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48th Anniversary



Celebrating a man of integrity

The exact National Baptist Convention escapes him now, but the Rev. Calvin Butts III remembered taking a seat in the back and listening intently to the Rev. Cameron Madison Alexander.

“I was wrapped up in it from beginning to end,” he said. “It had me laughing. It had me crying, but most of all it drew me closer to god.”

From that moment on, Butts, guest speaker during Pastor Alexander’s 48th anniversary celebration on Aug. 6, said he has admired Antioch’s pas-

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Antioch Youth in Action

Theme: Matthew 5:16—Be The Light That Changes The World...#SHINE

7:45am Speakers



WILLIAM EVANS, JR.



JILLIAN CARROLL



NICHOLAS BROWN

11:00am Speakers



ELIZABETH SCOTT



MYAH WILLIAMS



JAYLA WALKER

Antioch youth, pictured above, delivered messages of hope and inspiration during the Sept. 24th worship services. Their speeches, edited slightly for space, can be found on pages 6, 7, 8, and 9. Read them, and be blessed.

A Message From The Pastor



Dear Antioch Family,

Thank you for your extreme kindness as we celebrated my 48th Anniversary as Pastor of our beloved Antioch. I have to explain to other pastors that I am not boasting when I tell them about the outpouring of love Mrs. Alexander and I receive from you, not just at anniversary time, but throughout the year; I am just telling the truth. I especially thank you for surprising our Co-Pastor, Rev. Kenny Alexander, on his birthday with incredible fellowship. The committee worked above and beyond expectations, and how everyone kept it quiet, I will never know. As you can tell from the stories and pictures inside, it was a time of jubilation.

I shouldn't be surprised that our youth are so gifted and articulate. After all, this village called Antioch has had a hand in their "training up." If you missed our "youth in action," pay special attention to the article and then purchase a CD or DVD. As you read the feature article on Evan Malbrough and his summer at the Pentagon, like me, you will come away knowing that our church, our communities, and our nation are in good hands.

Celebrating with our pastoring sons is always a joy; I am a proud father! Our continued involvement in external organizations provides mutual benefit. Our members contribute in many ways as you can see as you read the articles. We were especially glad to host the Fifth District Congress here at Antioch and give more of our members an opportunity to attend.

As you read about our 10th Annual CMA Golf Tournament, I hope you can experience a little of the beauty of the Lake Laniel Legacy Golf Course and the camaraderie we shared. Only our Antiochans can turn a vision into a reality and create such a pleasurable experience to help AUMI to continue to reach out to the least, the less and the lost.

Yours in God's service,

Reverend C. M. Alexander, Pastor

Continued from cover - 48th Anniversary



Rev. C. M. Alexander and wife Sis. B. J. Alexander

tor as a master preacher.

"One of the things that has made me admire him so is his sense of integrity," he said to a collection of Amens.

Butts, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York and president of the State University of New York, then launched into his sermon drawn from Matthew 4, in which Jesus, after his baptism, is led in the wilderness where he fasts for 40 days, and after becoming hungry, is tempted by Satan.

He recalled reading a book 20 plus years ago about integrity and said that characteristic is in the very DNA of Rev. Alexander.

Indeed, he said, integrity is essential to the civil and human rights struggle of black people and "the lack of integrity of Euro-Americans and any hypocritical claim to integrity has been betrayed by their ugly behavior, characterized in the presidency of Trump and seen viciously in the Attorney General Jefferson Session.

"There would be no need for a human and civil rights struggle if integrity was a primary characteristic of Euro-Americans," Butts said. "But they've betrayed integrity by their brutality, by their violence, by their ugliness, by their racist behavior."

And yet that does not let African-Americans off the hook, he said.

"We have difficulty making claim to integrity. We murder our own sisters and brothers in numbers that are embarrassing and should make us ashamed. We sell drugs



Rev. C. Butts

Continued on page 11

JULY

Smith lauded at Mt. Hermon Scholarship Banquet

The Mount Hermon Association departed from its usual scholarship banquet format, and gave a surprise appreciation for Moderator Stanley Smith July 29 at Greater Fellowship Baptist Church.

Smith was credited for, among other things, assuring that every scholarship candidate submitted by a member church receive a \$1,000 scholarship and the purchase of the New Era Retreat in

Griffin, Georgia. The Mt. Hermon Institute was the first event held there in March.

Moderator Smith arrived in 1977 as a new preacher to the Mt. Hermon Association. He was content carrying the briefcases of the older pastors and soon found himself preaching youth days. He preached a Youth Day at Greater Fellowship, and “the next thing I knew, I was Pastor, and I have been here for



Rev. Stanley A. Smith

27 years.”

