

**INSIDE**  
2  
3  
4  
5  
11

Message from the Pastor  
Women Div. Culmination  
GMBC Officers Installed  
Invitation to God's Table  
Seven Last Words

**STEWARDSHIP**  
*Women's Division*  
JANUARY-MARCH RUTH 1:16

*He is Risen!*

*Connecting  
People  
to Christ*



# The Church at Antioch

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

January-March 2013

Volume 5, Issue 2

**7:45a.m.**

## Living surrendered

Dr. Margaret Weaver was the keynote speaker during the 7:45a.m. culmination service April 7 when Sis. Barbara Alexander, wife of Pastor Cameron Alexander, passed the leadership torch from the Women's Division to the Antioch men.

The stirring service marked the end of three months in which the wom-

*Continued on page 3*



*(W.I.S.E.) Women's Inspirational Senior Ensemble performs during the Women Division Culmination.*

**11:00a.m.**

## Following God's plan

Sharing portions of her personal testimony, Sis. Valencia Seay, Georgia State Senator representing District 34, encouraged the congregation to put Jesus first in every area of life.

Jesus, "Born a King, died a Savior, rose a Redeemer," has always been foremost in her life, she said. "The first Jesus I saw was in my

*Continued on page 3*

# Easter Sunday-Christ is risen!

As on other Sabbaths, two sermons were preached on Easter Sunday.

One, by the Rev. Kenneth Alexander, was taken from Matthew 27: 51-53; and the other, by the Rev. Craig Johnson, came from Luke 24: 1-7.

And yet, there was only one message: He got up.

Because Christ got up, Alexander said, Christians can also get up from hurt and despair.

That theme was continued during the 11 a.m. service, when Johnson

preached.

Johnson said that the death of Jesus must have left his followers in deep despair. But if history's record had closed with the tomb, he said, life for us would have ended there, too.

The resurrection that followed, however, transformed death into life and confirms Jesus is the son God and that our sin debt has been paid, he said.

"Christ's resurrection declares he's the judge who will one day judge the world," Johnson said.

Johnson said that Satan would have us believe that the disciples took Jesus' body from the tomb, and that Jesus didn't really die.

But on the third day of the week, three days after his death, Jesus rose and because he did, the stones which are present in all of our lives can be rolled away.

Johnson recounted times when God showed up in his own life, saving him from a bullet and restoring his health

*Continued on page 2*

## A Message From The Pastor



My Brothers and Sisters:

The bond of the Antioch Sisterhood is incredible! That bond was never more apparent than it was during the first quarter of this year. The Women of Antioch were united as they provided leadership for our congregation during January, February and March with an emphasis on the importance of FELLOWSHIP as a significant pillar in the growth and vitality of the Church.

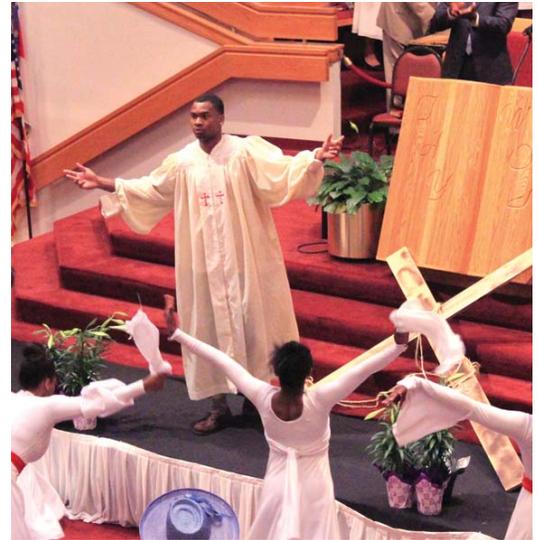
Sister Barbara Alexander, Chairperson for the Women’s Division and Sister Jonetta Booker, Coordinator of Activities for the Division, and their leadership team are to be commended for the quality of activities that engaged the sisters around a central purpose. The objective defined in Joshua 1:9 was to “...Be strong and courageous and not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

This edition of the *Church at Antioch* revisits many of these now memorable activities from the first quarter of Vision 2013. The events encouraged, inspired and motivated the sisterhood into understanding that one’s faith will help to overcome obstacles; especially knowing that God has a great plan for each of our lives. All we have to do is trust in Him for all of our needs.

