppressed.

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## The seven last recorded words of Jesus Christ

Seven pastoring sons returned to Antioch on the day we call Good Friday to preach on the seven last recorded sayings of Jesus as he hung on the cross.

It was a proud moment for their father in the ministry and Antioch Baptist Church North Pastor Cameron Alexander who said the short sermons made him want "to slap somebody." Alexander said he believed for a long time that the Lord "sent me the worst preachers, self-opinionated, full of themselves but knowing nothing."

But he said, "I was moved today; what I heard was trained, disciplined preaching. Each preacher stuck to his scripture, his word, and not one of them went to Sunday morning because we're not there yet; it's Friday."

The following is a synopsis of each:



**Rev. Brendan Jenkins, Pastor of Rocky Ford BC, Dallas, GA**

**Scripture:** Luke 23:34

**Word:** Forgiveness

**Summary:** "We find it hard to forgive; forgiveness is forgetting and letting go. Jesus said to forgive them for they know not what will come of what they do. Forgiveness is giving up my right for someone else's wrong, and that leads to a fruitful life."

ing battered, bruised, and beaten. This malefactor exhibited true faith, which can see past what the flesh sees, and even in the tragedy of his today, he took the time to testify to Jesus's power."



**Rev. James Hill, Pastor of Pleasant Hill MBC, Valley, AL**

**Scripture:** John 19:25-27

**Word:** Affection

**Summary:** "Standing by the cross is not a pretty place to be, for if you stand by the cross long enough, you're going to have to suffer and cry. The further away you get from the cross, the worse your condition will be. Only a small group stood by the cross. A whole lot of folks skip Friday but benefit from Sunday."



**Rev. Terry Ladd, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Chattanooga, TN**

**Scripture:** Luke 23:42-43

**Word:** Salvation

**Summary:** "The thief on the cross had a hopeful yesterday that had turned into a horrific today of be-

*Continued on page 2*

## A Message From The Pastor



My Brothers and Sisters,

We have had a very busy quarter—not busyness for busyness sake, but serving, learning, and fellowshiping in the name of the Lord. As you read this issue of the newsletter, I hope you will be encouraged to continue serving, review and put into practice what you have learned, and rejoice in the memories of good fellowship. If you missed any of these opportunities, resolve now to set your calendar for the events that are repeated annually, and join us next year.

Thank you for joining me at the Pastor's Barbeque as I celebrate my 48th year here at Antioch and my 63rd year of preaching. I enjoy being able to leisurely spend time with you and get to know you better. Our men showed up and showed out at the Taste of Antioch giving us delectable dining that rivaled the greatest chefs in the world. The women gathered at the Sundress and Sandals Soirée Fellowship and enjoyed getting to know each other in a relaxed setting. These are the times that we get to know one another better and enjoy one another in Christian brotherhood and sisterhood.

I am overjoyed to have Minister Otis Byrd, Jr. move to a higher calling. He has been using his gifts to minister in music for many years, and he has now answered the call to preach the Word. I welcome another soldier “in the cloth” on the battlefield of the Lord. I know that he will continue to do as Psalm 103:21 states: “Bless ye the LORD, all [ye] his hosts; [ye] ministers of his, that do his pleasure.”

Yours in God's service,

Reverend C. M. Alexander, Pastor



**Rev. J. Scott Copeland, Pastor of Prospect BC, Lafayette, GA**

**Scripture:** Matthew 27:46

**Word:** Anguish

**Summary:** “How can you explain Jesus Christ who knew no sin, took on sin, and yet was without sin? My pastor reminded me that I wasn't called to explain but to proclaim. God turned his back on Jesus and turned out the lights at Calvary because He hates sin; it separates us from God. Jesus endured this separation and did not complain about being on the cross because of his love for us; what's so lovable about you?”



**Rev. Eddie Bright, Pastor of Mt. Zion BC, Atlanta, GA**

**Scripture:** John 19:28

**Word:** Suffering

**Summary:** “Troubles, trials, and tribulations are like unto suffering, but they are not suffering. Unless you have been despised and rejected as Isaiah said, been pierced in the hands and feet as Luke stated, or borne and then been hung on the cross as John portrays, you have not suffered. When you say, ‘I thirst,’ after all things are accomplished to fulfill the scripture, that's suffering.”



**Rev. J.W. Calvin, Pastor of Solomon Tabernacle BC, Vidalia, GA**

**Scripture:** John 19:30

**Word:** Victory

**Summary:** “Jesus did not say, ‘I am finished;’ he said, ‘It is finished.’ Jesus was on an assignment, a mission, and his words specify completion of everything he was sent here to do, namely paying our sin debt. You can finish because Jesus did.”