He was content to faithfully attend Mt. Hermon activities, helping wherever he could, and was surprised when the Moderator told him he was recommending him as Vice Moderator. His move into the position of Moderator was similar; he was content to “be faithful over a few things,” and the Lord moved him up higher.

Fifth District: You can attend college free

If one of your desires has been to finish - or start - college and earn a degree, now may be the time, attendees at the Fifth District of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia learned recently.

Through the Dual Enrollment Program, available at all University System of Georgia institutions, high school students and senior citizens aged 62 or older can earn college credit free.

The program was introduced in July by top-ranking officials from Atlanta Metropolitan State University, including

Dr. Gary A. McGaha, President, Professor Michael Braswell, and Dr. Bryan O. Mitchell, Dean of the Division of Science, Math, and Health Professions and Associate Professor of Biology.

Mitchell, a son of Antioch and principal investigator of the NASA CREST-ME Project, has been instrumental in increasing the number of opportunities for “underrepresented, underserved and minority students” to pursue and successfully complete Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and NASA research courses, projects and programs

of study. He has also partnered with Antioch’s AUMI to provide service-learning internships where students assist in the Food and Clothing Bank.

The Fifth District holds monthly meetings to review past events and plan future events. Not content to simply conduct “business,” President, Rev. Dr. W.J. Lawson, pastor of Cornerstone Community BC, brings in presenters to provide information to increase the awareness of issues affecting our communities and services available.

Antioch hosts Fifth District Congress

In an effort to increase youth participation, the Fifth District Congress of Christian Education was held July 25-28, instead of the first week in August, which is the first week of school for many metro Atlanta counties.

Youth were featured in a Youth Explosion, in which they were able to showcase their talents as well as come together in a Youth Congress Choir and Drama presentation. As he expressed his joy in hosting the Congress in his remarks on Friday evening, Antioch’s Pas-

tor, the Rev. Dr. Cameron M. Alexander, stated, quipped, “If I were just a little bit younger, I could do some of that!”

Antioch hosted the conference. As a National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. Certified School, participants earned credits in the Certificate of Progress Program. Courses are offered in theology, doctrine, and history, as well as courses for particular ministries, including music, deacons, deaconesses, ushers, and health professionals. For those pursuing the COPP, seminars were offered on

evangelism and witnessing.

The Rev. Albertine Marshall, Christian Education Director at Greater Piney Grove MB and the Fifth District addressed the Congress, laying out her plans to increase Christian Education opportunities throughout the district. President, Rev. Dr. Clayton E. Taylor, pastor of St. Paul MBC, emphasized the need to increase outreach to bring people to Jesus Christ and make disciples, making place for people to use their God-given gifts in His service.

Malbrough's summer at the Pentagon beyond belief

Evan Malbrough believes that sometimes God will give you an opportunity that may seem too much for you to handle.

"Mind blowing," he says.

That's how the 20-year-old describes his experience working this past summer at the Pentagon in the Department of Defense, where he was exposed to people of varying perspectives and learned how a few office personnel can impact the lives of tens of thousands.

Prior to the experience, Evan did not know much about the armed services and did not think he would ever visit the Pentagon.

He soon learned that the military is far more than guns, tanks, planes and ships. It is also about healthcare, education, psychology and other social topics.

There are many women and men fighting every day to keep our country safe and secure, and it is the job of the Department of Defense to make sure that we take care of these service members and their families, he said.

Evan was assigned to work for acting Secretary of Defense for Readiness Anthony M. Kurta. In addition to conducting research, he also shadowed representatives in Force Education, the Depart-



ment of Defense VA Collaboration Office and Personnel Risk Reduction.

The experience, Evan said, helped him discern God's purpose for him to advocate and help others through policy, to pass laws that level the play-

ing field and give young black women and men, like himself, the opportunity to thrive and make a difference in the world.

"This fellowship has given me a new outlook on policy as well as a different view of the brave service members across the entire world," he said.

Evan has already been invited to return during the summer of 2018 to work in the Office of Legislative Affairs, where his focus will be on the Department of Defense's relationship with Congress.

"I feel blessed and ready to take on all of what God has in store for me," he said.

Sisters By Choice hosts breast cancer walk

Dozens of Antioch Baptist Church North members turned out July 15 for the 13th Annual Sisters By Choice Pink Ribbon Breast Cancer Walk in Atlanta's Piedmont Park.