As a point of personal privilege, I would be remiss if I did not offer a very heartfelt note of thanks for the great outpouring of love and admiration that the sisters shared with my wife at the *Hattitude Tea* at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in celebration of her birthday. The gracious generosity of the Women of Antioch delighted Mrs. A, pleased every member of our family and reminded me of how God has blessed my life with an adorable and extremely loving wife for almost 59 years and the joy to serve as pastor of Antioch for 43 years. It is obvious that I am experiencing the favor of God. It remains my prayer that every member of Antioch will work to have a true spirit of gratitude as we all pursue a deeper relationship with God.

Reverend C. M. Alexander, Pastor

*Continued from cover*



*Antioch members' Easter presentation*

after surgery.

“When we get to heaven we will find out just how many difficulties God rolled from our lives,” Johnson said. “The reason I know is He rolled away the stones yesterday. He rolled away stones five years ago.”

Burdens, he said, are temporary “Our sins are forgiven. He’s alive.”

### A MOMENT IN BLACK HISTORY Xernona Clayton



A civil rights leader and pioneering broadcast journalist, Clayton is best known as the founder and CEO of the Trumpet Awards, which spotlights the accomplishments of African-Americans.

She is also the driving force behind the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta. Before moving to Atlanta in 1965 to organize events for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Clayton worked undercover for the Chicago Urban League investigating employment discrimination. In 1966, she helped force the desegregation of all Atlanta hospitals.

*Continued from cover: 7:45AM Service*

en of Antioch attended to their spiritual, physical and emotional wellbeing. They kicked the quarter off with a prayer breakfast. Other highlights included a black history tour in Charleston, S.C., and a tea celebrating the birthday of Sis. Alexander.

But on this Sunday, they paused to give God praise and, in the words of Sis. Weaver, to rejoice and be glad.

Weaver brought Antioch to her feet as she reminded the congregation of the Shunammite woman's story in II Kings.

Her story, Weaver said, is an example of what can happen when we live surrendered in both good times and bad and expect

God's care. Because she lived surrendered, Weaver said, the woman did exactly as the prophet Elisha instructed and left her home for seven years.

How could she do that?

The woman, Weaver said, had experienced God's grace and she knew that God had spoken to the prophet before.

"When you live a surrendered life, you know God's voice," she said. "She had a faith reference."

In fact, Weaver said her story begins when Elisha tells her she will have a son and she does. When her son dies, Weaver said, the woman immediately left to tell the prophet who returns with her and resurrects him.

*Continued from cover: 11:00AM Service*

mother, who taught me to pray before meals and at bedtime."

Growing up in Herndon Homes, Seay said she could look across the street at the mural of Jesus being baptized that adorned the outside wall of Antioch, so she thought "Jesus lived at Antioch," came to find him here, and when the Rev. D.T. George, then pastor, invited anyone who loved Jesus to come down the aisle, she came too. She was 6 years old.

"As a child, I thought Antioch was the only church—that's how small my world

was," Seay said. "But even as my world was enlarged, I have always made my way back to Antioch."

Seay said that the biblical personality who resonates with her is Gideon from whom she learned the lesson that "following God's plan made the difference between failure and success." In everything—job, elections, health challenges—she has prayed and asked God's guidance, talked with her husband of 37 years, and sought the advice of Pastor Cameron Alexander.

Through her health

"God bought that boy back to life," Weaver said. "He'd promised this woman she'd have a son. Although he died, the promise was alive."

And so when the woman encountered another problem, she had a faith reference.

"When you live a surrendered life, trouble will faze you only so much," Weaver said. "You can say if he made a way before, he can make a way again."

In her son, the Shunammite woman had a daily reminder of what God can do, that he made dead things live and the impossible, possible.

"The Word tells us that at the end of seven years this woman went back home,"



*Dr. Margaret Weaver*

Weaver said.

Not only did the King restore her land, she was given any profit that had been gained from it while she was away.

Not only will God give back what you lost, Weaver said, "He'll give it back with interest."

challenges she said she never asked God "Why me? but What?" and she admonished women, especially to remember that "On an airplane, they tell you to put your mask on first; take care of yourselves."

