

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH NORTH  
REV. C. M. ALEXANDER, PASTOR

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**OUR GOD IS ABLE. OUR GOD IS FAITHFUL!  
SAME GOD YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVERMORE.**

*Then 1877      Now 2014*

— Jude 1:24-25 —

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**Sunday, November 9, 2014  
7:45AM & 11AM Services**

**BIBLE-BASED • CHRIST-CENTERED • HOLY SPIRIT-LED • MISSION-BOUND  
FELLOWSHIP • EVANGELISM • DOCTRINE • STEWARDSHIP**

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# An Anniversary Message From the Pastor

November 9, 2014

My Brothers and Sisters,



As our Antioch Congregational Family gathers today for the celebration of our 137th Anniversary, I am deeply moved that after more than 13 decades of service, Antioch remains solid and faithful to the Great Commandment and to the Great Commission of God's church as described in the Book of Matthew. I am thankful that our founding brethren ...those eight former slaves... listened to God's voice and were obedient to that call when they organized the Bethursday Prayer Band. It remains constant today just as it was in 1877... **OUR GOD IS ABLE. OUR GOD IS FAITHFUL! SAME GOD YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVERMORE.**

Today is a special occasion for us to remember our past; rejoice in our longevity of charitable Christian Service; and a time for us to rededicate our individual and collective lives to the causes of Jesus Christ and to the magnification of God's Church.

This is also a very special day for us to reverently thank God for the pastors, deacons, trustees and other Christian servants who preceded us in providing leadership and in making personal sacrifices to ensure Antioch's spiritual future and foundation as a center of hope and a place of refuge for the least, the less, and the lost.

As pastor, it is my continuous prayer that Antioch will remain the bright shining light that it was in 1877 for this immediate surrounding community, but for the new global village wherein Antioch finds itself strategically placed for worship in 2014.

Our 137th Anniversary has been made even more exceptional by the presence of two "giants" from the faith community and incredible icons of the Civil Rights Movement: Dr. Joseph Lowery and Dr. C. T. Vivian. Both ministers have received the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and both of their lives of sacrifice and service as social activists are well documented. They are my comrades in faith and friendship. Having known and admired them both for more than 50 years, I consider it a rich blessing to count them among my very best of friends.

As a testimony to God's goodness for where we are today, I am asking each member to make a sacrificial financial gift of \$137.00, one dollar for each year that God has allowed us to grow and to give...to learn and to live by His grace. This sacrificial gift is above and beyond our normal tithes and offerings, and will demonstrate our generational commitment to carrying out God's plan.

Yours in God's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Cameron M. Alexander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Reverend Cameron M. Alexander  
Pastor

# CELEBRATING 137 YEARS! ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2014 • 7:45AM & 11:00AM

*I like the silent church before the service begins. by Emerson*

The Call to Worship

The Devotion.....Deacons' Ministry

The Glori Patri

The Processional.....The Pastor, Guest Preachers, Ministers, Church Anniversary Committee,  
The Dance Ministry

The Morning Hymn #153.....*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*.....Congregation

7:45am - **Antioch Choir, Vessels of Praise Dance Ministry, and BWT Verse Speakers**

11:00am - **Antioch Choir, Teen Dance Ministry, and Hand Bell Choirs**

The Announcements & Recognition of Visitors

**137th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY PRESENTATION**

**"Our God is Able...Our God is Faithful"**

## THE LITANY OF PRAISE

**MINISTER:** *Let us stand for our Litany of Praise*

**MINISTER:** *We are...*

**CONGREGATION:** *Bible-based, Christ-centered, Holy Spirit-led, and Mission-bound*

**MINISTER:** *We stand on...*

**CONGREGATION:** *The four pillars, Fellowship, Evangelism, Doctrine, and Stewardship*

**MINISTER:** *So, let us...*

**ALL:** *Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is GOD: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD IS good; HIS mercy is everlasting; and HIS truth endureth to ALL generations.*

Psalm 100

**THE DOXOLOGY**.....*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise Him, all creatures here below;*

*Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

## The Offertory Prayer

*O Heavenly Father, we thank you for another opportunity to give. We pray, O Lord, that as we give this morning, you will touch our hearts, re-new our mind and our spirits. Help us, Master, to give according to your will. We pray this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen!*

*Continued on next page*





Ephesians 4:1-6

DOCTRINE

OCT, NOV, DEC

### WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING & BIBLE STUDY

Weekly Prayer Meeting and Bible Study is held at the Church every Wednesday evening. For your convenience, dinner is served at 5pm and Bible classes begin at 6:15pm. These classes provide instructional and training opportunities for us all to gain deeper insights into the teachings of Jesus Christ. At 7pm, Pastor Alexander will lead the Prayer Meeting and provide guidance and spiritual insights into meaningful ways in which we can strengthen our personal relationships with God.

### TODAY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will be held today at 10am in the Sanctuary. The lesson is *"Relishing Special Places"* and the scripture comes from **Ezekiel 43:13-21**. Please join us and be renewed by the teaching of God's Word. The lesson for next Sunday will be *"Life Needs Water"*, **Ezekiel 47:1, 3-12**.

### EMPOWERMENT OUTREACH

The Empowerment Outreach Employment Ministry (EOEM) meetings are held every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month in Room 2 of the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 PM.