They volunteered. They walked. They ran. They signed on as vendors. And one of them, Sis. Emma Kelly, a long-time active member who succumbed to the disease after a valiant fight, was honored by her family who walked in her memory.

The 5K Pink Ribbon Walk, sponsored by Sisters By Choice, started at the 10th Street entrance to Piedmont Park and wound its way through the posh Ansley Park neighborhood before returning to Piedmont Park via the 14th Street entrance.

SBC, founded by Dr. Ragsbert Phillips-Reed initially as a support group for women diagnosed with breast cancer and their families, provides over 1,000



free mammograms and breast exams to uninsured, unemployed, and homeless women each year in addition to providing free educational seminars, workshops, and health fairs.

The Mobile Breast Clinic launched in 2015 has extended the reach to underserved women in both rural and urban areas. All funds raised from the Pink



Ribbon Walk go toward the operating costs of the Mobile Breast Clinic.

The Clinic is helping to reduce the number of deaths among African-American women, who statistically have higher death rates from breast cancer than the general population because of later diagnoses.

AUGUST

Antioch Drummer Barrett—a father first

James Barrett, Jr. is a three-time Grammy winner, but you won't find that at the top of many credentials he lists on his website.

Above all else, Barrett considers himself a father to 9-year-old Lyric.

"My daughter is the best gift I've received besides life itself," he says. "I absolutely enjoy raising her."

And yet, as he puts it, it is music that has "clothed and fed me." Indeed, Barrett, 39, said music is his saving grace, an invaluable communication tool that allows him to relate and connect with people in many different ways and all over the world.

Barrett has been doing that now for



more than 30 years seated behind Sonor & Yamaha drums, sometimes in performances with the likes of Jennifer Holliday, Donnie McClurkin, and Tyler Perry,

and other times here at Antioch Baptist Church North, where he has been a member since 2010.

But he isn't just a father and drummer; the Baton Rouge, LA native's talents extend to production, programming, arranging, and private lessons.

Asked to describe his playing style, he said freedom, executing each hit with passion and precision so that it moves and inspires people.

"I want to touch people not just with my gift, but with my life," he said. "Music covers every aspect of life. To have a part in bringing such a powerful spiritual and emotional medicine to people is both an honor and privilege."

Celebrating a man after God's heart

The Rev. Rodney Turner is a pastor approved by God.

That was the central message delivered by Antioch Baptist Church North Co-Pastor Kenneth Alexander Aug. 13, when hundreds gathered to honor and celebrate Turner.

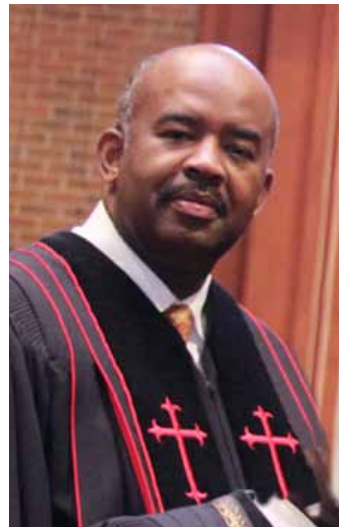
"That's why we're here," Rev. Alexander said. "God has put his stamp of approval on Rev. Turner's life, his spirit, and his heart."

The celebration, marked Turner's 14 anniversary as pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in southwest Atlanta.

Alexander said he'd personally witnessed his friend change from a rough and tumble man who would beat people up to a humble servant of God.

"I watched him change," Alexander said. "I watched him grow."

Noting he is a preacher's



Rev. Rodney K. Turner

kid, he said he has seen how mean even church people can be, who believe it's their job to boss the preacher.

"That's why the church must be holy spirit led," he said. "When Jesus said upon this rock I will build my church, he didn't put any of us in charge.

He did, however, leave the Holy Spirit in charge, he said.

Pastors know that. They also know that the best anyone can do is love the people.

"That's what I love about Rev. Turner," he said.

But not just that. Alexander said that Turner understands the power of prayer, and he has watched him, through prayer, stay in touch with God and love people.

"He's been a wonderful example of God," he said. "He reflects His image. Some religious folk only want to minister to cleaned-up folk. Turner reaches out to those who've given up, who don't want to get up anymore.

"I've seen him allow God to work through him so souls can be saved. We need preachers like that."

Preachers, who can be trusted with the gospel, who like 1 Thessalonians 2:4 says: seeks not to 'please man but God who trieth our hearts."



