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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 2013

Volume 5, Issue 5

Family Division Culminating Services

In a quarter that celebrated Antioch Baptist Church North families, the December culmination service was a fitting end to another great year.

Antioch congratulated Pastor and Mrs. Alexander on their 59th wedding anniversary, celebrated her pioneers and 136th church anniversary and installed the Rev. Eddie Bright as pastor of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Then as the family division, which also ushered in another fall revival and the annual Christmas tree extravaganza and toy drive, passed the torch to the women's division, a special choir sang, a special orchestra performed and the Rev. Kenneth Alexander reminded us to take Jesus with us.

He drew much of his sermon from the second chapter of Matthew in which an angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph in a dream, "saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word."

On the last Sunday of the year, Alexander said that although Jesus lived on earth 33 years, it isn't until the last three that we begin to hear of his ministry.

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Rev. Kenneth Alexander preaches at the Culmination Service.



Rev. Terry Ladd, Pastor, First Baptist Church in Chattanooga

Antioch celebrates 136th Anniversary

Pastor Cameron Alexander thanked Antioch members for granting him a long tenure as head of the congregation and the Lord for good health and what the church has stood for.

"I hope the Church never gets to the point where it feels ministry is getting in the way of its profit," Alexander said at the closing of Antioch's 136th anniversary celebration.

And he reminded the congregation that Jesus would be doing some separating based upon what we have done to help others.

"As oft you did it to the least of these, you did it unto me," he said quoting Christ. "Thank you for having it in your heart to take care of the least of these."

Pastor Alexander offered his appreciation to the Antioch as yet another anniversary ended on Nov. 10.

The Rev. Terry Ladd, a son of Antioch and pastor of First Baptist Church in Chattanooga, was the guest preacher at both the 7:45 and 11 a.m. services.

Drawing from the seventh chapter of Acts, Ladd reminded Antioch that it was started in the wilderness and that great things often happen there.

"Jesus after being baptized was led to the wilderness," Ladd said. "In our text (Acts 7:35-38), Stephen recounts

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A Message From The Pastor



My Brothers and Sisters:

This edition of the Church at Antioch is being made available to our church family just days after some of the most hazardous weather in our city's history. Fortunately for us the worries associated with the snow and ice are gone. Now we remember the perils of the weather as a dangerous and unwelcomed event that temporarily impacted our lives.

With the storm gone, we now hear testimonies from so many about God's mercy and God's goodness as He provided protection and safety during horrible travel conditions related to the storm. As Christians, we all should give daily witness to the fact that God can and will give all of us dwelling places of safety regardless of the storms that confront or interrupt the peace of our lives, only if we believe and accept Him as our Lord and Savior.

There is so much sunshine in the current pages of our newsletter where we celebrate personal achievements within the Antioch congregation. Highlights are also shared from our Church Anniversary Observance, Women's Transformational Conference and from our membership activities associated with our Baptist affiliates, as well as a few wonderful Thanksgiving antidotes from some of our members.

As pastor, I appreciate the hard work of the newsletter staff under the skillful leadership of Sister Gracie Staples. She and her team do a great job keeping our Antioch Family connected. Please don't be bashful about sharing the good news happening to you and your family. We all want to celebrate the fellowship that we love as the Antioch Baptist Church North.

Yours in God's service,

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

Reverend C. M. Alexander, Pastor

Continued from cover - Family Division

We know, for instance, that Jesus did not have blue eyes or pale skin.

"John said his eyes were like a flame of fire," Alexander said. "His hair was like wool and his skin like bronze."

Maybe, he said, if "my young brothers knew" this, they might pull their pants up and stop killing each other.

Alexander said that when the angel came to Joseph, he didn't wake up everybody.

"God didn't tell everybody the plan," he said. "God had the angel wake Joseph up and tell him to take Mary and the baby to Egypt."

Even in 2013, daddies are still important to the family, he said.

"On this culmination Sunday, I want to remind you of the angel's words," Alexander said. "Wake up. Joseph, your sons need our guidance. Wake up. Your children need your protection. Wake up."

He said that he has decided to be like Mary and Joseph and take Jesus with him.

It was clear that many in the congregation plan to do the same.

"When you leave church, if you want a better life, take Jesus with you," he said. "If you want to be forgiven, take Jesus with you. If you want to forgive, take Jesus with you. If you want to be a better mother, father, son or daughter, take Jesus with you."

