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# The Church at Antioch

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

July-September 2015

Volume 6, Issue 7

## Celebrating 46 years of preaching

**7:45A.M.**

### Pastor Alexander: A glimpse of heaven

On the Sunday set aside to honor and celebrate the Rev. Cameron Alexander's leadership at Antioch Baptist Church North, thousands gathered to salute him for a job well done. For 46 years, the Rev. Rodney Turner let him know that he has allowed the congregation to get a glimpse of heaven, that he has done what God called him to do.

"You kept it real," Turner said after delivering the 7:45 a.m. message. "Every Sunday you've reminded us of a God who looks past our faults, to keep our eyes on Jesus, that nothing's impossible with God."

Turner, a son of Antioch and pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, spoke from the anniversary theme taken from 2 Timothy 4:1-8, in which the Apostle Paul provides parting words to his comrade Timothy, who is about to take the mantle of leadership.

Paul charges Timothy with two priorities, Turner said.

*Continued on page 2*



*Pastor Cameron Alexander stands in front of the quilt made of T-shirts from past anniversary celebrations. The quilt was a gift from Bro. Derek and Sis. Karyl Clayton.*

**11:00A.M.**

### Still preaching and living the gospel

Much the town crier of years past, the Rev. Cameron Alexander has herald the good news, preached repentance and pronounced judgement.

And so it was in the text taken from 2 Timothy 4 and preached by the Rev. Johnny Flakes III on the Sunday set aside to celebrate the 46th anniversary of Pastor Alexander.

Flakes, a son of Antioch and Pastor of the Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, was the keynote speaker during the 11 a.m. anniversary service.

The Apostle Paul, Flakes said, saw himself as Christ's herald, an appointed preacher of the message.

"Paul was very clear he didn't preach any other gospel and is instructing Timothy to do the same," Flakes said, drawing "amen" from the crowd. "Preach nothing but Jesus and him crucified."

Flakes said that Paul wasn't a moralist or see himself as a wise man but

*Continued on page 3*

## A Message From The Pastor



My Brothers and Sisters,

Our Church Family has been engaged in a number of activities during this past quarter to engage the membership in spiritual growth. These different activities have not been limited to our campus, but have involved the labors of our members within our national and state conventions and our local district associations. It certainly warms my heart seeing members of Antioch not just working with our affiliates, but providing strong and consistent leadership within these organizations. Their faithful service beyond the walls of Antioch is Christian service worthy of praise.

This edition of The Church at Antioch highlights some of the servant leadership and relationship building activities that Antioch members have done that add depth to the strengthening of God's Church.

As we ready our hearts and minds for the work of the Church during the Fall Quarter of this year, let us work individually and collectively to become more like Christ in our thinking, our feelings, and in our relationships with each other. Our Fall Revival will be an excellent opportunity for all of us to not only celebrate God's goodness in worship, but to make known God's Word through Evangelism.

As pastor, I have invited one of God's strong, charismatic young preachers, the Reverend Jermaine Simmons, a son of this church, to be our guest revivalist. Now as a church family, we need to invite all of our family members and all of our friends and associates who are "unchurched" to our Fall Revival. Nothing ever pleases me more than seeing my members making personal sacrifices to bring the unsaved to Antioch. Such unselfish sacrifices tell me that our Fellowship is really engrained and engaged in transforming lives. After all is said and after all we do, we must always demonstrate our unconditional love for the unsaved in ways that Jesus did. In so doing, we demonstrate the Great Commission...Go and tell!

Yours in God's service,

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

Reverend C. M. Alexander, Pastor

*Continued from cover - A glimpse of heaven*

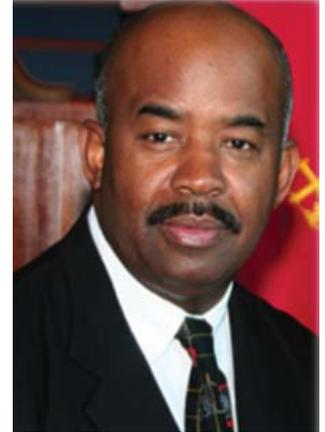
First, he said, Paul told him to preach the word in an out of season. That meant keeping the gospel message alive and to take his assignment seriously.

"Don't play with it," Turner said. "Preach when it's popular. Preach when it isn't popular. Allow God to use him as a living vessel."

Second, Turner said, Paul admonished young Timothy to endure affliction.

