

*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 2022

Volume 11, Issue 1

New day, same Bible Study classes

Bible Study classes are not new. They are just being held on a different night.

That's the message Sis. Princeanna Walker, Director of Christian Education, is trying to get out to members new to Antioch Baptist Church North.

When the Covid pandemic hit and Antioch was forced to move to a virtual space, Walker said Bible Study continued to be held on Wednesday nights, but classes moved to Thursday because our pastor felt that two hours back-to-back online was too taxing, especially for people who had worked all day."

Classes are offered on Zoom from 6:00-7:00 p.m. each Thursday.

This spring, three Bible Study classes will be offered. They are:

Battlefield of the Mind, Part II: a study of the book by the same title written by Joyce Meyer. The class focuses on how to take one's thoughts captive—especially toxic, negative thoughts—and transforming

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Pastor's 3rd Anniversary



Pastor Kenny and Lady Lisa thank Antioch for wonderful anniversary

Turner: Our works are our witness

John 14 is a very familiar passage of scripture in which Jesus reveals his upcoming departure and how his followers were to conduct themselves after.

It is most notably turned to in times of loss, but in it, Jesus also shares that those who believe in him and his works shall do even greater works.

It is here, the Rev. Rodney Turner, told those gathered February 27 to celebrate the Rev. Kenneth Alexander's third anniversary, that Jesus gives his disciples a divine assignment - to work while he is gone.

Turner, pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church and a son

of Antioch, said John 14:12, underlines this year's anniversary theme: Let my works speak for me.

Many have argued the point of what Jesus means when he says greater works shall you do, Turner said.

Are we capable of turning water to wine, he asked. Can we open blind eyes? Can we raise the dead? Do we have that kind of power? What did Jesus mean?

"We know that the Bible teaches that the apostles did perform many miracles," Turner said. "We know that they were able to do these kinds of mira-

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A billiard champion and AUMI

After a chance encounter long ago with the late Deacon Ronald Smith, Claude Callaway discovered he was good at shooting pool.

Then he became a billiard champion.

"Dea. Ronald Smith, told me I needed to fill my free time with something positive," Bro. Callaway remembered recently.

Because he'd always wanted to learn how to swim, Callaway said that's what he did first. When he witnessed a group of elders shooting pool and winning, he decided to try his hand at the game.

"It came naturally to me, and I began playing with the Real Deal League," he said.

Bro. Callahan mostly plays at Mr. Cue's in Smyrna, where he has garnered both individual and team trophies. To date, he has won three 9-ball patches and eight all break patches. His Divine 9 Team won trophies in 2020 and 2021, and he is looking forward to winning the biggest trophy prize in 2022.

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A Message From The Pastor

My brothers and sisters,
Joy unspeakable. That is how I sum up the first quarter of 2022 at Antioch. I heard several preachers choose the theme “New in 2022,” and while we will have many changes, in preaching the Seven First Seven Recorded Words of Jesus Christ, our sons reminded us that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forevermore. Through him we can have a renewed and transformed mind.

Congratulations to Bro. Chris Harden, whose article on Sickle Cell Anemia, one of the diseases that disproportionately affects our community, presents a groundbreaking study. Read more about that in this edition of our newsletter The Church at Antioch.

Thank you to everyone who participated in and made monetary donations to the Hunger Walk. Those who joined in person at the Home Depot Backyard said they not only enjoyed walking for a good purpose but also the fellowship. All efforts enable us to continue meeting the needs of our community members who are food insecure.

Sister Mildred Thompson Scott, who coordinates Serving Our Seniors through AUMI, is to be commended for increasing our outreach and the services we offer. I have received numerous phone calls about how grateful our seniors are to not only receive Hello Fresh Meal Kits but to have someone check on them to make sure they are well. They always comment on how encouraging Sis. Scott is. I don't know if she sings to them, but she certainly blesses us as our “Wednesday Night Choir.”