Although her biographical sketch indicated that she was "retired" from banking, Seay said she was, in fact, downsized, but that opened other doors. Her concern for her son's education led her into politics and her first elected position to the Clayton County Board of Education. She has been actively involved



*Senator Valencia Seay*

championing the causes that will most benefit her constituents ever since. When asked recently why she has never lost an election, her answer was simple, "Jesus. I was selected before I was ever elected."

## General Missionary Baptist Convention install officers



*Rev. Ervin Richards, Treasurer*



*Sis. Brenda Eason, Director of Operations*



*Sis. Peggy Cooper, Receptionist*



*Sis. Dorcas Jones, Director Youth Dept.*

The Rev. Curtis Raines, newly-elected President of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc., and his cabinet were installed January 27.

Raines is pastor of New Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church in Macon and Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Bolingbroke. Members of the cabinet include the Rev. Kenneth Martin, vice president at-large; Rev. Fred Favors, eastern region vice President, and the Rev. Ervin Richards, treasurer. Sis. Brenda Eason was appointed with expanded duties as director of operations and convention planner. Sis. Peggy Cooper will continue to serve as receptionist at the headquarters. Sis. Dorcas Ford Jones is serving as the statewide director of Young People's Department, and Sis. Karen McKinney Holley was named vice president of the Woman's Auxiliary.

The installation of the newly-appointed president of the Fifth District, the Rev. Willie J. Lawson, pastor of the Cornerstone Community Baptist Church, was held Feb. 22 at Cornerstone. Sis. Evangela Hunt was elected treasurer of the district ushers, and Sis. Mary L. Hicks will continue to serve as second vice president of the district's Woman's Auxiliary.

President Raines said evangelism

and mission will be a major focus of his presidency. Churches were asked to appoint coordinators and provide the names of those who will serve with them. Wherever the Convention meets, there will be an evangelistic effort in the local community to enhance the evangelism of local churches. The foreign mission has been very active in Haiti, and will continue to provide support for the community in Tapio. A response team is in place to assist in local disasters and the Women's Auxiliary is providing toys for children and assisting women across the state.

A major change instituted at the Adjourned Session held at St. John Baptist Church in Savannah February 18-20, was the implementation of the Christian Studies Institute. Although classes have been offered for the past few years, including the Mission Institute in which Dr. Mary Hicks teaches, they led to local certificates. At each G.M.B.C., Inc. session, an opportunity now exists for delegates to enroll in a certified NBC Certificate of Progress class leading to certification.

The Bryant School of Theology expanded its offerings and locations with extension sites in Atlanta, Columbus, Savannah, and Waycross. Additional sites are being planned.

### 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).



# An invitation to God's table

He said he could still hear the echoes of the hard wood floors and see the men seated around the altar the Sunday he visited Antioch Baptist Church North for the first time.

Robert Franklin had come to hear the Rev. Cameron Alexander preach and now on Jan. 13 he himself had come to deliver the message.

The 1975 Morehouse grad, who for five years served as president of his alma mater, was just days from leaving Atlanta and taking up residence in California, where he'd been named a visiting scholar at Stanford University.

On this Sunday he leads the congregation through a section of Luke 14: "Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse...So that ser-



*Dr. Robert Franklin*

vant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind."

And in a sermon titled "By Invitation Only," Franklin imagines convening such a banquet only to have the invited guest offer excuses why they couldn't accept, none of them legitimate.

The servant turns back toward the empty banquet hall but then invites the poor and maimed and they follow. As every seat is filled, the food is served and the conversation commences, the master is pleased realizing but for an invitation, the hall would've been empty.

"There is someone in your life waiting for you to invite them to prayer, to lunch, to know that God cares" Franklin said. "Be ready for the excuses but remember it's God's table."

Be careful, he said, excluding folk from God's table because God made room for us.

"Go tell someone, come, let us adore him," he told the congregation. "Come all ye faithful."

## Baptist convention holds mid winter meeting

The mid-winter board meeting of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. began on an auspicious occasion, the 28th observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday and the Inauguration of President Barack Obama into his second term of office.

Both occasions were duly marked in a highly-spirited worship service.