Continued from cover - 136th Anniversary

Moses wilderness story."

Ladd said that Stephen reminded the Sanhedrin that the Church always receives a promise, a living word from God.

The same was true for the Bethursday Christians who founded Antioch. They received a word from God and the church through Pastor Alexander is still receiving the word.

Then from Genesis at the 11 a.m. service, he reminded the congregation that there's nothing like God's house.

"God's house is a special place," he said. Not only is it a place of rest and reassurance, it's a place of restoration.

Antioch, Ladd said, is the place people come to meet the lord.

"It's God's place and there is no other place like it."

OCTOBER

Dinner theater returns to enthusiastic applause

It's back!

Just as Antioch Baptist Church North celebrated its 136th anniversary, members from the "old church" fondly remembered the church's monthly dinner theaters.

Music, Art, and Drama for Christ was the brainchild of the Rev. Arnold McKinney, a son of Antioch, who sought to bring the church's creative ministries under a general umbrella. For many years, the multi-talented Bro. Andre Baldwin, an anointed vocalist, actor and writer, was a major influence in the development of M.A.D., which would later add another D for Dance.

Utilizing all of his gifts—including the gift of persuasion - Bro. Baldwin convinced many Antioch members who had never acted before to take roles in the plays he wrote and perform in the monthly dinner theater. On Oct. 25, Bro. David Vaughn picked up the mantle.

As those assembled dined, the history of Antioch unfolded before them. Playwright and Director David Vaughn re-created the BeThursday Prayer Meeting Group and portrayed the founding and early years of Antioch with captivating reality.

The audience was transported back in time to witness BeThursday Christians come together for prayer, worship, study, and service to the surrounding community. Experiencing the growing pains as well as hallelujah moments of the early church, the one constant was the strong prayers that calmed the anxieties that arose when difficult decisions had to be made and challenges met and rejoiced with thanksgiving when the Lord's faithfulness allowed them to pay off the mortgage early and re-finance when a larger facility was needed.

The large cast employed the talents of seasoned actors and those making their

acting debuts, some even filling in at the last minute. The presentation was convincing and gave members

a better sense of Antioch's founders' determination, resilience, and total reliance on the Lord.

Woolridge elected to Clark Atlanta student government

JaKayla Woolridge has been elected secretary of the Clark Atlanta University freshman class.

Woolridge, daughter of Jamil Woolridge and granddaughter of Sis. Evelyn Roberts, was elected to the Student Government Association position in October.

She is also a member of Isabella T. Jenkins Honors



Jakayla Woolridge

Program, Heavenly Divine Praise Dance Team, and the NAACP. "Clark Atlanta University has welcomed me with open arms and has allowed me to receive many great opportunities," Woolridge said.

The early childhood education major credits the love and support she received from Pastor Cameron Alexander and the Antioch family for giving her the confidence to pursue her dreams and become a model student.

"I can gladly say that Antioch has helped me to become the young woman I am," she said.

Taking the walk against breast cancer

There was no formal Antioch team this year in the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Walk on Oct. 26, but Antioch members participated in the annual event just the same.

Sis. Joyce Thompkins was

one of them.

"Almost every family has been touched by the disease, and I walk to help raise funds for research but mainly to be supportive of those who are going through and to help raise

the awareness that early detection means a high chance of survival," Thompkins said.

The 3.5-mile walk, held in Centennial Olympic Park, raises funds and awareness of breast cancer, which dis-

proportionately strikes the African-American community.

A large number of Antioch women are breast cancer survivors, some finishing treatment as recently as October.

Simmons returns for 2013 fall revival

Antioch son Rev. Jermaine Simmons returned this fall to preach the church's Fall Revival held Oct. 28-30. Simmons is pastor of Jacob Chapel Baptist Church in Tallahassee, Fla. Below is a synopsis of the preached word from each night:

Oct. 28

Scripture: John 16:32-33

Subject: What to do when Monday comes

Sermon notes: When I examine current conditions, I'm reminded of the hymn that says "time is filled with swift transitions." In my life and yours, no matter your age and stage, the transitions are swift and very rarely do we receive warning. You can be healthy at breakfast and sick at supper. You can be riding high one moment and barely hanging on at midnight. You didn't ask to be laid off, didn't plan to lose everything but it happened. In the text, Jesus is preparing His disciples for His transition, for what comes after the resurrection. Jesus says your weekend will be full of trial, you will see weeping at the tomb. The message is don't ever get so hung up on Sunday, you forget Monday. The resurrection wasn't the end, it was the beginning. Monday was on the way but have peace. You've got a savior. The answer to Monday is "be," be of good cheer. The savior has overcome the world.

