Care & Comfort Ministry

Sick & Shut-In List

Members in Nursing Homes & Rehabilitation Centers
Bro. Daniel Michael Adams – Nursecare of Buckhead, Atlanta, Rm. 526
Sis. Alice Aline – Brightmoor Senior Living, Griffin, Rm. 310
Sis Robertine Bryant – PruittHealth of Decatur, Decatur, Rm. 216
Mother Annie Harris – Douglasville Nursing & Rehab Ctr, Douglasville, Rm. 222
Mother Bettye Harris – Nursecare of Buckhead, Atlanta, Rm. 205
Mother Mary Hood – Signature Healthcare of Buckhead, Atlanta, Rm. 408-B
Sis. Bessie Jones – Gardens of Fayetteville, Fayetteville, Rm 311
Bro. Noah Respress – Virginia Gardens Assisted Living, Fort Valley, Rm. 7094
Bro. Dallas Tucker – Sadie G. Mays Rehab Ctr, Atlanta, Rm. C-9

Members Convalescing at Home
Sis. Barbara J. Alexander
Sis. Zeporia Alexander
Sis. Evelyn Battle
Mother Emma Brooms
Bro. Robert Brown
Bro. Henry Claybrook
Sis. Miriam Crawford
Sis. Doris Dennis
Bro. James Dowers
Sis. Catherine George
Sis. Minnie George
Sis. Niaciene George
Bro. Randall Griffin
Dea. Charles Harden
Bro. Melvin Harris

Worship Service Coordinator
Sis. Jean Jones
Security Chiefs on duty
Bro. Charlie Williams
Trustees on duty
Sis. Barbara Stanford
Health Professional on duty
Bro. Quintero Moore
Videographer on duty
Bro. Michael Williams

While Building Our Future
Psalms 119:89-91

Antioch Baptist Church North
Church Anniversary
Celebrating 140 Years!
Reflecting on Our Past
While Building Our Future
One Service - 10:00 A.M. • November 12, 2017
Antioch Baptist Church North
Rev. C. M. Alexander, Pastor • Rev. Kenneth L. Alexander, Co-Pastor
BIBLE-BASED • CHRIST-CENTERED • HOLY SPIRIT-LED • MISSION-BOUND
FELLOWSHIP • EVANGELISM • DOCTRINE • STEWARDSHIP
540 CAMERON M. ALEXANDER BLVD, NW • ATLANTA, GA 30318 • 404.688.5679 • WWW.ANTIOCHNORTH.ORG

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.
3 John 1:2
An Anniversary Message From the Pastor

November 12, 2017

My Brothers and Sisters,

As our Antioch family gathers today for the celebration of our 140th Anniversary, I am deeply humbled to be a part of her rich history. We have come together in one service for a grand family reunion to celebrate our past, rejoice in our present, and look with hope toward our future.

There is a saying that “the more things change, the more they stay the same.” The disputed election of 1876 that installed a Republican as President of the United States signaled the end of Reconstruction in 1877 when the federal troops were withdrawn from the South. The gains made by African Americans during Reconstruction were effectively erased, and racial strife overtook the hope of Reconstruction that racial equality would one day be achieved.

In that climate in 1877, eight former slaves believed Matthew 18:19-20, “That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” The Bethursday Prayer Band knew there was more prayer power when they came together, but there was no church in the Fifth Ward “colored quarters”. It was dangerous to travel through white quarters to other colored sections, so they committed to meeting on Thursdays to rejoice together for how God had kept them and ask the Lord to continue to sustain them.

Like the early church, the Bethursday Prayer Band met from house to house until they were given space in a butcher shop to hold their regular meetings. No doubt, their prayer meetings, after grueling days of hard labor, were much like our old-fashioned worship service on Wednesday night. Our deacons raising hymns echoed the call-and-response foundation of Oscar Young, Miles Crawford, Jordan Beavers, and Lem Wright. Surely, the four other former slaves gave testimonies of how God had brought them through, just as our members did on Wednesday, drawing strength from each other to go on for one more day.

140 years later, we are thankful that we are still digging deep to serve the least, the less, and the loss, and that no matter what storms arise, our house, Antioch North, cannot be shaken. We are blessed to understand that Jesus Christ is not up for re-election; He is the same yesterday, today, and forevermore.

As a testimony to God’s goodness for where we are today, I am asking each member to make a sacrificial financial gift of $140.00, one dollar for each year that God has allowed us to grow and to give...to learn and to live by His grace. This sacrificial gift is above and beyond our normal tithes and offerings and will demonstrate our generational commitment to carrying out God’s plan.

Yours in God’s service,

Reverend Cameron M. Alexander
Pastor

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ANTIOCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**NOVEMBER 2017**

- November 18: AUMI/Hank Stewart Youth Foundation Volunteerism Day
- November 19: Communion, Pastor and Sis. Alexanders 63rd Wedding Observance
- November 21: Antioch Baptist Church North’s Church Office and AUMI will be closing at noon
- November 22: Cottage Prayer
- November 22-25: Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving
- November 26: Worship Service - 7:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., Memorial Garden Observance

**DECEMBER 2017**

- December 2: Antioch Urban Ministries Inc. - Food/Clothing Bank 9:00 a.m. - Noon, Health Fair 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- December 3: Added Members Observance 11:00 a.m.
- December 8: 25th AUMI Anniversary Gala - 4711 Best Road, College Park, GA 30349
- December 9: ASK Ministry Christmas Fellowship - 590 Building
- December 10: Baptism/Right Hand of Fellowship, Baby Dedication, Sick Shut-In Visitation, Youth Ministry Christmas Fellowship (ages 3 - 10)
Because Antioch Cares...

TELEPHONE HOPE LINE MINISTRY offers prayer and confidential support. The phone number is 404-527-5790.

HUMAN SERVICES MINISTRY
For the week ending November 4, 2017, 434 bags of food were distributed. A total of 14,276 pounds of food was distributed through the AUMI food bank.

CLOTHING BANK
Twenty-nine (29) families received goods through the Clothing Bank.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE INFORMATION
Antioch members are asked to please update their membership profile information via Antioch’s website at www.antiochnorth.org, or call the church office. If you have changed your name, address, home, work or cell telephone number(s), or email address, please submit your new information to the church office. You may also write it on your offering envelope and indicate “New” where it applies. If you are registered with online giving through ACCESS ACS, you may update your information there. You must have an email address on file in order to use ACCESS ACS. For help on how to update your profile, verify your records, retrieve your envelope number, or how to use ACCESS ACS, contact Sis. Gwen Johnson in the church office at 404.688.5679.

BABY DEDICATIONS
Baby Dedication procedure. After the birth of your child to obtain information on the dedications are for infants from birth up to six months of age. Please notify the church office at 404-688-5679.

ANTIOCH’S MEMORIAL GARDEN
If you have a loved one who has recently passed away and was a member of Antioch who had at least 25 years of service in the Church, we invite you to provide a lasting memorial in the form of a Memorial Plaque that will be mounted in the Antioch Memorial Garden located on the South Wing of the Sanctuary. A nominal fee of $100 covers the cost of the Memorial Plaque and its mounting. This opportunity is made available once a year to family and friends who want the memory and legacy of their loved ones to live on. The Memorial Service is held the fourth Sunday in November of each year. If you would like to purchase a plaque for a loved one, please contact the church office at 404.688.5679 as soon as possible to request additional information.

ORIENTATION CLASSES!
Orientation Classes! Members who joined Antioch in the past several months and have not completed the required orientation are asked to attend classes on Sundays after the 7:45 a.m. worship service in the rear of the Sanctuary. For more information, please contact Sis. Gwen Johnson in the church office at 404-688-5679.

