

# Scenes from 2009 fall concert



## Bible Quiz Answers

- 1) C-Violence
- 2) B-600
- 3) D-8
- 4) D-Raven

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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

November 2009

Volume 2, Issue 11

## Celebrating 132 years of history

The year was 1877. The times were frightening and difficult.

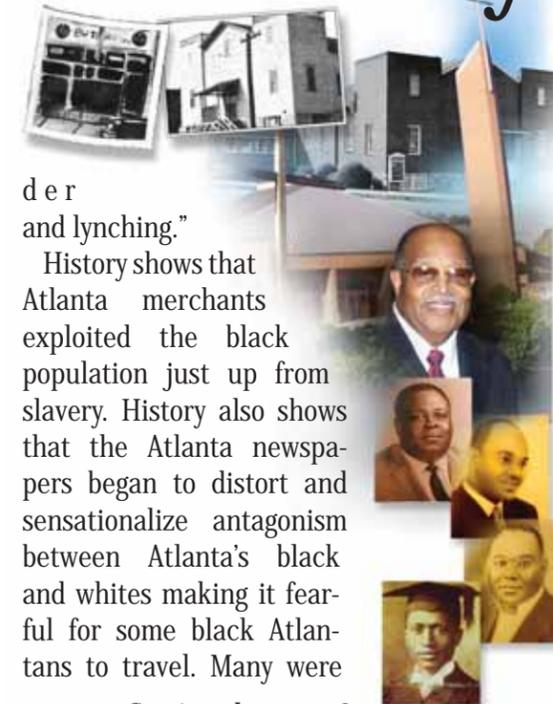
But that didn't hinder the faith of eight former slaves. And for those slaves, Antioch Baptist Church North is thankful.

Antioch North was founded in 1877 out of the tenacity of former slaves Oscar Young, Miles Crawford, Jordan Beavers, Lem Wright and four others who organized the Bethursday Prayer Band. The group went from house to house, having their prayer meetings. They were determined to overcome their environment.

It was a dark time in our history according to Historian Rayford W.

Logan. Logan wrote that:

"The post Reconstruction period is known as the American Dark Ages. The federal government of the United States restored white supremacist control to the South and adopted a 'laissez-faire' policy in regard to the Negro. The Negro was betrayed by his country. This policy resulted in Negro disfranchisement, social, educational and employment discrimination, and peonage. Deprived of their civil and human rights, blacks were reduced to a status of quasi-slavery or second-class citizenship. A tense atmosphere of racial hatred, ignorance and fear bred lawless mass violence, mur-



der and lynching."

History shows that Atlanta merchants exploited the black population just up from slavery. History also shows that the Atlanta newspapers began to distort and sensationalize antagonism between Atlanta's black and whites making it fearful for some black Atlantans to travel. Many were

*Continued on page 2*



Shawn & Vincent Oates

## New youth leaders named

If there's one thing Shawn and Vincent Oates take very seriously it's their role as Antioch's Youth Ministry Parent Coordinators.

"We want Antioch youth to grow spiritually and to develop a personal relationship with the Lord," said

Shawn Oates. "An active Youth Ministry with parental involvement is crucial in doing so. Our children are our greatest resource and are the lifeblood of the Church."

As parent coordinators, the Oates are responsible

for – among other things – keeping parents actively involved in the Youth Ministry. They are always actively seeking parent volunteers for the numerous activities of the ministry.

The Oates have been *Continued on page 2*

## Continued from cover: Celebrating 132 years of hisory

thought to have become isolated to individual living wards and areas called "colored quarters." And it was in these quarters that Antioch was born.

The testimony of Antioch's early beginnings lies in the faith of its founders. Undaunted by the challenging times, the early church persevered. These eight

men were resourceful, creative, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Through God's anointing, Antioch has been blessed with pastors who were "called" by God, fearless and relentless in their passion for His word, yet compassionate and giving for the flock with which they had been entrusted: the

Rev. Timothy Saine 1922-1927, the Rev. Timothy H. George, 1927-1943, the Rev. Dormitory T. George, 1943-1963, the Rev. Marcus Williams, 1963-1969, and the Rev. Cameron M. Alexander, 1969 to present.

It was 132 years ago that an idea was born to have "church" in the "colored quarters" of Atlanta. From

a concept to reality, Antioch grew and flourished under the provision and protection of the Father. Today, it stands as a life line to the lost and lonely, the forgotten, and forsaken. It boasts 14,000 members and a charismatic leader who has led this flock for 40 years, but has preached the gospel for 55 years. Selah!

