

Financial aid tips for college

Preparation can go a long way and for high school juniors and seniors, getting an early jump on college preparations can be critical.

Throughout the academic school year, admission counselors from colleges and universities visit high schools to talk to students about admission requirements, test scores and scholarships.

You can start as early as your junior year seeking availability of scholarships and grants for students with good

grade-point averages and SAT and ACT scores. An important step to make sure you are on the right track is to take tutorial courses to familiarize yourself with the test taking process.

Start taking necessary exams — SAT and ACT — early in your sophomore year to familiarize yourself with the test. The ACT and the SAT are the two most prominent standardized tests used for college admission.

Following those exams, you

should start investigating the various scholarships available for students. Register and attend college fairs at your high school. College Week Live (collegeweeklive.com) hosts an online virtual college fair that offers free funding assistance for college education. Finally, it's good to apply for every scholarship that you feel you have a chance to win, and maybe even those you aren't sure about because you never know until you try.

Listed in the accompanying box are some Web sites that are helpful for students in all fields of study. Contact the different agencies and you will be surprised to see what is available.

Science:

American Chemical Society Scholars Program: scholars@acs.org

APS Minority Scholarship Program: www.aps.org

Colgate-Palmolive Scholarship program: www.ndaonline.org/ndaonline/asp

Education:

NAACP/Lillian & Samuel Sutton Education Scholarship www.naacp.org

General Scholarships:

Chair Scholars Foundation, Inc., www.Chairscholars.org

Chevrolet Excellence in Education Scholarship: www.gm.com

Sam Walton Community Scholarship, Wal-mart Foundation Call 866-851-3372

Thurgood Marshall College Fund www.thurgoodmarshall-fund.org

Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation www.coca-colascholars.org

Gates Millennium Scholars Program: www.gmsp.org

General Motors Minority Dealers Association Scholarship Program scholarshipinfor@gmsac.com

Jackie Robinson Scholarship www.jackierobinson.org

National Achievement Scholarship Program: nationalmerit.org

Ron Brown Program www.infor@ronbrown.org

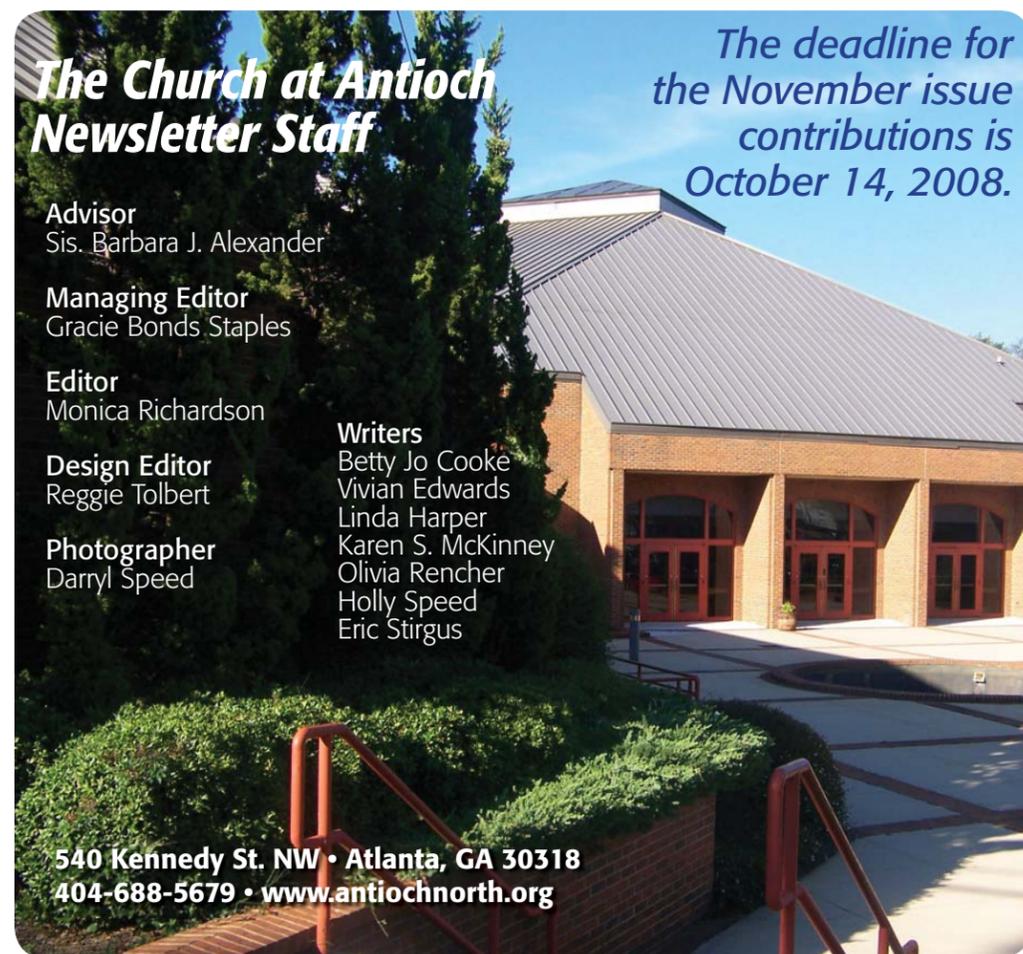
Law:

Earl Warren Shearman & Sterling Scholarships: www.naacpldf.org

Journalism:

National Association of Black Journalists Scholarship www.nabj.org

If you would like to establish a Memorial Scholarship or make a donation to the Antioch Baptist Church North scholarship fund, please contact Sis. Wendy Harding at 404-753-4471.



The Church at Antioch Newsletter Staff

Advisor
Sis. Barbara J. Alexander

Managing Editor
Gracie Bonds Staples

Editor
Monica Richardson

Writers
Betty Jo Cooke
Vivian Edwards
Linda Harper
Karen S. McKinney
Olivia Rencher
Holly Speed
Eric Sturgus

Design Editor
Reggie Tolbert

Photographer
Darryl Speed

540 Kennedy St. NW • Atlanta, GA 30318
404-688-5679 • www.antiochnorth.org

The deadline for the November issue contributions is October 14, 2008.



Thy word is a light unto my path

After a week of devastating financial news, it seemed the entire nation, including the faith community, was in a panic.

Many turned to the church to make sense of a nation that would pledge billions of dollars to bail out corporations.

"I've been getting phone calls," Rev. Cameron Alexander said recently. "What does this mean to common folk?"

And so on the day set aside to renew our covenant and take the Lord's supper, Pastor Alexander once again offered Antioch members the answer to all of life's problems: God's word.

"The only good news I have ... is the only verse you need," he said. "It's found in Psalm 119:105. 'Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.'"

When you get to a point where nothing makes sense, he said, do like Jesus did: Go to the word.

"Whatever situation comes up, the Bible's got it covered," he said. "Let Jesus talk. He's always led me through stuff.

Continued on page 5

INSIDE

- 2 From the Pastor's Desk
- 3 Meet Dea. Gilbert Bowles
- 8 Revived to share gospel
- 9 Antioch Quartet: 3-Deep
- 11 Financial Aid Tips



The Church at Antioch

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

October 2008

Volume 1, Issue 8



MADD for Christ choir lifts the Lord in song during Youth Division culmination service. Story on page 6.

A Wednesday night miracle unfolds

Some call Baptism, that moment when one's soul is immersed under water, the "liquid grave," where the old man is buried and rises a new creature.

That blessed event is recorded in Romans 6: 1-8. "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

It has been repeated countless times at Antioch over the years but on Sept. 17 it seemed to take on added meaning.

"The spirit was high as the preachers took soul after soul into the pool," said the Rev.

Eddie Bright.

Thirty-six members received the "Right hand of Fellowship," including 16 who were baptized.

Then, Bright said, he witnessed a miracle.

It began outside the church as Brother Kentrell Porch told Brother Campbell about his baptism years earlier.

It was the best thing that had ever happened to me, Porch told Brother Campbell.

I wouldn't know, Campbell said, adding that he had never been baptized.

It was late but the men went back inside to find a minister to answer questions Campbell had about baptism.



They found Pastor Cameron Alexander and told him their dilemma.

"Do you want to do it now," he asked Campbell.

"Yes," said Campbell. Alexander led him inside the sanctuary.

Continued on page 5



Antioch members share leadership at convention

The late night service of the National Baptist Convention meeting has long been a highlight of the annual gathering that draws thousands of people from across the nation.

Conventioneers often forego dinner for a nap in order to be rested up to attend the service. They know that they will have a life-changing



experience listening to sound doctrine delivered by seasoned expositors of the Word.