Congratulations

to Sis. Maggie McCullom who earned five Georgia Golden Olympic Medals during competitions, held September 27th-30th, in Warner Robins, GA. McCullom placed first in the 500 yard and 200 yard freestyle and 200 yard backstroke in swimming; the half mile walk, and Frisbee throw.

Youth in Action Speakers

William Evans, Jr.

There is a song that says, “This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. Now, everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.”

As a youth of Antioch, I am so glad that we are taught that we can be the light that changes the world even when the world seems dark.

How can I be the light that changes the world you ask? Here’s how:

1. By knowing I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me...#SHINE
2. By knowing that the Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want...#SHINE
3. By knowing to honor my mother and father...#SHINE
4. By knowing to do unto others as I would have them do unto me...#SHINE
5. By knowing that God is Good all the time and all the time God is Good...#SHINE
6. By being a positive influence to my peers...#SHINE
7. By being respectful at home, at school and at church...#SHINE
8. By helping others that are in need...#SHINE
9. By being the best me that I can be...#SHINE
10. By always knowing that God loves me...#SHINE

At my school, Imhotep Academy, we have a motto called the Ultimate Student. The Ultimate Student was written by Marva Collins and Fred Hampton, and we recite it every day. Some parts of the Ultimate Student go like this:

“We are the ultimate students who renew our quest for excellence every day. We seize the moment, we do not look back, we make big plans, we aim high. We always play to win.”

“We are the ultimate students...to whom much is given much is expected.”

“We are not eager to follow others; we are not impressed with glitter and gleam,

nor are we swayed by peer pressure.”

“We elect, instead, to soar like the eagle by always striving to achieve the magic and honor of leadership before we settle for the lesser easier role of following others.”

“We are the ultimate students. We harness God-given talents. As a result, we are expected to succeed in life and encouraged to share our success with those who are less fortunate.”

“The world belongs to us...the future belongs to us...And today begins with us...The Ultimate Students.”

These parts of the Ultimate Student remind me of how we as youth can be the light that changes the world as long as we believe in God and believe in ourselves.

In order for us, the youth, to be the light that changes the world, we need help. And because God knows that we are going to need help, He has assigned the youth with earthly angels to help us be the light that changes the world. These earthly angels are called parents, family, teachers and church family. Here are a few ways that our earthly angels can assist us to be the light that changes the world.

1. Chastise us when we do wrong but also compliment us when we do great...#SHINE
2. Spend time with us, so we won’t spend time in a gang, using drugs or drinking alcohol...#SHINE
3. Pray for us but also pray with us...#SHINE

You see church, in order for us to be the light that changes the world, we need your love and support. We need you to continue to bring us to Sunday School and to Church so that we will never forget that one Friday Jesus died to save our souls

Jillian Carroll

As a little girl, I can remember learning

the hymn “This Little Light of Mine” and how I loved singing it. This hymn helped me to understand how as Christians we should let our light shine so others can see when they are in the darkness. I am not sure that I truly understood the great importance of this teaching until recently and after repeatedly hearing about the atrocities such as racial profiling, police brutality, systemic racism, and mass incarceration that plague our community.

Due to the constant disregard for the lives of Black and Brown people, I want to shine my light on the world by bringing attention to these very problems, exposing how starkly our present America contrasts with the principles that this country was founded upon.

Although these principles state that all “men”, we were not considered men but property that was easily bought and sold. For this and other reasons, I feel this is why we still see violence and hatred towards our people. Every day, there seem to be more individuals who believe even after 152 years since the abolition of slavery, that we don’t belong in “their” America.

Until America addresses the terrible things that have happened and continue to happen to people of color, we can’t move forward as a nation. My question is “Why aren’t we having a national conversation about these issues?”

I have thought long and hard about what can I do to bring light to this situation. Fortunately, there are some individuals like Colin Kaepernick who uses his platform to shine his light on the continuous oppression of people of color. His simple gesture of kneeling during the National Anthem brought attention to a situation that was more significant than we thought.

Like Kaepernick, I will use my art to show the injustices that are happening in the community today and let my light shine.

God didn’t create differences in reli-

Youth in Action Speakers - *Carroll continued*

gion or skin tone to promote violence and incite hatred; He did so to give us the opportunity to educate ourselves about difference and to learn to be accepting and kind regardless of those differences.

Matthew 5's narrative is very relevant to us as youths who encounter many challenges as we try to discover ourselves. But regardless of what challenges we face, we must remember that to let our light SHINE, *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

The Bible tells us that we are all born with distinct talents and gifts that set us apart from each other. Find what you are passionate about and use your God given talents to "SHINE" a light on your community and the world around you.