"Give God your best," he said. "Live what you preach. Run the race but do just get in the race. Run the race to win. Run with purpose. Run with perspective. Run with Holy Ghost power."

Turner said we don't know if Timothy did all those things but Antioch members have been able to watch Pastor Alexander over the years and can testify he has answered the charge. "You've been our general on the battlefield," Turner said of Pastor Alexander. "You've deployed spiritual truths to place like the bluff. You've been or commander-in-chief in the war against HIV/AIDS, poverty and homelessness. You've led the charges against the devil and forces of evil. You've attended to us in the trenches of life, the foxholes of failure. You've shaped and molded us into mighty men and women."



**ANTIOCH'S  
ANNUAL  
CHURCH  
CONFERENCE**  
Tuesday, October 13  
7:00 p.m.

## *Continued from cover: Still preaching*

he told Timothy not to get confused about his responsibility to reprove and correct.

“There will be times when people won’t want to hear sound doctrine,” Flakes said. “But you need to let them know what’s right and what’s wrong. You have to be steadfast and unmoved. Encourage and comfort them but don’t mislead them in thinking their wrong is

right. Be willing to correct and say what’s wrong and let the chips fall where they may.”

For 61 years as a preacher and 46 years as a pastor, Flakes noted Pastor Alexander has been preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, heralding the wages of sin is death and gift of God is eternal life. He wants the world to know that if you accept



Christ you’re saved from eternal damnation.

“In 61 years he didn’t compromise,” Flake said. “While everyone is looking

for prosperity, he continued to preach the same gospel, herald the same message that didn’t come from his own wisdom but came from his relationship with Jesus. He’s taken the charge very seriously.

He’s not only been teaching, he’s been living it out in his life. Thank you for not compromising.”

## **Pieces of History**

### *Knowing the African American story empowers generations*

Many in the African-American community believe that being able to identify and understand the presence of blacks in Scripture nurtures in them a greater affection for God and his word.

It allows them to see for the first time in their lives, for instance, that the Scripture speaks responsibly about them and to their experience.

With that in mind, we’re introducing a new feature in the Church at Antioch by Sis. Pamela Ware.

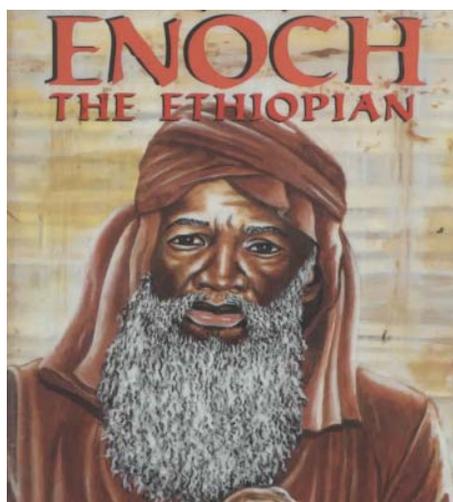
Each quarter, she will introduce biblical characters who look like us and who we hope will counteract some of the negative news happening in our community.

“Pride, self-respect, values, self-control and discipline all stem from knowing who we are and knowing our history,” she said.

Here’s her first installment:

#### **And HE brought forth Nations**

From Genesis to Revelation, nations that are mentioned in the Old Testament scriptures were of the Black race. These nations include, but are not limited to, Ethiopians, Egyptians, Babylonians, Assyrians, Ishmaelites, Hittites, Midianites,



Elamites and other tribal clans.

The term race, however, does not appear in the Bible. The Bible, instead, groups people in familial relationships or tribe and then into nationalities. For instance, Genesis 10:5 says “By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations.”

In the Hebrew language, Adam or Ahdahm is described as swarthy, dusky, dark-skinned like a shadow. The Hebrew term Aphar is for soil. It describes the soil from which Adham was made, meaning: dust, clay.

Enoch the Ethiopian is the first human

being in the Bible to walk with God and the first “immortal” according to Moses. He was an outstanding spiritual leader before the biblical flood and was the seventh son of Adam (Genesis 5:18 “the godly line of Sethite, the great grandfather of Noah, the father of Methuselah and the son of Jared.