ANTIOCH’S MEMORIAL GARDEN
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The Litany of Praise
MINISTER: Let us stand for our Litany of Praise
MINISTER: We are...
CONGREGATION: The four pillars, Fellowship, Evangelism, Doctrine, and Stewardship
MINISTER: So, let us...
ALL: Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is GOD: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD IS good; HIS mercy is everlasting; and HIS truth endureth to ALL generations.

Psalm 100

THE DOXOLOGY...........Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Offertory Prayer
Lord Jesus, we gather this morning to say thank you for being the center of our lives. We thank you, O God, for another opportunity to return a portion of what you have given unto us. It's in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we pray.

Tithes & Offering..............................................................Deacons and Ushers Ministries
Sermon Hymn........................................................................Congregation
Anniversary Sermon................................................................Reverend Ken L. Jelks
Pastor, Mount Tabor Baptist Church, Columbus, GA

The Invitation to Discipleship
(Please refrain from walking during the Invitation to Discipleship)

Til We Meet Again

Our Foundation—The Four Pillars

Fellowship is the union of Christian believers sharing their Christian experience, which is every Christian's responsibility. As Christians, we must assemble ourselves together to share, to learn, and to gather strength from one another. Members are asked to attend all activities such as workshops, special services, etc., during special days or special events. (Hebrews 10:25), "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another, and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Evangelism is the means for Christians to spread the news of God's goodness. Jesus commands us to evangelize and to be fishers of men. During special events and activities, members are asked to witness to at least one unchurched person and bring that person to our special activities. (John 15:16), "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it to you."

Doctrine is the system of teaching by which Christians must advocate the Word of the Lord. It is a set of Biblical principles and laws by which we are governed. As prophets, it is imperative for us to understand and proclaim the basic beliefs, practices, and principles that make us unique as Baptists. Revivals, special activities, and other learning experiences are available to strengthen our beliefs. In addition to our ongoing Sunday School and Nurturing Baptist Church classes (Baptist Training Union), other services are provided in an effort for us to learn more about Baptist Doctrine. (Mark 4:2), "And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in His doctrine…".

Stewardship reminds us that as Christians, we are responsible for managing God's property. Stewardship involves Christians contributing, managing their time, talents, money and resources in doing God's work. We must recognize the fact that (Psalm 24:1) "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."

As owner, God will come back expecting us as Christians to give a report of our stewardship. As we wait for His return, we must demonstrate our commitment through our gifts of time, talent, and tithes. Members are encouraged to tithe consistently and cheerfully. (Luke 12:16), "And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his Lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?"

Antioch Baptist Church North works aggressively to serve this present age as a rock that is:

Bible-based: 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Psalm 119:105
Christ-centered: John 14:6; Revelation 17:14; John 1:1; Matthew 28:18
Holy Spirit-led: John 16:7-14; Galatians 5:25
Mission-bound: Matthew 25:31-46

TODAY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sunday School Lesson for today November 12th, 2017, is Written on the Heart, and the scripture is Jeremiah 31:27-34. Join us next Sunday when our lesson will be The Go-between, Scripture is Hebrews 12:14-15, 18-29.

THANKSGIVING/CHRISTMAS DONATIONS
Please bring toys, canned goods, and non-perishable food items to fill our Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes, so Antioch can help those less fortunate to experience the joyful holidays. The receptacles have been placed around the church to receive the donations.

ANTIOCH YOUTH BASKETBALL
Youth basketball season is upon us! If your child is interested in playing basketball for the Antioch Panthers, please see Bro. Fred DeVaughn or Bro. James Thompson in the Narthex for more information. Registration begins today after both services. Sign up now!

TERRY WEST BIBLE CLASS
Members and friends are encouraged to join the Terry West Bible Class every Wednesday morning, from 10:00 a.m. to noon in Burden’s Rest. Come share in the fellowship and study the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We are currently studying the Book of Psalms. You are also invited to remain for the Noonday Worship Service.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY CLASSES
Classes for the Antioch School of the Bible summer/fall session begin at 6:00 p.m. Classes are as follows:

- Wonder Women of the Bible
- Let’s Go to Heaven Together - Packing for the Journey
- Children’s Bible Study
- Route 66: A Trip Through 66 Books of the Bible
- Youth Bible Study
- God’s Not Dead

At 7:00 p.m., Pastor Alexander will lead the Prayer Meeting and provide guidance and spiritual insights into meaningful ways in which we can strengthen our personal relationships with God. Please come out and join us for fun, interactive spiritual learning experiences for the entire family.

ADDED MEMBERS OBSERVANCE
Added Members Observance will be held on December 3rd, 2017, during the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. All added members who have joined Antioch between 2015 through 2017 are asked to participate in the Added Members Observance. For more please see Pat Ellis or Sis. Electra Cossie in the Narthex following both Worship Services.

BAPTISM
Baptism will be held on Sunday, December 10, 2017, during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Candidates are asked to meet downstairs at 10:00 a.m. in Rooms 11-12 for instructions.

DEBIT/CREDIT CARD READER
For the convenience of members and friends, Antioch now offers a Debit Card Reader for giving your tithes & offerings. This service is available on Sundays after each service and is located just outside the door next to the elevator.
Rev. Ken L. Jelks serves as the ninth Pastor of the Mt. Tabor Baptist Church in Columbus, Ga. Jelks, a native Atlantan, accepted Christ at the age of 12 and was reared at the Wheat Street Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga., under Rev. Dr. William Holmes Borders, Sr. and Rev. Dr. Michael N. Harris. He later joined, served and was further reared at the Antioch Baptist Church North where Rev. Dr. Cameron M. Alexander is the Pastor, and was licensed and ordained by the Antioch Baptist Church North under Dr. Alexander.

In just under 5 years of Pastor Jelks’ tenure at Mt. Tabor, God has blessed the church through the preaching and teaching of God’s word, re-vamped community outreach, revised the Benevolence Ministry giving process, instituted monthly Ministry Leadership luncheons, led in the launch of the Mt. Tabor Baptist church website, and led the church in the acquisition of property behind the church named and dedicated as "Matthew’s House" transitional housing for the homeless. To that end, at least 50 persons have been baptized and just over 100 have either re-joined or joined with the Mt. Tabor congregation.

Prior to receiving the call to the pastorate of Mt. Tabor, Rev. Jelks served as the Vice President of the Antioch Ministerial Alliance at Antioch Baptist Church North, and served in various ministerial capacities inside and outside of the Antioch Church. He currently serves as the Vice President of the Congress of Christian Education for the Mt. Calvary Baptist Association in Columbus, Georgia, and was awarded the Columbus American Red Cross Hometown Hero Award, for helping to facilitate the rescue and placement of community families left homeless amidst a fire that destroyed their neighborhood housing complex homes.


While the majority of Jelks’ professional background is steeped in Media Broadcasting per earlier work with the Collegiate Broadcasting Group, Inc. under the stern mentoring of his father—pioneer broadcaster, Lo Jelks; he enjoyed a very valuable stint of social/human services training while working for the Atlanta Urban League for several years in housing. Rev. Jelks transitioned back to broadcasting at AIB-Television as an Account Executive, was quickly promoted to Manager of Sales after two successful years of increased revenue, and was then promoted to Manager of Sales and Marketing for Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters (AIB-TV), and now operates as an independent media consultant.

Jelks is the son of Lo Jelks and Jane Jelks Jones; he is married to the beautiful Dr. Na’Taki Osborne Jelks, and they are the proud parents of 8-year old Kenyatta Jelks, Jr. who they call “K.J.”