That tradition held true recently in Cincinnati, Ohio, where thousands gathered — including dozens of Antioch members — to hear the Rev. Cameron M. Alexander.

As president of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. for 29 years, pastor Alexander sat on the executive board and helped shape the policy and programs of the National Baptist Convention.

While Antioch is privileged to hear Alexander on most Sundays and Wednesdays, convention delegates waited until they could pack out the convention room to sit at Alexander's feet.

"Preach the gospel," Alexander told the crowd, composed primarily of ministers. "We seem to want to

Continued on page 8

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Brothers and Sisters:

As pastor, I have truly been amazed by the quality of programs and activities that our Youth Division presented during the Third Quarter of Vision 2008. Under the strong leadership of Deshion Cochran and Latrice Johnson and their advisors, Sister Irene Hudgins, Sister Olivia Rencher and Sister Diane Smith, our young people have demonstrated again that they are truly fantastic!

Our young people hosted the Youth Achievement Banquet, coordinated three spirit-filled Prayer Breakfasts, sponsored the Café 590 Variety Talent Show as well as a youth lock-in, led the congregation in honoring 9/11 victims and families of victims and closed the quarter by bringing families together for a special Family Revival. When the opportunity presents itself, please congratulate our youth and give them encouragement to keep up their good work.

As we move into the fourth and final quarter of Vision 2008, I have challenged all of our Divisional Leaders and the F.A.M.I.L.Y. Ministry to harvest the best of their thinking and create for our congregation an array of outstanding programs and activities focused on Doctrine that will give us all a greater appreciation and a keen awareness of Baptist beliefs and principles.

It is my prayer that all of Antioch — every man, woman and child — will become actively engaged and involved in the planning of the fourth quarter activities for Vision 2008. Once the events are planned, I encourage you to participate and welcome the activities as another opportunity to celebrate the Joy of Salvation and the blessings afforded by His grace and mercy. Our Baptist Doctrine reminds us that people everywhere are the same and we all share a universal need for faith, hope and love. May God Bless each and every one of you and may He keep you forever in His care!

Yours in God's service,

Rev. Cameron M. Alexander, Pastor

ELM STREET TOWNHOMES

Brand New Luxury Townhomes

From \$200,000



*Just Minutes From Downtown,
Clark Atlanta University System,
Morehouse and Spelman
2 Stories*

*2-3 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths
Hardwood On Main Level
Carpeted Bedrooms, Garden Tub
Gas Log Fireplace
Deluxe Kitchen, Refrigerator
Dishwasher, Stove
Washer and Dryer
Private Detached Double Garage*

Located at 516 Elm Street
Atlanta, GA 30318

Kennedy St.(off of Northside Dr.)
and Elm Street

**FINANCING =
OVER \$70,000
IN GRANTS AVAILABLE
TO QUALIFIED
FIRST TIME BUYERS**

Residential and Commercial Sales Property Management/Rentals

Celebrating 30 Years of Service



Serving The Entire Metro Area

404.761.1222

C. Eric Alexander
404.761.1222 Ext. 14
404.849.7529



Barbara J. Alexander
404.761.1222 Ext. 15
404.312.7912

www.bjarealty.com • bjarealty@hotmail.com

Developed by Bethursday Development Corporation



ADDED MEMBERS

Antioch added **36** members to the family, including 16, who were Baptized. The members, listed with their birth month, are:

- Lennie Adams, December
- Steven Walker, March
- Cory Riley, May
- John Callaway, July
- Gerald W. Gray III, June
- Sharyn Finney, August
- Brooks Lee, March
- Shelby Jenkins, July
- Daniel Ezekiel Parrish, September
- Stephen Joseph Parrish, October
- Justin James, July
- Jeffrey Jones, Jr., November
- Danielle Nicole Young, June
- Aris Nicole Williams, May
- Morgan Jones, August
- Barney Campbell, November

The following persons received the Right Hand of Fellowship

- Tanya Garrett, August
- Deidre Carraby, August
- Fatima Young, April
- Geoffrey King, March
- Brittany Stroughter, December
- Grace Johnson, October
- Sean Hindsman, January
- Ethel Rosier, July
- Andrinette Ford, September
- Catina Bradley, August
- Martin LaMar, September
- Janelle Richardson, March
- Rachel Callens, August
- Dana N. Caldwell, July
- Wayne Pleasant, August
- Narsha Graham, November
- Joye R. Robinson, January
- Rev. Shaun Clark, January
- Pamela Jones, October
- Anner Shaw, May



