

Deacon's Corner—'Learn all you can about God'

Antioch is getting new members every month. And on the other hand, there are members who have been here for many, many years — some since they were toddlers. But no matter how long you've been a member, it's always good to get to know the people you see from one Sunday to the next, especially our church leaders. This month's Deacon's Corner is a chance for you to get to know a little more about Deacon Jerome Trimble, Vice Chairman of the Antioch Deacon's Ministry. Find out what excites Trimble about being a member of Antioch and get his tips for a successful marriage and parenting.

Deacon Trimble has been a deacon since Jan. 15, 1998. He is currently employed by the NCR Corporation as a High Availability Technical Specialist, a job affords him the opportunity to work from home and provides insight for computer technology in the banking industry. He said his hobbies at this stage of his life are golfing, bowling, movies and reading. He is married to Virginia Trimble and they have two children: Dennis and Andrea. Read more about Deacon Trimble:



Dea. J. Trimble

Q: What do you most like about serving in the Deacon's Ministry?

A: My greatest joy is serving communion to our sick and shut-in members.

Q: What is your favorite hymn? Your favorite scripture?

A: "A Charge to Keep I Have" and (Old Testament) Psalm 139; (New Testament) 2 Corinthians 12:9.

Q: What advice do you have for maturing as a Christian?

A: Learn all you can about God and His goodness; then govern yourself with that knowledge.

Q: What advice do you have for maintaining a strong marriage? Raising children?

A: On marriage — Over 22 years of marriage, the advice I can attribute to maintaining a relationship:

- Love each other daily.
- Understand each other's needs and desires.
- Be spiritually connected.
- Thank God for the person He has given you.
- Work through the low points of married life together.
- Always enjoy and appreciate the high points.
- Pay attention to the examples set by older married couples.
- Remember birthdays, holidays, and anniversaries.
- Do the unexpected.

On raising children — I have to remember that children are a gift from God, and sometimes God has a sense of humor. I say that because He uses them to remind me just how far I've come as a Christian and a parent, and I feel Him smiling when I use the same phrases and methods my Mom used to raise me — especially when I said growing up, "I will never treat my kids like this!" My advice to other parents is to remain true to 1 Corinthians 15:58: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." A major part of this work/labor includes raising your children. I've concluded that my kids and their friends are the benefactors of all my known mistakes and all my known successes; this is the wisdom I pass on to them.

Q: What excites you about being a member of Antioch?

A: Fellowship, worship and good preaching.

Q: Do you have words of wisdom that you have lived by that may help someone else?

A: Pray to God daily, and then love the person He is making you become and never ever forget where you came from. Finally, always be kind to others in the name of Jesus.



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Connecting People to Christ



The Church at Antioch

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

June 2008

Volume 1, Issue 4

Coming Up...

Achievement Banquet

The youth achievement banquet will be held 7pm June 5 at the 590 Building. The annual event, hosted by the Men's Division and Youth Ministry, recognizes the accomplishments of school-aged children during the 2007-2008 academic year.

Pastor's Barbeque

The 39th anniversary of Rev. Cameron M. Alexander will kick off on June 21 with our church barbeque. The annual outing is scheduled to begin at 10am at Bessie Branham Park, 2051 Delano Dr. NE, Atlanta. T-shirts, required for entry, are on sale now.

Gospel Fest

The 4th Annual Gospel Celebration, hosted by Stone Mountain and Antioch Urban Ministries, Inc. will be held on June 14 at Stone Mountain Park, 12 noon – closing. National artists will perform 5pm – 8pm. Entertainment will also be provided.

VBS is...

Action-oriented, intensive study, and something for all ages

"1-2-3 Who are we? We are the men/women of the V-B-S!"

Anyone who has attended Vacation Bible School at Antioch Baptist North is familiar with the competition that ends each evening's study to see whether the men or the women of VBS can shout the loudest proclaiming their pride in being participants. The good-natured competition is part of the abundance

of fellowship that is married to the main purpose of VBS, the opportunity to learn more about God and the Bible and to apply it to our daily lives.