A socially-conscious preacher, Jelks is a passionate and progressive proclaimer of the gospel, who lives and leans on Philippians 4:8, “whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report: if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”
Since 1877, the Antioch Baptist Church North has stood in Atlanta as a beacon of hope and a place of refuge. For six generations, the congregational family has nurtured thousands of persons who have been counted among the least, the last, and the lost. As a Church Family, we celebrate our 140th 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. The journey from 1877 to 2016 has not been easy, but it certainly has been rewarding! Those rewards and God’s promise of eternal life give us ever-growing congregation inspiration and meaning to continue the journey “to see what the end will be.”

The Congregation remembers those eight former slaves who, in their search for a safe and secure place to praise God, loosely formed a prayer band that eventually evolved into our beloved Antioch Baptist Church North, an Atlanta landmark known nationally as a flagship church in the struggle for human dignity and the plight of the less fortunate and the unsaved.

The Antioch Congregation’s earliest meetings and worship services were held outside under the stars and in shanty one-room structures that our founding brethren called home. To fully appreciate the historical significance of the Congregation’s founding, one must remember all the unsettling circumstances that were happening in Atlanta during the 1880s when the Antioch Congregation was founded. President Abraham Lincoln had recently freed the slaves when he signed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863.

In 1864, General William Sherman destroyed and burned every important building in Atlanta during his vivid march across Georgia during America’s infamous Civil War. With their new freedom gained at the end of the Civil War, thousands of former slaves with only the rags on their backs began to relocate to Atlanta from the great cotton plantations of rural south and central Georgia. Included in those numbers were the founders of our congregation. They, too, were traveling north in search of the new promised land.

One hundred and thirty-seven years ago, Atlanta was not the important city that it is today. The city was beginning to rebuild from the ravages of the Civil War. It was certainly not a city too busy to hate. Atlanta merchants and builders took advantage of the cheap labor and services of black people; knowing that they had worked as slaves with no compensation, they would hire four to five blacks for the wages of one white person. As a
of her mother, Bertha Nelson. They were both sharp dressers. Both classy. Both possessing hearts of gold. While Joyce sang in the choir, her mother, who passed in 2007, used her talents on the usher board, where she served until she became ill.

Beyond Antioch, Ms. Nelson was active in Girl Scouts of America; she was a Renaissance woman with many trades - cosmetology, cooking, and bookkeeping - and talents, including writing and public speaking.

Not far behind those two, was Thompkins' daughter Loretta, who also enjoyed singing, public speaking, liturgical dance and stepping, talents she put to work in the church.

In her earlier years, Thompkins, who earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Georgia State University in 1974 and 1976, respectively, was a social activist rocking an Afro and marching for social change in our communities.

After working nearly two decades at Grady Memorial Hospital, she headed over to Spelman College, where she has held varied positions since 1994.

Not unlike her first days at Antioch, Thompkins said she is still inspired by the preaching at Antioch and most especially Pastor Alexander's concern for his members, especially the youth.

"As a single parent, Pastor Alexander served as a role model for Loretta as she grew up in the church," Thompkins said. "He was always supportive of her - and for this I will always be appreciative."

But there was also this, she said: Antioch's mission to serve the least of them.

"I have seen individuals come to this church with little hope and turn their lives around because of God and Antioch's outreach programs," she said. "It's why I love Antioch and why I remain here."

Sis. Ellen Magby Wilborn
A Pioneer's walk “Down Through the years”

Ellen Magby Wilborn was standing that August morning in 1960 at a bus stop with her brother Calvin and mother Lela Magby, when Mother Elizabeth Martin approached and asked if they were headed to church. The Magbys were on their way to Wheat Street Baptist Church that Sunday but Martin suggested they visit Antioch. The Magbys suddenly had a change of plans and joined Martin at Antioch.

"We came three more Sundays and joined," said Wilborn.

All these years later, Wilborn, 92, is still coming, drawn by both her faith and the Antioch fellowship.

"The pastor was so outgoing," she remembered recently referring to the Rev. D.T. George. "That's when he'd come down the aisle and shake your hand."

Wilborn, then 22, had just graduated from Clark College with a degree in business administration. The family hadn't been at Antioch long, when George tapped Wilborn to head the Sunbeam class and assigned Sis. Magby to the mother's board.

When her mother died four years later, it fell to Wilborn to care for her brother Calvin, who was developmentally disabled but she remained active in the church, working part-time in the office doing the church bulletin and financial reports and singing with various choirs.

She was also working full time as secretary to the director of alumni affairs at Clark College, a job she held until 1971.

Meanwhile, the Rev. George was succeeded by the Rev. W. Marcus Williams, who remained until 1969, when a search committee was formed to find another pastor.

Before the official vote was held, however, the Rev. Cameron Alexander preached "There's a man in town" and all the other candidates were omitted, Wilborn said.

When the church put Alexander's name in the hat, Wilborn helped count the votes. The decision to name him pastor of Antioch, she said, was unanimous.

For the next three years, Wilborn would remain as part-time secretary and witness to numerous changes and land acquisitions.

At the time, she was working as a secretary at the Atlanta Richfield Oil Company. When she left nearly twelve years later, she headed to MARTA, where she would spend the next 18 years as a purchasing agent.

It was during this time that Pastor Alexander organized Antioch's birth month clubs to help raise money for a new sanctuary. Wilborn was one of the first presidents.

In 1961, the church broke ground on the new building. When Antioch finally occupied its new home in 1968, Wilborn said there was a whole lot of walking, jumping and shouting.

Under Alexander's leadership, Wilborn said, Antioch quickly doubled and quadrupled in size. In its heyday, the membership numbered more than 16,000.

When Alexander named his staff, her title changed to church clerk, the position she holds to this day.

Still, Calvin - Bay, the family called him - was her top priority. Because her older siblings were married and living in other states, she promised their mother she'd always take care of him. That often meant sacrificing her own relationships with potential suitors.

"No one I dated wanted him around," she said. "I always told them 'he's not going anywhere. If you don't like him, you can go.'"

But in 1968, she reconnected with her college sweetheart, Joe Wilborn, and soon began dating. Months later on March 21, Bay passed away.

"I took care of him for 35 years," she said. In December that year, Joe got down on one knee and popped the question. Result, of this practice, Atlanta's poor white citizens were resentful and began terrorizing these former slaves for taking jobs away from them.

Adding to the confusion, the newly organized Atlanta newspapers began to distort and sensationalize feelings between Atlanta's blacks and whites. As a result, black people became too frightened to travel distances. By 1877, black people in Atlanta had become isolated in individual living wards and areas called "colored quarters."

In the quarters that became known as Fifth Ward, there was not a church close to where our founding members lived for worship and rejoicing. A trip across town, through white quarters, to the nearest colored church was like putting one's life into the hands of the devil.

Out of this fear and the need to serve God, Oscar Young, Miles Crawford, Jordan Beavers, Lem Wright, and four other former slaves organized a prayer group, calling themselves the Bethursday Prayer Band because the "meetin' be on Thursdays."

As the meetings grew in regularity, so did the number of persons attending. The meetings moved from house to house until the group was able to use space in a butcher shop where one of the members worked.

Eight years later in 1885, the members of the Bethursday Prayer Band borrowed $200 from the Southern Home Building and Loan Association and purchased its first property, a dilapidated basement structure at number seven Wallace Street. It was a stretch, but the group agreed to pay back the loan at $1.20 per month.

While many of today's congregational members may get a smile from this fact, it was an unbelievable amount of money to be entrusted to uneducated, former slaves without any collateral.