### TERRY WEST BIBLE CLASS

Members and friends are encouraged to join the Terry West Bible Class every Wednesday morning, from 10am to 12 Noon in Burden's Rest. Come share in the fellowship and study the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

### Worship Service Coordinator

7:45am & 11am - Sis. Regina Fuller

### Security Chiefs on duty

7:45am - Bro. Edward Gilmore, 11am - Bro. Charlie Williams

### Trustees on duty

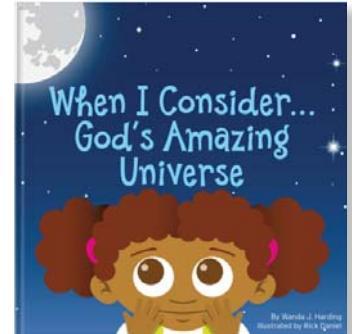
7:45am - Bro. Eric Alexander, 11am - Bro Julius Simmons

### Health Professionals on duty

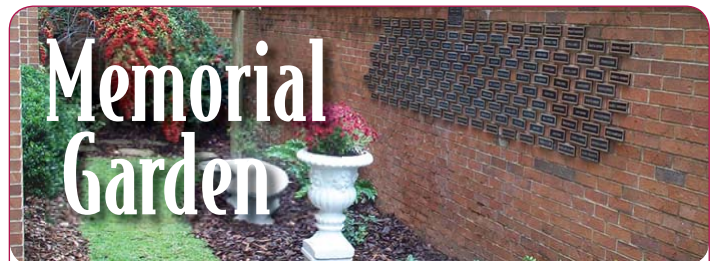
7:45am - Dr. Robin Dennis, 11am - Sis. Carol Thomas

### BOOK SIGNING

Sis. Wanda J. Harding will be signing copies of her new book, entitled *"When I Consider... God's Amazing Universe."* The book inspired by Psalm 8:3 explores



the wonders of space from a biblical perspective and offers a glimpse of our amazing universe created by an awesome God! It is specifically designed for little ones (newborns to age 4). Sis. Wanda J. Harding, a native of Atlanta, Georgia and a graduate of Hampton University and the Georgia Institute of Technology, is the daughter of Sis. Wendy Harding and the late Deacon William "Bill" Harding. Her career experiences consist of planetary, space and earth science satellite missions and launches.



If you have a loved one who is recently deceased and was a member of Antioch for 25 continuous years or more, you are invited to provide a lasting memorial in the form of a Memorial Plaque that will be mounted in the Antioch Memorial Garden located on the South wing of the church. A nominal fee of \$100.00 covers the cost of the Memorial Plaque and its mounting. The Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, November 23, during the 7:45 Worship Service. This opportunity is made available only once a year to family and friends who want the memory of their loved ones memorialized at the church. For more information, please contact Sis. Dianne Williams through the church office at 404-688-5679.

The Tithes & Offering.....Deacons & Ushers' Ministries  
 The Sermon Hymn.....*Amazing Grace*.....Congregation  
**The Anniversary Sermon.....7:45am.....Reverend Dr. C. T. Vivian**  
**11:00am.....Reverend Dr. Joseph Lowery**

**The Invitation to Discipleship**  
*(Please refrain from walking during the Invitation to Discipleship)*  
**Special Anniversary Recessional - Ringing of the Bell**

*'Til We Meet Again*



## *Our Foundation-The Four Pillars*

Fellowship is the union of Christian believers sharing their Christian experience, which is every Christian's responsibility. As Christians, we must assemble ourselves together to share, to learn and to gather strength from one another. Members are asked to attend all activities such as workshops, special services, etc., during special days or special events. (Hebrew 10:25), "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Evangelism is the means for Christians to spread the news of God's goodness. Jesus commands us to evangelize and to be fishers of men. During special events and activities, members are asked to witness to at least one unchurched person and bring that person to our special activities. John 15:15, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it to you."

Doctrine is the system of teaching by which Christians must advocate the Word of the Lord. It is a set of Biblical principles and laws by which we are governed. As prophets, it is imperative for us to understand and proclaim the basic beliefs, practices and principles that make us unique as Baptists. Revivals, special activities, and other learning experiences are available to strengthen our beliefs. In addition to our ongoing Sunday School and Nurturing Baptist Church classes (Baptist Training Union), other services are provided in an effort for us to learn more about Baptist Doctrine. Mark 4:2, "and he taught them many things by parables and said unto them in His doctrine..."

Stewardship reminds us that as Christians, we are responsible for managing God's property. Stewardship involves Christians contributing, managing their time, talents, money and resources in doing God's work. We must recognize the fact that "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof and they that dwell therein..." (Psalm 24:1). As owner, God will come back expecting us as Christians to give a report of our stewardship. As we wait for His return, we must demonstrate our commitment through our gifts of time, talent, and tithes. Members are encouraged to tithe consistently and cheerfully. Luke 12:42, "and the Lord said, who then is that faithful and wise steward who his Lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them portion of meat in due season?"

*Antioch Baptist Church North works aggressively to serve this present age as a rock that is:*

- Bible-based:** 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Psalm 119:105
- Christ-centered:** John 14:6; Revelation 17:14; John 1:1; Matthew 28:18
- Holy Spirit-led:** John 16:7-14; Galatians 5:25
- Mission-bound:** Matthew 25:31-46

# OUR 7:45AM 137TH ANNIVERSARY SPEAKER

## Reverend Dr. C. T. Vivian



In November 2013, Dr. Vivian was honored for his vision and leadership in the fight for justice when he was awarded this Nation's highest civilian honor—The Presidential Medal of Freedom. Among his many leadership roles, he has served on the board of the Center for Democratic Renewal and the National Voting Rights Museum. He currently serves as a founding Board Member of Capital City Bank, a Black-owned bank in Atlanta, and is also Board Chair of BASIC Diversity, Inc., the Nation's oldest diversity consulting firm. He has provided civil rights counsel to Presidents Johnson, Carter, Reagan, Clinton, and Obama, and he continues to lecture on racial justice and democracy throughout the world.