### Continued from cover: New Youth Leaders

members of Antioch since 1992 and were appointed as the Parent Coordinators of the Youth Ministry in 2008. They are the parents of Nia (a freshman at Howard University) and Nile (a freshman at Marietta High School). They have been involved in the Youth Ministry since 1998.

For more information on serving as a parent volunteer, contact Shawn or Vincent Oates at (404) 688-5679.

### Bible Quiz

- 1) Which particular failing of man resulted in the building of the ark? A) Greed, B) Lust, C) Violence, D) Weakness
- 2) How old was Noah when the flood came? A) 150, B) 600, C) 500, D) 800
- 3) How many people were in the ark? A) 10, B) 6, C) 20, D) 8
- 4) What was the first creature to leave the ark? A) Crow, B) Dove, C) Sparrow, D) Raven

Answers on back cover

## John 3:16: The focus of the gospel

The creation story was beyond our wildest dreams, the Rev. Cameron Alexander said. God spoke things into being. He wanted oceans and he spoke them into being. He wanted day and night and he spoke them into being.

But as majestic as creation is it is not the focus of the gospel, he told the Antioch North congregation during the 8 a.m. service Oct. 18.

In fact, Pastor Alexander said, of all the verses inspired by the Holy Spirit, only John 3:16 sums up the focus of the Gospel.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

It is proof, Alexander said, that God's love is not just for a certain group.

"I know sometimes we



ring to Christ's death on Calvary. "Love gives what is only begotten."

Indeed, Alexander said, God's love isn't static or self-centered. But rather it reaches out and draws in.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life," he said quoting the verse again for emphasis.

The kicker, Alexander said, is this: "Shall have ever lasting life. That means life eternal in the presence of God."

By the end on the early morning sermon, two young boys had internalized that promise. Two young boys, one pounding his hand in the air, said they believed. Two young boys' lives were saved from eternal damnation.

believe God is with us more than he is with some other group but that's not so," he said to a chorus of Amens. "God so loved the world. People who don't look like you, people who are not your color; people who don't speak your language."

God so loved the world, he said, means all of us.

"Love demonstrates itself by action. Love gives until it hurts. Love suffers and dies," he said refer-

# Meet Dea. Willie J. Carter II...

In our on-going series featuring Antioch Baptist North's deacons, we caught up recently with Dea. Willie J. Carter, an avid tennis player and SunTrust banker. Here's what he told us:

**Q:** What do you most like about serving in the Deacon's Ministry, and what excites you about being a member of Antioch?

**A:** Serving as a deacon allows me time to fellowship with brothers with like minds and bring joy to our sick and shut-in members. I get excited listening to the good ole fashion devotion service and to Pastor Alexander as he preaches his love for God while keeping it real.

**Q:** What is your favorite

hymn, and how did you develop your love for music?

**A:** Being raised in the church, I have always had a song on my heart; singing helps get me through my day. My favorite hymn is "A Charge to Keep."

**Q:** What is your favorite scripture, and what advice do you have for maturing as a Christian?

**A:** My favorite scripture is the 23rd Psalm, one of the first I learned as a child and has stayed in my heart. I have grown spiritually by reading my Bible daily and attending church services regularly.

**Q:** What is your wife's name? What are your children's names, and what advice do you have for raising

children?

**A:** My wife is Fran, and I have one daughter, Brittany, who is a college senior. Although times have changed, parents still need to keep those old-fashioned values our parents used in raising us, praying for our children daily.

**Q:** What is your profession, your hobbies, your talents?

**A:** I work in Securities and Trades Exchange for SunTrust Bank. I enjoy tennis and am on both a champion doubles and singles team; we were undefeated for many months. Recently while working with the Jr. Deacons raising Hymns, I realized how much I love singing.



Dea. Willie J. Carter II

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

**A:** Regardless of your age and where you are in your life spiritually, always treat people the way you want to be treated.

## Mother Ella Mae Merritt turns 90



Mother Ella Mae Merritt, affectionately known as the "Wrecking Crew," celebrated her 90th birthday on Oct 13. Mother Effie Nalls also celebrated her birthday. The Mothers, church staff, and several sons of the church joined them for lunch and birthday cake. Mother Merritt was thankful for the gathering, but her favorite celebration fell on the previous Sunday when she was saluted with a kiss by 15 men. "I am single," she quipped.

## Buchanan: “Saved by Grace”

Antioch member uses life experiences as motivation for novel

Sonya M. Buchanan has comforted and advised friends through some difficult experiences.

Buchanan, a member of Antioch North, also has heard stories from others about the hard times they’ve encountered.

From those experiences and a vision from the Lord has come a novel, “Saved By Grace.”