Oct. 29

Scripture: Luke 14:16-24

Subject: If you don't want it, I'll take it

Sermon notes: It's important for the people of God to gather. No Christian can grow in isolation. No man is an island and no matter how diverse we may be, the one thing we all have in common is our need for Jesus and so gatherings like this take on signifi-

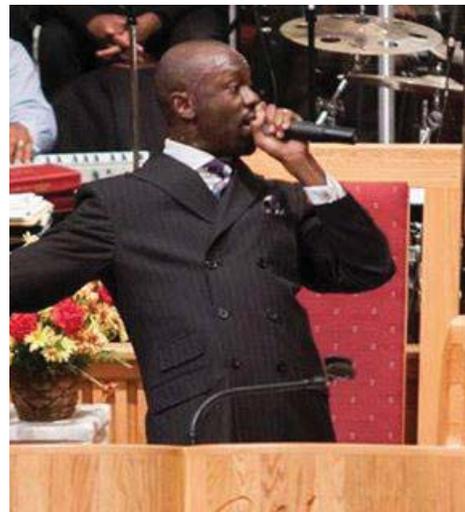
cance. In this parable, Jesus speaks of a grand supper to which many are invited. But the people offer trivial excuses not to come. Every Sunday, He invites us to feast on His word but we make excuses. The issue in the text was their appetite. They weren't hungry enough. They don't want Jesus. They don't want the Word. They want the world. I'm glad he didn't stop with the religious people. If they don't want it, I'll take it.

Oct. 30

Scripture: Luke 7:36-48

Subject: I'm giving Him the best that I got

Sermon notes: One of the things we appreciate most about Jesus is His willingness to engage people at any level. It doesn't matter their personal plight or politics. His concern is their relationship to Him and so in spite of who you are or what you've been through, He's willing to engage all of us. Notice His compassion for people, His willingness to engage everyone in the text, gets a different response from different people. Jesus was



Rev. Jermaine Simmons

willing to show up for a man without faith. When I come to revival, I want to talk to Jesus because I've got questions only He can answer; issues that only he can deal with. Revival is a conclave for confused Christians. Those people you think are less than you, those are the people Jesus came for. When the Lord has been good to you, he deserves your best praise, your best worship. Bring him the best you got.

ACE hosts job fair & business expo

Dozens of Antioch members and community residents participated in the October 19th Job Fair and Business Expo hosted by the Antioch Council of Entrepreneurs.

Participants attended workshops on résumé preparation, interviewing skills, and steps to starting a new business.

Representatives from several companies participated, including Celine's Family Services, which provides community-based mental health services, and Liberty Tax Services.

Antioch entrepreneurs, DubLi Network, Inc., a global marketing company, and Organo Gold, coffee, tea, and related products, offered attendees an opportunity to become individual business associates.

Antioch entrepreneurs provided quality products and services from cosmetics to VCR, album, cassette tape conversion services.

Handmade goods conceived and produced by Antioch Youth Entrepreneurs were sold during the event.

What are you thankful for?

In the spirit of Thanksgiving

It's been said that genuine thankfulness flows from a grateful heart. And so as the Thanksgiving season drew near, we asked Antioch members what were they most thankful for. Here's a sampling of what some said:

Connie Ross

One the many things I am most thankful for is that within my wonderful church family, I have friends who have become "real" family to me. The sisters that I know and love at Antioch are really like my flesh and blood sisters. I see them more than my real sisters and they display the love and support to me that I get from my "real" sisters. They support and encourage me. They tell me when I am wrong and continue to love me in the process. Also my real sisters know most of them. They are also glad that these wonderful ladies are in my life.

Sharon Coby

I am thankful that the Lord has blessed my mother to celebrate her 88th birthday this month. She is in good spirit and health and for that, I am grateful!