The bible states Enoch, the Ethiopian, was one of only three men ever ascended body and soul, into heaven. Enoch was the first, then Abraham and finally Jesus Christ. Abraham was said to have “walked before God (Genesis 17:1) while Enoch is said to “walked with God” (Genesis 5:22, 24). In Genesis (5:24), it is written that “God took him,” meaning he never died. Enoch lived so righteously that he did not experience death like mortal men. He is considered a prophet because it was said he predicted Noah’s flood and the coming of the “Son of Man.”

And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty five years: And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.” Genesis 5: 20-24

## JULY

# Antioch sisters turn out for Pink Ribbon Walk

The women of Antioch Baptist Church North raised more than \$5,000 recently for the annual Sisters by Choice Pink Ribbon Walk held July 20 in Atlanta's Piedmont Park.



*Antioch sisters along with Antioch members turn out for Pink Ribbon Walk.*

Antioch sisters, about 160 strong, made up the largest group of participants from church organizations and ranked number three in team fundraising, organizers said.

According to the American Cancer Society, there will be an estimated 60,290 new cases of breast cancer diagnosed this year.

That's why it's so important that breast self-exams be a part of women's and men's monthly health care routine. If there are any changes to your breast, see a doctor immediately.

People over 40 or at a high risk for the disease, you should also have an

annual mammogram and physical exam by a doctor. The earlier breast cancer is found and diagnosed, the better the chances of beating it.

For more information, visit the American Cancer Society website [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) or call 1-800-277-2345.



### *Most common breast cancer symptoms:*

- A painless, hard mass
- Swelling of all or part of a breast
- Skin irritation or dimpling
- Breast or nipple pain
- Nipple retraction (turning inward)
- Redness, scaliness, or thickening of the nipple or breast skin
- Nipple discharge (other than breast milk)



# Youth conference challenged to get over hangups

Georgia was among four states represented July 30-Aug 1 at the Southeast Region Youth Conference, under the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., held in Gainesville, FL, at Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Gainesville, FL.

Under the general theme "Envisioning the Future Exceptionally," the conference focused on "making disciples."

Antioch's own, Minister Carlos B. Brown, delivered the opening message, challenging everyone to "Get Over Your Hang ups" based on Jeremiah 1:4-6.

Hang ups, he said, are anything that

keep us from progressing in the purpose of what God has called you to. To walk in kingdom authority, Brown said we must first know the spiritual DNA God placed in us before we were formed. Second, we must stop making excuses. And finally, we must have courage and be bold.

"As a benefactor of God's Witness Protection Plan, you must do the task that God has set you aside for," he said. "To be set aside is to be sanctified. Jesus got up so that every young person and seasoned saint can be a bold disciple."

In addition to classes and worship

services, youth participated in a College Fair, Christian arts, Bible knowledge competitions, the Great Debate, and a talent show.

During the annual Rose Pageant, National YPD Director Marian J. Hockenhull, Regional Director Gloria Simmons, and the SERYPD officers honored Sis. Karen McKinney Holley, Regional Director Emeritus.

Sis. Dorcas Jones, GMBC young people's director, will host next year's conference in Georgia.

## Montreal Jazz Experience: A night with Pastor Alexander

Antioch Baptist Church North has known for years that its pastor was an accomplished saxophone player who loves jazz.

And so it was fitting that the congregation gathered July 31 for an evening of music to celebrate his 46th anniversary at Café 590.

The evening, billed as a Montreal Jazz Experience, featured the mother-son duo Teresa and Tony Hightower



and was one of several events held to honor and celebrate

the Rev. Cameron Madison Alexander's leadership.

Hundreds of Antioch members and friends dined on baskets of their favorite foods and danced the night away.

"The evening was super splendid," said Antioch member Livonia Brewer. "The entertainment was great. The fellowship was a delight." Sis. Ariel Johnson, who has loved jazz since she was a child, agreed.

"I enjoyed myself," she said.

In addition to food and great conversation, the tables were dressed to the nines and splashed with various themes.

But as pretty as all those tables were none of them could compete with Pastor Alexander, who arrived decked in summer linen and a smile to match.

Yes, the night was grand. Simply grand.

## Empowering Youth focus of YEAH

Biblically-based leadership training to equip youth leaders to reach youth and young adults who are struggling with enormous pressures and temptations of this world was the focus of the annual Youth Empowerment, Activism, Heartbeat Ministries International's Repositioning Conference held in July.

Y.E.A.H., which gathered in Birmingham, AL, seeks to improve the spiritual, cultural, emotional, intellectual, and social life of youth and young adults throughout the country and in the Bahamas.

