

2009 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

SHERRI SPANN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Charlene Johnson, Walden University
Jade McCracken, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

SHARON WRIGHT WILLIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Frieda E. Aden, Central Michigan University
Yvonna Henderson, Georgia State University
Christy Melton, Mercer University

CAIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Nigel M. Cochran, Clark Atlanta University
Corey Dortch, University of Georgia
Jasmine Garrett, University of Richmond
Autumn J. Glencamp, South Carolina State University
Joy Melton, Georgia State University
Jeremy V. Spikes, Middle Georgia College
Dennis Trimble, Morehouse College
Shalecia Flowers, Morris Brown College
Danielle M. Hewson, Morehouse School of Medicine
Jacqueline N. Ross, Howard University
Jamila Staples, University of Georgia
Brittany E. Warner, Valdosta State University

WILLIAM "BILL" HARDING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Destiny Andrews, Georgia College & State University
Louistine B. Carter, University of Phoenix
Deshion R. Cochran, Clark Atlanta University
Tiffany Hall, Auburn University at Montgomery
Tabitha L. Hunt, Auburn University
Stephanie Scott, Keller Graduate School of Management
Sameatrice West, Georgia State University
Nivek Anderson, University of Georgia
Chinique Hardison, Valdosta State University
Whitnee D. McCormick, Valdosta State University
Jourdan A. Mott, Alabama State University
Angela L. Palmer, Savannah State University

P.D. HARRIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Leah A. Burney, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Nikendra Grimes, Alcorn State University
Roxanna P. Smith, Lesley University
Ronald G. Wilbur, University of Kentucky

J. J. JONES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Clarence Doward, Jr., Miles College
Takiedra D. White, Mercer University

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY BOOK SCHOLARSHIP

Frederick Curry, University of Georgia
Carol Thomas, Life University
Bertrand L. Evans, Argosy University

SMITH-GREENE BOOK SCHOLARSHIP

Bernika Melton, Fisk University

Sis. Murray honored

Mary P. Murray, president emeritus of the General Missionary Baptist Convention's Women's Auxiliary, is no stranger to Antioch but not for the reasons you may think.

In addition to heading the Women's Auxiliary, she is the mother of Sis. Rosalyn Curington and grandmother of Shellee Curington, both active members of Antioch Baptist Church North.

She is the epitome of a servant leader and for that, dozens of friends, colleagues and relatives came together December 12 to honor her life's work of Christian service and to pay tribute to a life well-lived.

The celebration, hosted by Curington and her sister, Edna Murray, was held in the Glover-Locket Fellowship Hall of Greater Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Macon. The Rev. Walter F. Glover is pastor.

Mother Murray is known for her hymn-raising, and music from every tradition punctuated the evening from the anthem to the hymn to the gospel song. The common thread in every remark was the phenomenal servitude that has marked her life.

On her job as the Director of the Student Center at Fort Valley State College where she kept student's children in her office to allow their parents to attend classes to her work in every area of GMBC, Inc., it was the humble worker, the servant leader that was portrayed. She has not stopped serving, for she prepares lunch daily for the children at the Central Union Day Care Center, "and they're the best fed children in Georgia."

The works she has done speak well for her.



Mary P. Murray

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Happy
New Year!

Connecting
People
to Christ



The Church at Antioch

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

January 2010

Volume 3, Issue 1

Rev. Jackson: "Preparation for battle"

The Rev. Jesse Jackson delivered a powerful, two-pronged message at Antioch Baptist Church North. One: more must be done to help those losing their property to mortgage foreclosure.

Two: Jesus is the reason for the holiday season, not Santa Claus.

The world-renowned civil rights leader gave the sermon at Antioch's 11 a.m. service on Dec. 13. Rev. Jackson was in Atlanta to lead a march at the Federal Reserve to protest how banks were treating those in danger of foreclosure.

"We're losing homes by the droves because powers in high places and principalities have deceived us," Rev. Jackson said in his sermon, titled "Preparation for Battle."

Rev. Jackson, who in 1984 became the first African-

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B. Simms, M. White, L. Barr-Davenport, Rev. and Mrs. Alexander. (Gala images on pages 4 and 5)

Pastor feted at Christmas gala

The Rev. Gerald Durely used the word "kairos" when he began to speak about Pastor Cameron M. Alexander.