Joyce Thompkins

I am thankful for my health, my friends and my family. I am also thankful whenever I am able to help others in need—that's the true blessing. I am truly thankful that I have a personal relationship with my Lord and Savior, Jesus.

Diane Smith

I have always known I had a lot for which to be thankful. God has always open doors for me. He has healed my body over and over and kept me as healthy as possible. I've always had food to feed not only my family but whom ever came to our home. He provided me with an awesome mate, two healthy daughters and three grandchildren. And he was there as my family and I endured much pain in 2012. In January, my best friend passed away; and in April, when I had to bury my best friend and husband of 48 years, I felt like my world had just crumbled. Even then he saw us through. I am thankful to God, my Antioch family, for prayers, telephone calls, and e-mails that strengthened us.

Ida M. Allen

I have a lot to be thankful because the Lord has seen fit to keep me half-way healthy. He always seems to keep blessing me so that I can bless others. The Lord knows how a lot of stuff falls on me (family business and af-

fairs) but he always manages to get me through it even though I get tired. I've often wonder how does this happens. I guess the Lord only knows and he just seems to bring me through.

Renee Calhoun

First and foremost I am thankful to God for saving me and being in my life, constantly looking beyond my faults and seeing my needs. As a wife and mother of two, I am thankful for my family and their unconditional love for me. I'm especially grateful for my church family and extended family and for having people in my life to lean on and talk to when things are not going as well as I would like. Lastly, I'm extremely thankful that my oldest sister, Deborah will be coming home for Christmas for the first time since 2004, when our mother passed away. In fact, it's been 10 years since I, my four sisters and brother have been in the same place during the holidays. I am eternally grateful to God for his blessings, mercy, grace and favor.

Stephanie Smith-Greene

I am most thankful for my family, my health and strength and for my heavenly Father allowing me to have a sound mind to remember all the great times with my earthly father Mr. Jasper Smith.

Lavonia Brewer

I am thankful for so much. God has been so good to me. Earlier this year my birth mother passed away and as a result of this, my siblings and I have grown closer. Out of 12 children I was the only one not raised in the household with them. I am thankful we are trying to build a loving relationship. Several of them spent Thanksgiving at my house. I am praying this will be a good thing. God does answer prayer and I am so delighted he has answered mine.

Monica Elliott

I am thankful for having a loving family, close friends, good health and occupations, and new opportunities each day. Most of all, I'm thankful for God, who has granted me all those blessings and more.

Stephanie Malone

As I reflect upon the season of Thanksgiving, I am humbled to know and appreciate how blessed I am. I have health, faith, the love of my family, employment and am surrounded by absolutely amazing friends.

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity visits Antioch

The Alpharetta-Smyrna Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity attended Antioch Oct. 20 for its monthly church outing of the year.

About a dozen members thoroughly enjoyed the typical love expressed by Antioch Baptist Church members. The worship service, which included a powerful selection by the hand bell choir, was an extra-spiritual experience.

Pastor Cameron M. Alexander delivered an encouraging message from John 14:1, reminding us that we should not be troubled.

“There is no need for us to worry because God is in control,” Rev. Alexander said. “No matter what, we must stand firm trusting Him and that His purpose for our lives will be fulfilled.”

Kappa Alpha Psi includes undergraduate and alumni chapters from major college campuses and in cities throughout the



Members of the Alpharetta-Smyrna Alumni Chapter

country. Chartered and incorporated originally under the laws of the State of Indiana as Kappa Alpha Nu on May 15, 1911, the name was changed to Kappa Alpha Psi in December 1914.

The fraternity is dedicated to the principles of achievement and service to the community.

Melton, Branch awarded scholarships

Brittany Melton and Jordan Branch have been named recipients of this year's Mount Hermon Missionary Baptist Association scholarship award.

The \$1,000 scholarships are awarded annually to students nominated by their home churches.

Mount Hermon has been dedicated to awarding scholarships for post-secondary education to youth of member churches since its inception, and under the leadership of Moderator Stanley Smith, the amount has increased to \$1,000.00 per scholarship.

Several past recipients said the scholarship has made a difference in being able to attend their first choice college and having to choose a local college.

Anniversary and reunion to remember

Facebook and Instagram move aside. There is nothing like an old-fashioned, face-to-face family reunion.

That proved true Nov. 9 as members of Antioch Baptist Church North gathered in the 590 Building for food, fun and fellowship.

