

- 2 From Pastor's Desk
- 4 Gift from above
- 5 In Memorium: Dea. Harding
- 6 Celebrating Holy Spirit
- 8 A "kid who cares"



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The Church at Antioch

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June 2009

Volume 2, Issue 6

Sunday dinner at Mother Dansby's house

Myrtle Dansby has a few rules for anyone who wants to eat Sunday dinner at her home.

One, she does all the cooking. You know what they say about too many cooks in the kitchen.

Two, you must go to church. She has been an Antioch member for more than 60 years. Three, come with a hearty appetite and be prepared for a large crowd.

Sis. Dansby, better known as "Little Mama," has cooked dinner for her family and friends virtually every Sunday for the past quarter century. About two-dozen people come to her bungalow-style house, located a few blocks from Antioch, each Sunday.

Think the movie "Soul Food," with Little Mama in the starring role.

"We just fellowship just like a family reunion," Sis. Dansby said the Sunday after Mother's Day. "People ask when do you have a family reunion? I say every weekend."

That Sunday, the menu was four baked chickens, a tray of macaroni and cheese, a large pot of collard greens, mashed potatoes, sweet potato soufflé topped with pecans, string beans, potato salad, corn bread, cranberry dressing, cake with butter cream icing along with your choice of vanilla, chocolate or strawberry ice cream.

The dinners are a time for the Dansby clan to catch up



Enjoying dinner at Mother Dansby's house

with each other, relax and engage in some debate over the major issues of the day. On this Sunday, the discussion was whether the younger Dansbys or the more seasoned

family members would win the annual family bowling battle.

Trash talk at its best.

"We talk about any and everything," said Franmicka

Continued on page 2

Antioch youth celebrated at annual Achievement Banquet

The achievements of Antioch Baptist Church North's youth is proof positive that sentences do not begin with periods and nor does life. "Where there's achievement, there's preparation," the Rev.

Cameron Madison Alexander told over 100 parents and children gathered May 15 for the annual youth achievement banquet. "You've got to even prepare to fail. If you make up your mind to not go to class,

achievement will not be your experience."

Alexander said, however, that preparation does not mean you will not have setbacks or that everyday will be rosy.

It does mean understanding

what you've done wrong.

"Don't ever get satisfied with today," he said. "Always prepare for tomorrow, the next book to be written, the best airplane to fly, the best ship to

Continued on page 6

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Brothers & Sisters:

Due to the downturn in the national economy, many individuals and families are facing financial challenges and serious hardships that they have not had to confront before. Seemingly, no one or no organization, not even the Church is exempt or immune from the adverse effects of the downward trends in the economy. If you or members of your family are impacted by these trends, I would admonish you to remain calm and rely upon your faith! God will take care of you.

Because the scriptures say, "Don't get weary and faint in your mind," I pray that you will keep an open mind, especially during adversity. In so doing, you allow God to be a valuable part of your thinking and to do His will to relieve you of the situation. God has promised each of us that He will fight our battles, even if the battle is unemployment or dwindling resources. Surely you must know that God is bigger than unemployment. More importantly, God never gives us mountains too steep to climb.

The concept of mountain climbing is beautiful and simple, but the details are complex. If you face a mountain in your life, ask God to give you the necessary tools to make the climb. Climbing can be hazardous, especially when you don't have the right equipment. Just as you need special tools for climbing, like a helmet, a rope, flashlight and special shoes, you also need special equipment to tackle the many dynamic obstacles that stand in your heavenly path. In your tool kit for heavenly climbing, you must always have an attitude of faith. Remain calm and stay at peace, even when the world around you is uneasy and tumultuous. In due season . . . at the right time...God will help you to climb the unsafe mountains of financial security and bring you to the top with the glorious victory that you so richly deserve.

When things look their worst, take the time to pray. Thank God that you are not alone in this life. He is with you, no matter what challenge you face. God is a miracle working God. With that thought in mind, let today become a new beginning for the rest of your life.

Yours in God's service,

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

Rev. C. M. Alexander, Pastor

Continued on from cover: Sunday dinner

Ford, Little Mama's granddaughter.

