

- 2 Message from the Pastor
- 3 Ushers/Youth workshop
- 4 Martin...President of GMBC
- 7 "Come out of the closet"
- 8 Hank Stewart

*Happy
New Year!*

*Connecting
People
to Christ*



The Church at Antioch

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

October-December 2016

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139th Anniversary – Oh, Happy Day

Few will soon forget the 139th church anniversary at Antioch.

The BW Terrell Verse Speakers and the Adult choir sounded just the right notes at the day's singular 10 a.m. service but all of it was quickly overshadowed when midway through the service first lady Barbara J. Alexander entered the sanctuary flanked by the Rev. Kenneth Alexander and other family members.

The congregation filled the sanctuary with applause and praise that lasted nearly 15 minutes.

Pastor Cameron Alexander, poised to deliver the day's message, was visibly overcome with emotion.

"Oh happy day," he said, after gathering himself.

Three Sundays prior, he later explained, when leaving home for Antioch Baptist Church North's early morning service Mrs. Alexander had asked where he was headed.

"We're going to church," he told her.



Mrs. Alexander makes surprise appearance at the 139th Anniversary celebration.

"I want to go," he remembered her saying.

"Well, she's here," he said. "Looking good, too."

Alexander thanked his family for making her wish come true but he said, "I can hardly take it. I am so overwhelmed."

Then he thanked members of the anniversary committee for pulling off another grand occasion, for thinking outside the box.

"It's good for all of us to be here," he said.

The service came on the heels of one of the most unusual presidential elections in memory, with Republican Donald Trump besting former Secretary of State and First Lady Hillary Clinton.

"We got a new president but we got an old God," Pastor Alexander said. "Keep praying for him because prayer changes things."

In a light moment, he noted having spent the last two weeks

working on a "great sermon about the integrity of the church," only to be usurped by Mrs. Alexander's surprise entrance.

"My sermon came down that aisle," he said.

Alexander said that he'd considered those great questions God asked Adam in the Garden of Eden ("where art thou"), Ezekiel (can these dry bones live), and Jesus who asked the man at the pool (do you want to be made whole and suggested God was asking us those

Continued on page 2

A Message From The Pastor



My Brothers and Sisters,

We are delighted that *The Church at Antioch* has resumed production. Many of you indicated that you missed the quarterly newsletter, which provided an opportunity to read about church events and celebrate the accomplishments of our members.

This edition of *The Church at Antioch* shares highlights from the Fall Revival with our Son, the Rev. O. Jermaine Simmons, and our 139th Church Anniversary. We also see our Church spread through our Women's Retreat and involvement in our external affiliation with the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia (GMBC), Inc.

We especially celebrate two of our members who have had books published. Kimberly Luttery's children's book, *Grandma Had a Grandma Too*, helps a young child understand that her Nana was once a child, too. In some ways, it captures the experience of the church when we all come together. There is really no place else in society, other than the family, where all generations join together. That is why we refer to Antioch as our church family.

Hank Stewart is Antioch's poet. The Lord released his gift here at Antioch, and I am honored to have encouraged him to pursue writing and performing his poetry full time. Because Hank always gives God the glory for his success, *25 Years & Counting* begins with a spiritual section. He also honors our history, keeping the sacrifices of our foreparents and our phenomenal accomplishments "in spite of" at the forefront of our minds.

The Church at Antioch is Antioch North in action. Use this edition as a springboard to make 2017 your year to give, to serve, to become more involved in the life of our church.

Yours in God's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. M. Alexander".

Reverend C.M. Alexander, Pastor

Continued from cover - 139th

very things on this anniversary morning.

All of it reminded him a hymn the church once sang at every Baptism when he arrived at Antioch at age 37.

"I heard the voice of Jesus say come unto me and rest," he intoned. "I came to Jesus as I was. I was weary, worn and sad. I was sad about my spiritual condition. I found in him a resting place. Now he has made me glad."

Sunday, January 15



And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

Luke 22:19-20

Communion Prayer

*Eternal God,
We pray today that you will cleanse the thoughts within our hearts through the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit.*

We ask that you will make our hearts dwelling places for thy perfect love as we worthily magnify your name through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Amen

OCTOBER

Fifth District hosts community outreach

On Saturday, October 15th, 2016, the Fifth District of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. (GMBC) sponsored a food, clothing, and school supplies giveaway, the second in a quarterly series of community outreach. The event was held at Macedonia Baptist Church pastored by Rev. Daniel Dickson, and while the majority of those served came from the surrounding community, it was open to anyone in metropolitan Atlanta. Other churches and individuals provided transportation for those in need from other areas of the city to the event.

The Atlanta Food Bank provided the food, and volunteers had to attend a training session to understand the guidelines and help recipients fill out required

forms. Some of the individual churches of the Fifth District do not have adequate storage facilities to be able to partner with the Atlanta Food Bank as Antioch can, so bringing the churches together enables more communities in need to be served.