The reunion was part of the church's 136th anniversary, which celebrated under the theme “Rekindle the Flame... Catch the Fire,” based on Jeremiah 20:9.

Antioch pioneers, with continuous membership for 20-plus years, shared stories of the “old church” and testimonies of God's goodness.

Co-pastor Rev. Kenneth Alexander commended Bro. Hank Stewart for bringing more than 100 volunteers to assist with the AUMI food and clothing handouts that occur every Saturday.

“As a family, we must reach out to the least of these among our family members,” Alexander said.

Baptist women hold day of prayer

Baptist women from around the world gathered in November to promote understanding and sympathy and to unite in prayer for global and local needs.

Under the theme “In Step with the Spirit,” the day was filled with spiritual uplift.

Attendees broke into groups representing the different continents of the world and after gaining some knowledge of the area prayed for the specific needs.

Prayers for Africa included that as economic meltdown continues to rise in most countries, God would encourage

Baptist women in Africa to engage in prayer and fasting as a vehicle for bringing about change. For the Caribbean prayer was asked for the new government in the Bahamas, that more women will find gainful employment in Jamaica and other islands throughout the Caribbean, and for the spiritual empowerment and child-rearing skills among mothers which will impact the future of the Caribbean.

With Baptist women all over the world petitioning God for specific needs, change is bound to come.

Antioch service visible at GMBC Annual Session

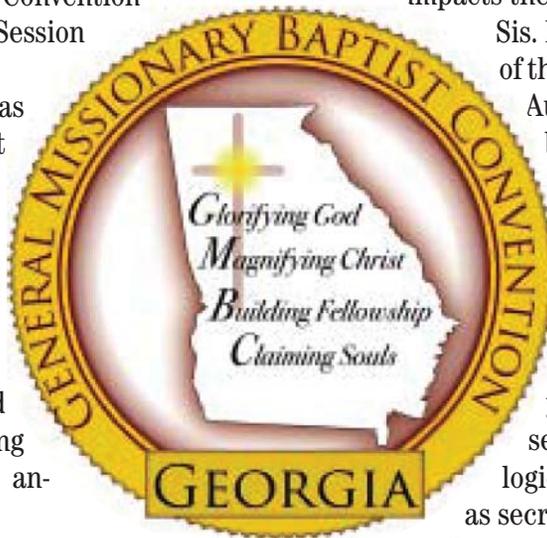
The General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc., held its Annual Session Nov. 11-14 in Columbus.

Antioch Baptist Church North has a long history of active involvement with GMBC, Inc. Its pastor, Cameron Madison Alexander, served in various capacities before his tenure as president for 29 years and his continued service as President Emeritus.

And so it wasn't surprising to find many of Antioch's members taking leadership roles during this year's annual session.

Antioch's Sis. Brenda Eason is responsible for handling all of the logistics in her capacity as Director of Operations and Convention Planner, and the flawlessness with which the session ran is in large measure due to her expertise and the able assistance of members Sis. Peggy Cooper and Sis. Jean Jones, who assist at the GMBC Headquarters.

Sis. Eason also serves as Coordinator of the Ushers and Health Professional's Ministry. Sis. Karen McKinney Holley serves as Vice President of the Women's Auxiliary, which implemented several new events this year, including workshops on human trafficking and how social media



impacts the lives of Christians.

Sis. Rosalyn Curington served as president of the Jubilee Hour, in which the Women's Auxiliary Choir made its debut, and her mother, Mrs. Mary P. Murray, who serves as President Emeritus of the Women's Auxiliary was a featured soloist at the Agape Breakfast.

Sis. Dorcas Ford Jones, State-wide Director of the Young People's Department provided training for youth workers. Dr. Mary L. Hicks serves as President of the Bryant Theological Seminary, and Sis. Holley serves as secretary.

Courses and seminars were available through the Christian Leadership Institute and the Moderators/Ministers Division, which co-pastor Rev. Kenneth Alexander and several sons of Antioch attended.

In his first annual address after his election as president in November 2012, Rev. Curtis Raines preached, "A Labor Shortage" based on Matt. 9:35-38. With the backdrop of Fort Benning, the largest army installation in the world, he said that "Christians are being blessed daily, but like the 10 lepers, only one is turning back to say 'thank you' through service to God, which is service to others."