Min. Carlos Brown, a founding member of Y.E.A.H., was honored for his service on the board. Min. Brown's presence could be felt throughout the conference as he prayed and preached, telling participants that there are four actions that are essential to working with young people.

First, take a stand; "our churches are being too silent." Next, recognize that what we are fighting against are evil spirits; therefore, put on your battle clothes. Those clothes may not be three-piece suits as you may have to go to less-than-desirable places to find our youth," he said. "You may be called to be the Mordecai who puts on sack cloth and goes crying in the streets."

Finally, develop a lifestyle of prayer. Our children need to see and hear us

praying.

Workshops covered a range of topics from intergenerational leadership techniques, to evangelism 101, and how to grow a youth department in 60 days.

Karen McKinney Holley presented "Am I Called to Work with Young People?"—practical questions and insights to determine what, if any, role you should be in youth ministry.

The hot topics roundtable featured presentations by professionals on issues affecting our youth in larger and larger proportions—mental illness, bullying, homosexuality, STF/HIV/AIDS, black-on-black crime, and more. Participants had an opportunity to meet with the presenters in small groups during which Birmingham police provided a display of the latest drugs, and others shared resources to address critical situations.

A particularly bright point of the conference was the testimony of Rev. Frank Outten from the Bahamas. As the owner of Frank's Ice Cream, he used his first ice cream truck to reach children. He established a Bible Summer Job Program through which youth could earn money, but more importantly, he started a project with eternal rewards: the annual New Testament Bible Exam.

Cash prizes are given to the top three winners in each age category, and recently, a car was added as an additional



prize for the top winner, this year, a Jaguar. School supplies and other rewards are given to other entrants. Throughout the summer, children are introduced to and study the Bible in preparation for the exam. Children as young as 2 years old can participate. In the 2-5 age category, children are read Bible stories by their parents, Sunday School teachers, youth workers, etc. and the child who can retell the most Bible stories becomes the winner and is awarded a cash prize of \$1,000. Over 3,000 young people participate each year.

"The whole purpose is to get kids into God's word so that we can have less crime in our country and create new leaders in the future," Outten said. "I have kids that took part in the program over the years that are now preaching. It's about bringing forth preachers and teachers and building a positive society."

# Technology comes to Congress of Christian Education

The General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. held its Congress of Christian Education and Youth and Young Adult Conventions July 13-17 in Albany, GA.

The gathering, which drew 20 youth, chaperones, Congress faculty and staff from Antioch Baptist Church North, was held a week earlier than usual because of early school starts across the state. The change in calendar, however, did not mean a decrease in delegates or participation.

Antioch youth participated in The Children's and Youth Rallies, productions written and directed by Sis. Homerzelle Gentry, who is the Director of the Children's Rally. Ishmael Williams won 3rd place in his age group in the Oratorical Contest.

Youth aged 13 and over went throughout Albany witnessing for Christ. On the back of each delegate's name badge was the message, "Ask me where I'm going."

The answer was always the same: "I'm going to heaven. What about you?"

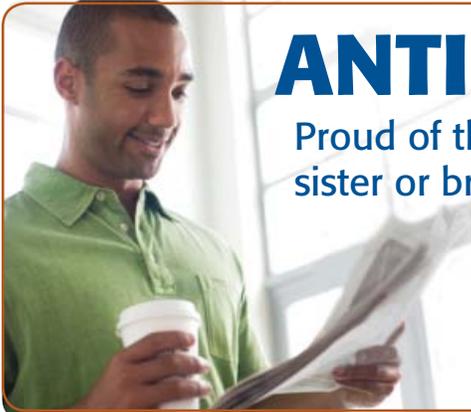
Delegates testified about having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and when appropriate, led individuals to accept Christ and pray the sinner's prayer. Youth and young adults were designated to help seasoned saints who were not familiar with Twitter, to tweet about their experiences as another method of witnessing.



While the children did not go out to witness, they were involved in mission work, led by Sister Dorcas Jones, Director of Children and Youth. They prepared packets filled with toiletries for those in need.

One of the high points of the Congress was watching the children march into the auditorium on the day of President Thurmond Tillman's address and present him with over 500 book bags filled with supplies to be delivered to children in need in Albany and across the state.





## ANTIOCH FAMILY!

Proud of the job you do or want to nominate your sister or brother in Christ to be featured in an upcoming issue of *The Church At Antioch*? E-mail your story idea to Sis. Gracie Staples at [gstaples@ajc.com](mailto:gstaples@ajc.com).