The word is Greek in origin and means the right or supreme moment.

In 1969, the right moment came for Antioch Baptist Church North when a young preacher – "the sign-in candidate" as Deacon Jerome Trimble called him – was hired to lead this congregation.

On December 18, Antioch came out en masse to celebrate the 40th anniversary of that right moment as well as Pastor Alexander's 55th year of preaching the gospel.

"I've just been in a year of wonderland with all that you have done," pastor told the audience.

The celebration was organized by a 41-member planning committee led by Bro. Barney Simms, who handled the duties of mas-



Rev. Alexander at gala

ter of ceremonies for the evening.

The gala, held at the Re-

Continued on page 3

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we begin another year of work and worship, we pause and give God the glory for his wonderful and bountiful blessings.

I want to take this time to thank you for that powerful and exciting 55/40 Pastoral Gala given in my honor. It was both humbling and overwhelming. I could feel the spirit of friends past and present, near and far embrace the celebration and warm the heart, and I have you to thank for all the great memories.

We have just experienced an awesome year - an exciting year, inspired by our dynamic Divisional Leaders who led us in awe-inspiring fellowship activities and culminating church-wide services - exhilarating, spirit-filled, moving and memorable - too numerous to count and too astonishing to forget. "Thank You" to our Divisional Leaders for leading us through a year immortalized by faith, commitment, creativity, and love of God and our church family.

With great joy and enthusiasm, we look forward to the beginning of another year of Christian service. The Women's Division is paused to welcome in the new quarter, new auxiliary/ministry leaders are preparing to assume leadership of their respective ministries, and Added Members are bringing their resources to the fellowship to join us in praising His name, studying His word, and building His kingdom on earth.

Therefore, as we conclude 2009 in joy and thankfulness, let our hearts prepare to receive the blessings of a new year in His service knowing that we are able to continue the "good fight" because we are blessed by the power of God to persevere with strength of character, wisdom, vision, and faith.

A happy and prosperous New Year to all of you, and it is my prayer that God will continue to bless you and keep you forever in His care.

In God's service,

Rev. C. M. Alexander, Pastor

Continued: Rev. Jackson

American to win a presidential primary, said banks and lenders are charging higher interest rates to blacks and won't restructure the loans. He recalled speaking at Antioch during his historic presidential campaign.

The 13 counties that make up the core of metro Atlanta saw a 77 percent increase from this point in 2008, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.

An astounding 10,341 foreclosure notices were posted in the 13-county metro Atlanta region in December. By comparison, there were 5,834 foreclosure notices posted in December 2008. The newspaper received its data from Equity Depot, which tracks foreclosures.

Rev. Jackson noted 200 churches in the Atlanta area are facing foreclosure.

Rev. Jackson chastised Christians who spend more time getting in debt during the holidays rather than focusing on Jesus. He said his fondest childhood memories of Christmas are of spending time with his family, not the gifts he received.

"Today, are you looking for Santa the Claus or are you looking for Jesus the Christ?" he asked.

Rev. Jackson told the congregation: "It's about His holy day and not Santa's holiday."

Worshippers stood on their feet, clapped and shouted as Rev. Jackson delivered his sermon.

He ended it by telling the congregation that Jesus is the source of our strength.

"Joy to the world because He has come."

800 toys, more than 500 happy children



Children and parents gather for community Christmas



The children are excited.

It was hard to tell who was more grateful – the children or their parents.

What was certain was that for many of the 500 children there may not have been gifts for them to open on Christmas morning without Antioch Baptist Church North.

Sophia Edwards said this wasn't the first time Antioch had helped her family or the community.

"Antioch helps all of the time," said Edwards.

The church distributed more than 800 toys Dec. 19 during the annual Children's Christmas Gathering.

"When you open your presents this year, remember the greatest gift ever given was Jesus Christ," the Rev. John Brydsell told the crowd. "He was not wrapped in a pretty package but was born in a lowly stable."

Jesus, Brydsell said, came to the world so we might be saved and made free from sin. And for that, the world should be

thankful.

Edwards was one of several parents who expressed appreciation for the help Antioch provides year-round.

Hilda Daniels said a neighbor told her about the Christmas gathering.

"What Antioch is doing will help me out a lot," she said.