Mount Hermon Association holds 73rd Annual Session

The Seventy-Third Annual Session of the Mount Hermon Association was held from Oct. 22-24 at Chapel Hill Baptist Church.

The Rev. Scott Copeland, Mothers B. Harris, Eunice Harrison, Frances Miles, Effie Nalls, and Sisters Vanessa English and Karen M. Holley, all members of Antioch Baptist Church North, were in attendance.

In addition to the business sessions, each auxiliary of the Mt. Hermon Association has a program during the three days of the conference, which includes educational lectures, inspiring sermons, and displays of talents and gifts.

The Youth Department presents the King and Queen Scholarship Musical during the session, which provides an avenue for youth of each member church to display their talents as well as participate in the competition, which generates money for the scholarship fund.

In her message, "Gather the Fragments So No One Is Lost," an exposition of Mark 6:39-44 Rev. Marian L. Perkins, President

of the Young Women's Auxiliary, thoroughly explained Hebrew cultural aspects of grouping, tithes, and offerings, including the bread tithe and offering tied to the five loaves of bread.

"Fragments were considered holy food," Perkins said. "We must reach out to, collect, and serve our fragments - people who need a word of encouragement, our youth, our families, people left aside by society - in order to glorify God."

This theme reverberated throughout the Annual Session as Dr. Douglas Stowers in the Doctrinal Sermon, "The Valley of Brokenness" explained that blessings have come out of brokenness, including the bread that Christ broke during the Last Supper.

In his annual address, "Something Better for Us" based on Hebrews 11:40, Moderator Smith summed up what it means to have a missionary spirit.

"God didn't heal you to make you a trophy," he said. "He didn't bless us so we could brag. He wants us to serve this present age and show them a better way—a way of faith."

Malbroughs host UCAN fellowship

Joseph and Cara Malbrough opened their lovely home to the United Couples of Antioch North Dec. 13 for the annual Christmas fellowship.



Coordinators Bro. Derek and Sis. Karyl Clayton and Bro. Darnell and Sis. Anthea Evans estimated that approximately 40 couples gathered to share in a potluck fellowship that featured culinary delights ranging from New Orleans gumbo to prize-winning prime rib and key lime cake.

In addition to the food, the opportunity to gather with church members to share family stories and life experiences were high points of the evening.

Naturally, the men gathered around the ball games, enjoying good-natured “sideline coaching” as they cheered against rival teams. The wide range of ages provided an opportunity for the more seasoned couples to share tips to young couples and newlyweds on achieving an abundant life with Jesus Christ.

Sis. Bright addresses annual prayer breakfast

Our own Sis. Vivian Bright was one of the keynote speakers Nov. 9 at the Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter of the International Ministers’ Wives and Widows’ annual prayer breakfast at Faith Temple Missionary Baptist Church.



Sis. Bright, wife of Antioch son and newly installed Mt. Zion Baptist Church Pastor Eddie Bright, spoke on gentleness.

“God is intentional, purposeful, loving, and exact,” Bright told those gathered. “He made all things and does all things well.”

Sis. Bright said that we are made in the image of God, which includes gentleness, but “unless we have the spirit of God dwelling within us, we will be unable to choose gentleness; our flesh is too weak, too selfish, too inconsistent.

“Whatever our hands touch, we leave fingerprints,” she said. “We must be mindful to always leave prints of gentleness: touch a lonely neighbor, an anxious mother, a frightened child with the gentle touch of God.”

The program was based on the fruit of the spirit, Galatians 5:22-23.

Three nights, three sermons complete Soul Bowl

For three nights, Nov. 19-21, the Fifth District of the General Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc. gathered for its annual Soul Bowl Revival. And for three nights, attendees feasted on the word, delivered in sermons and lectures.



to function, knowing what God intends for them to do with their lives, who are also willing to avail themselves to use their gift for God’s purpose, and who will persevere in their service until the end of their days,” Jenkins said.

The Rev. Dr. W.J. Lawson, Fifth District president, challenged everyone to put the theme “Solidarity with the Savior through Mission and Evangelism” based on Luke 19:10, into action and reach out to the unchurched and urge their attendance.

Antioch son and Pastor of Old Friendship M.B.C., Rev. Brendan Jenkins, gave the opening lecture on Tuesday evening, drawing from Rev. 2:10, “Faithful to the Finish.”