Attention to mental health is more important than ever. The theme of our Mental Health Awareness Breakfast, “Love One Another,” based on 1 Corinthians 16:14, emphasizes the key to good relationships. Dr. Monique Gadson, Dr. Shatavia Thomas, and Dr. Margaret Weaver, consummate professionals steeped in their faith, gave us practical actions based in love.

To the Women's Ministry, I'm at a loss for words. The Barbara J. Alexander Women's Transformation Breakfast was extraordinary. While I enjoyed being the only rooster in the hen house, Dr. Weaver's message needs to be shared with everyone.

To the 3rd Anniversary Pastoral Anniversary Committee, everyone who came to the drive-thru, Pastor Rodney Turner, those who joined in worship service and all who showered Lisa and me with love —THANK YOU! I don't believe any pastor has enjoyed a greater outpouring of love.

Yours in God's service,

Kenneth Alexander
Reverend K. L. Alexander, Pastor

Continued from cover - New Day...



one's mind by focusing on God. Even if you missed Part I of the class during the fall semester, you are welcome to join Part II.

Bible for Beginners, Part 1: Old Testament. In addition to the Bible, the class is based on the *Bible Workbook, Volume 1: Old Testament* by Catherine B. Walker. The workbook provides exercises, questions, and maps to provide context for the scriptures. In-depth discussion provides deeper understanding of the biblical text as well as application to life today.

Discovering the Gifts God Has Given Us: uses the text *Ministering Through Spiritual Gifts: Recognize Your Personal Gifts and Use Them to Further the Kingdom* by Dr. Charles Stanley. If you are unsure what your spiritual gift(s) is or how or where to use it, this class will help you discern and develop your spiritual gifts and understand the value of those gifts to the church and the wider community.

You can access each class through the Antioch website by clicking on the Thursday Bible Study flyer and clicking on the desired class. Students are asked to purchase the textbooks themselves. Sis. Walker will assist in ordering a text for those who do not shop online.

Antioch's
GRIEF SHARE®

**Currently in session
on Mondays at 7PM**

Visit antiochnorth.org
for details.

JANUARY

NBC short on days; not the preached words

The National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. convened its mid-winter board meeting virtually Jan. 24 with the usual three days of meetings condensed to just one.

There was, however, no shortage of the preached word.

The Rev. Breonus Mitchell of Nashville, TN's Mount Gilead Missionary Baptist Church kicked things off, reminding delegates that God can make the impossible possible and that like a catalog of biblical personalities, we, too can "Beat the Odds" as long as we remain connected to God.

In his message, President Jerry Young, now in his second term, addressed both local and global concerns including the Covid pandemic, saying it is "important that we take the vaccine and become part of the solution rather than part of the problem."

The Bible is clear that we are not to be selfish.



Rev. Breonus Mitchell

"We must unite not around political issues but around public health issues and not confuse faith with foolishness, for faith is the completion of reason" he said.

Young went on to say that "the political

climate in this country is absolutely embarrassing, unthinkable and unbelievable," and the divisiveness has crept into the churches and the convention.

Because some legislators are making decisions predicated upon the lie of voter fraud, Young said it is imperative that "we stand up against the minority who want to choose their voters instead of the voters choosing their representatives because it is a threat to this democracy."

We must be bold in telling people that Christ is the answer, he said.

"As Jesus saw the crowd of people coming toward him as sheep without a shepherd, he was moved with compassion. He sought to get his disciples involved in evangelism, and we must commit ourselves afresh to Christ-centered evangelism, seeing people as Jesus saw them."

Continued from cover - Billiard Champion

Generally quiet and unassuming, Bro. Callaway can usually be found in the kitchen helping to prepare and serve lunches and dinners at Antioch Baptist Church North, where he found himself soon after losing his job and then his home.