The New School for Social Research named Dr. C.T. Vivian "... *spiritual leader, apostle of social justice, strategist of the civil rights movement ... For decades he has been in the vanguard of the struggle for racial equality in America*", as they presented him with one of his many honorary doctorates.

Dr. Vivian, once known as a Christian journalist, is best known for his work with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As National Director of Affiliates, and strategist for every Southern Christian Leadership Conference (S.C.L.C.) organization, he truly helped change the nation. In Birmingham, his work helped to enact the Civil Rights Bill and in Selma, the Voting Rights Bill. Vivian was deeply involved in other movements such as Nashville, TN; Danville, VA; St. Augustine, FL; and Chicago, IL. Dr. Vivian had won his first non-violent direct action movement in 1947 by integrating restaurants in Peoria, IL. The summer following the Selma Movement, Dr. Vivian developed, organized and launched Vision, an educational program that assisted over 700 Alabama students to attend college on scholarship. *Vision* would later be known as *Upward Bound*. In 1970 Vivian authored the first book written by a member of King's staff entitled *Black Power and the American Myth*.

He is featured throughout PBS's acclaimed documentary "Eyes On The Prize" (1987 & 2006). PBS later produced a full-length presentation, "*The Healing Ministry of the Rev. Dr. C.T. Vivian*". He is also featured as both an activist and analyst in the series, *The People's Century* (PBS/WGBH, 1998), and in the Tom Brokaw documentary "King" (History Channel, 2008).

After leaving Dr. King's Executive Staff, Dr. Vivian trained ministers and developed the urban curriculum for seminaries throughout the nation at the Urban Training Center in Chicago. He returned to the realm of seminary education as the Dean of Divinity at Shaw University Seminary. There he originated and acquired funding for an unprecedented national level program, the basis of his doctoral work, *Seminary Without Walls*.

In 2008, Vivian founded the **C.T. Vivian Leadership Institute, Inc.** to create a model leadership culture for the purpose of training and educating the new generation of grass-roots leaders inspired to mobilize a constituency. The Institute is based out of Atlanta, Georgia. More recently, Dr. Vivian received an Honorary Doctorate from Morehouse College (2010), served as National President of S.C.L.C. (2012), and currently serves as *Dean of The Urban Institute at The Interdenominational Theological Center* in Atlanta, GA.

### Notable accomplishments:

- Served as part of a team of religious advisors to President Barack Obama during his successful 2008 campaign.
- He has advised foreign Heads of State.
- He has addressed the United Nations.
- He has addressed the World Baptist Alliance as a keynote speaker during their conference on racism in the world community. Shared the platform with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.
- Was Director of what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called "The best non-violent movement in the nation".
- Served on an independent UN Committee on Human Rights Education.
- In one year alone he was highlighted in three books, two of which were authored by Pulitzer Prize winners and the other by a U.S. Congressman: *The Children*, David Habersham; *Pillars of Fire*, Taylor Branch; and *Walking With The Wind*, Congressman John Lewis.
- Highly respected across the racial spectrum. His awards include: The Trumpet Award (2006), The National Jewish Labor Award, and The Martin L. King, Jr. Humanitarian Award
- He organized street gangs in Chicago, turning gang members away from violence, and developed a program that earned them jobs.
- He was National Deputy Director of Clergy for Jesse Jackson's 1984 Presidential bid.
- Has made several human rights assistance visits to Cuba and has personally met with President Fidel Castro.

the purchase of more than eleven “prized” acres of land located between Joseph E. Boone Boulevard and Jett Street. The purchase was considered a prize inasmuch as several developers wanted the property and its proximity to the Georgia World Congress Center. Four and half acres of railroad right of way were later purchased from the CSX Railroad. These acquisitions would become the canvas for redeveloping the English Avenue community.

In 2004, Antioch joined in celebrating the opening of the wonderful Gateway Apartment Community, a neighborhood development partnership opportunity spearheaded by Bethursday Development Corporation. The apartment community provides 261 units of quality affordable housing fronting Northside Drive. The complex is welcomed as the precursor for continued and aggressive development of the English Avenue Community. Complementing the apartment homes is a 400 car parking deck, an 8,000 square foot retail component, full sized swimming pool, and interior courts with wonderful green spaces.

In 2008, Bethursday Development Corporation completed the first phase of twenty-eight town homes on Elm Street, just two blocks west of the Church.

While many congregations as old as Antioch often split and its members and leadership reorganize or struggle with leadership directions, under Pastor Alexander’s vision, Antioch has successfully established eight missions: New Hope Mission, the Viking Mission, Lakemont Mission, Antioch Lakewood Mission, Antioch Madison House Mission, Antioch North Baptist Mission, Antioch Lithia Springs Mission, and the Antioch Community Mission at John’s Creek; five of which have become strong, thriving congregational churches: Lakemont Missionary Baptist Church, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Faith Missionary Baptist Church, Loving Spirit Missionary Baptist Church, and New Horizon Baptist Church.

During his long tenure as the illustrious president of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc., Dr. Alexander provided the leadership for the establishment of the Land of Promise Mission. All of these new church congregations serve as living testimonies that Antioch’s commitment to Christian Service is as strong, as dedicated, and as much needed today as it was in 1877 when eight former slaves came together for the first time in what would eventually evolve into our beloved Antioch Missionary Baptist Church North.