Like Daniels, Jennifer Bullock said she was unemployed and unsure what kind of Christmas her children would have.

"This is a blessed event," said Bullock, whose sons are members of the Boy Scout troop headed by Minister Lester Duncan. "I have no way to get my children anything this year." The Christmas gifts weren't the first goodwill offerings she'd received from Antioch this year.

Bullock said that Duncan delivered a basket of food, including a turkey, to her family during the Thanksgiving holiday. The items were donated by the church.

"He has been a blessing to me and my family," she said.

Watch Night

As 2009 slipped into the past, members and visitors of Antioch Baptist Church North reigned in 2010 on their knees in prayer.

Twenty-two gave their lives to Christ. And six of those, who said they were unemployed, received \$110 donations from the church.

Married couples assembled around the altar and kissed.

Thus ended the 10pm Freedom Watch Celebration and

another rendering of Pastor Cameron Madison Alexander's famed sermon "Prayer at Sister Mary's House" in which the church made intercession for Peter.

God, answering their prayer, sent an angel and delivered the apostle, bound with chains, from jail and out of the hand of King Herod.

"God has left the believer a powerful weapon," Rev. Alexander told those gathered on

New Year's Eve.

Prayer, he said, is more powerful than a bomb or a rocket.

"Who would've thought that God would allow man to talk to him any time?" he asked.

God does this because he loves us and all this year he has proven his love towards us, the pastor said.

He said that if Christians use this tool called prayer, it would change things.

"It's good to talk to the reverend and pastor but you don't need reverend or the pastor to talk to the Lord," Pastor Alexander said. "As a Christian, I don't need a middle man. I can talk to God for myself."

And so as the clock struck midnight, those who had come got down on their knees to pray.

Bible Quiz ANSWERS

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Needy families the big winners in annual tree extravaganza

In what is now a tradition at Antioch Baptist Church North, the B.W.T. Verse Speaking Choir, Male Chorus and the Ministers' Wives auxiliaries garnered the top prizes in this year's Christmas Tree Extravaganza.

The Verse Speakers' tree took the most creative category and the Male Chorus and Ministers' Wives won for most original and the most festive tree, respectively.

The real winners, however, were the families and the shelters to whom the trees were donated and who would not otherwise have a Christmas tree.

As this year's event got underway in early December, the 590 building hummed with busy decorators, trying to shield their creations from the competition.

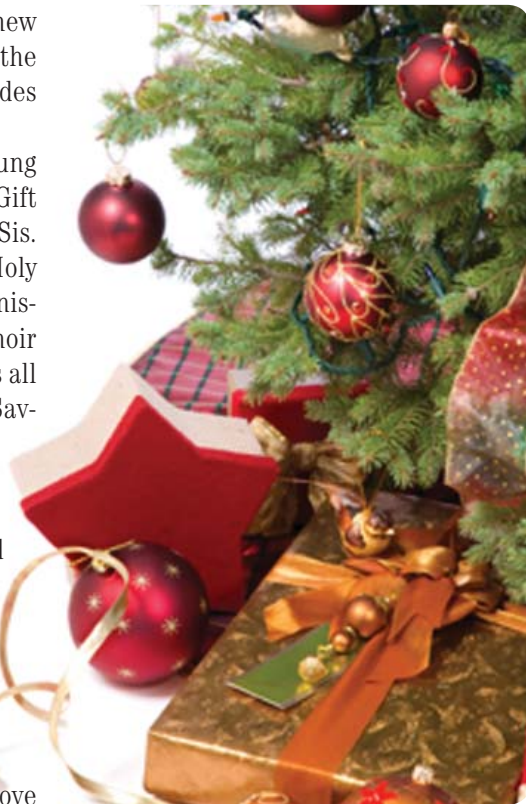
Then an as the judges - J. D. Davis of V 102.5, Ms. Sheila Simon, a DeKalb County educator and Dr. Carolyn Williams - moved from tree to tree keenly evalu-

ating each, Sis. Liselle Bartholomew and Bro. John Reid deftly guided the program adding humorous interludes throughout.

The stars of the show were the young people who presented the play, A Gift from God, written and directed by Sis. Homerzelle Gentry. As they sang "O, Holy Night", the Youth Sign Language Ministry signed; the Youth Hand Bell Choir played, and the Youth Verse Speakers all came together to thank God for our Savior Jesus Christ.