**Rev. Ken Jelks, Pastor of Mt. Tabor BC, Columbus, GA**

**Scripture:** Luke 23:46

**Word:** Contentment

**Summary:** “‘Into thy hands I commend my spirit puts the power of the prepositional phrase first, which places the verb and noun and modifies the personal pronoun second. Jesus puts where he's going in front of where he's been. God's hands represent hope, help, and security. You can't focus on where you are, but where you're going. Your present situation just sets up your future celebration.”



APRIL

## Mt. Vernon hosts SSPB conference

The Sunday School Publishing Board holds annual Christian Education conferences in all five regions of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. This year, the Northeast and Southeast Regions held a joint conference April 20-21 at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, where the Rev. Rodney K. Turner, son of Antioch, is pastor.

Several members of Antioch Baptist Church North's Christian Education ministry were in attendance taking courses toward certification as instructors through the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. C.O.P.P.

Sis. Princeanna Walker, who trains teachers for Antioch School of the Bible, attended the course for the recertification of deans, preparing herself as Antioch moves toward establishing a certified school.

In addition to a variety of classes, workshops, such as "Ministering to Millennials and Younger Generations" and "How to Grow Your School" were held. An overview of the SSPB Vacation Bible School materials generated a lot



*Rev. Rodney K. Turner*

of excitement.

A Foreign Mission Board presentation on the work in Malawi and Swaziland caused those assembled to reflect on what a blessing it is to have many of the things—such as running water—that are taken for granted in the United States.

A goal has been set to raise at least \$300,000 to continue the work in Africa as well as in Latin America and the Caribbean Islands. Spirited worship services, excellent food, and hearty fellowship capped off the conference.

## Tea Time



## Ministers' wives, widows gather at convention

More than 300 women turned out for the Georgia Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows' 54th Annual State Convention April 26-29 at the Crowne Plaza-Atlanta Airport.

The three-day convention, a favorite of Antioch Baptist Church North's Barbara J. Alexander, was hosted by the Atlanta Coterie, one of several branches in the metropolitan area.

The theme, "Having a Mind to Work—The Harvest is Plenteous, but the Laborers are Few" based on Nehemiah 4:6 and Matt. 9:27 undergirded each worship service, class, workshop, and presentation.

The convention was officially opened with the processional and presentation of

colors by the Westlake HS JROTC Color Guard, an impressive group of young people.

Dean Flora Woods and Evangelist Yvonne Collins of the Metropolitan MWMW were among the featured speakers.

Dean, who urged participants to put their all into assignments from God, said that because "God is excellent, so you must give your best to what God has given you to do."

Collins drew her comments from John 9 in which Jesus healed the blind man and said Christ will "reveal and remove the blind areas in your life so that your light can shine in this dark part of the

world where he has placed you to serve."

Classes were divided into three modules: Honoring the Temple, Minding the Temple, and Celebrating the Spirit.

As delegates complete each module, they participate in the graduation ceremony in which the Rev. Bobby Giddens, pastor of Silverleaf Baptist Church in Atlanta, was the featured speaker.

Giddens said that discipleship involves four steps: accepting Jesus's invitation, spending time in observation of what Jesus did, making a proclamation of Jesus's power, and fulfilling our obligation to work for the Master."



*The Women's Missionary Ministry of Antioch Baptist Church North has been busy assembling personal care bags for distribution at the church's food bank. Members assembled 36 personal bags in June and again during Easter for the Street Corner Preaching. They plan to continue this as a quarterly project.*

## Evangelism: “Taking it to the Streets”

The corner of James P. Brawley Drive and Cameron M. Alexander Boulevard in “The Bluff” has been called “the largest open air heroin market in the Southeast” by the media and several different organizations, including federal investigators.

That has not deterred Antioch from “taking (preaching) to the streets.”

Together with the Saints With a Tes-

timony, which regularly goes out to witness in The Bluff, several members and sons of the church sang hymns of Zion as they marched to the infamous corner and stood in front of the shell of the A.M.E. church and proclaimed the Word.

Once everyone gathered, Rev. Darrell Arnold, president of the Ministerial Alliance, preached “You Must Be Born Again”

based on John 3:7.

He emphasized that God loves each of us and is waiting for us to accept Him as our savior and master, no matter what we have done.

Although no one answered the call to come to Jesus, several people requested prayer.

## Agapé breakfast provides nourishment

Participants in the Fifth District Agapé Prayer Breakfast in April not only got a hearty meal for the stomach but plenty of spiritual food for the soul.

Speakers at the breakfast, held at Israel Missionary Baptist Church, included Min. Carlton Williams, a son of Antioch Baptist Church North, the Rev. Antonio Wyartt, pastor of Greater Beulah Missionary Baptist Church, and the Rev. Frank Jones, son of Cornerstone Community Baptist Church.

Williams’s message, taken from Matthew 21 about Jesus’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem, raised the question:

“What made this entry so triumphant?”