Vacation Bible School at Antioch is probably as old as when we first called ourselves Christians at Antioch. In early days, VBS was held during the summer for the children, but at Antioch, there are classes for everyone from birth

through the oldest member.

This year, VBS will be held June 23-27 and begin each day at 6 p.m. Devotion is followed by the Pledge to the Flag, Pledge to the Christian Flag, Pledge to the Bible, and a special VBS song. If you don't know or have forgotten the pledges, it's time to come out and learn. Dinner is

Continued on page 3

VOP takes ministry beyond church walls

A sign posted near the exit of the Antioch parking lot reads: "Now entering the mission field."

It is a stark reminder of the great commission recorded in Matthew 28:19: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost."

That mission, leaders say, has not been lost on the church's dance ministry, the Vessels of Praise. When the church doors close behind



them, they take the message of the gospel out into the community.

"That's what we're suppose to do," said Sis. Khadijah

Abe, director of the Vessels of Praise. "We do it through dance."

The dance ministry has
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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1

This is the season of Joy – a season of beginnings, endings, and renewals.

Graduations signal an end to one journey and the beginning of another. It symbolizes an upward progression towards new horizons filled with hopes, dreams, and ambitions. It is an exciting time and a challenging time, and a time to rejoice.

Retirement brings to an end years of dedication and commitment to one job but oftentimes leads to the beginning of another. Still, for many, it is the opportunity for giving – giving of themselves as mentors to show others the key to longevity in the workplace. It is a time of joy.

This is the season for engagements and weddings. The excitement of merging two lives as one and building a spiritually collective, cohesive force against the powers of Satan is overwhelming. Our prayers are with all our newlyweds as we share with them their joy and happiness.

This is the season of family gatherings, orchestrated family reunions, planned to celebrate the legacy of the family and the renewal of family bonds. This is the time to reconnect to your heritage and the legacy of your fore parents, to remember who you are and your place in the family structure. Family is joy.

Joy is an expression of a new life in Christ. It is intrinsic to our fellowship because it is inherent in us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and manifested through our fellowship, evangelism, doctrine, and stewardship.

The Men's Division Cook-off, Mother's Day Celebration, Pentecost Celebration, all served to usher in a season of joy that has continued through the Youth Achievement Banquet and the A.S.K. Senior Recognition Luncheon, and into the Stone Mountain Gospel Celebration and the Pastor's Anniversary Kick-off Picnic and Barbeque. Our 10 & 10 Free Will Offering continues to grow along with your giving in other areas. Our Revival was well-attended and our Wednesday Night Prayer Meetings are filled with members seeking to grow in His grace and knowledge. And there is more!

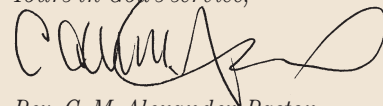
A time to weep, and a time to laugh, a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
Ecclesiastes 3:4

And still, it is joy. Regardless of the situation or circumstance, the joy of being in the Spirit neutralizes any challenge this world may offer and brings us peace.

This is a season for joy. May His grace and mercy show you the joy that is already in you bequeathed by the fruit of the Spirit – love - and may He keep you forever in His care.

And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch. Acts 11:26

Yours in God's service,



Rev. C. M. Alexander, Pastor



continued from cover: Spreading the Word

stepped up its efforts, implementing Vision 2008, taking God's word beyond the walls of the Antioch sanctuary recently to a local women's shelter and Whitefield Academy, a private Christian School in Mableton.

A program at the school focused on the Underground Railroad and the contributions of Harriet Tubman, the freed slave turned abolitionist who led over 300 slaves from the south to freedom in the north and Canada.

The Vessels danced to two classic Negro Spirituals, "Ah been buked" and "Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel."

Lower School Principal Jeannie Brodstrand extended an open invitation to the dancers to share in a future program or chapel service at Whitefield.

In March, the Vessels celebrated Good Friday at the Cascade House, a YMCA shelter for women and children.