The book, available since August, is a tool Buchanan credits God with giving her to primarily help adolescent girls and young women overcome obstacles by focusing on their faith and choosing Christ first.

“I feel like it is a gift from Christ,” said Buchanan, who joined Antioch in 2002.

The main character in the 152-page novel is Sunny Faith

Christenson, a young woman who comes from a Christian background whose faith is tested and must choose between focusing on her religious roots or a path of self-destruction.

Each chapter ends with reflective questions and Scripture is interspersed throughout. Buchanan said the book is intentionally shorter than most novels, aware that many have short attention spans in a world of hundreds of cable channels, instant messaging and social networking Web sites.

Buchanan said she worked on the book for several years. “I knew it was something the Lord needed me to do,” she said.

Writing is her blood. Buchanan says she writes everyday. She has an undergraduate degree in English from Spelman College and a Master’s degree in journalism and



*Sonya Buchanan*

mass communications from the University of North Carolina.

A hardcover copy is \$22.99. The paperback version is \$14.99.

The book is published by Xulon Press, a Christian self-publishing company. “Saved By Grace” can be found on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), Barnes & Noble or by calling Xulon Press at 866-909-2665.

## Pastor’s coming

*Good news – the pastor is coming to see you*

Live in Adairville, Kingston, Canton, Cartersville, Rockmart, Cedartown, Tallapoosa, Buchanan, Bremen, Temple or Villa Rica, Douglasville, Powder Springs, Austell, Smyrna, Marietta, Mableton, Acworth, Dallas, Hiram or Vinings?

Good news – the pastor is coming to see you.

Pastor Cameron Madison Alexander will pay Antioch Baptist Church North members a visit on Nov. 20.

The gathering is a chance for members in Cobb and surrounding counties to fellowship with Pastor Alexander and one another.

The location will be announced in the coming weeks.

Don’t live in or near any of these cities?

Don’t worry. Pastor Alexander will be coming to your area soon, too. The details will be announced.

7pm, Friday, Nov. 20  
Legacy Park Clubhouse  
4201 Legacy Park Circle  
Kennesaw, GA 30144

## Zeb continues to entertain

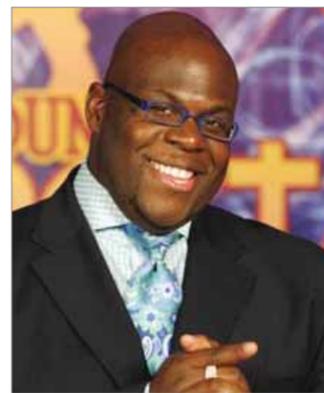
Our own Zebulon Ellis recently appeared in the play “Five Guys Named Moe.”

Five guys who all happened to be named Moe sang and grooved at Casa Manana Theatre in Fort Worth, Texas last month for an exclusive run of five nights.

“Five Guys Named Moe” was a favorite at the Tony Awards, on Broadway and in London’s West End.

Ellis, who has worked with Beyonce and Ruben Studdard, played Big Moe, and considering director Billy Porter’s Broadway experience, this performance was said to be outstanding.

Five Guys featured tunes by Louis Jordan, from “Is You Is or Is You Ain’t My Baby” and “Caldonia” to “Let the Good Times Roll” and “Knock me a Kiss.”



*Zebulon Ellis*

*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).*

## Your help and photos are needed

Since 1877, Antioch Baptist Church North has stood in Atlanta as a beacon of hope and a place of refuge.

The congregational family has for five generations reached out and nurtured thousands who have been counted among the least, the last, and the lost.

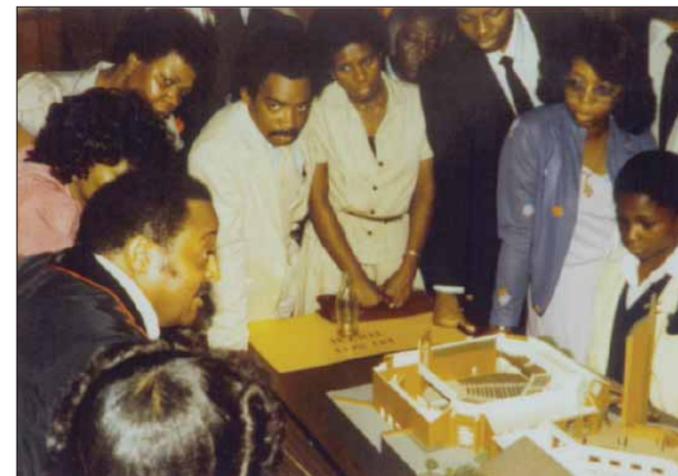
As a church family, we are preparing to celebrate our 132nd Anniversary with a renewed commitment to build upon the remarkable record of charitable Christian service that has made Antioch one of God’s best churches.