Sis. Dansby begins her cooking on Saturday. She's usually done by Sunday morning, just in time for the 7:45 a.m. service.



Mother Myrtle Dansby

A mother of six, Sis. Dansby's massive dinners evolved simply from the need to keep her growing family fed. Although her children grew into adults and had their own families, they kept coming back on Sunday. Sis. Dansby, not a fan of waiting in line at restaurants on Sundays, pulled out the family recipes from her teenage years and went to work. Some family members stick around for dinner

before the long drive home to College Park or Lithonia.

Aren't you tired, a visitor asked?

"If you are used to cooking, it's not hard," replied Sis. Dansby, a retired Coca-Cola employee.

Metal pots and pans sit atop the gas stove and counter tops in her kitchen. Dessert on the green fold-out table, where some members of the Dansby clan eat dinner. Two pitchers of sweet tea sit next to the sink; a bucket of ice on the kitchen floor.

Most of the family chows down in the dining room. The ladies stay in the dining room after dinner, reading and talking about their children. The men rush to the den where they watch basketball.

"Oooooohhhh!" they yell at the screen.

Little Mama's son, Benny Williams, watched the action, still thinking about dinner. He reflects on the family's good fortune.

"We're just lucky," he said. "We just like to get together and talk. It's just a good time to get together."

Meanwhile, the ladies thumb through Essence magazine while keeping an eye on Little Mama's 2-year-old godson, William Evans Jr., and his cohort, 3-year-old Ishmael Williams, who often entertains the family with scary stories.

Little Mama has another rule: everyone else must clean up.

At the end of the day, Sis. Dansby said it's time to relax.

"I straighten up a little, go in and put on my PJs, sit in my chair and watch a little television," she said with a smile.

About that sweet potato soufflé, will you share the recipe?

"You're not going to get that from me," Sis. Dansby said.

ADDED MEMBERS

Antioch added 15 members to the family in May, including 10, who were Baptized. The members, listed here with their birth months, are:

Tysen Henderson, April
 Avrietta Parker, June
 Joseph Smith, April
 Katrina Smith, June
 Noble Spaulding, November
 Renaldo Weekes, October
 Almetra King, February
 Shandreeka Ball, November
 Briana Nalls, April
 Tim L. Melton, Jr., Sept.

The following persons received the Right Hand of Fellowship under Antioch for Christian Experience.

Alaiya Henderson, August
 Denise Morgan, June
 Richard Washington, Jr., April
 Frankie Henderson, Jr., Sept.
 Torria Rollins, August

Source: Sis. Bonita Hammond

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.



Leona Barr-Davenport (far right), president of the Atlanta Business League and member Antioch Baptist Church North, receives \$25,000 donation from Robert Fornaro, CEO of AirTran Airways recently during the 31st annual CEO Appreciation Luncheon at the Marriott Marquis' Atrium. Fornaro was one of six local executives honored by the league, which seeks to foster the growth and development of successful women and African-American owned businesses in Metropolitan Atlanta. Also pictured (in yellow) is Erica Qualls, general manager of the Atlanta Marriott Marquis

High School Seniors Recognized

Nearly 30 high school seniors were awarded diplomas recently in graduation ceremonies across Atlanta, and recognized during a special service on May 24th at Antioch Baptist Church North. Congratulations to each of them!