Cascade House currently houses five women and their children, all victims of abuse and/or homelessness. The women and their families are allowed to stay at the facility for up to 18 months until they are able to move into permanent housing.

Not only did the Vessels of Praise minister to the women with dance, members cooked and served a meal. They shared words of inspiration and poetry and gave each mother a small gift.

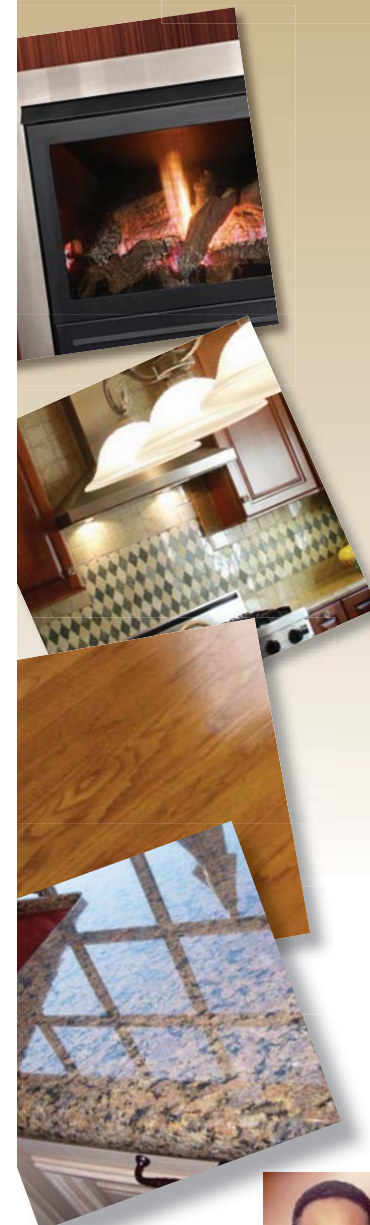
"Our hearts were truly filled with joy on Good Friday as we went out to do God's work on this special day," said Sis Sheryl Grayer, Vessels of Praise member and coordinator of the fellowship outing.

Abe, the group's director, said the ministry will continue to participate in various community outreach and missionary efforts throughout the year as they stand on the four pillars of Antioch, spread God's word, and bring souls closer to Christ through dance.

If You're Interested

What: Vessels of Praise
When: 6:30 p.m. Thursdays
Experience: No formal dance training is required.

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First phase of Elm Street townhomes complete

Like the mythological Phoenix rising from the ashes, the Bethursday Development Corporation's new Elm Street Townhome Development reflects the hopes and ambitions of a community that had long been neglected.

Residents can begin to enjoy home ownership with a quality of life unmatched. The 28 units make up an urban subdivision community with unsurpassed architecture, function and affordability. The Elms compliments Bethursday's development partnership in the Gateway Apartments, a 261-unit mixed-income rental property, on Northside Drive.

The Elms, which takes its name from its site, is conveniently located just west of downtown Atlanta and is within walking distance of the Georgia World Congress Center, Georgia Aquarium, World of Coke, Children's Museum, Georgia Tech, Coca Cola World Headquarters, Marietta Street Artery (Restaurant Row).

Marta access is almost at the doorstep. Streetscape around the complex boasts eight-foot wide sidewalks with granite curbs, grated tree wells (elms, of course) and lamp posts.

The first phase of the \$6.5 Million development consists of eight townhomes with views of downtown Atlanta's skyline. Initially, there are seven three-bedroom units and one two-bedroom unit in two buildings, all with 2½ baths. Each unit has a two-car detached garage accessible through the rear courtyard. The 1700 square foot



A mighty Comforter He is

It seemed fitting that the Day of Pentecost fell on Mother's Day last month.

Pentecost commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter — the role mothers often play.

But Pentecost is also a reminder, said the Rev. Cameron M. Alexander, of the importance of being on one accord, families especially.

"One leader of the family can't go to church and the other say at home," he said.