The gathering is a combination of worship, business, and seminars focused on Christian education and practical means of improving the lives of those in our churches and local communities as the Bible has commanded us. To that end, Sis. Jelyne Martin Jenkins, wife of son of the church Rev. Brendan Jenkins,



*Mrs. Jelyne Jenkins presents as Rev. Brandon Jenkins looks on.*

pastor of Old Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Marietta, presented a workshop to the Young People's Department. Entitled "Making Accommodations and Including Special

Needs Children in Church Life."

The workshop provided information about special needs, conditions, and practical ideas for reaching out to both the children and their parents.

# The First Seven Words of Jesus Christ

The church raised hymns and seven sons of Antioch preached on the first seven recorded words of Jesus Christ. Summaries from the Jan. 9 soul-stirring services are listed below:



Reese

Walker

Kelly

Johnson

Scott

Jelks

Arnold

**Min. Roderick Reese**, Scripture: Luke 2:49  
Subject: "I must be about my Father's business  
Message: There are times when it is easier to be busy about one's own affairs and shun uncomfortable situations but Rev. Reese said he has decided that whatever it takes, he would be about his Father's business.

**Min. Charles Walker**, Scripture: Matthew 3:15  
Subject: Suffer it to be so  
Message: John was perplexed about why he should baptize Jesus, when he felt that Jesus should be baptizing him. He stated that even when we don't understand, "suffering sometimes just means being obedient and getting out of the way" to allow Jesus to work.

**Min. Marion Kelly**, Scripture: Matthew 4:4  
Subject: Man Shall not live by bread alone  
Message: Jesus teaches us how to fight temptation using the written word of God, which "never fails to speak to us because it is continuous, comforting, consistent, perpetual, endless, everlasting, faithful, and immutable."

**Min. Craig Johnson**, Scripture: Matt: 4:7  
Subject: Thou Shall Not Tempt the Lord Thy God.  
Message: Jesus's second temptation by Satan was much like the rounds in a boxing match. Jesus shows us that in such moments it is not enough just to know scripture,

we must obey scripture and beware of the devil who will "isolate the text from the context and turn them into pretext" to tempt us to sin.

**Min. Oscar Scott**, Scripture: Matthew 4:10  
Subject: Thou shall worship the Lord thy God  
Message: Watching a television commercial, a "60-second vignette of life," featuring baseball great Jackie Robinson stealing home, Scott said made him think of the third and final temptation of Christ as the third strike against the devil. Jesus demonstrated that we should worship the Lord and paved the way for us to enjoy reaching our eternal home.

**Min. Ken Jelks**, Scripture: Matthew 4:17  
Subject: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand  
Message: When cliffs of life \_ temptation, compromise, contemplation - make you a Christian cliffhanger, it is God's grace through repentance that keeps you from falling.

**Min. Darrell Arnold**, Scripture: Matt. 4:19  
Subject: Follow Me, And I Will make You Fishers of Men  
Message: Jesus's words in this passage call Christians to "go fishing", to follow his example and cast out our nets for people in need of being rescued and restored using the bait of Jesus's love through our testimonies.

## Black Heritage Festival a show-stopping success

Antioch members took a walk down the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame March 2 at the Black Heritage Festival.

"Soul In My Shoes" was coordinated by Sis. Homerzelle Gentry and featured inductees into the Walk of Fame through the years. Such notables, portrayed by Antioch youths and adults in costume, included Hank Aaron, Lena Horne, Joe Louis, Shirley Franklin, and the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, C.T. Vivian and our pastor Cameron Alexander.

Those in attendance were able to test their knowl-

edge by playing Famous African-Americans J-I-N-G-O. A synopsis of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and an informational coloring book with President Obama on the cover extended the opportunity to learn more about famous African Americans.

Cameron Woods, age 7, gave a Power Point presentation on the life of Thurgood Marshall. During lunch, the movie A Long Walk Home, which chronicles the events surrounding the 1955-1956 Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott, gave everyone a better sense of the determination that brought about change.

## WOMEN'S TRANSFORMATION CONFERENCE

### Antioch women urged let go of baggage

Hundreds of Antioch Baptist Church North women and visitors turned out for the two-day Women's Transformation conference that began Feb. 2 with Sis. Renee Arnold urging them to pull down the strong holds in their lives.