Following Joy Carter's rendition of "Silent Night" in English and Spanish, Pastor Cameron Alexander urged everyone to not let bills and the lack of money deter their joy and enthusiasm for the birth of Jesus Christ.

"If you don't have one penny to give gifts, give others your attention—a phone call to tell them you love them," he said.



CALENDAR

January Events

13	6:15PM	Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting
	7:15PM	Baptism & Right Hand of Fellowship
17	7:45 & 11AM	Morning Worship Services & COMMUNION
18	10AM	MLK BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE
24	7:45 & 11AM	Morning Worship Services
27	6:30PM	Antioch School of the Bible Winter Quarter Begins
28	6:30PM	Christian Education Staff Development Training
31	7:45 & 11AM	Morning Worship Services

School of the Bible classes are held every Wednesday, 6:15pm - 7pm

Wednesday Prayer Meeting - every Wednesday, 7pm

The Good Grief Ministry meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 6:30pm for families in bereavement.

Bible Quiz *See if you can unscramble these books of the Bible*

seesign	nailed	lastagain	onmars	ijeerham
hemwatt	nominaltaste	hazephina	moodytenure	ashoe
usedox	violentera	asheepsin	hobaida	tileaccesses

Answers on page 7

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.

ADDED MEMBERS

Antioch added 21 members to the family in December, including 11, who were Baptized.

The members, listed here with their birth months, are:

- Reginald Jowers, October
- Roderick Little, February
- Edwin Herrod, December
- Azzaria Smith, February
- Floyd "Tad" White, III, May
- John Anderson, May
- Minyon F. Yarbrough, February
- Willie F. Parham, May
- Judith Laster, January
- Ariana S. Davis, January
- Vanessa Quiroga, April

The following 10 members received the Right Hand of Fellowship under Christian Experience:

- Anthony Charles Ferguson, March
- Frank Gatlin, March
- Kerrica Green, October
- Carolyn Davis, April
- Natashe Davis, March
- Gloria McWilliams, August
- Vickie Jacobs, February
- Aaron Wade, March
- Erica Nelson, July
- Eunice Watson Cornelius, Nov.

Source: Sis. Bonita Hammond

Continued from cover: Christmas gala

naissance Concourse Hotel, brought out many of Atlanta's most prominent civic, religious and political leaders. The special guests and speakers included Mayor Shirley Franklin, Congressman John Lewis, Ambassador Andrew Young, incoming City Council President Ceasar Mitchell and Fulton County Commissioner Emma Darnell.

And, of course, there was the incomparable Rev. Joseph Lowery.

Lowery, 2009 recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and comedian extraordinaire, offered to dance if Rev. Alexander played the saxophone, a musical instrument pastor began playing at Washington High School. After his speech, Rev. Lowery returned to the microphone to talk a little more.

"When you're as old as I am, you can do whatever you want," joked Lowery, 88, the Dean of the Civil Rights Movement.

The evening frequently felt like a roast as Lowery and others teased Pastor Alexander. First Lady Barbara Alexander humorously told the touching tale of their courtship. Even Rev. Alexander's son, Eric, quipped about trying to find a way out of having to speak at the gala.

"I'm going to say something to make it a point that they never ask me to

do this again," Eric said to laughter.

Amid the jokes, the speakers talked about Rev. Alexander's work ethic, his commitment to social justice, his family and to the Lord's work.

"Rev. Alexander lives what he preaches," Eric Alexander said.

Rev. Lowery praised Pastor Alexander's leadership, stressing that the key is to watch those who work around him.

"Preachers trusted him, admired him, respected him. That ought to tell you who Cameron Alexander is," Rev. Lowery said.

Commissioner Darnell spoke of pastor's efforts to help people suffering from HIV/AIDS, feeding the hungry and providing clothes to those in need.

"You make the case that cannot be challenged that there is a light that shines in darkness and the darkness will never comprehend this," she said.

Pastor Alexander recalled thinking that he would become a doctor or an attorney and become wealthy.

"Tonight, I reached that. I'm surrounded with friends," he said.

The pastor smiled at the crowd near the end of his speech as the clock struck midnight.

"If you want to do this again, it's alright with me," Rev. Alexander said.

Scenes from Rev. Alexander's 55/40 gala