Kia Cherie Andrews, daughter of James and Che' Andrews
 Julian Lee Bright, son of Rev. Eddie and Vivian Bright
 Kelli Ann Cogborn, daughter of Rev. Kenneth and Tracy Cogborn
 Alexia Jenay Doward, daughter of Walter and Dorcas Jones, Jr.
 Mikea Natalie Gray, daughter of Alvin and Regina Gray
 Camisha LaShaun Jones, daughter of Gean Manning Jones
 Alexis Charmaine Nelson, daughter of Rickey T. Nelson and Frances Nelson
 Nia K. Oates, daughter of Vincent and Shawn Oates
 Roy Quinn III, son of Roy and Carolyn Quinn
 Khari A.A. Rockward, son of Rev. Willie and Michelle Rockward
 Willie John Rockward III, son of Rev. Willie and Michelle Rockward
 Maria Ledwinia Samples, daughter of Shyvonne Smith
 Asha Dianne Staples, daughter of Rev. Jimmy and Gracie Staples
 Jonathan Michael Thompson, son of Rodney and LaTonya Thompson
 Andrea Janel Trimble, daughter of Deacon Jerome and Virginia Trimble
 Sasha Gay Trusty, daughter of Jermaine and Nadine Tyler
 Charles J. Walker III, son of Rev. Charles and J. Marvella Walker
 Jeremy Ryan Wallace, son of Terry M. Wallace
 JaNecia Denise Wilson, daughter of Randall and Carol Wilson
 Tim Lee Melton, Jr., son of Tim L. and Bertha Melton
 Alex C. Ausborn, son of Dr. Denella L. Ausborn

Her gift comes from above

Singing gospel is an art form of free expression says Maxine Patterson. Whether it is contemporary and apostolic or hymns and anthems, the art and the beauty of it manifests when the Holy Spirit takes over and a soul is saved or a spirit is lifted because of what a person heard in the song.

That free expression has its roots in Dayton, Ohio, where music was a constant in Sis. Patterson's life. It was there that her father, his uncle and their friends would jam together in their living room.

Standing by her uncle, Patterson never opened her mouth as he played songs by blues greats Jimmy Reed, Bobby Blue Bland, and Little Junior Parker. Then when she was alone, she would sing the songs just like he did.

When she wasn't singing at home, she performed in talent

shows and at school, where she was a classmate with members of such popular bands as Lakeside, Slave, Roger and Zap and Heatwave. She soon realized, however, that she did not have the passion to sing secular music. Her true love was and still is gospel.

Her first song was in front of the congregation of St. Luke Baptist Church singing "Treading the Wine Press Alone," standing at the piano besides her choir director, Mrs. Harriett Ming. As soloists go, St. Luke was top heavy with awesome soloist and so Sis. Patterson's opportunities to lead songs were few and far between.

"I didn't mind because I learned so much from the others," she said.

Besides, she had other gifts. She directed St. Luke's choir after high school until 1988,



Sis. Maxine Patterson

when she moved to Atlanta.

Here the elementary school teacher and mother of two joined First Baptist Church in Carrollton, where her brother is pastor and where she served as assistant choir director for 15 years. She left First Baptist in 2003 and after two years of visiting churches, came to Antioch, where her daughter Theron is a member.

During the service she

learned that Antioch was scheduled to host the National Baptist Convention and needed members to sing in the choir.

Patterson missed that part of her life and hopped at the chance to participate but another year would pass before she and Ronald, her husband of 34 years, joined.

She was impressed with the way God was still recognized in the service, the outreach programs, the over-all spirit of the church and the opportunities to participate

"Anyone not doing anything at Antioch is because they don't want to, because there is something for everybody," Patterson said.

And while Antioch has embraced her talent, she said she owes her gift of song to God alone.

TRASH TO TREASURE: The Etcetera Shoppe returns with much more!

The old adage "one man's trash is another man's treasure" will come in to play once again as Antioch Baptist Church North kicks off its second annual Trash to Treasure Etcetera Shoppe.

"It was such a great success last year that we want to do it again," said Sis. Rosalyn Curington, one of the organizers.

The collected items for this event are to be new or nearly new items in good condition, clean and non-chipped (no clothing or large furniture items). These items are in

our homes, in drawers, cabinets, closets and storages. Many of them are still packaged with the tags in place, just taking up space in our homes. We really want them but are never, ever going to use them.



This year, organizers have added

something new: a marketplace where you can sell your own wares and buy goods from others – purses, flowers, jewelry, perfumes, fine art, baked goods, etc.

You may rent a booth and keep the proceeds from what you sell or use it at the Etcetera Plus Shoppe of values.

"Make as much as you want," said Sis. Curington. "We don't have to know- and you don't have to tell. This is your chance to

make a profit."

Curington thanked members for donating to the effort last years and said she hopes even more will donate to the cause this year.

Receptacles for donations, now being accepted, are near the church entrance.