# Fifth District gathers at Carver College

The Fifth District Congress of Education, now a completely certified school under the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., was held Aug. 4-7th on the campus of Carver College.

Antioch Baptist Church North member Sis. Janet Hill offered a sign language class, a first for this Congress, and sons of the church, Revs. Eddie Bright, Brendan Jenkins and James (J.J.) Walker served on the faculty.

Some members of the Christian Education Ministry took classes for recertification as Antioch prepares to offer more certified classes in the Certificate of Progress Program. Others took a class entitled Teaching Your Teachers How to Teach to enhance the preparation program Antioch provides for those preparing to teach Sunday School, School of the Bible, and other class offerings.

Dr. Clayton Taylor, President of the Congress, along with Dean Albertine Marshall explained that the focus this year was on knowing and being able to articulate what Baptists believe because our faith is under attack.

Classes on Baptist Doctrine, The Articles of Faith, Baptist Beliefs and Practic-



es, and Theology and History of Christianity, along with special training designed to members in developing mentoring relationships with youth were also popular with Antioch members. The 5th District is hoping it can make a major impact on the youth in metropolitan Atlanta.

Youth from the children's and teen's classes presented an entertaining and enlightening dramatization of the book "Who Moved My Church". Presented as a television news show, complete with commercials, the children revealed that no one moved the church, because each of us who has accepted Christ is the church.



## HOW TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS ONLINE WITH SOCIAL MEDIA & INTERNET MARKETING

**SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 10, 2015  
9:00AM-1:00PM  
Fellowship Hall**

**BEGINNERS AND  
ADVANCED  
WORKSHOPS**

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$20  
(Networking Lunch Included)**

# Scenes from

# *Pink Ribbon Sunday*

Photos by Jane Butler



SEPTEMBER

# National Baptist looking ahead

“Envisioning the Future Exceptionally” was the theme of the annual National Baptist Convention U.S.A. session held Sept. 7-11 in Memphis, TN.

Under the leadership of recently elected Dr. Jerry Young, there was a heightened sense of excitement about the future of the Convention. In his annual address, Young called for uniting the denomination “for greater impact as the largest convention of African-Americans in the country.”

Delegates from Antioch Baptist Church North were especially busy with Pastor Cameron Alexander, and Co-Pastor Kenneth Alexander hosting more than 20 Antioch sons from across the nation. The Rev. Clarence Moore, son of Antioch and NBC Southeast Region Vice President, preached the sermon for the opening worship service of the

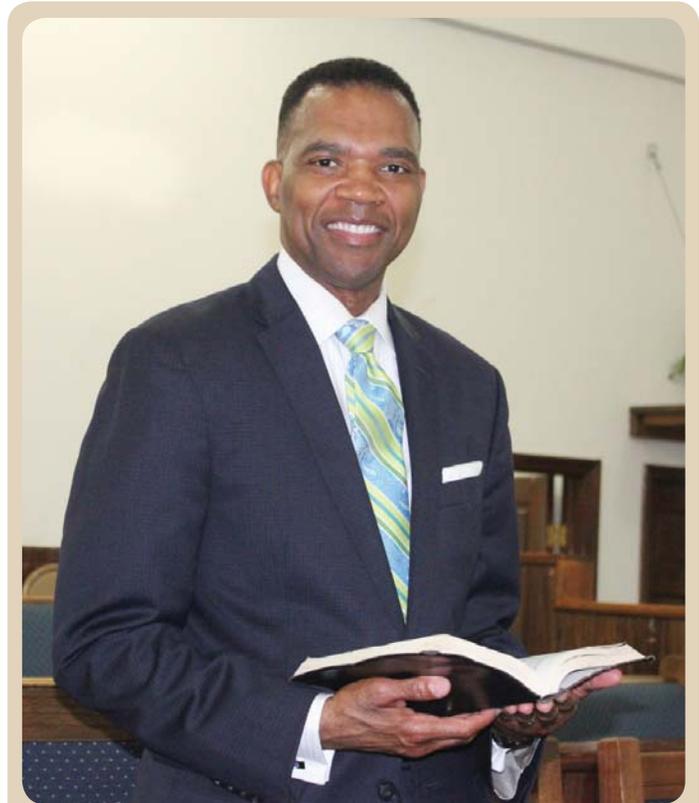
Music and Arts Auxiliary.