Antioch Baptist Church North extends congratulations and best wishes to the following couples:

- May 24: Libra Garner and Richard Burton, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Burton
- May 31: Ingrid Hall and Darren George, Mr. & Mrs. Darren George
- June 7: Letitia Meade and John Thornton, Mr. & Mrs. John Thornton
- June 14: Tiffanie Mobley and James Mosely, Mr. & Mrs. James Mosely
- July 19: Sharika Winters and Marcell Spates, Mr. & Mrs. Marcell Spates

Dreams Bible Quiz

Everybody dreams, Biblical characters included. Mark true or false if you know whether the dreamer is correctly matched with the subject of his nighttime fantasies.

1. Joseph dreamed of a ladder. True or false?
2. Jacob dreamed of cows and corn. True or false?
3. Nebuchadnezzar dreamed of an image with head of gold, arms of silver, and belly of brass. True or false?
4. Joseph dreamed the sun, moon, and stars all making obeisance to him. True or false?
5. Abraham dreamed of God telling him to give Sarah back to Abimelech. True or false?

- ANSWERS:
1. False: It was Jacob. (Genesis 28:10-12)
 2. False: It was Pharaoh. (Genesis 41:17-20)
 3. True: It was Nebuchadnezzar. (Daniel 2:28-32)
 4. True: It was Joseph. (Genesis 37:5-9)
 5. False: This one was tricky. It was Abimelech who dreamed this about Abraham. (Genesis 20:2-3)

Meet Deacon Gilbert Bowles

Congratulations to Deacon Gilbert and Sister Lillie Bowles who are celebrating their 45th Wedding Anniversary today. They attribute the success of their marriage to their love for God, each other, and family. They pray for each other, study the Bible, go on vacations, and attend their children's activities.

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

A: My wife and I visited our daughter Stephanie, a member of Antioch, during the summers of 1993 and 1994, and members approached us with smiles and friendly greetings. The Holy Spirit drew us to Antioch when we relocated to the Atlanta area in 1995. I became involved with the Youth Ministry, the Music Ministry, and the Sunday school, and was later set aside to become a Deacon. I love serving others.

Q: What is your favorite hymn, and how did you develop your love for music?

A: My favorite hymn is "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say." Playing the vibraphone is a talent I turned over to be used for the

Lord.

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

A: My favorite scripture is John 3:16, and I encourage everyone to "be faithful and quick to forgive others."

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

A: We have two children, Stephanie and Jason, an ordained minister. In October 2007, God blessed us with our son-in-law, John Callaway. The key to rearing them was to stay involved in their activities—in church, school, and community. They did some mischievous things, and the rod was not spared!

Q: What are your profession, your hobbies, and your talents?

A: I retired from the U.S. Postal Service as Postmaster in October 1992. I am a testa-

ment to what God will do for His children. Every promotion I received was not earmarked for me to receive, but when the successful candidate was named, I was the chosen one. Employees would ask how I got the promotion, and I would respond, "My Father gave it to me."



Lost?

Robinson celebrating second anniversary

Rev. Fredrick Robinson, pastor of the Mt. Gilead Missionary Baptist Church, will be celebrating his second anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 12 at the 11:00 a.m. morning worship service. Rev. Tony Montgomery, pastor of the Missionary Union Baptist Church in Columbus, Mississippi, is the guest evangelist.

Rev. Robinson is the third pastor of the Mount Gilead Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta. He's also a board member of Caring For Others, a homeless prevention program in south Atlanta.

Prior to arriving at Mt. Gilead in May 2006, Rev. Robinson served as the 11th pastor

of the Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church in Cordele, Ga. He was also chairman of the Gum Creek Missionary Baptist Union, a division of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc.

Being led by the Holy Spirit, Rev. Robinson accomplished many things for the Lord during his three years at Mt. Zion. In addition to writing a manual titled "10 Steps to Christian Maturity," he implemented the church's first Annual Youth Conference and organized a Brotherhood and Young Men of Distinction ministries. As Chairman of the Gum Creek Missionary Baptist Union, he



led the organization in redeveloping its programs to focus more time teaching Baptist basics, promoting community involvement and developing youth leaders. He also led the organization in increasing its scholarship award grants.