If you think you have no issues, Arnold admonished them to "to first pull down the spirits of pride and deception," and like David in Psalm 139:23, ask the Lord to search us.

"As on any journey, we pack bags," Sis. Arnold said. "Sometimes those bags are light and easy to carry, but sometimes we pack bags that are so heavy, it is impossible to carry them without experiencing some sort of discomfort. Sometimes our pain causes others pain because hurting people tend to hurt other people."

Baggage, she said, might include jealousy, guilt, fear, and depression, some of which we've carried for so long we no longer even realize it.

To pull down the strongholds, Arnold suggested following 2 Corin-



*Hundreds turn out for the Women's Prayer Breakfast*

ans 10:3-4 and Psalm 55:22.

"Your warfare is spiritual, so do not fight people," she said. "Let it go."

Sis. Benecia Ponder was forthright in her testimony about her baggage: fear of inadequacy.

"I was carrying the type of baggage that paralyzed me, and had me stuck in one place," Ponder said.

That fear, she said, took her joy and

kept her from responding to God's call to "help Christian women prosper."

Using a mustard seed of faith, Ponder said she began to bring down the stronghold of fear and stepped out as God's vessel.

She has written a book and speaks at every opportunity to help women live out their purpose.

## Dr. Margaret Weaver: A path to healing

Being able to express what we're feeling in a safe environment is a pathway to healing, Dr. Margaret Weaver told those gathered for the Women's Prayer Breakfast.

Weaver said that when we don't give expression to depression, we end up burying it alive, and because it is alive, "it impacts us in ways that we don't understand."

"God wants us to walk in emotional healing, health, and wholeness, and sharing with a friend you can trust is a pathway to healing," she said.

Weaver said that when the situation is ongoing, "there is no shame in meeting with someone and counseling. Recognizing that you need help is one of the sanest things you can do. God is sovereign, and He can heal in any way that he chooses," including professional therapy.

To put practical action to her message and desire that those who listened would leave transformed, Dr. Weaver asked the women to pray daily for the person whose name they drew until the Lord takes them home.

"Everybody in here will know that there is at least one person who will pray for her every day," she said.

Weaver told the women to leave the gathering willing to do whatever is necessary to be free from whatever bondage they've been in so that each of them can be more fully used by God.

"Whatever your bondage, God can handle it," she said. "Seek Him, and He will show you the pathway to healing that He has purposed for your life."

## Six accept Christ during street preaching in the Bluff

In a scene reminiscent of a tag team match, 12 sons of Antioch Baptist Church North took to the streets March 30, preaching “Ye must be born again” from the third chapter of John.

About 50 people stopped to hear the message and accept tracts and bag lunches. Six accepted Christ as their personal savior.

One young man named Jeremiah cried as he spoke about watching a good friend die in the middle of the street on Cameron Madison Alexander Blvd. Another, 17-year-old Donald Harris, told the ministers that he used to play on the Antioch basketball team but had drifted away. And 20-year-old Cranford Phelps told them: “I know I haven’t been doing right, but I’m ready.” Rather than standing just on the street corners as in years past, the ministers fanned out along the blocks sur-



*Rev. Scott Copeland and Rev. Charles “Skip” Walker minister.*

rounding the corner store. As one left off preaching another would start and then another and another.

A woman known to everyone in The Bluff as Bertha volunteered to sing “Amazing Grace” as they gathered for the closing prayer circle. She was followed by Harold Morrison who gave a stirring testimony about how the Lord had kept his hand on

him and saved him though he had not been on the right path.

“Imagine that you were standing out here, and there is a drive by shooting,” the Rev. Eddie Bright told those gathered. “Jesus took the bullet for you.”

When the doors of the church were opened, six came forward, ready to give up their lives and follow Christ.

## Sis. Earnestine Weems honored during luncheon

Sis. Earnestine J. Weems was honored for 36 years of service as executive secretary of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc, during the women’s Transformation Conference luncheon.

Sis. Weems was appointed by Antioch Baptist Church North Pastor Cameron M. Alexander, and served alongside him for the 29 years he served as the convention’s president. Sis. Evelyn Roberts, her protégé, spoke about how much she had learned from Sis. Weems, and the sisters of Antioch paid tribute to her.