“Coming through 42 generations was triumphant and being born in a manger was triumphant,” and yet Jesus encountered many struggles on his journey to Jerusalem, Williams said.

Still, he overcame them in order to fulfill the mission given him by God the Father.

“If we want a triumphant entry,” Williams said, “we must not think our cross is too much to bear, keep our focus on Jesus, and do what the Lord says to fulfill our purpose.”

In another message about the cross

based on John 19:18, the Rev. Ernie Anderson, pastor of True Vine Baptist Church, said that he has seen people “build a cross, wear a replica of a cross, and even burn a cross, and every time, I think of the change that Jesus made on the cross at Calvary.”

Wyartt, who based his message “To the Grave” on Matt. 27:58, said that “because of Jesus, the grave should no longer frighten Christians.”

It was Jones who urged each person to meet and make a commitment to the risen Christ.





## Ushers get a chance to experience biblical times

The Antioch Baptist Church North Ushers Ministry traveled to the Biblical History Center in LaGrange, GA, where scripture unfolded right in front of them.

After a general introduction to the geographical region, the first stop on the April 29 tour was a typical tent dwelling. Details such as the reason for the use of goat hair in the tents, which swells when it is wet and keeps the rain out, help the modern day reader gain an appreciation for the intricate details that protected the people of God.

Replicas of a sheepfold and goat pen,

tombs, threshing floor, watchtower, olive press, and other familiar references from the Bible came to life. The kataluma or guest room in the family house being already full, Mary delivered her child on the lower level where the animals were housed at night and laid him in a stone manger, which would have had a consistent temperature, and would, therefore, have been a suitable place for a baby.

The four-course biblical meal of 15 different foods from soup to nuts may have provided the most realistic experience of the culture. The guide taught the bless-

ing, Psalm 103, in Hebrew. Different portions of the Psalm were prayed preceding the different courses. The meal was eaten without utensils; flatbread functioned as a multi-utensil.

Only three places in the world have actual artifacts from the national Treasures of Israel on long-term loan: Paris, New York, and the Biblical History Center. Rigid security is maintained in the temperature-controlled underground vault containing actual artifacts unearthed in archeological digs in natural settings.

## AUMI members recognized by the Atlanta Regional Commission

For years, Larry Brewster was a successful small business owner specializing in concrete work, but in 1983 his life began spiraling out of control.

Brewster started drinking heavily and using drugs. For years, he was in and out of jail; then he found out about Luke's Place, a ministry of Antioch Baptist Church North that helps men find their footing again.

Come July 21, Brewster, 57, will celebrate four years of sobriety.

In early May, he was one of nearly a dozen AUMI members from Luke's Place and other Antioch ministries recognized for completing a six-week recovery program sponsored by the Atlanta Regional Commission.

The Living Well Workshop is led by two certified lay leaders and promotes



*Larry Brewster*

healthy self-management.

According to the Rev. Terry Hightower,

program director at Luke's Place, the program provides participants, among other things, practical and effective job training, materials and support, and encourages realistic goal setting.

Brewster, an Antioch custodian, has been a dedicated and faithful servant since entering Luke's Place. When he completed the program and was offered a job outside the church with better pay, Brewster decided to remain at Antioch.

"God has not told me to go anywhere," he said.

Other AUMI members recognized for completing the recovery courses were Don Richardson, Darnel O'Neal, Claude Calloway, Ida Griffin, Chris A. Johnson, Karen Glenn, Tanisha Jordan, and Melomene Fluker.



# C.M. Alexander Land of Promise Fun Day Celebration

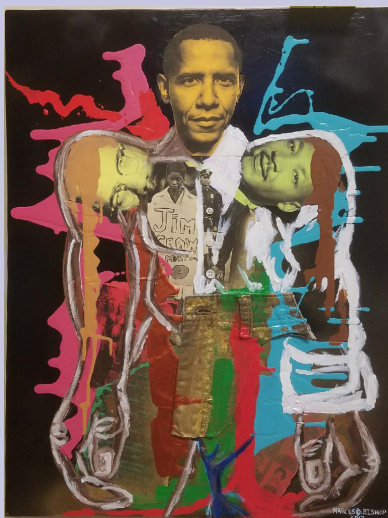
The General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc., hosted a Fun Day at the C. M. Alexander Land of Promise April 22 in Culloden, GA. Rev. Marvin Brown, pastor of St. Luke Baptist Church in Calhoun County preached “The Ways of an Eagle: God Did It!” based on Deut. 32:7-14. Brown said that the metaphor of extraordinary care and attachment with which the eagle cherished her young is an emblem of Christ’s love as he stands between divine justice and our filthy souls. “He pushes us to leave the nest of Satan in order to be free.” After the worship service, everyone feasted on barbecue, fried fish, hot dogs and hamburgers, and all the trimmings. Children played games, took hay rides and frolicked in bounce houses while others took long strolls through the more than 250-acre property, enjoying the clean air, green grass, blue skies, and true fellowship.