Nicholas Brown

My mom describes me as a man of few words. So I know a lot of people are surprised to see me up here, especially Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, since she doesn't think I can say more than 10 words. But I can never be shy about an opportunity to speak a word for the Lord.

Today's theme is to be the light that changes the world. The supporting scripture is Matthew 5:16 which says "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

In this age, it's a lot easier said than done. With all the darkness and negativity we get from our news sources and social media, sometimes I find it's tough to not be totally consumed by the void.

Oh, but thank goodness for the light that shows us the way.

First John, Chapter 1, Verse 5 says, "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

And if God is light, so is His Son. Jesus himself said ... I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

So let's connect the dots. If God is light, and his son is light and we his children, were made in his image: then we are to be light.

Antioch, Jesus never intended for his followers to be SECRET Christians. The two words just don't go together. Christians, being light, should always be active in the fight against the darkness of sin. So how can we be active? By shining our light and standing up to darkness in every way we can. Ex-NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick's protest against police brutality is a good example.

But my question is, "Are you willing to put your job and reputation on the line to stand up to darkness?" It's easy to watch other people take on social issues, but too many people won't address problems until they personally affect them. Even I'm guilty of it.

To me, police brutality and racial profiling happens to those people over there or these people who look like this. It wouldn't happen to me. It couldn't.

However, my bubble of security was burst on a small back road near my school as blue lights flickered and sirens sounded behind me. I pulled over and realized how scared I really was. I didn't want to be on the 11 o'clock news. I didn't to be the next Philando Castille.

While the officer indicated he hadn't clocked my speed, he said that I was going too fast. And while I didn't think I was speeding, I handed him my license and registration any way.

He eventually returned my license and registration and only gave me a warning, but the whole experience made me realize how vulnerable I was.

Which brings me back to my original thought. How can we let our light shine through this darkness?

My brothers and sisters, I believe that we all must find our place in the world and let the light of God shine through us.

So, if you're a dancer, let your light shine in every dance. If you're a cook, let your light shine in every dish. If you're an athlete, let your light shine in every

game. And if you're a Christian, let your light shine in every action.

Antioch, we can't just shine at home. Or around certain people. Or at certain times. We must be like a candlestick and give light to all.

Elizabeth Scott

The verse, Matthew 5:16, can be interpreted in many ways. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

As a part of this 21st generation, we millennials need a change. The rules of society are constantly changing, we have high schools in states like Massachusetts and Kentucky which say Black girls cannot wear their hair braided. On the news, we see white supremacist groups walking down public streets chanting racial slurs; these types of groups are demanding that we go back to how it used to be. Issues like these are making young African-American—kids hide behind doors and not let their light shine.

Normal activities like parking in the student parking lot are no longer normal. One day, at my high school, a humongous white pickup truck drove around with a Confederate flag flying from the back and parked. No one said anything, and I did not see it. My Dad had to point it out later and showed me a picture. We had a Black History Club meeting, and a girl pointed out what happened. Nobody said anything to the administration because everyone was afraid nothing would be done.

So many of us in the meeting are gifted with different talents from God. However, out of fear we did not say anything. Since we are a younger generation, our opinions are not always valued. We need to work on standing up for ourselves, acknowledging that there are problems that we need to change. Sitting on our phones, watching TV, and slacking in school are not going to help. I am a victim of this as I see all of the current events going on. Instead

Youth in Action Speakers - *Scott continued*

of making my way to Town Hall meetings or participating in student council, I just think, "someone else will do it."

But what if someone else does not do it? I believe God gave me a gift for writing and understanding people. I could let my light shine by writing a blog or starting something for kids who feel under-valued.

Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven. This scripture was a part of The Sermon on the Mount, Jesus' first address to the public in which he informed his followers what his ministries were going to be about.

He began with the Beatitudes which mirror the 10 commandments, but these were his new commandments for the New Testament. The Beatitudes show how to live your life, to be accepted into the kingdom of God. Jesus used illustrations of how believers could be an example of living in the kingdom of God. He told us the importance of being the salt of the earth, which means having good character. The city on the hill says people should be able to look up to us as examples of how to live. Once we do these things, our light will shine so much that we will not be kept down.

One Friday, Jesus let his light shine when he died on the cross. He died Friday night, stayed dead all Saturday, but rose with all power on Sunday.

Jesus is the light of the world; will you be the light with him? I challenge all the youth of Antioch to be the light of the world; be different, show your peers and classmates how to live as a light of the world, to be a Christian wherever you are.