In 2010, the City of Atlanta changed the name of Kennedy Street, NW to Cameron M. Alexander Boulevard as a tangible way for the City to honor Pastor Alexander for his long and dynamic legacy of community service and civic leadership to the vitality of the City of Atlanta.

Today, no one can predict all the challenges that the Antioch Congregation will face during the 21st Century. But as members of the body of Christ known and loved as Antioch, our Congregation will use the observance of its 137th Anniversary to reflect upon our past and make a collective pledge that our membership will stand strong on God’s promises and remain receptive to the move of the Holy Spirit. We will continue to pray that our beloved Antioch will remain anchored to the traditions of our founding brethren in our spirit and in our commitment to God’s Word.

As a congregation, we will all work aggressively to keep Antioch as a symbol of hope...a place of refuge...and a living testament to the greatness and goodness of God. In so doing, we will continue the journey and build upon a legacy of strong Christian Service worthy of continued emulation as a very special place close to our Savior’s throne.



## OUR 11:00AM 137TH ANNIVERSARY SPEAKER

# Reverend Dr. Joseph Lowery



As a founding member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Joseph E. Lowery is a veteran of nonviolent activism and protest. He has fought for the rights of blacks using nonviolent tactics and ministered to their spiritual needs during times of struggle.

Lowery was born in Huntsville, Ala. His father, LeRoy, owned a store in the black community while his mother, Dora was a part-time teacher. Although he and his younger sister grew up in the cotton belt, he did not work the fields like many other blacks and was sheltered from some of the more blatant forms of racism that other blacks experienced. However, as a teenager, he was assaulted by a white policeman for not allowing a white man to enter a store first. He became more acutely aware of the indignities put upon black people and vowed to work for change as an adult.

Lowery entered Knoxville College in 1939 and majored in sociology. He later transferred to Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College and again to Paine College. After graduation, he became an editor for *The Informer*, a black newspaper in Birmingham, Ala. While working part time at the paper, he re-enrolled in Paine Theological Seminary in 1944. He met Evelyn Gibson during this time and they married in 1947.

Lowery began his work as a civil rights activist in the early 1950's. As head of the Alabama Civic Affairs Association, he led the movement for the desegregation of buses and public accommodations in Mobile. In 1957, he joined Martin Luther King Jr. to form the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of which he was its first vice president.

Lowery continued to work for change in Alabama. He challenged the way police treated blacks by exposing police brutality and advocating for the hiring of black police officers in Birmingham. Lowery and three other SCLC staff members were sued for libel by the police commissioner of Montgomery in 1959. They were found guilty and ordered to pay \$3 million. The suit was appealed and the SCLC staff was exonerated.

As the focus of the SCLC turned to voter registration and black political involvement in the 1970's, Lowery worked to elect former Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee member Julian Bond to the Georgia state legislature. In 1977, Lowery became president of SCLC and began to speak out against human rights violations in South Africa. In the 1990's, SCLC focused on economic justice. Lowery believed the elimination of poverty would solve problems such as drug abuse and crime. He led SCLC's Stop the Killing/End the Violence Campaign, a gun buy-back program that removed over 12,000 guns from circulation. In 1997, Lowery stepped down as SCLC president and was succeeded by Martin Luther King III.

Lowery is the recipient of honorary degrees from Clark College, Morehouse College and Atlanta University among others. He also received the medal for Outstanding Professional Service in the Field of Civil and Human Rights from George Washington University. He is the co-founder and chairman emeritus of the Black Leadership Forum, a consortium of national advocacy organizations.