## Marcus Bishop - *continued from cover*

“Ms. Nina Simone once said that ‘an artist should reflect the times,’ and I agree; however; I feel an artist should reflect the past as well,” Bishop said. “Beyond the Aesthetics’ reflects both past and present events that seem to mirror each other. In essence, history repeating itself.”

A native of Starkville, Marcus Bishop, earned a BFA in painting from Jackson State University in 1999, a BFA in fashion design and fashion marketing from American InterContinental University



in 2001 and a masters of fine arts in 2013 from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Before pursuing his art, he spent 11 years teaching in the classroom, eight in the Atlanta Public Schools and 3 years in DeKalb County.

Bishop, 40, said he finds inspiration for his art from reading books, watching documentaries and the people he meets.

Ultimately, he said, he wants his art to reflect the dignity and substance of his subjects.







## Welcome, 'now let's go to heaven together'

On Thursday of Holy Week, four families were baptized and received the right hand of fellowship. As the congregation prepared for Communion, Pastor Cameron Alexander said, "Jesus had a dry run with death. He was underground preaching between Friday and Sunday, preaching to Ezekiel, David, and others. Jesus had to deal with death so that we could overcome it and live."





# *Favorite Moments at*





# *Pastor's Barbeque*





# Men and Women of Luke's and Ruth's places recognized

Antioch Baptist Church North Co-Pastor Kenneth Alexander noticed the man from Luke's place immediately. He had "messed up" but there he was walking down the aisle one recent Sunday morning to re-dedicate his life to the Lord.

"The devil in me said, 'this is going to be good' because he had particularly messed up with some of the Mothers of the Church," Alexander recalled at the start of a recent Wednesday night Bible Study.

When the man re-affirmed his faith, and asked for forgiveness, the Mothers were the first to welcome him back to the Church.

"I watched him," Alexander remembered. "I said to myself, 'If he can change, then I can change.' That's the power of a living testimony and the power of a living God. One of the benefits of being a member of this church is that over and over and over again, we watch lives change."

"I am a living witness that there was a time when some of us would not be found in church on a Wednesday night, or in church at all. It was not because we didn't believe in God. When we were at our worst, we still believed in God." It's also a testimony to work AUMI is doing in the lives of the men and women at Ruth's Place and Luke's Place, the Rev. Terry Hightower said.

"We serve a living God. One day he reached down and picked me up from the same place he picked these folk up from," he said.

Certificates of Participation in the Turn Signal Journey were presented to Claude Calloway, Karen Glenn, Ida L. Griffith, Chris Johnson, Darnell O'Neal, and Don Richardson.

Certificates for the Living Well, the Chronic-Disease Self-Management Program were presented to Larry Brewster, Ida Griffith, Melody or Melanie, Teresa Jordan, Chris Johnson, Darnell O'Neal, and Don Richardson.



Rikki Kaye Allen, a rising senior at East Coweta High School in Sharpsburg and long-time member of Antioch Baptist Church North, was crowned Miss Debutante 2017 in May by the Valorette Social and Civic Club, Inc.

She is the daughter of Bro. Ricky and Sis. Regina Allen.

Allen, 16, was one of ten young ladies to participate in the biennial program, the club's 26th, held at the Dr. Whitest Institute at A.S. Clark in Cordele, Ga.

For five months, the candidates participated in various workshops and traveled across the south as part of a Black Heritage tour.

In addition to raising money for the club's scholarship program, they performed community service and made a scrapbook of all of the activities in which they participated.

The debutantes will receive a percentage of all funds raised to help defray college expenses.

Rikki, who participated in both Antioch's Youth Choir and Teen Dance ministries, plays the baritone with the Antioch Youth Orchestra.

## Pastor Alexander's 48th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration

August 6, 2017 • 10:00 a.m.

# 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).



## What is Dementia?

Are you caring for a person with Alzheimer's disease or some other type of dementia? If so, you might be pondering a lot of unanswered questions about these diseases. In this issue of the Church at Antioch, I'll attempt to answer a few of them.

What is Dementia?

Dementia is not a specific disease. It's an overall term that describes a wide range of symptoms associated with a decline in memory or other thinking skills severe enough to reduce a person's ability to perform everyday activities.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia, accounting for 60 to 80 percent of cases. While the majority of people with this disease are 65 and older, some people younger than 65 may also be afflicted. How do we know there is a problem? In the early stages, people with Alzheimer's have mild memory loss; however, over time, individuals lose the ability to carry on a conversation and respond to their environment. Other forms of dementia include Vascular dementia, which occurs after a stroke.