"I knew I needed a change," he said. "I rode the bus to the 'old Antioch' and enrolled in the program for recovering addicts and

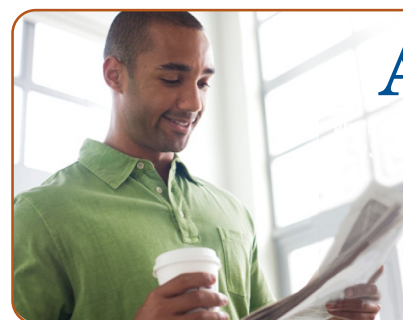
lived at Luke's Place. I completed the program in 2007, holding on to the garment of Jesus in order to stay clean."

He attended services at Lakewood Mission until it closed and he came over to "the big church" as Antioch was affectionately called.

"I thank God I'm here today," Callaway said, looking back. "AUMI provided what I needed."



Claude Callaway



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:
gracie.staples@gmail.com



*Bill Clement*

Clement named federal arbitrator

William Clement was recently selected to be a federal arbitrator with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

FINRA is the federal agency that oversees brokerage firms doing business with the public in the United States. FINRA's mission is investor protection and market integrity.

It is authorized by Congress to protect American investors by making sure the broker-dealer industry operates fairly and honestly. The agency oversees more than 624,000 brokers across the country—and analyzes billions of daily market events.

Clement, a long-time member of Antioch Baptist Church North, successfully completed the mandatory, basic arbitrator training program in February.

His assigned primary hearing location is Atlanta, GA.

Minutes from the 5th District GMBC

With a Genesis 18:14 attitude, 5th District President Eddie Bright has moved the 5th District of the General Missionary Baptist Convention forward in the new year. The regular monthly meetings are structured so that each attendee comes away with helpful information beyond any upcoming 5th District event. Every second Tuesday meeting, Sis. J. Renee Livsey, a registered nurse and member of Mt. Zion MBC where the Rev. Bright is pastor, provides health tips.

During the January meeting, Dr. Samuel McAlpine, who practices internal medicine and rheumatology in California, provided valuable information concerning COVID-19 and the Delta and Omicron variants. He provided a clear interpretation of the meaning of statistics and dispelled several myths. In March, the Rev. R. L. White, pastor of Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church, presented a seminar on death and grief. With the pandemic having claimed so many lives, there was not a member of the call who had not experienced the passing of a family member, friend, or colleague.

Each of the nine auxiliaries that comprise the 5th District is focused on mission, evangelism, and education. The Women's Auxiliary hosted a virtual Black History brunch in February. Attendees dressed in African garb. The

*Rev. Eddie Bright*

speakers focused on the topic love. On March 24, the deaconess held a virtual training workshop entitled "It's Not About That White Dress" facilitated by Gwendolyn Jones West and Gwendolyn Tucker, state deaconess coordinator and assistant coordinator respectively. The Usher's and Health Ministry continue to have a prayer call each Monday evening and provide monthly training, including COVID-19 protocols.

Every member of each 5th District church is invited to each meeting, training, and service opportunity.

GMBC holds adjourned session

As the 151st Adjourned Session of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia got underway in February, Game Changers was the theme of the day and the focus of President Anthony Q. Corbett's address.

Delegates dressed in their favorite sports team jerseys and sat in a simulated football field at the front of Macon's Lun-

dy Chapel Missionary Baptist Church where Corbett emphasized the need for action.

"The past two years have caused tremendous upheaval in the world," he said. "Christians must take the lead and become the force of positive change in our communities."

Using a football analogy, he said that pastors coach their

teams, their congregations, and call the plays given by the head coach, Jesus Christ. Church leaders serve as quarterbacks, throwing passes and encouraging members to study the playbook, the Bible, and play each position, ready to defend the faith.

Corbett also emphasized bridging the generations, appointing

younger district presidents and other Parent Body leaders. Women's Auxiliary President Kibeal Rivers has followed suit.