# Historical Highlights of the Antioch Baptist Church North

*By Brother Barney Simms*

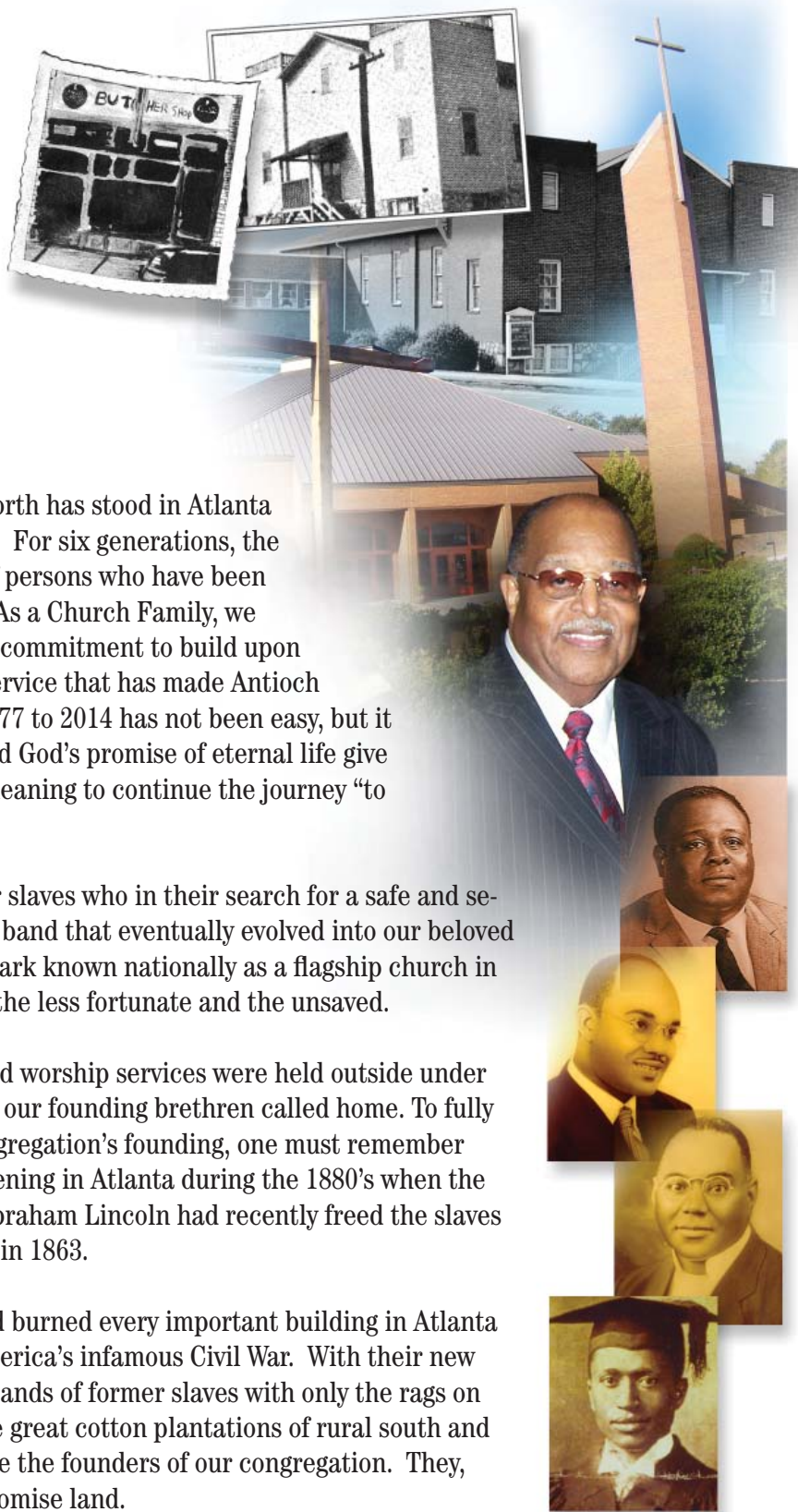
Since 1877, the Antioch Baptist Church North has stood in Atlanta as a beacon of hope and a place of refuge. For six generations, the congregational family has nurtured thousands of persons who have been counted among the least, the last, and the lost. As a Church Family, we celebrate our 137th Anniversary with a renewed commitment to build upon the remarkable record of charitable Christian Service that has made Antioch one of God's best churches. The journey from 1877 to 2014 has not been easy, but it certainly has been rewarding! Those rewards and God's promise of eternal life give our ever growing congregation inspiration and meaning to continue the journey "to see what the end will be."

The Congregation remembers those eight former slaves who in their search for a safe and secure place to praise God loosely formed a prayer band that eventually evolved into our beloved Antioch Baptist Church North, an Atlanta landmark known nationally as a flagship church in the struggle for human dignity and the plight of the less fortunate and the unsaved.

The Antioch Congregation's earliest meetings and worship services were held outside under the stars and in shanty one-room structures that our founding brethren called home. To fully appreciate the historical significance of the Congregation's founding, one must remember all the unsettling circumstances that were happening in Atlanta during the 1880's when the Antioch Congregation was founded. President Abraham Lincoln had recently freed the slaves when he signed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863.

In 1864, General William Sherman destroyed and burned every important building in Atlanta during his vivid march across Georgia during America's infamous Civil War. With their new freedom gained at the end of the Civil War, thousands of former slaves with only the rags on their backs began to relocate to Atlanta from the great cotton plantations of rural south and central Georgia. Included in those numbers were the founders of our congregation. They, too, were traveling north in search of the new promise land.

One hundred and thirty-six years ago, Atlanta was not the important city that it is today. The city was beginning to rebuild from the ravages of the Civil War. It was certainly not a city too busy to hate. Atlanta merchants and builders took advantage of the cheap labor and services of black people; knowing that they had worked as slaves with no compensation, would hire four to five blacks for the wages of one white person. As a result of this practice, Atlanta's poor white citizens were resentful and began terrorizing these former slaves for taking jobs



away from them.

Adding to the confusion, the newly organized Atlanta newspapers began to distort and sensationalize feelings between Atlanta's blacks and whites. As a result, black people became too frightened to travel distances. By 1877, black people in Atlanta had become isolated in individual living wards and areas called "colored quarters." In the quarters that became known as Fifth Ward, there was not a church close to where our founding members lived for worship and rejoicing.



A trip across town, through white quarters, to the nearest colored church was like putting one's life into the hands of the devil.

Out of this fear and the need to serve God, Oscar Young, Miles Crawford, Jordan Beavers, Lem Wright and four other former slaves organized a prayer group, calling themselves the Bethursday Prayer Band because the "meetin' be on Thursdays." As the meetings grew in regularity, so did the numbers of persons attending. The meetings moved from house to house until the group was able to use space in a butcher shop where one of the members worked.

Eight years later in 1895, the members of the Bethursday Prayer Band borrowed \$200 from the Southern Home Building and Loan Association and purchased its first property, a dilapidated basement structure at number seven Wallace Street. It was a stretch, but the group agreed to pay back the loan at \$1.20 per month.



While many of today's congregation members may get a smile from this fact, it was an unbelievable amount of money to be entrusted to uneducated, former slaves without any collateral.

The initial loan to purchase the Wallace Street property was paid off in record time in 1899. The congregation then, more than a century ago, faced the same challenge that the Antioch Congregation faces in 2014. They wondered how would they address and serve the needs of their growing membership in spaces that had become over-crowded and too small even though they had just purchased the property five years earlier.