Rev. Robinson was licensed to preach in June 1995 and ordained in April 2001 at Antioch Baptist Church North where the Rev. Cameron M. Alexander is the pastor.

An accomplished journalist, Rev. Robinson also has over 20 years experience as an editor and writer. He is the former editor of Atlanta Tribune: The Magazine and a former member of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's editorial board.

He has been married 19 years to Felicia Renee Williams. They have three children, Fredrick Daniel Jr., 15; Kyra Ashley, 9; and Jordan Michael, 6.

Antioch quartet goes three generations deep

Deacon Alvin Murray and Eddie Clark, an avid choir member, stood close by for moral support, but the boys didn't seem to need it.

Jermaine Spike and Julian and Ryan Bright sang "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" without missing a beat.

It was the third Sunday in August and the Youth Quartet was making its debut performance. Loud applause filled the sanctuary.

Neither Murray nor Clark was surprised.

"From the very first rehearsal until their first performance in front of Antioch, we could see the growth," said Clark. "The talent was there all the time. It was just a matter of pushing the right buttons to get them to perform."

The quartet, soon to grow,



Julian



Ryan

was formed as part of the church mission to go "three deep."

"When Pastor (Cameron) Alexander isn't there, Antioch still goes on," said Clark. "He wants the same thing to happen with the auxiliaries."

Clark replaces Deacon Alvin Murray who stepped down last month as leader of the quartet to return home to New York.

His goal now, he said, is to find two additional members, one to replace Spike, a freshman at Georgia Southern University, and one to serve as an alternate to complete the group.

In addition, Clark said his biggest challenge, perhaps, is working in rehearsal time around the Bright brothers' busy schedule.

Sons of the Rev. Eddie and Sis. Vivian Bright, the brothers are both active honor students at Riverdale High School.

Ryan, 15, is a member of the school's Beta Club, the Gentlemen of Quality group and the varsity football team. (Earlier this year, he received the Athletic Scholar Award.)

Julian plays saxophone in the marching band and is also a member of the Beta Club and Gentlemen of Quality. The 17-year-old senior plans to study pre-medicine in college.

For Clark, working with youth like the Bright brothers is inspiring.

"To me it's an honor to be able to provide mentorship to what these young men already get at home," he said.

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.

We'll help you find your way.



TOLBERT GRAPHICS

Graphic Design for print advertising and the web.
770.498.4632



Spotlight on one of Antioch's 'shining stars'

Devin Jamal Hunter's favorite quote is a familiar one: "Fear knocked at the door; faith answered, and lo no one was there."

Those words, he said, remind him to keep the faith and that he can do all things through Christ.

Hunter knows faith is necessary to please God. He knows this, too: it will take much faith for him to succeed in the International Baccalaureate program that he will begin next year.

"This program helps develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world," the North Clayton High School

sophomore said. "By the grace of God, I will be a part of this prestigious program."

Hunter, son of Stephanie Scott and stepson William Scott, is in many ways a typical teenager. He enjoys reading and listening to music, including classical, jazz and hip hop. He also is a member of the Boy Scouts of America.

The 15-year-old is just one of many boys and girls at Antioch who are shining stars, said Irene Hudgins, Antioch youth coordinator.

"He is so focused and motivated," she said.

Hunter credits family members, including his mother, a long-time member of Antioch, who stressed the

importance of education and each generation doing better than the last.

"It's my goal," he said, "to be better than the last successful person in my family."

For as long as he can remember, Hunter said he's been inquisitive and argumentative, traits he believes would make for a good attorney, which until recently was his first career choice.

Now, he's leaning toward aeronautical engineering.

Hunter said he has been fascinated by how things fly since his first Antioch-sponsored trip years ago to NASA.

Hunter said many inspired him, including his mother who taught him scrip-



ture, the late President John F. Kennedy, and his pastor the Rev. Cameron Alexander.

"He is my role model for much of the same reason President Kennedy is," said Hunter. "He really and truly cares about people."

Revived to share the gospel

The challenges Christian families face are no different from those faced by the rest of society: skyrocketing health care and college costs, stagnant wages, and a foreclosure crisis that has many struggling to pay their mortgages.



Rev. Charles Walker

What sets Christians apart, however, is the hope they have in Jesus Christ to deal with those issues, said the Rev. Charles “Skip” Walker II.