Two major outreaches of note include providing gift cards to students at HBCUs and partnering with the Sickle Cell Foundation to provide education and support across the state.

Continued from cover - 3rd Anniversary



Rev. Dr. Rodney K. Turner

Pastor's 3rd Anniversary

cles. But what is Jesus saying to the rest of us? How can we do greater works? How do we fulfill the assignment that Jesus has given us?"

In verses 16 and 17, Turner noted that Jesus tells the disciples that he is going to give them help to do the work.

And so, he said, not only does God command us to work, he expects us to work and he empowers us through the Holy Spirit to work.

"Our work is serious," Turner said.

It is not based on our ability but our availability to be used. It is not based upon talent but truth. It is not based upon gifts but grace, not based upon our greatness but his goodness and mercy.

"This work has nothing to do with how smart we are but how sincere we are about Jesus," Turner said. "This work that I'm talking about is not just a Sunday morning experience. That's worship, not work."

Turner said that sometimes we get it twisted that going to church is work. This work is not

just about holding a position in the church but about having a permanent position in heaven, sitting at the master's feet. This work is not to seek the applause of man but of heaven. This work is about how we exalt Jesus, how we lift him up in our daily lives.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew, Turner said, that we are to let our "light so shine among men, that others will see your good works and thereby glorify the father."

"Brothers and sisters in Christ, our work is our witness, not what we say but what we do," he said.

On this day, Turner said he had the great joy of celebrating a worker's anniversary.

"I'm so glad I have not just heard about his work, but I have seen his work," he said, referring to Pastor Kenneth Alexander. "I've watched our pastor work for many years. He didn't just start working; he's been working a long time."

He said that Pastor Kenny hasn't just worked in the church but in the trenches.

Wives, widows encouraged to be model servants

After two years of meeting virtually, the 43rd Annual Southeast Regional Conference of the Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows convened Feb. 24 in Jacksonville, FL.

The joy of being able to gather imbued the opening services with an even greater sense of gratitude for having survived the Covid pandemic.

"The pandemic should have made us more aware of and more grateful for the blessings we have taken for granted and more eager to 'encourage, enable and edify' one another," the Rev. James Wilson, pastor of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in De Leon Springs, FL, declared in his message.

Conference attendees were encouraged to take a hard look at how their personality profile can have both positive and negative effects on their temperament. They learned

in an interactive workshop that an honest review can lead to "Metamorphosing into a Better You."

Outgoing president Melva Bruton emphasized how important it is for ministers' wives and widows to not "sit waiting to be served but to be a model servant that other women can emulate."

Sis. Annie Chambers, founding president of the Metropolitan Atlanta MWMW, and the late Barbara J. Alexander, who served alongside the late Rev. Cameron M. Alexander, were remembered as prime examples, helping mold young preacher's wives.

In other action, Evangelist Janetta McIntyre, former president of Georgia, was elected president by acclamation. She will be installed in June at the 81st International MWMW Conference in Seattle, WA.

"We honor him today for his ministry, a clear example of what it means to work for Jesus. Not just talk about him but work for him."

Turner said that he's seen Pastor Alexander run for many years, and he seems to have more energy than ever before. Indeed, he seems to have gotten a spiritual second wind.

Rev. Kenny, he said, does more than preach on Sunday; "our pastor knows how to reach on Monday, Tuesday, Wednes-

day, Thursday and Friday. His ministry is not just about pen and paper but people, places and things. He's more than just a preacher. He's a planter. He's more than just a leader, he's a laborer."

How is he able to do this?

Turner said that Rev. Alexander knows Jesus.

"We celebrate pastor's anniversary today, but" he said, "the assignment (to work) has been given to all of us."

Amen.

A healthy breakfast for body, mind and soul

Feelings of isolation, worthlessness, of being unloved and blatant torture can cause us to get into real trouble.