Clothing and school supplies were donated by members of the Fifth District and basic health screenings and referrals were offered. Following a short prayer service, recipients were treated to breakfast before picking up their supplies. People leaving with boxes of food, clothing, and school supplies each expressed their gratefulness. One mother said, "I am thankful. I got uniform pants for my two sons who have already outgrown



Volunteers distribute goods to the needy.

theirs since the school year started. I really needed these school supplies. What we got at the beginning of the school year is already gone, and I don't have money to replace them."

Antioch youth participate in ushers workshop

If you have noticed a greater presence and precision in Antioch North's youth ushers, thank the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia's Youth Ushers Workshop.

The youth were among more than 200 ages 9 to 17 who participated in the day-long training session Oct. 1 at Lundy Chapel Baptist Church in Macon, GA. Antioch's Brenda Eason serves as Statewide Coordinator of the Ushers and Health Professionals, and when she was approached about having a training session for the youth ushers similar to the one the adult ushers have each year, she thought "it was an excellent idea."

Sis. Marilyn Mitchell, a member of Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church, coordinated the workshop.

Classes in the biblical background of ushering and techniques of ushering were held. Several young people admitted not knowing that there were ushers



Youth demonstrate their skills at the ushers workshop.

in the Bible and seemed to take greater pride in their duties as ushers.

A culminating worship service provided a chance for some to demonstrate what they had learned. Even though they learned a lot, the luncheon and the opportunity to fellowship stood out for many

of the young people.

"Our church is pretty small, so it is fantastic to see all these youth my age who like to usher—especially the girls!," one young man observed. "I'm going to come back every year."

NOVEMBER



Rev. Kenneth Martin elected president of GMBC

The Rev. Dr. Kenneth B. Martin, pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Augusta, GA, has been elected president of the General Missionary Baptist Convention.

Martin, who served as interim president of the GMBC after the death of Curtis Raines, was elected during the 146th Annual Session Nov. 14-17 held in Columbus, Ga. The Rev. James Potts was elected vice president.

Our pastor, Rev. Cameron Alexander is President Emeritus of the convention.

The Annual Session is the major business session of the GMBC, Inc., but it is not like a corporate annual meeting. While business is transacted during the Executive Board Session, the focus is on the business of the Lord Jesus Christ. Individual auxiliaries have services during their breakouts; there are devotional

meditations, sermons, and messages by each of the auxiliary leaders when the entire body is gathered, and there are late night services. The welcome program and opening musical sound like the heavenly choir.

The 4th District hosted the session, and the Women's Auxiliary presented 50 backpacks filled with toiletries and other supplies to the local Division of Family and Children Services (DFACS) for foster children to help make the transition from their homes to foster care easier.

Rev. Ronald Toney, a son of Antioch, coordinates Foreign Mission, and he presented special guest, Father Jean Bien Amie from Tapio, Haiti, who thanked the GMBC for its continued support. While Tapio was spared major damage from Hurricane Matthew, other communities

in Haiti were severely damaged, and he asked for additional help to address the widespread devastation.

In addition to Antioch's delegates, several pastoring sons and Antioch members are involved in every phase of the Annual Session. Sis. Peggy Cooper and Rev. Ervin Richards, Treasurer and son of Antioch, serve in the finance department. Antioch ushers served throughout the session.

The gathering of delegates represents more than 800 churches from across the state of Georgia. If you have never attended, put the week following the second Sunday in November on your calendar for 2017, and come for a day or the entire session.

Baptist Women hold World Day of Prayer

On the first Saturday of November of each year, Baptist Women all over the world come together for a day of prayer.

And each year, the Women's Auxiliaries of the General Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc., the New Era Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention take turns hosting the event.

2016 was no different as the GMBC Women's Auxiliary hosted the event at Beulah Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta.

The theme, "Arise, Shine: When We Rise Up, He Shines Through," focused on the need to move about our communities, serving those in need, thereby letting the light of Jesus shine through each of us.

The Women's Department of the Bap-

tist World Alliance, the sponsoring organization, is composed of seven Continental Unions representing 193 national Baptist women's organizations from 156 countries. Prayer requests from each continent are sent in, and during the World Day of Prayer, those requests are lifted in prayer.

Following meditation on the theme, the women broke into groups to learn about each of the continental unions and to make intercessory prayer.

The African BWU requested prayer to eradicate hunger and poverty ravaging most countries in Africa; prayer against diseases like Ebola, cancer, and HIV/Aids, and prayer for peace in Northern Nigeria and Northern Cameroon where Boko

Haram is causing a lot of terror, especially against women and children.

Similar requests came from the other unions: Asia, Caribbean, European, Latin American, North American, and South West Pacific.

Many of the requests were for prayer for children and youth, including one from the South West Pacific to end suicide among children in Fiji.



Luttery honors mother-daughter bond in debut children's book

Initially Kimberly Luttery simply wanted to write a poem that captured the bond between her mother and niece.

Mya Barrett was just two at the time but liked nothing better than hanging out with her grandmother, Theresa Barrett.

It was the same way between Theresa Barrett and her mother. The two were inseparable, the best example of what a mother-daughter relationship should be.