To capture that record for you, the Antioch staff, historian and the Antioch Chris-

tian Entrepreneurs Ministry are producing an Antioch Pictorial History Keepsake to be available to all in January 2010. This will be a full color book and DVD displaying each era of our historic past. There will be advertising space available for purchase as well as some other surprises.

But Antioch, we need your help. The church needs photos of historical moments, special guests that have visited with us, our community expansion, and any other event that you have a photo from that fits within our historical timeline.

Bring your historic photos to church. They will be scanned



*Rev. C. M. Alexander explains the layout of the new sanctuary to some of Antioch’s members.*

and returned in a timely matter.

The help of members is appreciated in this effort. The hope is that members will be pleased with the result of the

Antioch historical keepsake.

Be sure to stay tuned for more information on this effort or contact the church office with any questions.

## Rev. K. Alexander celebrates anniversary

The affectionately known “Big Church” and “Big Rev” journeyed across the city Oct. 11 to celebrate Luke’s Place, Lakewood Mission’s and the Rev. Kenneth Alexander’s 15th Anniversary as presiding minister.

Throughout the service, the “Big Church” and various members of Antioch North were thanked for their assistance in starting and maintaining the ministries of Lakewood Mission and Luke’s Place, including Mrs. Barbara J. Alexander who “clipped coupons and personally did the grocery shopping” to feed the residents. “Big Rev” was hailed not only as the pastor but as “the builder of preachers.”

Two other sons of Antioch - Rev. Fred Robinson and Rev. Ronald Toney — celebrated pastoral anniversaries on the same day. In addition, the Rev. Rodney Turner and Rev. Ervin Richards, pastor of Antioch Loving Spirit Baptist Church, a former Antioch mission church that is now independent, celebrated anniversaries in October.

Testimonies from members and former members, such as Bro. George Hawthorne, a former Luke’s Place resident who is now majority owner of the largest construction company in the state of Mississippi, bore witness to the move of the Holy Spirit that gave the Rev. C.M. Alexander the vision to put feet and hands to the



*Rev. K. L. Alexander and Rev. C. M. Alexander*

service of the least, the less, and the lost.

He recounted being stopped on Peachtree Street by a man who described himself as “a Land (C.M.A. Land of Promise in Culloden, Ga.) Man.” That man thanked him for saving his life.

“If nothing else happens,

that’s what it’s all about,” he said.

He and others personify the one leper in the theme scripture, Luke 17:15, who turned back, “and with a loud voice glorified God.”

Indeed, there were a lot of loud voices at this anniversary celebration.

# Jacobs named homecoming queen

Khala Diane Jean Jacobs was named Miss 12th Grade recently at Miller Grove High School in Lithonia.

Khala, 18, represented the senior class during the school's coronation event October 20, the homecoming dance on October 23 and the homecoming football game October 24 at Avondale Stadium.

Michelle Jacobs, Khala's mother, said it was hard to believe the soft-spoken, shy little girl grew up to become a cheerleader and class homecoming queen.

"Khala has done well in school maintaining her grades throughout her four years of high school," said Jacobs. Khala is an All-Star Cheerleader and a member of Miller Grove's junior varsity and varsity competitive cheerleading squads.



**Khala Diane Jean Jacobs**

The granddaughter of Sis. Ina Lewis (the hallelujah usher), Khala has been a member of Antioch since age 6 and once volunteered in the Children's Sunday School.

"We are so proud of her accomplishments and look forward to her doing more as she presses towards a May 2010 graduation," said her mother. After college, Khala hopes to become an orthodontist.

# Sterling's song

Sterling Bright wrote *Running for Freedom* recently for a class assignment. Here's what he had to say about the process and the poem:

"My song is about how a person escaping from slavery would feel running away. It symbolizes how the slave owners chased them. I hope it helps the reader know how it feels to be in a slave's shoes, how hard it was to escape from slavery and to have the courage to run away. The escaping was hard, life was hard, and the world was hard."



**Sterling Bright**

**Running for Freedom**  
*We are running through the forest  
 We are trying to run away  
 We hear bad footsteps coming  
 And say, "God, please guide our way."  
 I hear their rifles shooting  
 I see my family fall  
 I hear their horses running  
 And again say, "God, please guide our way."  
 I feel like I'm gonna die  
 But say, "NO, not this way!"  
 I'm gonna live in a peaceful way  
 When I see the North today.*

# Antioch's Youth Ministry coordinators named

Cameron Eric Alexander has been a member of Antioch all of this life. He is the grandson of our beloved pastor. Lynn Roberts has been a member of Antioch also since birth. Her family has a long legacy at Antioch. Both Cameron and Lynn are products of Antioch's Youth Ministry having participated actively during the days of "MAMA GWEN" and earlier. They were appointed as Youth Ministry Coordinators by Rev. Alexander in 2008.