Few of us, he said, go to work because we feel like it, because of a commitment or feeling of responsibility. Rather, we go because we expect a paycheck to buy groceries, to pay the mortgage and buy fuel for our cars.

"If God has blessed you all the through the week," he said to applause, "Sunday morning you need to get up, get to the church and give him praise and honor."

three-bedroom unit, as well as the two-bedroom unit (1450 square feet, features solid hardwood flooring on the first level, gas fireplace, kitchen/dining area with granite countertops, appliances (including refrigerator, dishwasher, gas stove, built-in microwave, garbage disposal, and washer/dryer). The sleeping areas are located on the upper floor of the townhomes. The master suite is highlighted with a double-lav, garden tub and glass enclosed shower. There is a walk-in closet, which makes the bath a large dressing room.

Each home exudes quality and is geared towards in-town family living. One of the most unique features of the development is the rooftop deck above the garage, which is suited for outdoor living.

Mortgage assistance programs offered through various agencies within the city are available to potential homebuyers. These programs can assist with down payment towards the purchase price of the homes, thereby giving the buyer a reduced mortgage payment. Selected lenders are well-versed in these programs. The homes are being marketed by Sis. Barbara J. Alexander Realty Company. For more information, call 404-761-1222, 404-849-7529 or 404-312-7912).

With the support of Antioch Baptist Church North, Bethursday Development Corporation, chaired by Rev. C. M. Alexander, garnered project financing through several sources. Predevelopment financing was provided by Community Redevelopment Loan Investment Fund (CRLIF) with Midtown Community Bank as the construction lender. Atlanta Development Authority awarded the project with a \$1.3 Million grant from the Westside TAD Neighborhood Fund to assist with underground infrastructure and "HOME" funds from City of Atlanta. This financial partnership helps ensure the vision of providing affordable housing in the community.

The scripture says the people were on one accord in one place and suddenly something happened; there was a sound from heaven as a rushing mighty wind and it filled the house. While some would have you believe that the spirit only speaks to them, Alexander said the scripture is clear: there appeared unto them — not him.

And in that place, they were filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with one another in tongues.

"Don't ever believe God can't lift you from where you are," he said. "Don't ever believe God can't use you."

He said that Jesus ascended and for 10 days, the disciples waited for the Comforter. This same Jesus will come again.

When the verses don't work, when it gets cold in the house, when you're in debt and don't seem to be able to get out, he said, "Remember the Comforter."

Do you know him?—He's the man behind the desk

For years, he has sat at the entrance leading into the church fellowship hall — a great and compassionate spirit calling out your name.

"How may I help you?" he asks.

Deacon Ronald Smith has been a fixture at Antioch Baptist North for 38 years, which may account for the number of members he knows on a first-name basis, and why, on a recent Sunday, members stood and applauded as he approached the microphone in the choir.

Known affectionately as "Deacon Ron," he spends the day checking out the details around the church and making sure that everyone is on task. He's in charge of making daily room assignments for each auxiliary.

He's a regular at members' Homegoing services and the Wednesday night Baptism Service, when he often offers candidates words of wisdom regarding their role in the church.



Dea. R. Smith

"Now let's go to heaven together," he likes to tell them.

A member of Antioch for more than 30 years, he has served in nearly a half dozen ministries, including the youth choir, adult usher board and the scholarship committee.

He is a devoted husband to Scarlet and a great dad to Ryan, Franmicka and Richard Ford his son-in-law. His favorite Scripture is Psalms 37 and his favorite hymn is "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone."

Everyone who knows Smith, son of the late Mary Smith, loves him.

"I have known Deacon Ron for a very long time and I don't think there's one person who he does not know at Antioch," said Dea. Benny Williams. Or who does not know him.

It is why people entering the church Fellowship Hall are always compelled to stop and listen to the man behind the desk.

continued from cover: VBS is...

served prior to the beginning of classes every night except for Friday night when the closing celebration features presentations from each class and a pot-luck supper.