The initial loan to purchase the Wallace Street property was paid off in record time in 1899. The congregation then, more than a century ago, faced the same challenge that the Antioch Congregation faces in 2016. They wondered how they would address and serve the needs of their growing membership in spaces that had become over-crowded and too small even though they had just purchased the property five years earlier.

Their dilemma in 1889 was a cause of great concern as they questioned their preparedness for serving God's people at the start of the 20th Century.

Today, the Antioch pastor, deacons, trustees, and membership face some of the same challenges and ask some of the same questions that the Bethursday Prayer Group asked. "How will we address the needs of an ever growing membership and a community challenged by economic restraints during a struggling economy?"

In 1899, at the dawning of the 20th Century, the Bethursday Prayer Band renewed that initial loan and remodeled its basement structure to adequately serve its members. In addition, they changed their name and identity from the Bethursday Prayer Band to Antioch Baptist Church and moved into the 20th Century with jubilant enthusiasm and great excitement.

The founders should be commended on their choice of the name Antioch. It was a fine choice for it was at Antioch that the term "Christian" was first given to converts to the new faith, and it was Paul's point of departure on his missionary journey.

By the early 1920s, the Antioch membership had grown tremendously and now included a few property owners, skilled laborers, and a few other persons who had been exposed to education; some could even read and write. This was a time of rapid growth and expansion for our young congregation.

The names of the very early ministers who nurtured and served as pastors of the young Antioch congrega-
tion were never chronicled in written historical documents; however, oral histories and conversations with Antioch Pioneers identify the names of Rev. Jerry Davis, a Rev. Harris, a Rev. Briscoe, Rev. B. T. Harvey and Rev. Alfred C. Williams as early ministers who served at Antioch. These preachers are warmly remembered for courageously proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to our young congregational family.

Antioch: 1922-1927

In 1922, the Reverend Timothy Saine was called to Antioch and guided the young congregation through the 1920s. His leadership stressed the dignity of work and honest labor. He is especially remembered today for his leadership in the construction of Antioch’s first “new” building. In 1924, the congregation borrowed three thousand dollars to build its “new” church using its recently acquired properties at Wallace and Gray Streets as collateral.

Antioch’s first church building was no architectural wonder, but it was a fine example of civic architecture of the day wherein everyone in the congregation and community helped to build it. It was a stark clapboard structure housing the sanctuary atop a tall stone foundation that served as the first fellowship hall.

Having been trained at Hampton and Tuskegee Institutes, Reverend Saine encouraged the members to prepare themselves and their children for opportunities in teaching, railroad employment, carpentry and other skilled jobs. His teachings fostered at Antioch an atmosphere of encouragement and hope and accounted for a remarkable level of family solidarity and the upward mobility of the young church.

Antioch: 1927-1943

In 1927, Reverend Timothy George was called to lead Antioch. He provided guidance and leadership during the Great Depression when large masses of the congregational family found themselves unemployed following the famous stock market crash as Atlanta banks, businesses, and manufacturing companies closed. It is seldom talked about, but the young congregation could not meet its financial obligations and maintain the day-to-day financial operations of the church during this very difficult time. As a result, the church’s property was foreclosed upon and sold on the steps of the Fulton County Courthouse. That was a sad time in the Congregation’s history, but because of the membership’s determined stewardship and faithfulness and the effective leadership of Rev. George, the property was quickly recovered.

By 1940 when the City of Atlanta proposed building federal public housing in the community, Antioch had regained its anchor and its voice as leader of the community. The congregation was elated about the idea of deserting that desolate neighborhood for a new paradise. Antioch sold its Gray Street property and purchased new properties at Wallace and Lambert Streets.

Antioch provides a good example of a community church that functioned as a place of worship and a community center for its members and the community. Antioch’s dedication to the community’s growth and the church building reflected the congregation’s commitment to a Christian vision for the community.

By an act of easement, the Housing Authority of the City of Atlanta paid the congregation $8,000 for its Gray Street property. Not wanting to relocate from the area where the Congregation had been conceived, nurtured, and allowed to grow, Rev. George, the deacons, and the trustees agreed to purchase available property beginning at the southwest corner of Kennedy and Lambert Streets for sixteen hundred dollars. Antioch moved its wooden sanctuary from its Gray Street stone foundation to a newly-built foundation on Lambert Street. With the remaining funds, the Church made a few minor cosmetic changes to the building, but the warm-spirited feeling of the congregation remained as it was.

In 1941 for a better opportunity at Clark-Atlanta, where she is office manager in the Graduate Department, Cooke remembered fondly the year the Rev. C.M. Alexander was named pastor of Antioch.

“When people far and near heard about him we didn’t have room to hold them,” she said. “The church was full to capacity.”

At that time, Cooke said, her aunt Ethel Grier was president of the Co-ed Usher Board and the ushers would pack the pews with more than they could hold.

“I can remember telling the ushers ‘we got to get the people in the church; have them to hold their coats and purses,’ sure enough we’d squeeze people in and nobody complained.”

Under Rev. Alexander’s leadership, many new additional auxiliaries were formed, most notably, the birth month clubs.

“I think everybody would look forward to September birth month because they sold chili dogs downstairs in fellowship hall,” she said. “Members would line up to buy a hotdog after service.

“I will never forget the Tom Thompkins wedding fundraiser by Sister Peggie Cooper. It was so enjoyable and everybody wanted to participate.”

Antioch would soon complete the building of a new sanctuary and new generations of young adults would join, marry and start their own families.

In 1952, Cooke’s daughter Kim Gray became a member and was married in 2002 at Antioch.

“No my grandsons are members along with other family,” Cooke said.

“Antioch will always be a part of our family. To this day it remains ‘Bible-based, Christ-centered and Holy Spirit-Led.’ What more can you ask for?”

Mother Frances Flinn Miles

A Pioneer’s walk “Down Through the years”

Frances Flinn Miles was a 28-year-old mother of four children when she and her childhood sweetheart, Tom Miles, packed up and moved to Atlanta.

This wasn’t a spur-of-the-moment kind of thing. Frances being Frances, was always up to taking care of others but this time it was her Aunt Lizzie Wheller who needed her.

They arrived in Atlanta in the winter of 1911 and it wasn’t long before they joined Wheller at Antioch Baptist Church North.

Like Wheller, she and Tom fell in love with Antioch and gave their blood, sweat and tears to Antioch. Together they helped build the church.

She is both a grandmother and great-grandmother.

In 1991 for a better opportunity at Clark-Atlanta, where she is office manager in the Graduate Department.

“Antioch will always be a part of our family. To this day it remains ‘Bible-based, Christ-centered and Holy Spirit-Led.’ What more can you ask for?”

Her life to Christ during services at Salaam Baptist, where her parents were active in the deacon’s ministry.

After graduating from the Barbour County Public Schools, she accepted Tom Miles’ had in marriage and the two of them started their family.

While they arrived in Atlanta with just four, the Miles clan would soon double in size. In many ways, they felt blessed to be in Atlanta. Not only did it afford better employment opportunities for her young family, her children could look forward to a quality education.

She cared for them all while taking care of her Aunt Wheller and working at Antioch. In addition to teaching Sunday School, Mother Miles, now 96, was a member of the Fisherman ministries Mission and Mothers Board.

She is both a grandmother and great-grandmother.

To the members of Antioch, she is a faithful servant and a gift to all who know her.

Sis. Joyce Thompkins

A Pioneer’s walk “Down Through the years”

There’s no mistaking the power of music in a church to draw people and it doesn’t hurt to have a pastor who rightly divides the word and members who demonstrate their love for the least, the less and the lost.