“Anything that dominates your thoughts, time, and attention, that distracts, destroys, deters, or divides you from God is a stronghold,” Weems told those gathered during her empowerment message.



*Sis. Earnestine J. Weems*

She said that our egos can cause what she calls “I strain—I can do this; I can do that; I can do everything, I can be everything; nobody else matters; it’s just me, myself, and I. It will wear you down, and it will wear you out. It becomes a stronghold.”

Weems said that we must never allow our scars, our circumstances, challenges or situations, to keep us fenced thinking we have no means of escape.

“Shift your gaze to Christ; lift up your heads. Look more at the mediator and less at the troublemaker,” she said.

Then quoting Romans 12:21 Weems said that “When we focus on our strongholds, we stumble; when we focus on God, our strongholds tumble.”

She reminded the women that God’s love is unconditional and that evil can neither diminish it nor can our faith turn it or our stupidity jeopardizes it. “God doesn’t love us less if we fail or more if we succeed,” she said.” He can bring total restoration out of complete devastation.”

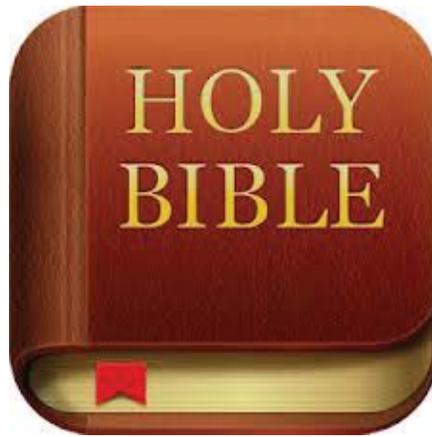
# Yes, there's a Bible App for that

If there was ever any doubt we live in the technology age, consider the number of Ipads and iPhones powering on next to you these days during church services.

Instead of congregants opening up their Bibles, more and more are pulling out their tablets and smartphones.

Alan Webber, a principal analyst at Altimeter Group, a technology advisory firm, attributes the presence of mobile devices in churches to their increasing use in all aspects of life, as well as the prevalence of smartphones across all income levels.

Indeed, technology has played an integral part in the spread of religion throughout the ages. The printing



press revolutionized the spread of the Bible; electricity, microphones, then radios and TVs, and of course the Internet – all of these technologies have been used to spread the gospel.

Just as websites did years ago, mobile apps are popping up at con-

gregations across the nation, making possible to access your bible right in the palm of your hands.

Most apps will offer little more than the text of the Bible designed to assist users in reading the text of the Bible. Other apps add specialized tools designed to help you study Bible passages. Bible apps can also be used to receive daily messages, and it is not an uncommon sight to see worshippers utilizing this form of technology during church service.

There are several mobile devices such as Mantis Bible app and our daily bread that are free to download to your phone.

Need more? Try Google or the iPhone App store.

## A big “thank you” to the Rev. B.J. Johnson

Antioch journeyed on Feb. 24 with her pastor to celebrate the ministry of Rev. Dr. C.M. Alexander's long-time friend and co-laborer, Rev. B.J. Johnson, Jr., pastor emeritus of Greater Mt. Calvary Baptist Church.

Rev. Johnson served 45 years as assistant pastor under his father and Pastor. Rev. Alexander nostalgically recounted the many years that Rev. Johnson had stood by his side in the Georgia convention, serving as his “Peter” and pulling his coat tails “when it was time to pack it in and go home.”

He thanked him for his work in the Civil Rights Movement, standing

his ground when others walked away, “being unafraid because he knew his God would protect him as he did what was right.” Pastor Alexander also thanked Rev. Johnson for the impact he has had on the local community, “expanding the campus—I remember when there was no place to park over here—and remaining in the Mechanicville Community to help reduce the blight and provide relief for an underserved people.”

The Rev. Kenneth Alexander recalled in his sermon that “Uncle B.J. always arrived with presents on Christmas afternoon, so it was like we had two Christmases. He was just

that giving, and he never disappointed us.”

The younger Alexander then recounted the story of the lepers in Luke 17:12, saying only one leper returned to thank Jesus for his healing although ten had been healed.