Based on Joshua 6:20, Moore said that “we all have a walled city like Jericho in our lives” because we all have one problem: sin that keeps weighing us down.

“But if we take our eyes off the problem and keep our eyes on God and obey what he tells us, we will be victorious over our Jericho wall,” he said.

Antioch delegates met throughout the week with the various auxiliaries in which they are involved, attended worship services, including late night services, seminars, and banquets.

The closing baptism and communion service was led by delegates from GMBC, Inc. under the direction of President Dr. K.B. Martin. GMBC initiated the service under the leadership of Pastor Alexander, then President.



*Reverend Eddie Bright celebrates 2nd year at Mount Zion Baptist Church*

## ANTIOCH FAMILY!

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E-mail your story idea to Sis. Gracie Staples at [gstaples@ajc.com](mailto:gstaples@ajc.com).



# FALL REVIVAL



**OCTOBER 28-30, WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY**

**Revivalist:**  
**Rev. O. Jermaine Simmons, Sr.**  
**Jacob Chapel Baptist Church**  
**Tallahassee, FL**

**Fall Concert**  
**Sun, Oct 25, 5:00 p.m.**

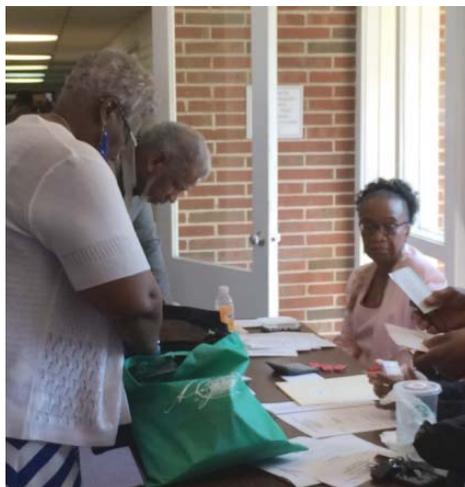
Dinner: 5:15 p.m.- 6:45 p.m.  
 Classes: 6:15 p.m. - 6:50 p.m.  
 Devotion: 7:00 p.m.

# GMBC Leadership Workshop

The General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. Leadership Workshop is held each year to equip both the leaders of the Convention and the delegates to understand the mission, policies, and procedures. Held at Unionville Baptist Church, Macon, Rev. I.E. Mack, pastor, on Friday and Saturday, August 14th-15th, several Antiochans who work within the GMBC attended training sessions, auxiliary meetings, and worship services.

President Kenneth B. Martin emphasized making the theme of Mission and Evangelism a reality stating, “We want to make sure that the Missionary portion of our name is not lying.” He noted that there are mission projects being carried out by most of the auxiliaries across the state and hopes to have a comprehensive listing by the annual session in November. In addition to the S.W.A.T. (Saints with a Testimony) team, which goes out to witness in whatever city the GMBC is meeting, most auxiliaries include an evangelism component along with their mission work. He reviewed the structure of the GMBC, Inc. and the Constitution and By Laws.

Reverend Benjamin E.V. Lett, Dean of Christian Education and son of Antioch, presented a workshop on the work of the Trustee explaining that, “while you may not hold the position of Trustee in your individual church, you are a trustee of the gifts God has given you and the service to



which He has called you, and you have a responsibility to execute them well. Deans of local and district Congresses of Christian education received training

as did the Ministry of Ushers and Health Professionals, Sis. Brenda Eason, Coordinator.

## Testimonies hallmark of Mt. Herman prayer brunch

The Women’s Department of the Mt. Hermon Association held its annual Prayer Brunch on Aug. 29 at Greater Fellowship Baptist Church.

Mother Johnson, Mother Harrison, and Sisters Francene Coleman, Margaret Edinburgh, and Francine Reeves attended from Antioch Baptist Church North.

In addition to good physical food, the spiritual

food of personal testimonies that ranged from how God brought women through health challenges and personal difficulties to glorifying God for doors of opportunity that had been opened and for His constant faithfulness and care proved uplifting.

As one mother said, “I’ve been through a lot, but I just stand to praise God for letting me live to see one more day and give Him glory.”

# Antioch walks to end Alzheimer's

For the past three years, the Antioch Baptist Church North's Care and Comfort Ministry has sought to raise awareness about the devastating impact of Alzheimer's Disease.