Their dilemma in 1899 was a cause of great concern as they questioned their preparedness for serving God's people at the start of the 20th Century.



Today, the Antioch pastor, deacons, trustees, and membership face some of the same challenges and ask some of the same questions that the Bethursday Prayer Group asked. "How will we address the needs of an ever growing membership and a community challenged by economic restraints during a struggling economy?"

In 1899, at the dawning of the 20th Century, the Bethursday Prayer Band renewed that initial loan and remodeled its basement structure to adequately serve its members. In addition, they changed their name and identity from the Bethursday Prayer Band to Antioch Baptist Church and moved into the 20th Century with jubilant enthusiasm and great excitement.

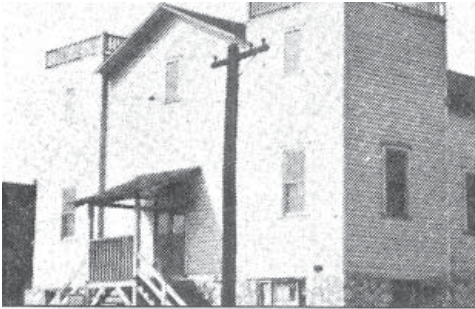
The founders should be commended on their choice of the name Antioch. It was a fine choice for it was at Antioch that the term "Christian" was first given to converts to the new faith and it was Paul's point of departure on his missionary journey.

By the early 1920's, the Antioch membership had grown tremendously and now included a few property owners, skilled laborers, and a few other persons who had been exposed to education; some could even read and write. This was a time of rapid growth and expansion for our young congregation.

The names of the very early ministers who nurtured and served as pastors of the young Antioch congregation were never chronicled in written historical documents; however, oral histories and conversations with Antioch Pioneers identify the names of Rev. Jerry Davis, a Rev. Harris, a Rev. Briscoe, Rev. B. T. Harvey and Rev. Alfred C. Williams as early ministers who served at Antioch. These preachers are warmly remembered for courageously proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to our young congregational family.

#### Antioch: 1922-1927

In 1922, the Reverend Timothy Saine was called to Antioch and guided the young congregation through the



1920's. His leadership stressed the dignity of work and honest labor. He is especially remembered today for his leadership in the construction of Antioch's first "new" building. In 1924, the congregation borrowed three thousand dollars to build its "new" church using its recently acquired properties at Wallace and Gray Streets as collateral.

Antioch's first church building was no architectural wonder, but it was a fine example of civic architecture of the day wherein everyone in the congregation and community helped to build it. It was a stark clapboard structure housing the sanctuary atop a tall stone foundation that served as the first fellowship hall.

Having been trained at Hampton and Tuskegee Institutes, Reverend Saine encouraged the membership to prepare themselves and their children for opportunities in teaching, railroad employment, carpentry and other skilled jobs. His teachings fostered at Antioch an atmosphere of encouragement and hope and accounted for a remarkable level of family solidarity and the upward mobility of the young church.

#### Antioch: 1927-1943

In 1927, Reverend Timothy George was called to lead Antioch. He provided guidance and leadership during the Great Depression when large masses of the congregational family found themselves unemployed following the famous stock market crash as Atlanta banks, businesses, and manufacturing companies closed. It is seldom talked about, but the young congregation could not meet its financial obligations and maintain the day-to-day financial operations of the church during this very difficult time. As a result, the church's property was foreclosed upon and sold on the steps of the Fulton County Courthouse. That was a sad time in the Congregation's history, but because of the membership's determined stewardship and faithfulness and the effective leadership of Rev. George, the property was quickly recovered.

By 1940 when the City of Atlanta proposed building federal public housing in the community, Antioch had regained its anchor and its voice as leader of the community. The Congregation was elated about the idea of decent public housing for the area, not knowing at the time, however, that Herndon Homes would displace their church building.

By an act of easement, the Housing Authority of the City of Atlanta paid the congregation \$8,300 for its Gray Street property. Not wanting to relocate from the area where the Congregation had been conceived, nurtured, and allowed to grow, Rev. George, the deacons and the trustees agreed to purchase available property beginning at the southwest corner of Kennedy and Lambert Streets for sixteen hundred dollars. Antioch moved its wooden sanctuary from its Gray Street stone foundation to a newly built foundation on Lambert Street. With the remaining funds, the Church made a few minor cosmetic changes to the building, but the warm spirited feeling of the congregation remained as it was.



#### Antioch: 1943-1963

Rev. T. H. George's son, the charismatic and energetic, Rev. D.T. George served as pastor of Antioch during the 1940's, 50's, and early 60's. During his pastorate, the church facilities were drastically renovated. Instead of relocating the Congregation during the Northside Drive expansion as the State Department of Transportation had suggested, Antioch remained at its location, turned its façade from Lambert Street now called Northside Drive, to Kennedy Street, which has since been renamed Cameron M. Alexander Boulevard.

Rev. D. T. George restructured the organization of the congregation because he did not want just a church full of Sunday worshippers. He organized a number of auxiliaries to ensure the maximum participation from all segments of the congregation.



Many of those organizations are still in existence today and are important to the vitality of the Antioch Congregation. Included are the Deaconess, the Matronetts, the Fisherman Club, the Service Guild, the Nurses Aid, the Male Chorus, the Progressive Garden Club. Choirs numbered 2 and 3, and the D.T. George Gospel Chorus have grown and merged into the Antioch Choir. Rev. George was impaired by a stroke and retired in 1963.