The 10 warning signs include memory loss that disrupts routines, challenges in planning or solving problems, difficulty in completing familiar tasks, confusion with time or place, trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships, new problems with words in speaking or writing, misplacing things, decreased judgment, withdrawal from work or social activities and changes in mood and personality.

So what do we do? In all things, give God honor and praise; then, as loving brothers and sisters, begin to plan for the future. This includes decisions about care, living options, financial and legal matters. Most importantly, obtain care and support services for you and your loved ones, seek medical help and share your knowledge.

For more information visit <http://www.alz.org/what-is-dementia.asp>

Dr. Sheryl Heron  
Antioch Health Ministry  
Asst. Dean of Clinical Education & Student Affairs  
Emory University School of Medicine

## Walker to travel the world, studying impact of fathers in children's lives

Nigel Walker grew up without a father but has never made that an excuse to do nothing with his life.

Instead, the recent Vanderbilt University graduate, has spent most of his life excelling and trying to somehow understand what fathers uniquely have to offer their children.

"I never had the male influence that I saw in other families," he said.

But thanks to the Michael B. Keegan Traveling Fellowship, Walker will soon embark on a year-long learning expedition that will take him around the world to examine how different cultures define the role of fatherhood.

"These different perspectives will develop an understanding of how my influence can uniquely impact new communities I enter," he said.

The Michael B. Keegan Traveling Fellowship chooses two graduating seniors at Vanderbilt University each year to study abroad and develop their skills as future leaders through world travel.

Walker, the 21-year-old son of Glenna Walker and the grandson of Yolanda Walker, a long-time members of Antioch Baptist Church North, decided to study the role of fatherhood in different cultures.

As a fellow, Walker will move through each continent from May 2017 to May 2018 talking to families and community leaders about fatherhood.

But he admits he wanted to have fun, too.

"I picked places like Sao Paulo, Brazil for Carnival, Shanghai, China for Chinese New Year, and Pamplona, Spain for the running of the



*Nigel Walker off to see the world*

bulls," he said.

He also wanted to experience the East-West culture by visiting Japan and Thailand and Uganda and Nigeria.

In addition to having fun and experiencing different cultures, Walker wanted to make sure he didn't "look like a lost dog" when he touched down at airports or got off buses.

"I chose places where I knew someone on the ground," he said.

And so, at every opportunity, he mentioned the trip hoping friends knew someone at each planned stop. One friend has family in Israel, for instance. One recently moved to Australia. And another has a friend in Jordan.

"I quickly realized how widespread the reach of my friends was, and it helped me find places that would be fun to visit and would get me out of my element," he said. "What an honor it is to have a chance to explore the world."

## Rev. Jesse Jackson makes surprise visit

The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., founder of Rainbow/PUSH, civil rights activist, 1984 and 1988 presidential candidate, and, his highest calling, Baptist preacher, made a surprise visit to Antioch on May 21. Rev. Jackson was in Atlanta to receive a doctoral degree honoris causa in the area of civil and human rights from Clark-Atlanta University.

Only the Holy Spirit could arrange that he would be in the same service as our member, Jakayla Woolridge, CAU class valedictorian. Kayla is the niece of Sis. Evelyn Roberts, Pastor Alexander's administrative assistant. She is an early childhood education major and will begin her teaching career at Emma Hutchinson Elementary

School when the school year begins.

A third generation native Atlantan, Kayla said she is proud of her connection to the city and its rich history in Civil Rights, politics, education, religion, science, and the arts. Another piece of history was added as she shared the commencement service with Jackson and the two of them were honored on the same stage.

After spotting Rev. Jackson, Co-pastor Rev. Kenneth L. Alexander said that one of the perks of being Pastor Cameron M. Alexander's son is he's enjoyed many uncles.

One, in particular, was his hero.

"He is still my hero," he said, referring to Jackson. "I saw



Rev. Jesse Jackson



Jakayla Woolridge

him fighting not just for our civil rights but also for our economic rights."

Rev. Jackson said it was a blessing to be in the presence of Dr. Cameron M. Alexander and his family and advised the congregation to never take Pastor Alexander for granted.

"Men like him only come along once," he said.

Then turning to politics, Jackson noted this is Trump season but he said, "Trump is temporary, God is eternal. Deep water does not drown you; you drown when you stop kicking."

## Antioch observes annual Law Day

Metro Atlanta attorneys, judges and local and state government officials worshipped with Antioch Baptist Church on May 7, the day set aside to celebrate Law Day.

The annual observance has a three-fold purpose, said Attorney Daniel Jones: recognize the contributions of the legal community to society; encourage members of this community to dedicate themselves to justice and equality, and inspire the youth to contribute and to consider pursuing a legal career.