But we always have a choice in how we respond to all of life's challenging circumstances, Dr. Margaret Weaver told those who signed on Feb. 12 for the Antioch Baptist Church North Virtual Mental Health Awareness Breakfast.

Weaver shared the story of holocaust survivor Victor Frankl and the woman with the issue of blood in Mark 5:25-34, likening her isolation to that felt by many during the coronavirus pandemic.

For 12 years, Weaver said, the woman experienced a personal pandemic of her own. People were not to go near her. They socially distanced her.

And yet, despite her circumstances, she kept going from doctor to doctor for healing. She spent all her money, but wasn't healed until the day she met and touched our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

"Social distancing did not begin in 2020," Weaver said. "Encourage yourself, keep the faith and keep on going."

Dr. Weaver, a licensed psychologist and long-time member of Antioch, was one of three panelists featured at the breakfast. She was joined by Atlanta therapists and consultants Monique Smith Gadson and Shatavia Thomas.

The women, all of whom offer virtual and in-person counseling services, encouraged those listening in to do everything in



Dr. Gadson



Dr. Weaver



Dr. Thomas

love like 1 Corinthians 16:14, the breakfast theme, calls us to do.

A healthy life's foundation is based on loving God, loving others, and loving ourselves, they agreed.

During difficult challenges, keep your thoughts positive and courageously stand firm in your faith, Gadson said. Be honest with yourself and acknowledge that although there are times in our lives when we wonder if God is loving us, we should always remember that there is never a time that God does not love us.

God's love is unconditional and everlasting, she reminded those gathered via Zoom.

It was Dr. Shatavia Thomas who then reminded the audience to love one another because God loves us.

We can do this through sharing family time, re-evaluating what matters in life, building and nurturing a heightened aware-

ness of mental health, and seeking ways to serve others while honoring God, Thomas said. Love is a verb, and we should love with action and in truth.

How?

We show our love for others through expressions of charity - feeding the homeless, clothing the naked, and donating to those less fortunate. A simple telephone call or a brief note can be a sign of love.

"Love is critical to our mental health," she said. "Let all that we do be done with love."

Additional Resources

Georgia Crisis Line 1 (800) 715-4225
 Suicide Hotline 1 (800) 273-8255
 Addiction Hotline 1 (877) 226-3111
 Eating Disorder Hotline 1 (844) 228-2962
 Self-Harm Hotline 1 (877) 455-0628
 Depression Hotline 1 (888) 640-5174

FEBRUARY

Black History Month

First Black pilot, commander of APD Helicopter Unit

Arthur Cardell joined the Atlanta Police Department in July 1964 after serving honorably in the United States Air Force. He was a member of the APD Class #42 and the 6 PM Watch during the years of departmental segregation. Until 1962, these courageous African American Officers on the 6 PM Watch were

assigned to predominantly African American neighborhoods to patrol and protect the citizens of those neighborhoods. During these turbulent times, they could only arrest African American citizens.

After serving as a detective and sergeant, Arthur Cardell was promoted to the rank of

lieutenant in June 1973. Having been certified at the Mobley School of Aviation as a GI Bill student, he earned more than 250 flying hours - obtaining a commercial pilot's license in fixed winged aircraft. Later, he earned flight hours in helicopter training, and was called upon to command the APD Helicopter

Squad, becoming the first African American to head the unit. The Air Unit was composed of eight helicopter pilots, eight helicopter flight observers, including two African Americans, and three officers in non-flight positions.

Continued on page 7

March is National Kidney Month

Blacks more likely to experience kidney failure

African Americans are four times more likely to develop kidney failure than whites and account for 35% of people with kidney failure.

That fact is seldom far from Mary Hicks Tobin's mind.

Tobin, a long-time member of Antioch Baptist Church North, is a fierce advocate for educating her community about preventing Chronic Kidney Disease.

Her mother, Dr. Mary Hicks, was diagnosed with kidney disease early but did not take the prescribed medication. She changed her eating habits instead and embarked on an aggressive walking regimen.