All of those things played large in Joyce Thompkins decision to join Antioch Baptist Church North in 1984.

It still does but instead of being an observer, Thompkins sings with the church’s Adult Choir.

All these years later, she said, “We just knew that Antioch was the right church for us.”

After six years at Mt. Zion Baptist Church and several test-runs at Antioch, Thompkins, with her then 3-year-old daughter and her mother at her side, made the easy decision to change her membership.

At that time, she said, Antioch’s Adult Choir didn’t exist.

Thompkins joined Psalms 150 immediately and served in that choir until Pastor Cameron Alexander decided to consolidate some of the church choirs.

“Singing is my ministry,” she says. “I don’t have to be right behind the mic, I know my lane.”

Thompkins also worked with the Food Bank under Deacon Lemuel Bowie. She also serves as a member of the Adult Choir’s Bereavement Committee and is a staunch supporter of ministries within and outside of the church.

In many ways, Thompkins, affectionately known by some as Ms. T or to the millennials as Mama Joyce, is a mirror image.
Our Pioneers tell how Antioch has been their place of Worship and Stewardship “Down Through The Years.”

Sis. Tommie Nash

A Pioneer’s walk “Down Through the years”
Tommie Nash had grown up in a church that felt like family, a place where her parents knew all of her friends and their parents knew her. And so the Sunday she and her husband Harold and their then eight-year-old son Rodney dis-covered Antioch, Arch Street Baptist, the Little Rock, Ark., church of her childhood, wasn’t far from her mind. “Antioch felt like family,” she said.

Immediately after the service, Nash telephone her grandmother in Little Rock, Ark. She had found her church home.

That was nearly 40 years ago, when Antioch Baptist Church North gathered in a small building at the corner of Northside Drive and Kennedy Street. But on Dec. 11, 1977, the day before her 30th birthday, the Nash’s joined the Antioch fellowship and have been here ever since.

Nash, 69, is the eldest of five girls born to Elijah and Clarice Harris in Little Rock, where she grew up dreaming of becoming a teacher and, at age 12, gave her life to Christ. After high school, she headed to Agriculture, Mechanical and Normal College in Pine Bluff, Ark., now the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in business education in 1969 and later a Master’s Degree in Vocational-Technical Education from The University of Missouri.

She landed a job as a caseworker but after just a few months, resigned. “I didn’t like getting involved in people’s business,” she said. Nash then went to work for a high school business education teacher for the St. Louis Board of Education, where she worked until moving to Atlanta, the place she fell in love with while attending a family reunion.

“Atlanta was quiet and laid back then,” she recalled. “Plus, I was impressed with the blacks and how well they were doing.” Nash, who would go on to earn an EdD degree in Adult Education from The University of Georgia, happened upon Antioch soon after the move while driving down the street and decided to visit the following Sunday.

Rodney Nash, her son, was baptized the following Easter. “Antioch felt like family,” she said.

The Rev. Williams geared the congregation’s attention toward social programs that would benefit the membership. He organized a church credit union and a daycare center.

In 1969, he resigned the Antioch pulpit and accepted a new challenge.

Antioch: 1969-Present

The Rev. Cameron Madison Alexander accepted the Call to Antioch in 1969. After 47 years of incredible service, his tenure as pastor has been the longest in Antioch’s history.

Under Pastor Alexander’s dynamic and visionary leadership, the congregation has grown from fewer than 500 persons to a membership that currently exceeds 12,000. The Rev. Alexander has been the driving force in the congregation’s acquisition of more than $300 million in land to facilitate the daily operations of Antioch and to enhance future growth needs. Antioch’s annual operating budget has grown from slightly more than $300,000 to more than $10 million.

To maintain the many programs associated with Pastor Alexander’s ministry and his vision for Antioch’s future spiritual and economic development and growth, the Church staff has grown from the one part-time employee who worked when Pastor Alexander arrived to 45 full and part-time staff members. These employees manage church administrative services, plant operations, the transportation fleet, the Antioch Urban Ministries, the music program, the worship services, and the other various outreach activities and services that Pastor Alexander has organized to service the needs of the membership and community.

Pastor Alexander is credited with providing visionary leadership for the planning and the execution of the most ambitious building and land acquisition program in the Antioch Congregation’s history. During the late continued on next page
In 1970s, he led the Congregation to purchase 28 acres of beautiful, wooded land in Southwest Atlanta in the Adamsville Community. It was to become the site of the Congregation’s new worship complex. However, the Holy Spirit directed Pastor Alexander to change all of the relocation plans for moving the congregation to Southwest Atlanta when more pressing needs for serving God’s people remained in our current inner city location where the congregation has served since 1877.

During the late 1980s under Pastor Alexander’s leadership, the congregation began a strategic acquisition of additional properties, purchasing single parcels of land surrounding the church facilities. To the surprise of many, and especially to the Atlanta business community, Antioch built its new multi-million dollar worship center, which was dedicated in 1990, and its new administrative wing the following year at its current location. The land that the church purchased in Southwest Atlanta was eventually sold and became the site of a subdivision.

Most congregations experience membership decline during large building and acquisition programs, but under Pastor Alexander’s guidance, the Antioch membership quadrupled causing him to expand his outreach ministries ten-fold to meet the needs of new members and those continually coming to Antioch for help and for directions.

Inspired by the six ministries in the Book of Matthew that outline the Church’s responsibility to the less fortunate, Pastor Alexander established Antioch’s Urban Ministries in the early 1990s.

In 1991, as Chairman of the Board for AUMI, Pastor Alexander provided leadership in acquiring the 12-story Walton Hotel in downtown Atlanta. Valued at the time of purchase for more than 15 million dollars, the hotel was transformed into apartments for the working homeless and persons with noninfectious tuberculosis. The hotel was renamed the Madison House as a fitting tribute to the pastor whose middle name is Madison. The Church sold the building in 2012 to expand its ever growing outreach ministries.

In 1992, the Ananias House was opened as a temporary home for recovering addicts, and in 1994, Ruth’s Place was opened for women dealing with similar problems. Also in 1994, Matthew’s Place was opened as a home for those who are HIV-positive or living with AIDS. Pastor Alexander provided the leadership for the establishment of Project Redirection as an alternative to incarceration for first-time offenders, and Project Youth Redirection, a ministry to youth who struggle and live within at-risk environments.

In 1997, Pastor Alexander led the Congregation into purchasing the Selig business plaza located adjacent the worship center to house the offices and administrative staff for the Antioch Urban Ministries. In addition, the old Danzig Motel that was located in Northeast Atlanta on Chapel Road was purchased, renovated, and at one time served as the home for Matthew’s Place to better serve more persons who are HIV-positive.

In 1999, again under Pastor Alexander’s leadership, the Congregation purchased a multi-purpose building at 590 North Avenue. Known to the Congregation as “the 590,” the building hosts a variety of congregational events and is used most frequently for youth activities.

In 2001, Pastor Alexander, as Chairman of Bethursday Development Corporation, provided leadership in the purchase of more than eleven “prized” acres of land located between Joseph E. Boone Boulevard and Jett Street. The purchase was considered a prize inasmuch as several developers wanted the property and its proximity to the Georgia World Congress Center. Four and a half acres of railroad right of way were later purchased from the CSX Railroad. These acquisitions would become the canvas for redeveloping the English Avenue community.