From abolitionist lawyer Robert Morris, the second African American to be admitted to the bar and the first Black lawyer to file a lawsuit on behalf of a client and win, to Donald Lee Hollowell, who was a major figure in the desegregation of public institutions throughout Georgia and made it possible for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to lead non-violent marches, to the attorneys within the Antioch family,

Jones said, African-American attorneys have been "committed to truth, liberty, and equality for all, not just the wealthy."

Bro. Jebriel Reeves, who recently completed his first year of law school at the University of Georgia, credited the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall for paving the way for him. Marshall led the fight against school desegregation and became the first African-American Supreme Court Justice.

"Now it's time for my generation," Reeves said.

Working in the Fulton County Public Defender's Office, where she was able to help people whose rights had been violated to starting her own firm, Attorney Sussex said that God gave her "the passion to advocate." Most recently, after President Trump's travel ban went into effect, she put boots on the ground by going to Hartsfield-Jackson Airport "to advocate alongside Rep. John Lewis so immigrants

could reunite with their families."

Co-pastor, Rev. Kenneth Alexander later framed his sermon, entitled "A Better Contract" and based on Hebrews 8:6-10, in the form of a legal case.

The fairest laws come not from man and woman but from God, Alexander said. And because none of us could keep the 10 commandments, God "sent Jesus to mediate a better contract, a covenant, not written on stone tablets, but written on your heart."

He said, "I throw myself on the mercy of the court, and because my advocate has a special relationship with the Judge, all charges were dropped, and my case was dismissed."

Pastor C.M. Alexander would later tell the congregation he has been arguing cases for 48 years at Antioch.

He said, "The only difference between a regular lawyer and me is that you can go from me to heaven."



JUNE

## Antioch celebrates its youth during annual banquet

More than 100 Antioch Baptist Church North members were recognized May 26 during the church's 13th Annual Youth Achievement Banquet.

Honorees included recent graduates Shannon Byrdsell, Nigel Walker and Kolby Morton, the evening's master of ceremony and recent graduate of Henry W. Grady High School.

Morton said the Antioch family has loved and supported him through all of his endeavors.

"They have shown me that if I put my faith in God, anything in life is possible," he said. "Without the Antioch family, I wouldn't be the young man I am today."

He plans to major this fall in mechanical engineering at North Carolina A&T University.

The trio grew up at Antioch and thanked Pastor Cameron Alexander and Co-Pastor Kenneth Alexander for the positive influence on their lives.

Byrdsell, who earned a bachelor of arts in communication sciences and speech disorder from Louisiana State University, said the lessons she learned at Antioch were a guiding force during her college years.



Although, she wasn't physically present in the church, the church was in her and influenced who she surrounded herself with and the choices she made, she said.

Nigel Walker, who was recently named one of Vanderbilt University's traveling fellows, shared the same sentiment and encouraged the church's youth to stay the course.

More than a dozen youth either matriculated to kindergarten, elementary or middle school.

In addition to Morton, 14 Antioch teens graduated from high school and plan to attend college this fall. Thirteen, including Clark Atlanta University Valedictorian JaKayla Woolridge, graduated from College. Five received master's and doctor of philosophy degrees.

## Taste of Antioch: Simply delicious

It was hard to miss the delicious aroma wafting from the 590 building. It hit you the moment you entered, testing and teasing your taste buds.

Who knew food could smell so good?

At the Taste of Antioch, members expect nothing less.

Indeed, organizers of this year's event – the fifth hosted by the men of Antioch Baptist Church North – may have topped all others.

"It was the best thing we've ever done," said Bro. Al McGuire.

More than 200 Antioch members turned out May 19 to partake of the fellowship and sample the feast on display at more than a dozen food stations. There were

barbecue and fried ribs, jerked chicken with yellow rice, meatballs, potato salad, pork tenderloin, mussels, gumbo, seafood boil, baked beans, candied yams, smoked turkey, pigs in a blanket, taco soup, pizza, baked spaghetti, green beans, chicken and tuna salads, collard greens, boiled okra, pig's feet and assorted garden salads.

Wait, there was more. Two lines led members to platters of fried catfish and salmon croquettes hot out of the fryer. The men also served up home-made pound cakes, cupcakes and tropical pie.

Senior chef Willie Sanders prepared an entire meal consisting of pig's feet, collard greens, boiled okra and down home

corn meal muffin. No, this was not Jiffy mix. Then there was representation of Antioch's three-deep with young Cameron Woods, whose cupcakes did an extremely fast disappearing act and left everyone requesting more.

Members praised the dishes saying they had "great flavor" and were "absolutely delicious."

"The men of Antioch really take this cooking thing real serious," said Sis. Marie Thompson as she ate the last morsel from her plate.

Thompson, of course, was right. Not only was the crowd the largest in the history of the Taste of Antioch, the food, as one member put it, was "finger-licking good."