“For all of you who Rev. Johnson has helped throughout the years—dedicating babies, marrying you, burying your relatives, sitting by hospital beds and praying for and with you, visiting police precincts, jails and prisons, sitting in courtrooms, and giving wise counsel, do not be part of the ungrateful nine but be the grateful one, and tell him “Thank you.”

### 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).



## East West Strings performs at birth month celebration

When Antioch member and middle school Orchestra teacher Nivek Anderson decided to prove to the world that string musicians could play more than classical arrangements, the string ensemble “East West Strings” was born. According to Nivek, when most people think of string musicians, they only think of people who play Classical music.

This Atlanta-based ensemble was created in December 2012 with a name that illustrates the group’s ultimate goal, which is to play around the world – east to west.



East West Strings includes Nivek (Cello), Kevin Anderson (Bass), Jessie Ahuama-Jonas (Viola), Nicole Miller (Violin), Tremaine Wilkes (Violin),

and Stephan Lawrence (Violin). Kevin is Nivek’s brother, and the other members of the ensemble are friends or co-workers of Nivek’s.

The ensemble performed during Antioch’s February Birth Month celebration “Nothing but Strings” held on Feb. 22, when they played different genres of musical pieces such as Christian, classical, and rhythm and blues.

To schedule East West Strings for a performance, visit their website at [www.eastweststrings.com](http://www.eastweststrings.com) or call 931-516-9767.

## Fifth District holds prayer breakfast

The Agape Prayer Breakfast was held March 29 at Big Miller Baptist Church.

In addition to a mouth-watering breakfast, there was food for the soul as hymns of the church were raised

and three ministers preached soul-stirring messages.

Rev. Eddie L. Jones, pastor of First Corinth B.C., preached on “The Father”; Rev. Charles Tyes, a son of Israel Missionary B.C. preached on

“The Son”, and Bishop Miles E. Fowler preached on “The Holy Ghost.”

It was the perfect prelude to coming over to Antioch to hear the Seven Last Words preached by the sons of Antioch, church members said.



*Mother Lula West*

Mother Lula West, a long-time member of Antioch Baptist Church North, was crowned Ms. Traditions 2013 February 21 at Traditions Health & Rehabilitation in Lithonia. The pageant is held annually at the skilled nursing facility. Mother West will represent Traditions Health at the state pageant held in April in Stone Mountain.

## Mt. Herman

Senior Mission members Sis. Eunice Harrison, Francine Reeves, and Karen McKinney Holley attended the Mt. Hermon Mission Institute held from March 19-20 at First Baptist Church.

The theme, “Equipping God’s People to Answer His Call” based on Ephesians 4:11-16 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17, were the basis for each of the classes. Classes for each age and stage from primary through adult, the laymen and pastors/ministers were held. The Laymen’s Leadership Class taught by Rev. Olen Nash emphasized the need to study—not just read—the Word.

“When you study the word, you ought to have a conversation with the Holy Spirit for revelation,” Nash said. “The Word shows you where you are and where you’re going.”

He quipped: “You don’t need reality TV; the Bible is full of drama. The more you pick your Bible up, the more your Bible will pick you up.”

# The Seven Last Recorded Words of Jesus Christ

The seven last recorded sayings of Jesus as he hung on the cross were the basis of the sermons preached by the sons of Antioch on Good Friday. Punctuated with congregational hymns matched to each word and a closing medley by Bro. Zeb Ellis, the congregation gained a deeper understanding of the suffering of Christ on our behalf to bring us back into relationship with God.



**Min. Derek McKinney**  
**Scripture: Luke 23:34**  
**Word: Forgiveness**

**Summary:** “We can’t begin to imagine the agony Jesus suffered for our sins, and

in the midst of shedding his blood on purpose and with a purpose, he still was not thinking of himself but of us, crying out to the Father to forgive us.



**Min. Derrick Jackson**  
**Scripture: Matthew 27:46**  
**Word: Anguish**

**Summary:** “In the midst of anguish and pain, Jesus kept his head and

became sin for us, enduring the wrath of God and showing us that when we cry out, God has not forsaken us.”

defeat, not to give up, not to give in, for he gave up the ghost. He finished what man could not complete, and we all have an appointed time with victory.”