"So, clear off shelves and clean out closets," said Curington. "Get ready for the Etcetera Plus Shoppe – something for our Church and something for you!"

Proceeds from the shoppe will benefit Antioch's 10 & 10 Free Will Offering.

More information is forthcoming.

In Memorium: Deacon William Harding

Deacon William Harding, Chairman of the Deacon's Ministry, heartily endorsed the idea of featuring a deacon in each issue of *The Church at Antioch*. In his typical fashion, concerned about everyone else, he provided contact information and talked about how wonderful the men serving in the Deacon's Ministry are, recalling their favorite hymns and giving anecdotes about their service. Because of his weakened condition and his many visitors, we were unable to interview him personally before he passed away on June 5, 2008. Sister Wendolyn Harding, his wife of 44 years, provided the answers in a fitting tribute to the man whose love of the Lord, his pastor, his church, family, and neighbors made him the epitome of what a deacon is called to be—a servant.

Q: What did Deacon Harding most like about serving in the Deacon's Ministry, and what

excited him about being a member of Antioch?

A: His goal in life was to help people, so he prepared himself educationally and spiritually to serve and thoroughly enjoyed it. His undergraduate and master's degree were in counseling and guidance, and his ED.S. in administration. He had a love for his church, its fellowship, and its spiritual benefits. Because of this love, he taught deacon seminars on the role of the deacon and raising metered hymns and congregational songs at Antioch, other sites in Atlanta and in Orlando, FL.

What excited him most about being a member of Antioch was being able to serve "people in a leadership capacity."

Q: What was his favorite hymn, and how did he develop his love for music?

A: His favorite congregational song was "I Believe I'll Run On, See What the End Will



Deacon and Sister Harding

Be"; his favorite meter hymn was "When I Can Read My Title Clear."

His love for music was developed as a child while growing up at Antioch. He took piano and sang in the Antioch youth choirs, played in the Washington High School and Morehouse College bands, sang bass in the Morehouse College Glee Club, and sang in the Atlanta University-Morehouse-Spelman Chorus.

Q: What were his profession, his hobbies, and his talents?

A: After working 37 years in the public school systems of Georgia as a principal, he retired, but remained busy and dedicated to educating everyone with whom he had contact. His hobbies included gardening, outdoor cooking and traveling with his family.

Q: What was his favorite scripture, and what advice did he have for maturing as a Christian?

A: Dea. Harding taught from and practiced as best he could, I Timothy, chapter 3.

Q: What are your children's names, and what advice did he have for raising children?

A: We have two daughters: Wanda of Orlando, FL., and Tonja, wife of Charlie Ward of Houston, TX. Our grandchildren are Caleb, 9 years old, and Hope, 6 years old.

Proverbs 3:6 and 22:6 remind us how to be successful in life, in your career and family as you rear your children.

Scenes from A Taste of Antioch

May 8, 590 Building



Celebrating the coming of the Holy Ghost

Antioch gathered “with one accord in one place” on May 27 to celebrate the Holy Spirit.

Min. Scott Copeland was one of five sons of the church preaching pre-Pentecost messages. Based on Acts 1:4, he preached on the word “Wait,” acknowledging that waiting is the great challenge for most Christians, and “when the Lord commands us to wait, it is not only a test but your testimony that God is operating in your life.”

The word “Await” is a little different, said Min. John Byrd-sell, using Lamentations 3:25-26 as his text.

“In the business of awaiting, we’re strengthened by the one who carries the weight, Jesus Christ who turns tragedy into

triumph and failure into fulfillment.”

Min. Elve Jones told the Wednesday evening crowd that as familiar as Isaiah 40:31 is, to “Wait On” is “to make a formal call on” God.

Through the Lord’s Prayer, he said that Jesus taught us to “be meticulous, methodical, and careful” when we pray as a way to give God the respect He is due.

“Waiting Patiently” is easier said than done, noted Min. Eddie Bright, saying David emphasizes in Psalm 27:14 that how we wait, with courage and patience, shows our faith.