In 2004, Antioch joined in celebrating the opening of the wonderful Gateway Apartment Community, a neighborhood development partnership opportunity spearheaded by Bethursday Development Corporation. The apartment community provides 261 units of quality affordable housing fronting Northside Drive. The complex is welcomed as the precursor for continued and aggressive development of the English Avenue Community. Complementing the apartment homes is a 400-car parking deck, an 8,000 square foot retail component, full sized swimming pool, and interior courts with wonderful green spaces.

In 2008, Bethursday Development Corporation completed the first phase of twenty-eight town homes on Elm Street, just two blocks west of the Church.

While many congregations as old as Antioch often split and its members and leadership reorganize or struggle with leadership directions, under Pastor Alexander’s vision, Antioch has successfully established eight missions: New Hope Mission, the Viking Mission, Lakemont Mission, Antioch Lakewood Mission, Antioch Madison House Mission, Antioch North Baptist Mission, Antioch Lithia Springs Mission, and the Antioch Community Mission at John’s Creek; five of which have become strong, thriving congregational churches: Lakemont Missionary Baptist Church, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Faith Missionary Baptist Church, Loving Spirit Missionary Baptist Church, and New Horizon Baptist Church.

During his long tenure as the illustrious president of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc., Dr. Alexander provided the leadership for the establishment of the Land of Promise Mission. All of these new church congregations serve as living testimonies that Antioch’s commitment to Christian Service is as strong, as dedicated, and as much needed today as it was in 1877 when eight former slaves came together for the first time in what would eventually evolve into our beloved Antioch Missionary Baptist Church North.

In 2010, the City of Atlanta changed the name of Kennedy Street, NW to Cameron M. Alexander Boulevard as a tangible way for the City to honor Pastor Alexander for his long and dynamic legacy of community service and civic leadership to the vitality of the City of Atlanta.

Today, no one can predict all the challenges that the Antioch Congregation will face during the 21st Century. But as members of the body of Christ known and loved as Antioch, our Congregation will use the observance of its 140th Anniversary to reflect upon our past and make a collective pledge that our membership will stand strong on God’s promises and remain receptive to the move of the Holy Spirit. We will continue to pray that our beloved Antioch will remain anchored to the traditions of our founding brethren in our spirit and in our commitment to God’s Word.

As a congregation, we will all work aggressively to keep Antioch as a symbol of hope...a place of refuge...and a living testament to the greatness and goodness of God. In so doing, we will continue the journey and build upon a legacy of strong Christian Service worthy of continued emulation as a very special place close to our Savior's throne.
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Our Pioneers tell how Antioch has been their place of Worship and Stewardship “Down Through The Years.”

Sis. Tommie Nash

A Pioneer’s walk “Down Through the years”

Tommie Nash had grown up in a church that felt like family, a place where her parents knew all of her friends and their parents knew her.

And so the Sunday she and her husband Harold and their then eight-year-old son Rodney discovered Antioch, Arch Street Baptist, the Little Rock, Ark., church of her childhood, wasn’t far from her mind.

"Antioch felt like family,” she said.

Immediately after the service, Nash telephoned her grandmother in Little Rock, Ark. She had found her church home.

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But on Dec. 11, 1977, the day before her 30th birthday, the Nash’s joined the Antioch fellowship and have been here ever since.

Nash, 69, is the oldest of five girls born to Elijah and Clarice Harris in Little Rock, where she grew up dreaming of becoming a teacher and, at age 12, gave her life to Christ. After high school, she headed to Agriculture, Mechanical and Normal College in Pine Bluff, Ark., now the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in business education in 1969 and later a Master’s Degree in Vocational-Technical Education from The University of Missouri.

She landed a job as a caseworker but after just a few months, resigned.

“I didn’t like getting involved in people’s business,” she said.

Nash then went to work as a high school business education teacher for the St. Louis Board of Education, where she worked until moving to Atlanta, the place she fell in love with while attending a family reunion.

“Atlanta was quiet and laid back then,” she recalled. “Plus, I was impressed with the blacks and how well they were doing.”

Nash, who would go on to earn an EdS degree in Adult Education from The University of Georgia, happened upon Antioch soon after the move while driving down the street and decided to visit the following Sunday.

Rodney Nash, her son, was baptized the following Easter. Nash would spend the next 35 years or so teaching, first at Dekalb Tech and then Gwinnett Technical College, where she retired in 2006.

She was just as busy and committed, however, to the Lord’s work, joining the various young adult choirs and Antioch Senior Kare, ministries in which she continues to serve.

“I pass a lot of churches coming here from Decatur,” she said.

“But this is my home and I’ve never once thought about leaving. This is family.”

A Pioneer’s walk “Down Through the years”

Betty Jo Cooke felt an undeniable pull.

She made the walk down the aisle with a group of friends that day in 1964 and has never looked back.

When it was time to be baptized days later, she said, “I was very excited and happy.”

In many ways, Cooke’s membership has been in lockstep with her mother, Roxanna Moody, and other family members who joined and involved themselves in ministry.

“Growing up in Antioch was a lot of fun,” she said. “Back then, the choirs were always traveling to various churches throughout the city to sing for various programs. Mr. Joe Ray, now deceased, was our bus driver. The famous Blue Bird bus was our form of transportation. It had no air conditioning but we were very happy to be together.”

In addition to singing in the choir, she was a member of the Tape Ministry and the Cameron Madison Alexander Young Usher Adult Board, a favorite fellowship.

“One time we would go out to eat at a fancy restaurant downtown with your husband/wife or significant other,” Cooke remembered. “The guys would present each lady with a rose, and we would take pictures and just have a good time.”

Cooke graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1969 and enrolled at Morris Brown College before going to work for the State of Georgia.

She was there only a few years before she decided to use her office management skills in education and complete her degree at Clark Atlanta University.

In 1988, she went to work for Morehouse College. She left continued on next page

Antioch: 1943-1963

Rev. T. H. George’s son, the charismatic and energetic, Rev. D.T. George served as pastor of Antioch during the 1940’s, 50’s, and early 60’s. During his pastorate, the church facilities were drastically renovated. Instead of relocating the Congregation during the Northside Drive expansion as the State Department of Transportation had suggested, Antioch remained at its location, turned its façade from Lambert Street, now called Northside Drive, to Kennedy Street, which has since been renamed Cameron M. Alexander Boulevard.

Rev. D. T. George restructured the organization of the congregation because he did not want just a church full of Sunday worshippers. He organized a number of auxiliaries to ensure the maximum participation from all segments of the congregation.

Many of those organizations are still in existence today and are important to the vitality of the Antioch Congregation. Included are the Deaconess, the Matronettes, the Fisherman Club, the Nurses Aid, the Choir, the Progressive Garden Club. Choirs numbered 2 and 3 and the D.T. George Gospel Chorus have grown and merged into the Antioch Adult Choir. Rev. George was impaired by a stroke and retired in 1963.

Antioch: 1963-1969

The Rev. W. Marcus Williams became pastor of Antioch in 1963. He was young, energetic, and only 36 years old when he became pastor of the church. Rev. Williams was an excellent, yet controlled speaker, but is most often remembered at Antioch for his magnificent tenor voice.

Having found the Church in sound fiscal health, and having a keen interest in sociology, Rev. Williams geared the congregation’s attention toward social programs that would benefit the membership. He organized a church credit union and a daycare center. In 1969, he resigned the Antioch pulpit and accepted a new challenge.

Antioch: 1969-Present

The Rev. Cameron Madison Alexander accepted the Call to Antioch in 1969. After 47 years of incredible service, his tenure as pastor has been the longest in Antioch’s history.