Mayah Williams

When first sitting down to begin to reflect on what does "Be the light that changes the world" mean to me I thought of a Muhammad Ali quote that's on the hallway of the Atlanta Girls' School, where I am a sophomore.

It says: "Be the change that you want

to see in the world."

For many years, I would walk by it, and it had no significance to me. However, recently I've begun to think more about being a light and what is the change that I want to contribute to the world? I had to define two things: light and darkness.

Merriam Webster defines light as the natural agent that stimulates sight and makes things visible and darkness as the absence of light. Matthew 5:16 says "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven." I had to also define what light and darkness mean to me. First, light is a metaphor for doing the work, and by doing the work, things become more visible. It also means using the talents and abilities that God has blessed us with. Darkness is the absence of light or essentially the absence of work, and it also means the individual things that we are not good at doing, so we have to work on it.

In our family, my dad always says "Do the work". In order to be a light, you first have to be willing to do the work. In order to bring about change, you have to actually perform the work. When you are doing the work it can be uncomfortable. Doing the work is not always enjoyable, but there are benefits from doing the work. A change happens when you do the work.

When thinking about the change that I want to contribute I've had to think about, "What is my light?" In this context, I mean personal talents or gifts. What are the talents and abilities that God has blessed me with? What are the talents that God has blessed you with?

1 Corinthians 12: 4-6 says "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone."

We all have talents and things we need to work on, and sometimes we focus more on the things we are not good at doing. We allow the darkness to overshadow without ever realizing our talents and abili-

ties. I am a victim of this myself. I forget the things that I am good at because I am focusing on what I need to work on.

In order to be the light that changes the world, focus on the talents and abilities God has given you and use those to bring about positive change.

Finally, I feel that we don't compliment others who are doing the work and using their God-given talents. I myself am guilty of not acknowledging others' gifts. I would like to take the time to do so now.

To my mom, you are the most caring and intelligent person I know. You are always there for me and never afraid to tell me the truth even when it's hard to hear. To my father, you are one of the funniest, craziest and most embarrassing persons I know, but you're always striving to achieve your goals and demonstrating what doing the work looks like. You have made me a more goal-oriented person, and for that I thank you. To my brother, you can be one of the most annoying, irritating person that I know, but you're also my best friend. I will always be here for you as your big sister and love you very much.

To this congregation and my fellow youth; take the time to realize your talents and compliment others, and most importantly, use the talents God has given you to Do the Work!

Jayla Walker

As a member raised in this church, I'd like to share knowledge today on how we all can serve and live for God despite the filthy world that we live in.

Matthew 5:16 tells us to "let our light shine before man, that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven." This scripture directly tells us that God not only wants us to let our light shine, but He wants us all to do good works so that HE will be glorified for them.

Even as Christians, we can let our situations and grievances overpower all the

SEPTEMBER

Johnson marks third pastoral anniversary

Antioch Baptist Church North joined the Rev. Craig Johnson as he celebrated his third anniversary as pastor of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Sept. 24 in Ellenwood.

Co-Pastor Rev. Kenneth Alexander preached the 3 p.m. message, “The Foolishness of Preaching” based on 1 Cor. 1:20-27.

Saying we live in a strange time, Alexander noted that television and technology have created Christian superstars, people who want to be in the limelight.

“They often lead people to

a false understanding of God by suggesting formulas: if you do this, God will do that,” he said. “There’s a difference between religion and magic. Magic tries to control the holy; religion serves the holy. God is not Santa Claus; he is sovereign; He is God all by Himself.”

Rev. Alexander said that he didn’t know any preachers, personally or in the Bible, who are serious about preaching who didn’t try to resist the call.

“When God picks a preacher, He doesn’t reach up on the



Rev. & Mrs. Craig Johnson

top shelf but uses dirty and broken vessels to preach His word so that He will get the glory,” he said. “God can’t use you until you’ve been broken. It is not out of our strengths

but out of our weaknesses, out of our pain that our Christian fellowship is built.”

Antioch sons demonstrated that fellowship as they congratulated Rev. Johnson with humor and true brotherhood.

“Only God could make a Drug Enforcement Administrator the prayer partner of a drug user,” Rev. Alexander said referring to Johnson, his prayer partner.

He said Johnson is now full time for another DEA, a Divine Ecclesiastical Agency.

“Instead of locking people up, he is freeing people.”

Youth in Action Speakers - Walker continued

good that God has done for us. God tells us in James 1:2 that we should “consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind.”

I don’t know about you, but God told me that he’d never give me a battle that I’m not strong enough to fight, and I don’t have to fight alone. Jesus is my protection and guides me through all of my troubles. He IS my light in the dark and that’s what He wants all of us to be for others.