The changes Mother Hicks made kept her from kidney failure much longer than doctors had predicted, but eventually she was left with one option - a kidney transplant. Tobin did



Mary Hicks Tobin and her mother, the late Dr. Mary Hicks

not hesitate to get tested, and when she learned that she was a match, she immediately volunteered to give her mother one of her kidneys.

Not only was her quality of life

not diminished, Tobin's donation prolonged her mother's life for more than 15 years. Mother Hicks passed on March 18.

In severe cases, patients with chronic kidney disease have to

go on dialysis, a process that removes waste and excess fluid from the blood. Risk factors include diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease, which are preventable, and being over age 60 and family history.

Because kidney disease often does not have symptoms, Tobin suggests people get tested annually.

"Doctors do not routinely test for kidney disease, so you have to ask your doctor to test you, especially if you have diabetes, high blood pressure, or a family history of kidney disease," Tobin said.

They also aren't likely to tell you more donors are needed, especially African Americans.

"You don't have to be afraid to donate a kidney," Tobin stated. "I'm a witness that you can live a full life with one kidney."

Continued from page 6 - Black Pilot

Lt. Cardell, who supervised the Air Unit until he was promoted to captain, strived always for outstanding excellent performance. As the first, he wanted a legacy of exemplary service - "the first but not the last" - to ensure future generations of African Americans were afforded the opportunity to serve as Commander of the APD Air unit.

During his service at APD, Captain Cardell belonged to several organizations which served to advance the cause of equal treatment and opportunities for all. He was a charter member of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, vice president of the Af-



Arthur Cardell

ro-American Patrolman League, a member of The Negro Airmen International, and a member of



the Helicopter Association of America.

In September 2021, the Atlan-

ta Police Historical Society recognized Captain Cardell along with other remaining members of the Atlanta Police 6 PM Watch Group. These Heroes in Blue served through some of the toughest times in policing. Their service and dedication to public safety cannot be overstated. "Lest We Forget" Captain Cardell was honored and celebrated for his achievements and his service to APD and the citizens of Atlanta.

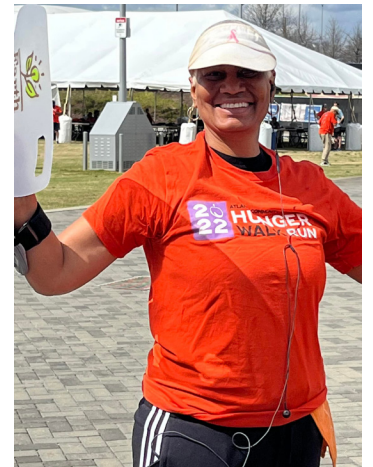
Cardell, a member of Antioch Baptist Church North, and his wife Barbara of 57 years have two daughters, Shelese Lane and Meloni Carter, and two grandsons Cameron and Brandon Carter.

MARCH



AUMI Hunger Walk

Dozens of Antioch Urban Ministries, Inc. supporters turned out to participate in the Atlanta Community Food Bank's annual Hunger Walk/Run held on March 6. The event, held at the Home Depot Backyard, took in-person walkers and runners on a 5K route past the Georgia World Congress Center, State Farm Arena and Centennial Park. Virtual walkers could walk between February 28 and March 6 in their neighborhoods, on a treadmill or even spinning on a bike. They were asked to post their photos on social media and tag the Food Bank. Those who did not want to walk enjoyed the on-site entertainment, food trucks, the Kid Zone, and a variety of vendors.





*Antioch's resident poet, Hank Stewart, received a resolution from Georgia Senators Emmanuel Jones and Valencia Seay for his many years of community service. The resolution was presented on the Senate floor on March 3 at the state capitol. Stewart, who began writing poetry in 1991, is the creator of the popular *White Linen Affair*, which raises money for the Stewart Foundation. The foundation promotes youth leadership.*

Malbrough named "40 Under 40"

Evan Malbrough has been named one of Georgia State University's "40 Under 40".