As Youth Ministry Coordinators, Cameron and Lynn are responsible overseeing the



**Lynn Roberts**

Youth Ministry Programs and keeping parents updated on these programs.

"We are very committed to



**Cameron Alexander**

the Youth Ministry. We want our youth and their parents to know that the children are our No. 1 priority. We do not

take this responsibility lightly," said Lynn Roberts.

Cameron added: "We want the children to know that we are committed to them and want them to have the same and better Church experiences than we did."

The Youth Ministry plans to offer more trips, lock-ins and youth networking activities this year. Watch for posters and announcements in the bulletin for more details.

For more information on Antioch's Youth Ministry, contact Cameron or Lynn at (404) 688-5679.

# Spotlight on Collis Lamar Clark II

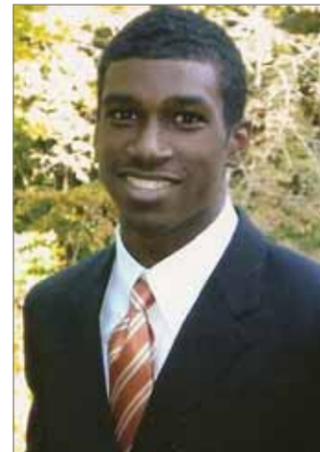
Collis Lamar Clark II is one of the youngest members of the New Arrivals Ministry.

What you may not know about Collis is he's also an outstanding athlete and straight A student with a 4.1 grade point average.

Clark, 16, is the only child of Collis Lamar and Sandra Clark, who are also members of New Arrivals.

Collis, who joined the ministry in May 2005, was six when he began his athletic career becoming a member of the Marietta Recreation Center Basketball Team.

A regular on the Principal's List, he is a member of the Math Honor Society, National Honor Society, Latin Honor



**Collis Lamar Clark II**

Society, Beta Club and Spanish Club. He plays for both the Marietta High football and basketball teams.

After high school, Collis plans to attend Michigan State and pursue his Law or Engineering Degree.

ADDED MEMBERS

*Antioch added 5 members to the family in October, including 3, who were Baptized. The members, listed here with their birth months, are:*

**Shalecia Flowers, June  
 MarQuale Graham, September  
 Lauren Miller, August**

*The following 2 members received the Right Hand of Fellowship under Christian Experience.*

**Patricia Green, October  
 Adrian Hill, December**

*Source: Sis. Bonita Hammond*

# CALENDAR

## November Events

Pioneers' Observance & Torch Ceremony	Sun, Nov 1	7:45am & 11am	Sanctuary
Antioch Christian Entrepreneurs (ACE) Meeting Topic: Community Outreach	Thurs, Nov 5	6:30pm	Fellowship Hall
Homecoming Dinner/Pioneer Recognition	Sat, Nov 7	12pm	590 Building
132nd Church Anniversary Celebration	Sun, Nov 8	7:45am & 11am	Sanctuary
Baptism/RHF	Wed, Nov 11	7pm	Sanctuary
Birthmonth Tea/Fashion Show	Fri, Nov 13	7pm	590 Building
Communion Sunday	Sun, Nov 15	7:45am & 11am	Sanctuary
Pastor's Coming to Cobb County	Fri, Nov 20		
Memorial Garden Ceremony	Sun, Nov 22	7:45am	Sanctuary
Community Thanksgiving Service	Thur, Nov 26	7:45am	
Pastor & Sis. Alexander's Wedding Anniversary Observance	Sun, Nov 29	7:45am & 11am	Frist Corinth BC Sanctuary

## 132nd Church Anniversary Celebration – November 8, 2009 THE CELEBRATION BEGINS NOW AND WILL CONTINUE THROUGH DECEMBER!

**Theme: Selah! My, my, my. What about That? - Connecting the Dots of Antioch**

- Antioch – The History – Segments of our history presented each Sunday morning prior to worship (starting in September).
- Pioneers Observance – Sunday, November 1, 2009
- Antioch – From VHS to DVD – Services from the old church will be converted to DVD and CD and made available to the membership
- The Antioch Museum – Former pastors, deacons, members, and memorabilia
- Birthmonth Club Fashion Show/Tea Revisited
- Special Envelopes to recognize this momentous occasion

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.