#### Antioch: 1963-1969

The Rev. W. Marcus Williams became pastor of Antioch in 1963. He was young, energetic and only 36 years old when he became pastor of the church. Rev. Williams was an excellent, yet controlled speaker, but is most often remembered at Antioch for his magnificent tenor voice.



Having found the Church in sound fiscal health, and having a keen interest in sociology, Rev. Williams geared the congregation's attention toward social programs that would benefit the membership. He organized a church credit union and a daycare center.

In 1969, he resigned the Antioch pulpit and accepted a new challenge.

#### Antioch: 1969-Present

The Rev. Cameron Madison Alexander accepted the Call to Antioch in 1969. After 45 years of incredible service, his tenure as pastor has been the longest in Antioch's history.

Under Pastor Alexander's dynamic and visionary leadership, the congregation has grown from less than 500 persons to a membership that currently exceeds 14,000. The Rev. Alexander has been the driving force in the congregation's acquiring more than 87 separate parcels of land to facilitate the daily operations of Antioch and to enhance future growth needs. Antioch's annual operating budget has grown from slightly more than thirty thousand dollars when he arrived as pastor to an excess of 5 million dollars based not on raffles, bake sales and gimmicks, but strictly upon the congregation's generous tithes, offerings, and gifts.



To maintain the many programs associated with Pastor Alexander's ministry and his vision for Antioch's future spiritual and economic development and growth, the Church staff has grown from the one part-time employee who worked when Pastor Alexander arrived to 45 full and part-time staff members. These employees manage church administrative services, plant operations, the transportation fleet, the Antioch Urban Ministries, the music program, the worship services, and the other various outreach activities and services that Pastor Alexander has organized to service the needs of the membership and community.



Pastor Alexander is credited with providing visionary leadership for the planning and the execution of the most ambitious building and land acquisition program in the Antioch Congregation's history. During the late 1970's, he led the Congregation to purchase 28 acres of beautiful, wooded land in Southwest Atlanta in the Adamsville Community.

It was to become the site of the Congregation's new worship complex. However, the Holy Spirit directed Pastor Alexander to change all of the relocation plans for moving the congregation to Southwest Atlanta when more pressing needs for serving God's people remained in our current inner city location where the congregation has served since 1877.

During the late 1980's under Pastor Alexander's leadership, the congregation began a strategic acquisition of additional properties and purchasing single parcels of land surrounding the church facilities. To the surprise of many and especially to the Atlanta business community, Antioch built its new multi-million dollar worship center, which was dedicated in 1990, and its new administrative wing the following year at its current location. The land that the church purchased in Southwest Atlanta was eventually sold and became the site of a subdivision.

Most congregations experience membership decline during large building and acquisition programs, but under Pastor Alexander's guidance, the Antioch membership quadrupled causing him to expand his outreach ministries ten-fold to meet the needs of new members and those continually coming to Antioch for help and for directions.

Inspired by the six ministries in the Book of Matthew that outline the Church's responsibility to the less fortunate, Pastor Alexander established Antioch's Urban Ministries in the early 1990's.

In 1991, as Chairman of the Board for AUMI, Pastor Alexander provided leadership in acquiring the 12-story Walton Hotel in downtown Atlanta. Valued at the time of purchase for more than 15 million dollars, the hotel was transformed into apartments for the working homeless and persons with noninfectious tuberculosis. The hotel was renamed the Madison House as a fitting tribute to the pastor whose middle name is Madison. The Church sold the building in 2012 to expand its ever growing outreach ministries.



In 1992, the Ananias House was opened as a temporary home for recovering addicts and in 1994; Ruth's Place was opened for women dealing with similar problems. Also in 1994, Matthew's Place was opened as a home for those who are HIV-positive or living with AIDS. Pastor Alexander provided the leadership for the establishment of Project Redirection as an alternative to incarceration for first time offenders, and Project Youth Redirection, a ministry to youth who struggle and live within at risk environments.

In 1997, Pastor Alexander led the Congregation into purchasing the Selig business plaza located adjacent the worship center to house the offices and administrative staff for the Antioch Urban Ministries. In addition, the old Danzig Motel that was located in Northeast Atlanta on Chapel Road was purchased, renovated, and at one time served as the home for Matthew's Place to better serve more persons who are HIV-positive.

In 1999, again under Pastor Alexander's leadership, the Congregation purchased a multi-purpose building at 590 North Avenue. Known to the Congregation as "the 590," the building hosts a variety of congregation events and is used most frequently for youth activities.

In 2001, Pastor Alexander, as Chairman of Bethursday Development Corporation, provided leadership in

# ~ A Starry Night In December ~

A Christmas Fellowship and Dinner-Dance  
Sponsored by the Antioch Urban Ministries, Inc.  
and The Visitors Ministry  
*for the*  
**ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH NORTH FAMILY**

**Friday, December 5, 2014, 7:30 PM**

*at the*

***Georgia Railroad Freight Depot***

**65 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive • Atlanta, GA 30312**

**Dress: Holiday Evening Attire**

**The cost is \$45.00 per person (Adults Only)**

Tickets are available in the narthex after each worship service. For more information, please contact Sister Joy Rollins at 404-223-5870 or Deacon Benny Williams at 404-688-5679.



*Proceeds benefit the Antioch Urban Ministries, Inc. and the Christmas Toy Giveaway*



# Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



*Rev. and Mrs. C. M. Alexander*

The Antioch Church Family will celebrate the **60th Wedding Anniversary** of Pastor and Mrs. Cameron M. Alexander on Sunday, November 23, 2014, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. **A Sacred Ceremony and Jubilant Reception** will be made special by the presence of the Alexander's family, friends, and the entire Antioch congregation. Please mark your calendar for this milestone event in the lives of our beloved Pastor and his beautiful wife, Barbara!