Regardless of what you’re going through...as long as you have Jesus, you can spread that light throughout the darkness.

At some point in time, we’ve all been in a situation where we could have been a witness for God and let our light shine, but we did not. We forget that God is never ashamed of us even in the time of our deepest sins. If you haven’t heard anything else today, especially my fellow youth, do not be ashamed of God. He is your best friend. Build a relationship with Him. Tell everyone you know about

Him.

I know that with all the distractions we face like social media and peer pressure, we sometimes drift away from God and unconsciously become of this world. But God warns us of this specifically. He says that we are temporarily placed in this world. This is not our home. We are here to gather more disciples and spread the word.

This may all sound cliché, but just stop and really think. What has God done for you? One will never be able to fathom why God is so good to us. He just keeps on blessing us! The least we could do is praise Him and live in such a way that others can see Him in us.

I turned 17 two days ago and I’m still afraid of the dark. I refuse to sleep without my night light and won’t even go downstairs alone after a certain time. How do you think the people who don’t know God are feeling? God says in Psalms 82:5 that “they do not know nor do they understand. They walk in the darkness.”

John 11:10 says “if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” This is where we must all do our parts.

Isaiah 42:16 ensures that “He will guide us and make darkness into light before us and turn rugged places (that we call our everyday lives) into plains.”

It’s time that we turn on our night lights and be someone’s guide because Jesus is coming back for His people and we all need to be ready.

Ask yourself, If God came back right now, would I be ready? If you’re not certain, you still have time to make things right. God tells us that if we confess with our mouths that He is Lord and Savior ... He will take us in.

I challenge you all to let your lights shine by showing love for one another and being witnesses for Jesus! Put down your phones, laptops, Ipads, pick up the Bible and study the word of God! For the Bible is a lamp to guide our paths.

How will you let your light shine?

**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.

CMA Golf Classic



Team members William Davis Jr., William Davis III, Henry Fisher and the Rev. Ervin Richards captured first place in this year's Cameron M. Alexander Golf Classic.

The team, one of eight to participate this year, scored a nine under par.

Team members Leslie Moore, Michael Stribling, Jacque Jones and Ward Morse took second place scoring six under par.

Special honors went to Henry Fisher for "closest to the pin" and Ray Hunter for the "longest drive."

Now in its 10th year, the classic was

held Aug. 19 at the Lake Lanier Islands Legacy Golf Course.

All proceeds from this annual fund raising event benefit programs of the Antioch Urban Ministries, Inc. The non-profit supports Matthew's Place, Ruth's Place, Luke's Place, Job's Christian Recovery Home, Project Redirection, Computer Lab, AUMI services and other AUMI services.

According to Dea. Benny Williams, the ongoing goal of the competition is to provide organized instruction so more youths will learn the game of golf and lead to the establishment of a golf

league for youths and adults.

"We encourage and invite youth and women participation in future tournaments," he said.

Sponsors included Antioch Christian Entrepreneurs Ministry, Columbia Residential, James Andrews, hermancairn.org, William E. Clement Jr., Shirley Langley CPA, New York Life Insurance, H.J. Russell & Co., R. Bruce Tanner & Associates and Vic Misiewicz Ins. Services LLC

The 2018 Cameron M. Alexander Golf Classic is set for Aug. 18 at Lake Lanier.

Church No. 1 place for sex traffic after schools and colleges

Teen moms and sex trafficking were hot button issues during the Fifth District Women of Excellence Annual Denim and Diamonds Gospel Brunch Sept. 23 at Cornerstone Community Baptist Church.

Dr. Nkaimani "Kai" Ashby, Executive director of Charity House, shared the needs of young women struggling with

the demands of single motherhood and who got in webs of drug addiction, domestic violence, sex trafficking and other satanical attacks.

Ashby said she is focusing on opening a home for teenage mothers and their babies. Mothers in the foster care system are often separated from their babies because foster homes will not take

both.

Ms. Toni Rivera, founder and CEO of Helping Hand Youth and Adult Services, called sex trafficking "the new slavery."

Kidnapped and sexually exploited, Rivera said she went from recruiting youth into sex trafficking to rescuing them.

The church, she said, is

the number one recruitment place for sex trafficking; the second most used places are schools and colleges.

The mission of the GMBC WOE is to bring women together to uplift one another as the older women follow the Titus 2:3-5 mandate to keep themselves reverent and train the younger women.

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to (them) in numbers and quantities that are literally tearing out the very heart and soul of our own people.”