“God is seeking a few faithful followers who are fit

The Rev. M. Davis, pastor of Greater Ephesus Baptist Church, followed Rev. Jenkins preaching a sermon entitled “Stick with the Gospel” taken from Matt. 28:19-20.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Giving God thanks at Thanksgiving service

Antioch continued its annual tradition of joining seven sister churches in November for the annual Thanksgiving Day service.

This year marked the 67th for the service, which was held at the Lindsey Street Baptist Church, the home church of Pastor Cameron M. Alexander.

"We miss Pastor Cameron Alexander and his lovely wife Barbara," Lindsey's Pastor Anthony Motley told those gathered. "Let's take a moment to give honor to their faithful work in this community."

The Rev. Kenneth Alexander, Antioch's co-pastor, offered greetings, noting the day was one of the coldest in history "but it is hot up in here."

On a more serious note, Alexander



Antioch Note Singers at the Annual Thanksgiving Day Service

said "We all owe God our thanksgiving."

Gratitude rang out as each choir sang praises. The Antioch Note Singers had the assembled worshippers on their feet as they rendered the shape

note selection "Have a Talk with Jesus," transporting worshippers back, no doubt, to 1946 when the fellowship began.

Antioch holds 10th annual Christmas tree extravaganza

Antioch Baptist Church North youth, ushers and C.M.A. Male Chorus garnered top awards in this year's annual Christmas Tree Extravaganza competition.

The Youth Department won for most original tree. The male chorus was tapped for most creative tree and the ushers got top honors for the most festive tree.

"As we decorate our Christmas trees this year, we must thank God for life," Pastor Cameron Alexander told members gathered. "We know the Santa Claus at the stores, but there's another Santa Claus that's at home, at the church, and on the job; the Santa Claus who makes sure you get your check on time, not once a year but every week. Thank God for the people in your life, and pray for them because without them you wouldn't be doing as well as you are."

The July and February Birthmonth ministries were also recognized for best attendance and finance, respec-

tively.

The December 7th event - in its 10th year- saw the 590 Building lit up with the lights of Christmas and members dressed in festive holiday clothing.

Sponsored by AUMI and the October, November, and December Birthmonths, Antioch's annual "Festival of Trees," rivals commercial displays of professionally decorated trees.

It was darkened only by the death of former South African President Nelson Mandela, who Alexander said was too large for a grave to hold.

"Holes cannot be dug deep enough; cemeteries cannot be big enough," he said. "Eulogies can't tell enough, and time can't erase them. They're too big to be buried—so it was with Mandela."

Antioch co-sponsored Mandela's visit to Atlanta in 1984, when he was running for president, raising a million dollars to support his campaign.

Pastor Alexander thanked the Birthmonth leaders and coordinators, Sis. Marie Thompson and Min. Derrick



Christmas Tree Extravaganza

Jackson for their steadfastness. He said the funds raised through the birthmonth giving were used to repair the fountain and will be used to repair the burned out chandeliers in the sanctuary.

The trees and toys collected will be donated to needy families.

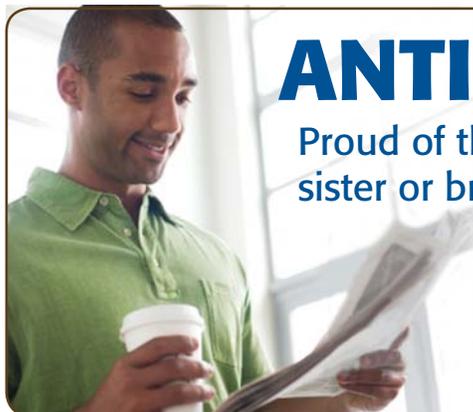


Scenes from the

ACE Job Fair &

Business Expo

ANTIOCH CHRISTIAN ENTREPRENEURS



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.



Congratulations!

Janetta Hill

Janetta Hill has been awarded a \$100,000 Scholarship to the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Hill, a senior at the DeKalb School of Art, was presented the Hip Hop Sisters Foundation award during a live taping of the 2013 Soul Train Awards Show in Las Vegas, Nev.

She is the daughter of Janet Hill.



Asha Staples

Asha Staples, 22, recently signed a two-year contract with ABC affiliate WLOX-TV in Biloxi, MS.