What makes VBS any different from Sunday School? Like Sunday School, there are printed materials, but the lessons extend well beyond the printed texts. VBS is action-oriented.

One year while studying the story of Noah, the primary class could be seen scampering about the grounds of the Church searching for animals to bring into the ark; middle schoolers had an opportunity for an interactive computer ark experience, and the teens developed a modern-day skit about what life in a confined space for an indefinite period of time might be like, and everyone participated in the Bible Jeopardy competition (Do you know how long Noah and his family actually stayed in the ark?).

In addition, each class — youth through adults — participates in a period of arts and crafts. Last year the colorful sand crystal creations of the adult seniors could have been on display at the High Museum.

VBS is one week of intensive study for two hours each evening, which gives participants time to really delve into the scriptures, ask questions, and fully discuss the lesson.

This year's theme will incorporate Faith Heroes: Champions for Jesus as the lives of biblical personalities are explored

with an emphasis on applying godly characteristics in our own walk with Christ. Where will you be each evening Monday-Friday, June 23-27? Set your DVD player to record your favorite television shows and come study with the Bible stars here at Antioch's VBS.

ADDED MEMBERS

New members were baptized and fellowshiped in May. Their names and birthmonths are:

Clinton Maclin, April
Kristen A. Godette, July
Sawida Gladney, September
Alene Brown-Grant, October
Devi Fuller, March
Jawanza D. Donaldson, September
Reasha Donaldson, February
Donnica Rowser, July

The Church At Antioch is looking for you! 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.

A true lover of music

Longtime music student shares her talents and gifts with others

She was a little girl “playing school” and pretending to be a teacher, when she first fell in love with music but that pretending helped turn Sis. Wendolyn Harding into a giant of a music teacher.

Affectionately known at Antioch Baptist Church North as “Sister Wendy,” she is the third and youngest daughter born to the late Rev. John Paul and Mrs. Lillie Murphy in Augusta, Ga.

Though her mother passed while she was in elementary school, her father always made certain that she got the best of home, church and school. But she also got help, she said, from close family and friends, and the caring Christian women who were members of her father’s churches.

Harding says her father instilled in her the importance of education and encouraged her love of music.

And so after graduating from Lucy Laney High School in Augusta, she began studying music at Spelman College, where she was active in the glee club, a group that also sang with the Morehouse College Glee Club on special occasions. It was there that she caught the eye of Antioch Deacon William “Bill” Harding, whom she would later marry.

Sis. Harding received her Bachelor of Arts in music from Spelman College and also earned a masters degree in education from Atlanta University.

As a young couple right out of college, she and Deacon Harding began their careers in education in Thomasville, Ga. Sis. Harding’s love of music continued after they moved to Atlanta, where she served as a music teacher in the Atlanta Public School system for 31 years. During this time, she twice distinguished herself as “Teacher of the Year” and her choruses were known across the district for their excellent and superior rank-

ings at festivals.

A long-time member of Antioch, Sis. Harding was the founding director of the Anthem Choir, established by the Rev. Cameron Alexander in 1973.

Over the years, she has carefully and thoughtfully selected music that ministers to souls and contributes to the overall worship experience.

Her love for music followed her into retirement and for the past eight years she has passed that love on to her students at KinderMusik in Atlanta.

In recent years, the Anthem and Acappella choirs were combined, jointly directed/accompanied by Sis. Harding and

the late Sis. Ruby Patten. Harding also directs the Note Choir, tuning members with her pitch pipe and “strutting” during their soul-stirring selections.

Sis. Wendy and Deacon Harding will soon celebrate 44 years of marriage. A respected couple, the Concerned Black Clergy of Atlanta honored them with the “Family of the Year Award” in 2003.

The Hardings have two daughters and two grandchildren. Wanda, their oldest daughter, lives in Central Florida. Their youngest daughter, Tonja, is a resident of Houston, with her husband Charlie Ward, and their two children, Caleb and Hope.

Antioch is blessed to have such a jewel as Sis. Harding in its midst.