"God and the church were very important to them and they didn't just talk about how to treat others, they lived it," Luttery said. "They were great role models for me."

Luttery, a member of Antioch Baptist Church North since 1988, was in her late 20s when her grandmother passed away but watching her mom and niece was a sweet reminder of the special relationship they forged throughout her life.

And so during a visit back home in Rockford, Ill., she wrote a poem celebrating that bond.

That poem became the inspiration for "Grandma Had a Grandma Too," Luttery's debut picture book and the first in a series of stories intended to help children age 3 to 8 understand that their grandparents were once young with grandparents of their own.



Author Kimberly Luttery

It is available for purchase at www.kimberlyluttery.com, Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, and at select Atlanta area bookstores.

"There are moments in the story that come directly from my childhood and the times I spent with my grandmother," she said. "Children only know us as adults and they have a hard time imagining that we were once young like them, so I wanted to show them that."

But it wasn't just that. Luttery also saw a need for more books depicting

Book Excerpt

*One day I asked my grandma
Exactly how old are you?
I really want to know Nana
Are you ninety or ninety-two?*

*Grandma laughed out loud,
then smiled
Oh Nia, I wasn't born this way
I was once a little child
Back then I had no gray*

*I also had a grandma
When I was young like you
Yes, Grandma had a grandma
And she loved me as I love you*

African-American children's experiences and the special relationship they share with their grandparents.

"It's important to remember that the time we spend with children has the greatest impact," she said. "Lasting memories don't come from the things we buy, but from the experiences we share."

HONORING THE LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

MLK Jr. Birthday - January 16, 2017

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."



Scenes from the 139th Church Anniversary



Christians urged to ‘Go Witness’ during Soul Bowl

For three nights in November, the Fifth District of the General Missionary Convention of Georgia, Inc. hosted its annual Soul Bowl at the Calvary Hill Baptist Church.

In addition to uplifting devotions and singing each night, pastors from the Fifth District presented a lecture and a sermon on the topics of the GMBC theme, Mission and Evangelism.

Lecturers included Rev. B. L. Clement, pastor of Solomon Temple Baptist Church, Rev. Paul Harvey, pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church, and host pastor and son of Antioch, the Rev. Craig Johnson.

In giving his lecture entitled, “Go, Witness,” based on Matt. 28:18-20 and Acts 1:1 and 8, Rev. Johnson posed the question, “If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough



Rev. Craig Johnson delivers his lecture during the Soul Bowl.

evidence to convict you?”

As Christians, he said, we have been slack in the one command Christ has issued to each of us. “While others are outside witnessing, we stay inside of the Church, in-

stead of following the action word required—GO.”

Rev. Troy Mamon, pastor of Traveler’s Rest Baptist Church in Morrow, Rev. Clayton Taylor, pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church

and President of the Fifth District Congress of Christian Education, and Rev. R. L. White, pastor of Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church, preached the sermons.

In the divine order of the Holy Spirit, Rev. White’s sermon elaborated on Rev. Johnson’s opening statement, “I have never seen a rainbow until after the rain.” Preaching from Mark 4:37-39, Rev. White’s sermon, “He Will Give You Peace in the Middle of Your Storm” assured those assembled that although Christians are not immune to the trials and tribulations of life, God will bring you through every storm. “The key is to praise God for what He has already done, what He is doing, and to give anticipatory praise for what He will do, and you will enjoy peace even while the storm is raging,” he said.

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 \[gstaples@ajc.com\]\(mailto:gstaples@ajc.com\)](mailto:Sis.GracieStaples@ajc.com).



What people are saying about Hank Stewart

Rev. Joseph E. Lowery, Dean of The Civil Rights Movement: *“Hank Stewart is to us today what Dick Gregory was to us in the 60’s – conscious entertainment.”*

Ambassador Andrew Young: *“I’m MAD I don’t know Hank Stewart’s poetry. That’s the “IT” Man, his words are amazing.”*

Rev. C.T. Vivian: *“We need the arts, we need poets, we need Hank Stewart.”*

Congressman John Lewis: *“Hank, your words and style makes us sing and dance with hope, faith and love.”*

Long time Antioch member Bennie McDonald shares a moment with Hank Stewart at a book signing event where the poet was honored by the DeKalb City Council with a resolution. Stewart was named Poet Laureate by DeKalb County Commissioner Lee May and U. S. Congressman Hank Johnson. McDonald, who has known Stewart for over 20 years, continues to be a big fan both personally and professionally. “He is still humble, level headed, God fearing and, of course, a charming young man. Notoriety has not changed him at all,” she said, adding she attended Stewart’s recognition celebration to show her support and let him know that she remains proud of his achievements. “We celebrate family at Antioch,” she said.

The Church at Antioch Newsletter Staff

Managing Editor
Gracie Bonds Staples

Design Editor
Reggie Tolbert

Writers
Betty Jo Cooke
Karen S. Holley

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540 Cameron M. Alexander Blvd, NW • Atlanta, GA 30318 • 404-688-5679 • www.antiochnorth.org