Under Pastor Alexander’s dynamic and visionary leadership, the congregation has grown from fewer than 500 persons to a membership that currently exceeds 12,000. The Rev. Alexander has been the driving force in the congregation’s acquisition of more than 87 separate parcels of land to facilitate the daily operations of Antioch and to enhance future growth needs. Antioch’s annual operating budget has grown from slightly more than thirty thousand dollars when he arrived as pastor to an access of 5 million dollars based not on raffles, bake sales and gimmicks, but strictly upon the congregation’s generous tithes, offerings, and gifts.

To maintain the many programs associated with Pastor Alexander’s ministry and his vision for Antioch’s future spiritual and economic development and growth, the Church staff has grown from the one part-time employee who worked when Pastor Alexander arrived to 45 full and part-time staff members. These employees manage church administrative services, plant operations, the transportation fleet, the Antioch Urban Ministries, the music program, the worship services, and the other various outreach activities and services that Pastor Alexander has organized to service the needs of the membership and community.

Pastor Alexander is credited with providing visionary leadership for the planning and the execution of the most ambitious building and land acquisition program in the Antioch Congregation’s history. During the late
tion were never chronicled in written historical documents; however, oral histories and conversations with Antioch Pioneers identify the names of Rev. Jerry Davis, a Rev. Harris, a Rev. Briscoe, Rev. B. T. Harvey and Rev. Alfred C. Williams as early ministers who served at Antioch. These preachers are warmly remembered for courageously proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to our young congregational family.

Antioch: 1922-1927

In 1922, the Reverend Timothy Saine was called to Antioch and guided the young congregation through the 1920s. His leadership stressed the dignity of work and honest labor. He is especially remembered today for his leadership in the construction of Antioch’s first “new” building. In 1924, the congregation borrowed three thousand dollars to build its “new” church using its recently acquired properties at Wallace and Gray Streets as collateral. Antioch’s first church building was no architectural wonder, but it was a fine example of civic architecture of the day wherein everyone in the congregation and community helped to build it. It was a stark clapboard structure housing the sanctuary atop a tall stone foundation that served as the first fellowship hall.

By 1940 when the City of Atlanta proposed building federal public housing in the community, Antioch had regained its anchor and its voice as leader of the community. The congregation was elated about the idea of decent public housing for the area, not knowing at the time, however, that Herndon Homes would displace the congregation.

Antioch: 1927-1943

In 1927, Reverend Timothy George was called to lead Antioch. He provided guidance and leadership during the Great Depression when large masses of the congregational family found themselves unemployed following the famous stock market crash as Atlanta banks, businesses, and manufacturing companies closed. It is seldom talked about, but the young congregation could not meet its financial obligations and maintain the day-to-day financial operations of the church during this very difficult time. As a result, the church’s property was foreclosed upon and sold on the steps of the Fulton County Courthouse. That was a sad time in the Congregation’s history, but because of the membership’s determined stewardship and faithfulness and the effective leadership of Rev. George, the property was quickly recovered.

Having been trained at Hampton and Tuskegee Institutes, Reverend Saine encouraged the members to prepare themselves and their children for opportunities in teaching, railroad employment, carpentry and other skilled jobs. His teachings fostered at Antioch an atmosphere of encouragement and hope and accounted for a remarkable level of family solidarity and the upward mobility of the young church.

In 1928, the Reverend Alfred C. Williams was called to Antioch. He is remembered today for his leadership in the construction of Antioch’s first “new” building. In 1924, the congregation borrowed three thousand dollars to build its “new” church using its recently acquired properties at Wallace and Gray Streets as collateral. Antioch’s first church building was no architectural wonder, but it was a fine example of civic architecture of the day wherein everyone in the congregation and community helped to build it. It was a stark clapboard structure housing the sanctuary atop a tall stone foundation that served as the first fellowship hall.

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By an act of easement, the Housing Authority of the City of Atlanta paid the congregation $8,000 for its Gray Street property. Not wanting to relocate from the area where the Congregation had been conceived, nurtured, and allowed to grow, Rev. George, the deacons, and the trustees agreed to purchase available property beginning at the southwest corner of Kennedy and Lambert Streets for sixteen hundred dollars. Antioch moved its wooden sanctuary from its Gray Street stone foundation to a newly-built foundation on Lambert Street. With the remaining funds, the Church made a few minor cosmetic changes to the building, but the warm-spirited feeling of the congregation remained as it was.
of her mother, Bertha Nelson. They were both sharp dressers. Both classy. Both possessing hearts of gold.

While Joyce sang in the choir, her mother, who passed in 2007, used her talents on the usher board, where she served until she became ill.

Beyond Antioch, Ms. Nelson was active in Girl Scouts of America; she was a Renaissance woman with many trades—cosmetology, cooking, and bookkeeping—and talents, including writing and public speaking.

Not far behind those two, was Thompkin’s daughter Loretta, who also enjoyed singing, public speaking, liturgical dance and stepping; talents she put to work in the church.

In her earlier years, Thompkins, who earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Georgia State University in 1974 and 1976, respectively, was a social activist rocking an Afro and marching for social change in their communities.

After working nearly two decades at Grady Memorial Hospital, she headed over to Spelman College, where she has held various positions since 1994.

Not unlike her first days at Antioch, Thompkins said she is still inspired by the preaching at Antioch and most especially Pastor Alexander’s concern for his members, especially the youth.

“As a single parent, Pastor Alexander served as a role model for Loretta as she grew up in the church,” Thompkins said. “He was always supportive of her—and for this I will always be appreciative.”

But there was also this, she said: Antioch’s mission to serve the least of them.

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“As a single parent, Pastor Alexander served as a role model for Loretta as she grew up in the church,” Thompkins said. “He was always supportive of her—and for this I will always be appreciative.”

“Before the official vote was held, however, the Rev. Cameron Alexander preached ‘There’s a man in town’ and all the other candidates were ousted, Wilborn said.

When the church put Alexander’s name in the hat, Wilborn helped count the votes. The decision to name him pastor of Antioch, she said, was unanimous.

For the next three years, Wilborn would remain as part-time secretary and witness to numerous changes and land acquisitions.

At the time, she was working as a secretary at the Atlantic Richfield Oil Company. When she left nearly twelve years later, she headed to MARTA, where she would spend the next 18 years as a purchasing agent.

It was during this time that Pastor Alexander organized Antioch’s birth month clubs to help raise money for a new sanctuary. Wilborn was one of the first presidents.

In 1881, the church broke ground on the new building. When Antioch finally occupied its new home in 1888, Wilborn said there was a whole lot of walking, jumping and shouting.

Under Alexander’s leadership, Wilborn said, Antioch quickly doubled and quadrupled in size. In its heyday, the membership numbered more than 16,000.

When Alexander named his staff, her title changed to church clerk, the position she holds to this day.

In 1891, at the dawning of the 20th Century, the Bethursday Prayer Band renewed that initial loan and reorganized the fellowship. It was at this point that the group’s name changed from Bethursday Prayer Band to Antioch Baptist Church.

Out of this fear and the need to serve God, Oscar Young, Miles Crawford, Jordan Beavers, Lem Wright, and four other former slaves organized a prayer group, calling themselves the Bethesda Prayer Band because the “meetin’ be on Thursdays.” As the meetings grew in regularity, so did the number of persons attending.

The meetings moved from house to house until the group was able to use space in a butcher shop where one of the members worked.

Eight years later in 1885, the members of the Bethesda Prayer Band borrowed $200 from the Southern Home Building and Loan Association and purchased its first property, a dilapidated basement structure at number seven Wallace Street. It was a stretch, but the group agreed to pay back the loan at $1.20 per month.