Borrowing from *Webster's Dictionary*, he said, “Integrity is wholeness. It’s a person or a people of integrity. They are complete. They are confident in knowledge that he or she or they are living rightly. It’s unity. It’s what holds you together.”

Butts said it matters little whether we’re black or white because without God, we’re nothing; we’re incomplete, divided and weak.

A Christian man or woman of integrity, though, is confident he or she is living rightly, according to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Their focus is on God.

“Of course, the anti-Christ is against integrity,” Butts said. “Satan desires incomplete, doubtful, confused and hesitant men and women.”

The devil rejoices, he said, when we veer from the right path. He was gleeful over a doubting Thomas, happy about a betraying Peter, and overjoyed by a betraying Judas.

The devil was at work in each one of those disciples to destroy his integrity,



but for Judas, it was so devastating that he went out and hanged himself.

Butts said that when your integrity is gone, there’s not much left, but even in defeat, a person of integrity can hold his head up, knowing whether he wins or loses, he has played the game rightly.

In the shadow of the cross, Peter cried, Thomas hid and Judas hung, he said. What about you and me? Are we men and women of integrity? Can we be trusted to do right? To play by the rules? To keep our commitments?

“I argue that we can if we find our wholeness, the center of our mind body and spirit, in Jesus,” Butts said.

Turning back to the story in Matthew and Jesus’s exchange with the devil, he said, “if there’s anybody who knows how to test your integrity, Satan surely does.”

Butts offered three steps to a life integrity:

One. Make up your mind about what’s right and what’s wrong. You got to take a stand and decide where is the line you won’t cross.

Two. Declare what you believe and then act on what you believe even at personal cost. If a man or woman has not found something for which they will die, they are not fit to live.

Three. Be Christ centered.

“I know it’s tough to hold on to your integrity, but if when you try and fail in your trying...pick up your cross and run gently to meet him,” Butts said.

Then finally turning back to Pastor Alexander, he said, if there is one thing he’s gleaned from him, it is his sense of integrity.

He said, “I will try every day to live up to that because you’ve been a model pastor and you showed me...the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life.”

NBC holds annual session in Ohio

In many ways, the annual session of the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc. is like a homecoming where delegates from across the country and the Bahamas come to fellowship, report on completed projects and plan for future events, and listen to leaders and some of the best preachers and musicians.

The four-day gathering, held Sept. 4-8, in Cincinnati, OH, was no different. The schedule was full with worship services, auxiliary meet-

ings, breakfasts, lunches, and banquets scheduled from early morning to late night.

Dr. Jerry Young, President, continued with the theme he instituted after his 2014 election, “Envisioning the Future Exceptionally” with an emphasis this year on Making Disciples.

Young reported on partnerships that will provide mortgage assistance to churches planning to build or renovate, a continued discount partnership with Office Depot, MMBB financial services that

provides retirement and insurance services for clergy, and other programs that benefit individual churches and pastors, including information on starting a credit union.

Dr. Cynthia P. Smith, newly appointed Woman’s Auxiliary President, gave a powerful first message, encouraging women to reach out to other women, especially younger women, in love and service. Her emphasis on “each one reach one” resulted in 78 women between the ages

of 21-50 registering and attending the convention for the first time. The Woman’s Auxiliary is also sponsoring a Spiritual Journey to Israel in celebration of the National Day of Prayer in November.

The Young People’s Department seminar, “Reaching out to Special Needs Youth,” emphasized the need to be vigilant in identifying youth who are hurting and experiencing mental and emotional challenges and providing them with available resources.

Surprise! Happy Birthday, Rev. Kenny



Enjoying the birthday celebration

The White Affair that was a surprise birthday party.

Hundreds of Antioch Baptist Church North members turned out to celebrate the 44th anniversary of the Rev. Cameron Alexander.

How they managed to keep the surprise from the birthday boy is anybody's guess, but they pulled it off.

Co-Pastor Kenneth Alexander had no idea the White Affair, as it was billed, was also a celebration of his birthday. There were plenty of candles on the cake, but his age remains a mystery.

For hours after his arrival, the 590 Building buzzed with chatter, laughter and music provided by the Trey Daniels Band.



Managing Editor
Gracie Bonds Staples

Design Editor
Reggie Tolbert

Writers
Betty Jo Cooke
Karen McKinney Holley
Bennie McDonald
Char Miller-King
Audrey Spells-Cooper
Gracie Bonds Staples

Photographer
Jane Butler

***The Church at Antioch
Newsletter Staff***

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