W. Harding and her husband Dea. W. Harding

Hidden Words - Books of the Bible

You should snare 35, if you search diligently.

S O N G O F S O L O M O N C T Y E
 N R C A M O S S E L C I N O R H C
 A U O L C J E N A N D Y I R H T C
 I C L A D T R S U I R Y N I E O L
 N S O T A E S T H E R U C N I M E
 O M S I N V D I S T B E T T I S
 L L S A I E R U O O N F O H Y T I
 A A I N E L E O J E R E M I A H A
 S S A S L M T N O H E X A A W Y S
 S P N C O B E U N A S O R N K O T
 E N S L U I P A A C C D K S H R E
 H A B A K K U K H I H U B A A O S
 T S W E R B E H N M E S A H R M J
 E T S N A I S E H P E L C E R Z E
 K A G E N E S I S Y L E I K E Z E
 U B A D O N D E U T E R O N O M Y
 L E U M A S N O I T A T N E M A L

It’s all about July—Birthmonth members meet their ministry mission

S-T-R-R-I-K-E! Baseball or bowling?

In this case it was bowling as Antioch members born in the month of July enjoyed their first fellowship outing recently at the Brunswick Zone in Marietta.

The laughter, encouragement and story telling that marked the fellowship were priceless. The goal, said Sister Regina Fuller, was to accomplish the vision set forth by the Rev. Cameron M.

Alexander and his wife, Sis. Barbara Alexander, to increase fellowship among Antioch members.

“Mission accomplished,” said Fuller, leader of the July Birthmonth.

The next planned outing is a birthday blast barbecue in July, of course.

But July is taking it a step further and combining service and fellowship. Instead of birthday gifts, everyone will donate items to be given to an outreach



A few members of the July Birthmonth Club

ministry such as a women’s shelter or nursing home to be identified at the next third Sunday meeting.

An ongoing service activity already started involves mailing greeting cards to people on the Care and Comfort list. Members either selected a group of three or four names to send cards to or agreed to bring stamps for the mail out.

You will recognize the July Birthmonth members with their nametags sporting red, white and blue and, perhaps as has been suggested for the future, a color-coordinated accessory (tie for men, scarf for women).

More than the outward identification, however, organizers say you will note that they exemplify the qualities of July’s birthstone, the Ruby, which is associated with the apostle Matthew. Fine rubies are more rare than diamonds and are characterized by durability (steadfastness) and beauty (inner).

A birthday blessing for others—Antioch members find unique ways to give and share

Jane Yvonne Butler, a longtime member of Antioch North and a member of the Pastor’s Support Ministry, celebrated her birthday recently in a most unusual manner.



J. Butler (right) and friend

She and husband, Harry, did not go to a swank restaurant for an evening of fine food and festivities, nor did they book a cruise bound for Hawaii.

No, they did something far more exciting, honorable and admirable.

They shared her very special day by acknowledging God’s goodness and sharing that goodness with others. The invitees to Jane’s birthday celebration were asked to bring a cash gift of \$10 instead of a personal gift. The money was used to purchase something for the ladies at Ruth’s Place, a mission

of Antioch Baptist North that provides counseling, medical care and job training for women.

A total of \$400 was collected allowing Butler to purchase eight \$50 Wal-Mart gift certificates. The event also was a chance to honor the memory of breast cancer victims and to honor survivors of breast cancer.

The Birthday Party/Charitable Giving event is not new to the Butlers. For Harry’s birthday, men were asked to purchase items of men’s clothing, which were donated to the church Clothing Bank.

The Butlers have been using their birthdays as a blessing to others for the past three years.

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS: Acts. Amos. Chronicles. Corinthians. Daniel. Deuteronomy. Ecclesiastes. Ephesians. Esther. Exodus. Ezekiel. Galatians. Genesis. Habakkuk. Hebrews. Jeremiah. Job. Joel. John. Jonah. Joshua. Jude. Lamentations. Luke. Mark. Micah. Peter. Psalms. Ruth. Samuel. Song of Solomon. Thessalonians. Timothy.