And like the woman at the well in John 4:28-29, Min. Darrell Arnold “just couldn’t keep



Celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit during Pentecost

it to himself.”

He said that Jesus helped the woman to recognize that she was thirsty and that she could only quench that thirst by choosing Christ. Once she—and we—makes that

choice we have to run and tell someone about Christ.

“I thought I was quenching my thirst, and I was really getting dehydrated, but now the Comforter has come,” he said.

Continued from cover: Youth achievement

sail. Get ready to be better. A great big world is waiting for you.”

The keynote address came amid an evening that highlighted the achievements and talents of Antioch youth from grade school to high school; in which they took the lead. Andre Harton and Janetta Hill were the master and mistress of ceremony.

“This is the best time of year for me,” said Sis. Stephanie Smith-Greene, co-chairwoman of the Antioch scholarship committee. “We’re truly thrilled with the accomplishments of our children.”

Pastor Alexander called the evening celebration a miracle of God, who deserved praise for all He had done and will do.

He told the high school graduates to not be satisfied with getting their diploma and when they finish college, don’t be satisfied with getting a degree.

“There are other things waiting for you,” he said.



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Sterling Bright is a “kid who cares”

Not to be out done by his equally accomplished older brothers, Sterling Chandler Bright has been named Riverdale’s all around elementary school student.

The Mayor’s Cup, which honors the top students in elementary, middle and high school, is presented annually by Mayor Evelyn Wynn Dixon.

“He exhibited every characteristic we were looking for,” said Dixon. “He’s well-mannered, hardworking and respectful.”

Sterling, 10, was the only Church Street Elementary School student honored for academic excellence and community involvement. He graduated May 27 with high honors, said his parents, the Rev. Eddie and Sis. Vivian Bright. The award was one



Bro. Sterling Chandler Bright

of nearly a dozen Sterling received this past school year.

In addition to his academic achievements, Principal Scholar Award, Citizenship Award, Outstanding Author

Award, Sterling placed first in both the 4-H County Project Achievement Competition and the District competition held in Douglasville Georgia.

Students were judged on creativity, oral presentation and costume. Not only was Sterling prepared to present “Flags Around the World” to the judges, he dressed the part in his patriotic attire.

In June, he was named one of Kohl’s department store’s “Kids Who Care.” The scholarship award recognizes youth age 6 to 18 who are making a difference in their communities. Sterling submitted his application and won the store level award. He is being considered now for the regional award, a \$1,000 scholarship and entry into the national competition.

In addition to the scholarship, Sterling’s picture will be displayed in Kohl’s stores. His name, along with the complete list of Kohl’s winners around the country, will be displayed on the stores website at www.kohlskids.com in June.

Because of his leadership skills and academic achievements and the way he conducted himself as a top Mentor for Brother 2 Brother, Sterling was awarded the organization’s Certificate of Excellence.

Brother 2 Brother works to build and develop tomorrow’s leaders. The group participates in community outreach and stresses building character.

“We couldn’t be more proud of our son,” said his mother, Vivian Bright.

ACE launches seminar series

The Antioch Christian Entrepreneurs, in May, launched the first in a series of seminars it offers church members to help grow their business.

Speakers at the May 7th launch included Reggie Tolbert, owner of Tolbert Graphics, Nathaniel Crawford and the Rev. Michael Price.

Tolbert’s talk focused on the dos and don’ts of advertising.

Three ways to “grab your public’s attention,” he said, is to make your ad attractive, make your message clear and keep your ad simple.

Noting the newest form of marketing, Crawford told the group that “mobile marketing” or text messaging is gradually replacing traditional marketing vehicles.

To get started mobile marketing,

he suggested, business owners decide what they want to offer, pick a vendor, create a marketing campaign and launch it.

In his presentation on how to get a patent for inventions, Minister Price stressed the importance of researching an idea before investing money in it.

Make sure the idea has not been produced, he said.

The seminars are open to the Antioch family.

This month’s seminar, set for June 11 at 6:30pm, will cover Real Estate and Finance.

For more information about ACE, contact Helen Burgess at 770-333-6383, Shawl Pryor at 678-564-0140, or visit www.antiochnorth.org.

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