The honor, awarded March 24, recognizes and celebrates "the most influential and impactful Georgia State graduates who embody the values of the university."

Prior to earning a degree in public policy from GSU in 2020, Bro. Malbrough served as an Andrew Goodman Puffin Democracy Fellow. The Andrew Goodman Foundation seeks to harness the power of young voters aged 18-29. Spurred by a desire to help his community, a passion nurtured by his parents Joseph and Cara Malbrough, Marlborough founded the Georgia Youth Poll Worker Project, a nonpartisan nonprofit.

The project organizes schools, youth groups and local governments to recruit young adult poll workers. In just six months, it recruited more than 1,000 student poll and census workers, the equivalent of staffing 100 precincts.



Marlborough credited people like former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, late Cong. John Lewis, and the late Rev. C.T. Vivian with inspiring him to be an organizer.

Malbrough has merged the GYPW with the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia where he heads up the Poll Worker Recruitment Program.

A published writer on race, politics, and access to democracy, he was recently included in a Teen Vogue series featuring his thoughts on historically black colleges and universities titled "Perspectives from the Birmingham Jail."

Antioch Baptist Church North

RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Registration is required. Visit antiochnorth.org for full details about our registration process.

MASK, FULL VACCINATION, AND BOOSTER SHOT REQUIRED

Mental Health Awareness

"Love One Another"

Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14

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Harden: Antioch's child advocate

At Antioch Baptist Church North, where he has been a member since 1974, Christopher Harden is known for his work with the Youth Orchestra.

But in his professional life, he is not only a staunch advocate for youth but their education, particularly those who are physically and developmentally delayed.

Harden has been doing this work for the past eight years at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Hughes Spalding where he is lead teacher and educational advocate for children with Sickle Cell Disease and Autism. That includes exposing them to STEM, helping raise awareness for the disorder, and hosting college fairs for children with chronic or severe illness in grades 8-12.

But he doesn't stop there. In addition to assisting patients, Harden helps their parents and collaborates with their teachers



Christopher Harden

and school staff to ensure their educational plans are implemented properly.

Harden said it has long been his mission to improve the education of all students.

"Education," he said quoting South African anti-apartheid revolutionary Nelson Mandela, "is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

In 2016, Harden launched several initiatives in partnership with Georgia Tech to provide math and science tutors to struggling students and is currently developing an early literacy program with Atlanta Speech School and Georgia State University.

A doctoral candidate at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Harden, a published author, recently defended his dissertation entitled *Exploring School Lived Experiences of Secondary Students with the Chronic Illness of Sickle Cell Disease Through Their Parents' Lens*.

He will graduate on June 9.

Youth, parents discuss concerns, road to success

Antioch teens and their parents are on the move.

A virtual "Teen Talk," hosted by Sis. Tamar Ross and Sis. Shannon Byrdsell, was held March 13, providing a safe space for youth members to discuss their concerns with trusted adults. A monthly meeting is planned.

Days later on March 19, many of their parents also came together virtually.

In conjunction with the Scholarship Committee, guest speaker Jamoul Celey, program manager of INROADS discussed opportunities for high school students. INROADS is an international non-profit organization that focuses on helping underrepresented, ethnically diverse high school

students attend college and begin careers in corporate and community leadership.

INROADS, Celey said, provides mentorship on three levels: high school students, college students, and professionals. The College Links program provides college and career readiness for high school students. There is a summer program for students completing eighth grade that generally leads to acceptance in the high school program.

College students are groomed for internships. Black college sophomores are eligible to apply for the 10-week Financial Services Institute designed to help them build competencies in the financial industry. INROADS Professionals or iPROS pairs

recent college graduates with experienced professionals. The Future Leaders Program works to fulfill its name for professionals at all experience levels.