**JUNE**

# Senator Seay publishes autobiography

For years Sen. Valencia Seay's friends and admirers have been urging her to tell her story.

When she finally put pen to paper early this year, the Georgia state senator and longtime member of Antioch Baptist Church North came up with a picture book: *From Herndon Homes To The State Capitol*.

The book, a full-color pictorial, traces Seay's path from the projects of Herndon Homes in Atlanta, to her current position as a member of the Georgia Senate, the first minority representative for Clayton and Fayette counties.

"It's not where you start," she said. "It's where you finish."

Before capturing her Senate seat, Seay was elected to the Clayton County school board becoming the first African-American to hold that position.

In her current role in the Georgia Senate, a position she has held for 21 years, Seay spends long days and nights under the "gold dome" working diligently on

budgets and bills, notably HB 154, which she helped pass early this year.

HB 154 allows hygienists to provide basic dental treatment to children and elderly in Georgia who wouldn't otherwise receive care.

Seay, 64, has been a member of Antioch her entire life. She was just six when she was baptized in 1959 and later married at Antioch.

Her work on HB 154 is a good example of her passion for "the least of these."

*From Herndon Homes To The State Capitol* is her way of leaving a legacy to her future grandchildren, she said.

Her advice to the rest of us: "be true to yourself and if you don't like what 'they' do, don't do what 'they' do."

"In other words, if someone is gossiping about you, don't attempt to extinguish it by gossiping about them," she said.

*From Herndon Homes To The State Capitol* can be purchased in paperback or hardback on the senator's website: [www.seayforsenate.org](http://www.seayforsenate.org).



# NBC Congress envisioning the future

The Congress of Christian Education, the educational arm of the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc. met for its 112th session June 19-23 in St. Louis, Mo.

"Envisioning the Future Exceptionally through Our Commitment to Christian Stewardship" based on Jeremiah 29:11 and 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 was the theme for the year.

The Certificate of Progress Program provides an avenue for individuals to become certified to teach. Individual churches, districts, and associations can become certified schools and offer courses accepted by the NBC by having enough individuals certified to teach courses and a certified dean.

Several members of Antioch Baptist

Church North are working on certification.

Sis. Brenda Eason, a certified teacher, instructs the Advanced Ushers course. In addition to the C.O.P.P. courses, there are workshops on such subjects as how to meet the challenges of being a single parent.

The Young Adults, 19-35, meet for iRock (I Rely on Christ the King), which includes classes and high-powered worship services. The culminating worship service incorporates the arts--music, dance, mime, drama, and spoken word.

This year, iRock expanded to have a cafe, the purpose of which included the iReach Mission Project, collecting children's books and school supplies to be

donated to Sunshine Ministries of St. Louis, which supports youth programs and literacy.

The Women's Auxiliary adopted four local women's shelters to which they donated shoes. In addition to evangelistic efforts throughout the week, the Laymen's Ministry's provided food for homeless shelters.

The children and youth have age-appropriate classes and prepare for the Children's Rally and Youth Rally. Many young people also participate in the Oratorical Contest, which focuses on the Articles of Faith, a College Fair, and Health Fair.

For the second year in a row, a Georgia student was awarded a scholarship.



# Vacation Bible School: Prepare to run



*Scenes from Antioch's Vacation Bible School*

A record 600 youth and adults turned out in June for Vacation Bible School, where the plan of salvation was reinforced and students were encouraged to stay in the race for God.

"Faith Run: On a Course with God" based on Hebrews 12:7 was a fitting theme for a week of study at Antioch Baptist Church North's 590 Building.

Finishing the race requires that we know and obey God's word.

The week of activities, which included arts and crafts and racing activities, was

led this year by co-directors Homerzelle Gentry and Jerome Trimble, chairman of the Deacon's Ministry.

Lessons were reinforced each evening as students recounted what they learned and put their talents on display. Armstrong Jones, the spokesperson for the upper elementary class, ages 9-12, said that he learned that he already had the victory. The high school students, taught by Sis. Leshia Levins and Bro. Kentrell Porch, produced a rap about living water.

On Wednesday night, the assembly was

treated to a Faith Run video produced by Cameron Woods, featuring Karen Washington and Isaiah DeV Vaughn. Prior to closing prayer each evening was the VBS yell competition: "1-2-3, who are we, the women and girls, who love to go to the V-B-S!"

The children won the yell competition when vying against the adults, and the women won against the men each night except on Friday when they had mercy on the men and let them win.

## Congress raises scholarship funds

Antioch Baptist Church North was well represented at this summer's Mt. Hermon Congress of Christian Education held June 27-29 at Zion Grove Baptist Church. Youth from 10 churches participated in the opening night, showing off their musical talent, liturgical dance, and mime.

The funds raised during the Congress support scholarships for youth pursuing a postsecondary education.