“In spite of trying times, stay with the Lord and you will make it through,”

Walker said. “As Christians, we should not be afraid to tell somebody about Jesus and what He has done for you and your family.”

Walker and the Rev. Bryan Mitchell were the guest preachers during the Family Revival held September 23 and 24.

“Can I get a witness?” was this year’s theme.

Through the Apostle Paul, the Lord revealed that Christian husbands and wives are to love and serve one another, modeling before the world the love Christ has for His bride, the church.

Witnessing, the ministers said, should begin at home. Christian parents should first model their faith to their children and then to others around them.

“We have been equipped to go out and witness to others,” said Rev. Mitchell. “As a witness we have first hand knowledge of Christ’s example of family and can help others become that example.”



Rev. Bryan Mitchell

And, he said, it is through revival that families are re-energized to win souls for Christ

Mitchell said, “We are reminded and strengthened to maintain the example and witness to others.”

Continued from page 2: Convention

do everything but that, and that’s all the Lord has called us to do. The Lord never called us to become Jesus, Jr’s.”

Growing up, he said, his father told him that preachers are “glorified paper boys (delivering) the message.” He cautioned them to preach what is delivered to them and not to throw it in the mud because the message should not be muddied and soiled when it is delivered. Like good gymnasts completing their routines, “the message must land and stick; that’s where the points are, and that’s what Christ did for us one Friday; the cross and the resurrection were the perfect ‘land and stick.’”

Alexander was the highlight, but all over the convention, Antioch’s presence was evident.

Administrative assistant Sister Evelyn Roberts handled all the logistical plans for the Antioch delegates prior to and during the session. Because of her expertise, national leaders often call on her to help “straighten things out.”

Pastor Alexander has told delegates through the years to “sit up front, so you can see, hear, and learn. Antioch does not



take a back seat to anyone.”

Ronald Terry, a son of Antioch and pastor of New Fellowship in Macon, is the president of the Music Department.

In his annual address, Terry taught as he inspired, and there was no doubt that everyone who sat under his teaching, including Antioch’s music coordinator Sister Dianne Williams, would make sure that the music used in worship is scripturally sound.

Sisters Brenda Eason and Jean Jones were on post ushering at each service, including the afternoon convention speech by Michelle Obama, wife of presidential

hopeful Sen. Barack Obama. In addition to attending breakout sessions in the Ushers/Nurses Auxiliary, Eason and Jones oversaw arrangements for the Georgia Delegates’ Luncheon, an annual gathering for fellowship, food, and preaching.

In the Young People’s Department, Sister Karen S. McKinney, Southeast Region YPD Director, worked with other regional directors to advance the program, which focuses on preparing adult leaders to work with our youth. She is also editor of the newsletter.

As they are at Antioch, the Rev. Kenneth Alexander and Deacon Joe Beasley can be found in the Housing and Economic Development Commission, the Prison Ministry, and the Criminal Justice and Disaster Relief Ministry.

Charged with bringing information back home, you will no doubt hear and see evidence of the thematic underpinning of this year’s convention, “The Heavenly Vision and the Morals of the Church” as well as more effective service from our delegates and attendees.

Continued from cover: Miracle

Are there any ordained ministers, he asked the preachers gathered there? We have one more that needs to be baptized.

The church, Alexander said, should always be ready to carry out its commission and this was one of those times.

“The body isn’t complete until the last soul is saved for Christ’s desire is that none will be lost.”

Alexander recalled the story of the Eunuch in Act 8: 36, where Philip told the man why baptism was necessary.

“Here is the water,” the Eunuch told him.

I am the candidate, so what hinders me from being baptized?

Antioch’s ministers that night sprung into action, preparing Campbell for the Baptism pool, which was being drained.

“We quickly realized that in order to baptize Bro. Campbell without refilling the pool, he would have to be baptized on his knees,” the Rev. Bright recalled.

As the Rev. Craig Johnson instructed Bro. Campbell, the ministers began singing “Take Me to the Water.”



Kentrell Porch

“It was something I had never seen before in my 10 years at Antioch,” said Bright.

For Campell, 43, the baptism was part of a faith walk. He made the first step, he said, when he moved to Atlanta. This one, his immersion into the liquid grave, was the final one in a long journey home.

Continued from cover: Thy Word

When I got too high he pulled me down. When I got too low, he pulled me up. When I got too far out, he pulled me in.”