The program to date has over 30,000 alumni as well as corporate clients, which INROADS helps to reach their corporate diversity and inclusion goals. THE HBCU+ program connects HBCU students with corporations seeking to increase their pool of highly qualified diverse candidates.

The earlier youth begin in the program, Celey said, the more skills they develop as they move through the different programs.

Parents hope to continue their meetings with Celey on a monthly basis.



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: gracie.staples@gmail.com



AUMI **Apparel Shoppe**



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Grand Opening
SATURDAY, MAY 7, 8:30AM-11:30AM

*You can sign up to volunteer your time
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Serving the Least of These

Circumstances change, but God's the same Shepherd

In a stirring interpretation of a single verse in Psalm 23, Dr. Margaret Weaver reminded nearly 170 guests attending the Women's Transformation Prayer Breakfast that the shepherd has prepared a table for us where we can find rest and the strength to press on.

The breakfast, held virtually on March 11, is named for the late Barbara J. Alexander, Antioch's former first lady who served alongside Pastor Kenny's father, the late Rev. Cameron Madison Alexander.

Because it celebrates Mrs. Alexander's legacy, Weaver said, she was particularly honored to be this year's guest speaker.

Barbara Alexander, she said, wore a lot of hats, and yet she wore all of them with grace. She pressed on.

Indeed, she said, the one who invites us, the Great I am, makes it possible for us to keep going. He's a waymaker, a miracle worker, a promise keeper, and a mighty God.

And yet, for some, it's hard to phantom that He even wants us at the table because they can't see someone loving them that much.

"If it's hard for you to believe, let me suggest you go stand in front of the mirror and say, 'he knows my name,'" she said.

Weaver, a licensed psychologist and motivational speaker, centered her comments around verse 5: "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over."

Although the Psalm has been a source of strength and comfort for believers throughout centuries, Weaver said it is here, at the Lord's table, we find what we need. It is also where we discover our enemies.



Dr. Margaret O. Weaver

"We need to be careful that we are not so distracted by the enemy that we don't see the table," she said.

Believers can be distracted in many ways, including through unhealthy, discouraging thoughts that cause us to forget the one who prepared the table. If we want to come back to the table, Weaver suggested going back to the word or playing gospel music.

When we get there, don't forget to say grace, she said. "Father, we thank you for the food we're about to receive for the nourishment of our body." When we come to the table, we need to be thankful not only for what God has provided but for what he is going to provide.

Because the coronavirus pandemic has been so long and unpredictable, Weaver said that if we aren't careful we can become cynical and develop a spirit of ingratitude.

She warned that our ingratitude can have a negative impact on others seated at our table. Ask yourself if God gave you tomorrow what you thanked him for today, what would you have tomorrow?

Add prayer to gratitude and, Weaver said, we have a very powerful combination.

"When you pray with thanksgiving the peace of God that passes all understanding will keep your hearts and mind," she reminded those in attendance. "I know that we can find ourselves in situations that are so painful, we find it difficult to be thankful. We need to acknowledge that. The good shepherd can handle it."

David says in Psalm 100, enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. But in Psalm 38, Weaver reminded the church that that same David admits he's troubled.

"So can we," Weaver said. "Never let your circumstance determine your praise. I can't allow what I don't understand about God to interfere with what I do know. I still understand that his mercy is everlasting; that he can do above and beyond what I can think or ask."

And so when we come to the table, Weaver said, we should come with the intention of staying awhile and enjoying the host because everything we need is at this table. "I'm so grateful David's shepherd is my shepherd even now. It might be another enemy, but he's the same shepherd," she said. "It might be another virus, but he's the same shepherd. It might be another battle, but he's still the same shepherd."

"He gives us what we need so we can press on, but he doesn't stop there. He provides what we need now and in the future. How do we know? Because David says surely goodness and mercy will follow us. Because the Lord is my shepherd I have everything I need."

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