Antioch's Vanessa English taught the 6- to 8-year-olds, who studied the life of Joseph, a man who maintained his integrity even through the injustices he suffered. Classes for both the 11-13 and 14-18 age group focused on "The Power of Choice".

Alaila McKinney said she learned that "even if you study for one career in col-

lege, if God tells you to change to another career, you must do His will."

The class theme was "Doing What's Best in Times of Uncertainty," based on Psalm 9:9-10.

Rev. Paul Harvey and Rev. Michael Harris, who taught the adult class, gave a call to action for the injustices African Americans are enduring in the United States. Their topic: "God Gave Us Life... Do All Lives Matter?"

Min. J. Scott Copeland, pastor of Prospect BC in Lafayette, GA, and son of Antioch, preached the opening message. His subject, "God is our refuge in times of trouble" was taken from Psalm 9.

Copeland said that we should be like David and praise God even while our en-

emies are in pursuit of us, "for God has the ultimate victory if we don't try to take matters into our own hands."

The Rev. Emery Arnold, pastor of Philadelphia BC preached the Educational Sermon. Specifically addressing the young people about doing God's will, he said, "Be careful who you hang around; do not let them influence you to do wrong; you be the influence to do the right thing."

In his presidential address, "Facing Life's Uncertainties" based on Matt.8:23-27, with emphasis on vs. 25, Congress President Dr. Arthur Carson presented three ingredients for handling life's uncertainties: "affirm God's presence; put your confidence in God, and affirm God's power."



## Otis Byrd, Jr. receives license to preach

Otis Brannon Byrd, Jr., director of Antioch Baptist Church North's Adult Choir, the C.M.A. Singers, and the Male Chorus preached his trial sermon June 25 to a house at First Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Atlanta.

"The Power of Connectivity," the subject of his 15-minute sermon was drawn from a familiar passage in Ezekiel 37 about dry bones.

The bones represented disconnected Israel, Byrd said. And while God could have spoken life into the bones Himself, He gave his prophet Ezekiel the responsibility, authority, and power to make the bones live.

"We must learn in our lives to participate in our own deliverance," he said drawing applause.

When the bones were joined together, it did not mean they were connected.

Byrd said that "In life, closeness does not mean connection. One may have a strong foundation but still have improper connections, or worse, no connection." If you want to move forward, you must form a skeletal system, which offers support and be connected by the

sinews and tendons. "The flesh must be covered by skin, for flesh cannot remain exposed without becoming infected, and possibly destroyed. Christ must be our covering for protection."

Finally, when Ruah, the Spirit of God enters your life, you can truly live, Byrd said. Once the body is connected, one must connect with others, forming an army to accomplish great things for the Kingdom of God.

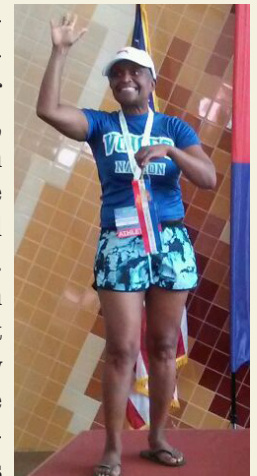
His presentation was rated by the examining committee, based on the introduction, content, thesis, exhortation of the central proposition, overall presentation, and impact of the Holy Spirit speaking through the sermon to the congregation.

The committee agreed Byrd had fulfilled the requirements for ministry.

After acceptance by Presiding Apostle B. Dwayne Hardin, the Charge to the Minister by Rev. A.W. Motley, laying on of hands and anointing by ministers in attendance, and first communion as a licensed minister, Min. Otis Brannon Byrd, Jr. was presented to the congregation.

## McCullom places in senior olympics

Maggie McCullom, a long-time member of Antioch, placed 5th in the backstroke in the National Senior Games. Beginning in 1987, what is commonly known as the Senior Olympics features



sports competitions in over 20 events for adults over age 50. This year's event was held in Birmingham, AL, June 2-15. Participants from across the United States who, like Maggie, had competed and placed in state and regional competitions assembled to prove their mettle as they strove for the gold. Maggie trains five days a week at a City of Atlanta recreation center. "I am just thankful to God that I still have my health and strength and am able to compete," she said.

**Managing Editor**  
Gracie Bonds Staples

**Design Editor**  
Reggie Tolbert

**Writers**  
Betty Jo Cooke  
Karen S. Holley  
Bennie McDonald  
Char Miller-King  
Audrey Spells-Cooper  
Gracie Bonds Staples

**Photographer**  
Jane Butler

**The Church at Antioch  
Newsletter Staff**

**Contributions by  
September 3, 2017**

540 Cameron M. Alexander Blvd, NW • Atlanta, GA 30318 • 404-688-5679 • [www.antiochnorth.org](http://www.antiochnorth.org)