Rev. Alexander blamed greed for the nation’s woes, saying the love of money is the root of all evil and admonished members to tighten their financial belts and stop living above their means.

But when the hills get hard to climb, he said, the word has the answer.

“Thy word, thy word,” he said referring again to the morning’s scripture.

“You better teach it to your children because what we’re going through will affect the next five generations.”

Alexander said that people who have money can’t buy gas because society’s moral pump is out of order.

“We’ve got to stop living with folk before we get married, stop spending more than you make, stop trying to make the church a juke joint,” he said. “You’re drying up the pump.”

The word, however, is the light we need to find our way through and out of the darkness.



Antioch Baptist Church North will organize the Antioch Loving Spirit Mission, where Rev. Ervin Richards is the Presiding Minister, into a **Baptist Church** on Sunday, October 5th at 3pm. All Ministers, Deacons, Mothers, Ushers, Choirs, and Members are encouraged to attend.
6280 Britt Road, Mableton, GA 30126
Directions available in the Northex.

Don't miss this great opportunity!
Advertise your business here in *The Church at Antioch*.
For more information, visit the web site at www.antiochnorth.org/newsletter.htm

OCTOBER CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS			
10/1_Wed	6:30pm	Packing for the Journey Series	Fellowship Hall
10/4_Sat	4pm	Sanctuary Wedding	Sanctuary
10/8_Wed	6:30pm	Packing for the Journey Series	Fellowship Hall
10/13_Mon	6:30pm	Deacons Pre-Conference	Fellowship Hall
10/14_Tue	6:30pm	Annual Church Conference	Fellowship Hall
10/15_Wed	6:30pm	Baptism/RHF	Sanctuary
10/17_Fri	7pm	AUMI Gospel Concert	590 Building
10/18_Sat	9am	Churchwide Prayer Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
10/18_Sat	11am	Chapel Wedding	Chapel
10/19_Sun	8/11am	Communion Worship Services	Sanctuary
10/22_Wed	6:30pm	Packing for the Journey Series	Fellowship Hall
10/26_Sun	3pm	Pre-Revival Concert	Sanctuary
10/27-31_M-F	6:30pm	Fall Revival	Sanctuary

Youth division passes torch during spirit-filled culminating service

Civil Rights Lessons: Culture can enslave or empower • Economic rights can't be separated from civil rights

It was billed as a civil rights observance and culminating service led by the Youth Division but it was more than that.

It was a worship service packed with people ready to give thanks and praise to their Lord and savior Jesus Christ. It was, too, a time for the youth to pass the leadership torch to the Family Division, which will lead church activities through the end of the year.

"This is not the old fashion youth day," Rev. Cameron Alexander declared shortly after the fourth Sunday service got underway. "We've moved to a new paradigm where the youth of the church are part of the three-deep program."

It used to be, the pastor said, that youth were on program once a year. Now they are involved in the total work of the church. This way, the membership doesn't get old and the young people will not leave.

He thanked the adult youth ministry leaders for their hard work and parents for making sure the children were there to participate.

"Ballet is one thing," he said. "Soccer is one thing but what our children need is a firm religious blessing. Soccer is good but it won't help bear burdens."

Alexander said that while there are some 700 youth on the church roll, only about a fourth of those are active in the church.

"We must not forget the others," he said. "It's one thing to call us when your child is in trouble, it's another to get them involved before the crisis."



He then led the congregation in a study of the life of David taken from I Samuel: 17: 33, 45 and 47.

"And Saul said to David, thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

Alexander said that scripture covers a significant part of David's youth before he became king, before he made all of his mistakes. Many scholars believe David was between 15 and 16 years old. The nation of Israel was at war against the Philistines when David's father, Jesse, sent him to check on the welfare of his older brothers.

It was then that David discovered Goliath speaking against his God and asking for someone to fight against him.

"Then David said to the Philistine," in verse 45, "thou comest to me with a sword and a with spear and with a shield but I come to thee in the name of the Lord, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied."

David, armed with faith, a sling-shot and a small smooth stone, slew the giant.

Alexander said that David trusted God but he also had prepared himself for the battle. He admonished the youth to do the same thing – be prepared.

You can't fight dumb. You can't fight untrained, pregnant and strung out on drugs, he told them.

Graduate from high school; marry before having children because giants are coming.

Ordinary people can change the world • Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere • Right makes might