**Min. Bryan Mitchell,**  
**Scripture: Luke 23:46**  
**Word: Contentment**

**Summary:** “Jesus cried in celebration as he commended his spirit into the safety

and assurance of his Father’s hands away from the rough, cruel hands of man, which staked the Savior, nailed the Nazarene, pierced the Passover, razed the righteous, displayed the Deliverer, penalized the perfect, and crucified the Christ.”



**Min. Ed London**  
**Scripture: Luke 23:42-43**  
**Word: Salvation**

**Summary:** “Only Luke tells of the salvation of one of the thieves,

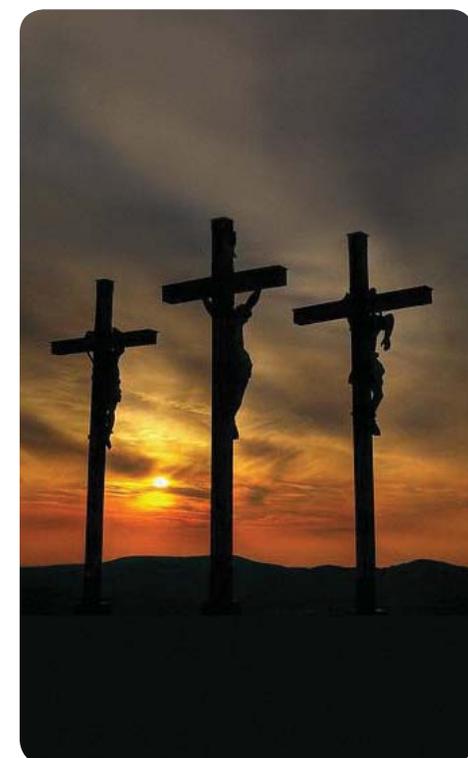
and this man has more faith than any other human observing this scene, and Jesus spoke words of pardon to this penitent thief just as he will to each of us.”



**Min. Marion Kelley**  
**Scripture: John 19:28**  
**Word: Suffering**

**Summary:** “The humanity of Jesus refused to drink the wine he was offered;

he wanted to fully endure the suffering without any quick relief. His thirst was not a natural thirst; it was a spiritual thirst. Jesus wanted to taste death for all man. He satisfied that spiritual thirst as he stopped by the rivers of living water as he went back to heaven.



**Min. Elve Jones**  
**Scripture: John 19:25-27**  
**Word: Affection**

**Summary:** “We often take out our problems on the ones who are

closest to us. Jesus cared enough to make sure his mother was taken care of and showed me that when you’re going through something, affection should never leave you.”



**Min. Daniel Shelton**  
**Scripture: John 19:30**  
**Word: Victory**

**Summary:** “Victory was the reason why Jesus did not come off the cross. The victory

was not finish-line victory; it was not pretty victory; in fact it looked like a loss, like many situations in our lives do. But Jesus showed us not to accept

# Hattitude: Happy birthday Mrs. Alexander!



*Antioch women turn out to celebrate Mrs. Alexander's birthday.*

## 56 students awarded scholarships

The old proverb that “It takes a Village to Raise a Child,” is alive and well at Antioch Baptist Church North. In fact for more than 40 years, members have helped fund the education of other people’s children to the tune of more than \$1.2 million.

Just last year, 56 students received tuition support, more than \$35,000 total - from Antioch’s Scholarship Ministry.

Ministry leaders reported during Antioch’s regular worship services on March 10, the day set aside as Scholarship Sunday.

Because many of families, Greek organizations and other church ministry leaders recognize the value of an education, some have funded memorial scholarships in memory of loves one to help provide books, said Sis. Wendy Harding, who co-chairs the Scholarship Ministry with Sis. Rozelle Wright.

“All of this could not happen without the support of our church family giving,” Sis. Harding said.

The ministry will recognize and honor Antioch high school and college graduates in May.

**Advisor**  
Sis. Barbara J. Alexander  
Barney Simms

**Managing Editor**  
Gracie Bonds Staples

**Design Editor**  
Reggie Tolbert

**Writers**  
Betty Jo Cooke  
Karen S. Holley  
Yvonnia Henderson

**Photographer**  
Darryl Speed

**The Church at Antioch  
Newsletter Staff**

**Contributions by  
June 14, 2013**

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