## **PARENTS/STUDENTS!**

If you are a parent or student in the 11th or 12th grade anticipating entering a school of higher learning after graduating; or a sophomore, junior, or senior presently attending college; and a member of Antioch Baptist Church North, the Scholarship Ministry has planned a Fall Parent & Student Scholarship Support Evening just for YOU! In order for our church family to help support your post secondary success ...you must mark your calendar now for Thursday, November 20, 2014, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. You must be present or have someone to represent you at this important meeting. Any additional information needed, you may contact Sis. Wendy Harding or Dea. Jerome Trimble.

## **THE BETHURSDAY STORY, PART 2!**

The **FAMILY Ministry** will present the **MADD for Christ Ministry** in a production entitled "**The Bethursday Story**", Part II. This exciting play depicts the history of Antioch Baptist Church North. Members and friends are invited to share in the fellowship, enjoy the delicious food and the production on Friday, November 14, 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

## **'TIS THE SEASON OF GIVING!**

Please start bringing your canned goods and non-perishable items to fill our Thanksgiving boxes so that Antioch can help those less fortunate to experience a joyful Thanksgiving. Receptacles will be placed around the church to receive your donations.

## **NEW AND ADDED MEMBERS**

**ATTENTION!! ALL NEW AND ADDED MEMBERS!!** If you joined Antioch between 2011 and 2014, please meet with the Added Members Committee today in the sanctuary down front after each worship service. Plans are being discussed for an awesome Added Members Recognition Day on Sunday, December 14, during the 7:45 and the 11:00 a.m. worship services. Added Members will be asked to participate in several capacities as part of the Sunday morning worship services. Rehearsals for the Added Members Choir are scheduled for November 10 and 17, at 6:30 p.m. For more detailed information, please contact Sis. Elveta Cossie or Sis. Marsha McCracken through the church office at 404-688-5679.

## Care & Comfort Ministry Sick & Shut-In List

### Members in Hospitals

Sis. Virginia Hall - Atlanta Medical Hospital, Rm 867

### Members in Nursing Homes & Rehabilitation Centers

Sis. Alice Arline - BrightMore Center, Rm. 310, Griffin, GA  
Bro. Thirus Brinkley - Manor Care of Decatur, Decatur, Rm 149  
Sis Robertine Bryant - UniHealth Post-Acute Care, Decatur, Rm 216  
Bro. Freddie Chesson - Peregrine's Landing at Peachtree Creek, Smyrna  
Mother Mattie Chivers - Summerset Assisted Living, Atlanta Rm 1C  
Sis. Alice Debate - A.G. Rhodes Nursing Home, Atlanta Rm G3  
Bro. Louis Durald - Quest Village, Atlanta, Apartment 7  
Sis. Lillian Edinburgh - Genesis Healthcare, Riverdale, Rm W16  
Sis. Linda Harper - The Atlanta Hope Lodge, Decatur Rm 310  
Sis. Bettye Harris - Nursecare of Buckhead, Atlanta Rm 205  
Sis. Billie Hartley - College Park Healthcare Center, Rm 215  
Mother Mary Hood - Signature Healthcare of Buckhead, Rm 406  
Mother Elizabeth Johnson - Manor Care of Decatur, Decatur, Rm 235  
Sis. Rosalie Thomas - Summerset Assisted Living, Atlanta  
Bro. Dallas Tucker - Sadie G. Mays Rehabilitation Center, Atlanta, Rm C21  
Mother Lula West - Traditions Health and Rehab, Rm G11  
Sis. Roselle Wright - UniHealth Post-Acute Care, Fairburn, Rm 211

### Members Convalescing at Home

Sis. Zeporia Alexander	Sis. Pearla Holmes
Sis. Rosa Ashe	Sis. Gwendolyn Johnson
Sis. Margaret Buckholt	Bro. Rufus Kelly
Dea. Nesby Cain	Bro. Phillip Lyde
Bro. Henry Claybrook	Sis. Sylvia McClain
Sis. Deborah Cleveland	Bro. Carl Miller
Sis. Miriam Crawford	Sis. Ramona Moore
Sis. Arnecia Curtis	Sis. Cynthia Price
Sis. Doris Dennis	Sis. Essie Samuels
Sis. Roberstine Ervin	Bro. Fred Samuels, Jr.
Sis. Minnie George	Sis. Sheila Sanders
Bro. Collier Glover	Sis. Candace Scott
Bro. Paul Graham	Mother Ernestine Shaw
Bro. Randall Griffin	Sis. Catherine Smith
Sis. Deloris Harris	Mother Rosa Smith

Mother Marie Walker  
Sis. Mae Weaver  
Sis. Annette Webb  
Mother Lillie Willis

## Because Antioch Cares...

**TELEPHONE HOPE LINE MINISTRY** offers prayer and confidential support. The phone number is 404-522-HOPE(4673).

### HUMAN SERVICES MINISTRY

For the week ending November 1, 2014, 468 food boxes were distributed. The value of the groceries was \$11,700. A total of 7,723 pounds of food was received for distribution, 489 meals served to AUMI residents, and 346 community meals served.

### CLOTHING BANK

Thirty-three (33) families received goods through the Clothing Bank.

*Beloved, I wish above all things that  
thou mayest prosper and be in health,  
even as thy soul prospereth.*

3 John 1:2