Over 130,000 people in Georgia are living with Alzheimer's, and over 400,000 serve as their caretakers. Like many diseases, Alzheimer's affects African-Americans at a higher rate than other ethnic groups, so much so that it has been called a silent epidemic that is becoming a public health crisis.

And so Antioch members were among the thousands who turned out Sept. 26 for the annual Walk to End

Alzheimer's at Atlantic Station.

In addition to providing an opportunity to get some exercise and enjoy good fellowship, the walk, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, raises awareness and funds for research on brain health, specifically Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia.

Research is key to understanding why the disease tends to run in African-American families at greater proportions and how genetic and environmental factors may work differently to cause it in African-Americans than in other populations.

The State of Georgia has



developed a plan to address many facets of dealing with the disease from care facilities to nutrition and health initiatives. There are many organizations, medical personnel, researchers, and others, such as public safety officials, who developed

Mattie's Call, an emergency alert system in Georgia, who are educating, advocating, and providing support to find a cure for the disease. Many resources are available at <http://www/alz.org/georgia>.

## Denim and Diamonds training women for ministry

The Fifth District GMBC, Inc. Women of Excellence held its annual Denim & Diamonds Brunch Sept. 26 at Cornerstone Community Baptist Church "to train women for the work of Christ in the home, church, school, and community.

"It serves as a vehicle to unite Christian women, especially young adult women, in outreach ministry," said Dr. Georgianna Bolden, Fifth District Coordinator of the WOE.

"Celebrating YOU: Young, Outgoing and Unique," this year's theme, was on display throughout the program. The Jubilant and Praise Dancers of Bethlehem Baptist Church and Sisters Shameka Anderson and Pamela Ware displayed their gifts in the Christian arts.

Before and after the program, attendees had the opportunity to patronize vendors, including our own Sis. Simone Richards, wife of son of Antioch, Rev. Ervin Richards. She has developed a patented line of Changeable Covers for purses.

The speaker, Maria Banjo, Assistant Solicitor General of DeKalb County, gave an impassioned presentation on the need to educate and protect our young women from dating violence.

According to her "one in three girls and women aged 16-24 report experiencing some form of dating abuse."

Through an initiative entitled Healthy Relationships Make a Safer DeKalb, Ms. Banjo, and others in similar programs, is trying to alert victims and their friends about the signs of abusive



behavior and urge them to action. "Reporting suspected abuse may just be a life saver."

Simone Richards - Changeable Covers

# Hendersons attend junior DA program

David and Michael Henderson, sons of Eric and Yvonna Henderson, participated in this year's Fulton County's Junior District Attorney Program.

Junior District Attorney is a crime prevention and educational program designed to provide middle school students with an overview of the criminal justice system by allowing them to observe its actual operation.

The program accepts rising seventh and eighth grade students from selected Atlanta and Fulton County public schools.

Students meet twice weekly for four weeks during the summer and are exposed to various components of the criminal justice system. They also have an opportunity to meet and interact with government officials throughout the county.

The goal of the program is to provide students with a basic understanding of the criminal justice system.

Upon entry into the program, students are given a signature navy blazer and are asked to abide by the Junior DA creed.

Junior DA activities include observing trial preparation, viewing courtroom proceedings, and educational field trips to the Georgia Supreme Court, the State Capitol and various law enforcement agencies.

The highlight of the summer program for many students is the opportunity to appear as featured guests on CNN's Nancy Grace Show, hosted by Grace, a former Fulton County Assistant District Attorney.

The program culminates in a graduation ceremony and reception where the



David and Michael Handerson with Fulton county DA Paul Howard

students are pinned with a special DA badge which they proudly affix to their Junior DA blazers.

# Loving marching in the high school band

Dekalb County's Stephenson High School Marching Band is known for its precise, dynamic sound and marching skills on the football field.

Samuel Tolbert, son of Cheryl and Reggie Tolbert, and an 8th grader, is a member of the high school marching band - even though he's an eighth grader.

Eight graders at Stephen-

son Middle School were given the opportunity to participate in the marching band at the beginning of the school year in order to make a smooth transition when they eventually become high schoolers.

Samuel, along with seven other 8th graders took advantage of the opportunity.

He says he loves practicing and performing with the

high schoolers, and looks forward to that comradery and learning experience after school each day.

You can check out Sam's performance on YouTube at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VfSG-VxiB3U>

Watch closely. He's in front on the 35 yard line playing the trumpet.



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