Staples graduated in May from the University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelor of Arts degree in broadcast journalism. She is the daughter of the Rev. Jimmy and Sis. Gracie Staples.



Thousands reached at GMBC Soul Bowl

More than 1,100 souls gave their lives to Christ during the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia's annual soul bowl.

The 36th Annual Soul Bowl Culmination was held Dec. 7 at Lizzie Chapel Baptist Church in Macon, where the Rev. Ronald Toney is pastor.

The purpose of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia event was best summed up during the opening sermon by the Rev. Richard Gammage, pastor of the New Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

Gammage called the Soul Bowl a "revival crusade."

In his message, "Revival in a Whale Jail," Rev. Gammage preached, "we must each be agents of revival, devil-destroying, soul-searching, knee-bending revivalists. Calling Jonah a foreign missionary who preached an eight-word sermon, he said that we "each must preach until we reach—even just one."

Each of the twelve districts into which the GMBC is divided, holds local soul bowl services, making a special effort through Saints with a Testimony teams like Antioch's, to reach out to their communities through mission and evangelism. The entire GMBC then comes together to report the number of souls reached through these outreach efforts.



But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

HEBREWS 11:6

**SAVE
—THE—
DATE**

And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

Ruth 1:16

Slouch on the Couch "Playoff Game Day"

Father's Appreciation

January 18, 2014

Women's Transformation Prayer Breakfast

February 1, 2014

Women's Transformation Conference

February 15, 2014

Rev. Alexander's Birthday

February 12, 2014

(celebration February 8 or 9, 2014)

Women's Educational Tour – Memphis, TN

March 21-23, 2014

Mrs. Alexander's Birthday

March 30, 2014

Women's Culmination Sunday

March 30, 2014

Palm Sunday

April 13, 2014

Hattitude Tea 2014 Buckhead Ritz Carlton

April 19, 2014

Sisters by Choice Breast Cancer Walk

July 19, 2014

Trash to Treasure Flea Market

August 23, 2014



Ron Wilbur shines in NBC's "The Sing-Off"

Antioch Baptist Church North's Ron Wilbur let it shine during his performance with the acoUstiKats during their run on NBC's "The Sing-Off."

Wilbur, son of Sis. Michelle Williams, and the acoUstiKats were acoUstiKa-mazing as one of the last groups to perform during the competition in December. Indeed, their Elvis-inspired rendition of Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines" scored the only standing ovation from judge Shawn Stockman of Boys II Men.

The fun, hip-gyrating performance led judge Jewel to say that she needed an "acoUstiKa-cold shower" afterwards. She said she never knew men could move like that.

Judge Ben Folds of Ben Folds Five teased Stockman by saying he thought the Boyz II Men star's acoUstiKat ticket "had exploded in his pocket."

All three judges and host Nick Lachey praised the solid performance for its fun take on one of the year's most popular songs. Stockman said he first thought it would be "an acoUstiKat-astrophe" when he learned the a cappella group was taking on the hit, but was pleasantly surprised by Wilbur's three-octave range.

While the acoUstiKats didn't win, Wilbur, lead singer of the group, still has reason to celebrate. He graduated from the University of Kentucky in December.

Meet Trey Daniels, Antioch's sax player

It's not surprising that Antioch Baptist Church North's alto sax player's soulful, spirit-filled sound was birthed at his hometown church, New Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Tampa.

Since the age of 12, Hosea L. Daniels III, also known as Trey, has gained nearly virtuoso status as an Alto Saxophonist. He specializes in genres which include but are not limited to R&B, Gospel, Traditional and Contemporary

Jazz, and Neo-Soul.

He joined Antioch's band early this year, mesmerizing the congregation with such solo tunes as "For Every Mountain," "Praise is what I Do," and "Thank you Lord."

This year, Daniels will release his first album, a mix of gospel and jazz.

In addition to his work at Antioch, he has performed at several prestigious venues such as Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater, FL, with Pieces of

a Dream and the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center.

Daniels, who played with several jazz ensembles at Florida State University under the direction of Leon Anderson, was named Performer of the Year at the Patel Conservatory in Tampa and recently opened for Lionel Richie and Lalah Hathaway in New Orleans, LA, at the 103rd Alpha Phi Alpha National Convention.



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