While many of today’s congregational members may get a smile from this fact, it was an unbelievable amount of money to be entrusted to uneducated, former slaves without any collateral.

The initial loan to purchase the Wallace Street property was paid off in record time in 1899. The congregation then, more than a century ago, faced the same challenge that the Antioch Congregation faces in 2016. They wondered how they would address and serve the needs of their growing membership in spaces that had become over-crowded and too small even though they had just purchased the property five years earlier.

Their dilemma in 1889 was a cause of great concern as they questioned their preparedness for serving God’s people at the start of the 20th Century.

Today, the Antioch pastor, deacons, trustees, and membership face some of the same challenges and ask some of the same questions that the Bethesda Prayer Group asked. “How will we address the needs of an ever-growing membership and a community challenged by economic restraints during a struggling economy?”

In 1899, at the dawning of the 20th Century, the Bethesda Prayer Band renewed that initial loan and remodeled its basement structure to adequately serve its members. In addition, they changed their name and identity from the Bethesda Prayer Band to Antioch Baptist Church and moved into the 20th Century with jubilant enthusiasm and great excitement.

The founders should be commended on their choice of the name Antioch. It was a fine choice for it was at Antioch that the term “Christian” was first given to converts to the new faith, and it was Paul’s point of departure on his missionary journey.

By the early 1920s, the Antioch membership had grown tremendously and now included a few property owners, skilled laborers, and a few other persons who had been exposed to education; some could even read and write. This was a time of rapid growth and expansion for our young congregation.
Since 1877, the Antioch Baptist Church North has stood in Atlanta as a beacon of hope and a place of refuge. For six generations, the congregational family has nurtured thousands of persons who have been counted among the least, the last, and the lost. As a Church Family, we celebrate our 140th 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. The journey from 1877 to 2016 has not been easy, but it certainly has been rewarding! Those rewards and God’s promise of eternal life give our ever growing congregation inspiration and meaning to continue the journey “to see what the end will be.”

The Congregation remembers those eight former slaves who, in their search for a safe and secure place to praise God, loosely formed a prayer band that eventually evolved into our beloved Antioch Baptist Church North, an Atlanta landmark known nationally as a flagship church in the struggle for human dignity and the plight of the less fortunate and the unsaved.

The Antioch Congregation’s earliest meetings and worship services were held outside under the stars and in shanty one-room structures that our founding brethren called home. To fully appreciate the historical significance of the Congregation’s founding, one must remember all the unsettling circumstances that were happening in Atlanta during the 1880s when the Antioch Congregation was founded. President Abraham Lincoln had recently freed the slaves when he signed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863.

In 1864, General William Sherman destroyed and burned every important building in Atlanta during his vivid march across Georgia during America’s infamous Civil War. With their new freedom gained at the end of the Civil War, thousands of former slaves with only the rags on their backs began to relocate to Atlanta from the great cotton plantations of rural south and central Georgia. Included in those numbers were the founders of our congregation. They, too, were traveling north in search of the new promised land.

One hundred and thirty-seven years ago, Atlanta was not the important city that it is today. The city was beginning to rebuild from the ravages of the Civil War. It was certainly not a city too busy to hate. Atlanta merchants and builders took advantage of the cheap labor and services of black people; knowing that they had worked as slaves with no compensation, they would hire four to five blacks for the wages of one white person. As a the question. Crying tears of joy, she said yes and the two were married June 3, 2010.

Rev. Alexander officiated. Ellen Wilborn retired the next year from MARTA.

Now as the church prepares to celebrate its 147th anniversary, she can’t imagine life without her beloved Antioch or its members.

Asked what advice she’d give to new comers, Wilborn didn’t hesitate.

“Invite Christ into your life,” she said. “Get involved in something that makes you happy in church and live your life to the fullest degree through Christ who strengthens you.”

Oh, and one other thing: “Happy anniversary, Antioch.”
Rev. Ken L. Jelks serves as the ninth Pastor of the Mt. Tabor Baptist Church in Columbus, Ga. Jelks, a native Atlantan, accepted Christ at the age of 12 and was reared at the Wheat Street Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga., under Rev. Dr. William Holmes Borders, Sr. and Rev. Dr. Michael N. Harris. He later joined, served and was further reared at the Antioch Baptist Church North where Rev. Dr. Cameron M. Alexander is the Pastor, and was licensed and ordained by the Antioch Baptist Church North under Dr. Alexander.

In just under 5 years of Pastor Jelks’ tenure at Mt. Tabor, God has blessed the church through the preaching and teaching of God’s word, re-vamped community outreach, revised the Benevolence Ministry giving process, instituted monthly Ministry Leadership luncheons, led in the launch of the Mt. Tabor Baptist church website, and led the church in the acquisition of property behind the church - named and dedicated as “Matthew’s House” transitional housing for the homeless. To that end, at least 50 persons have been baptized and just over 100 have either re-joined or joined with the Mt. Tabor congregation.

Prior to receiving the call to the pastorate of Mt. Tabor, Rev. Jelks served as the Vice President of the Antioch Ministerial Alliance at Antioch Baptist Church North, and served in various ministerial capacities inside and outside of the Antioch Church. He currently serves as the Vice President of the Congress of Christian Education for the Mt. Calvary Baptist Association in Columbus, Georgia, and was awarded the Columbus American Red Cross Hometown Hero Award, for helping to facilitate the rescue and placement of community families left homeless amidst a fire that destroyed their neighborhood housing complex homes.


While the majority of Jelks’ professional background is steeped in Media Broadcasting per earlier work with the Collegiate Broadcasting Group, Inc. under the stern mentoring of his father—pioneer broadcaster, Lo Jelks; he enjoyed a very valuable stint of social/human services training while working for the Atlanta Urban League for several years in housing. Rev. Jelks transitioned back to broadcasting at AIB-Television as an Account Executive, was quickly promoted to Manager of Sales after two successful years of increased revenue, and was then promoted to Manager of Sales and Marketing for Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters (AIB-TV), and now operates as an independent media consultant.

Jelks is the son of Lo Jelks and Jane Jelks Jones; he is married to the beautiful Dr. Na’Taki Osborne Jelks, and they are the proud parents of 8-year old Kenyatta Jelks, Jr. who they call “K.J.”

A socially-conscious preacher, Jelks is a passionate and progressive proclaimer of the gospel, who lives and leans on Philippians 4:8, “whate’er things are true, whate’er things are honest, whate’er things are just, whate’er things are pure, whate’er things are lovely, whate’er things are of good report: if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”
Congregation and the scripture—Scripture is

Antioch Baptist Church North
Pastor, Mount Tabor Baptist Church, Columbus, GA

The Invitation to Discipleship
(please refrain from walking during the invitation to discipleship)

Til We Meet Again

Our Foundation—The Four Pillars

Fellowship is the union of Christian believers sharing their Christian experience, which is every Christian's responsibility. As Christians, we must assemble ourselves together to share, to learn, and to gather strength from one another. Members are asked to attend all activities such as workshops, special services, etc., during special days or special events. (Hebrews 10:25), “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some; but withholding another, and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Evangelism is the means for Christians to spread the news of God’s goodness. Jesus commands us to evangelize and to be fishers of men. During special events and activities, members are asked to witness to at least one un-church person and bring that person to our special activities. (John 15:16), “He that hath not chosen, me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it to you.”

Doctrine is the system of teaching by which Christians must advocate the Word of the Lord. It is a set of Biblical principles and laws by which we are governed. As prophets, it is imperative for us to understand and proclaim the basic beliefs, practices, and principles that make us unique as Baptists. Revivals, special activities, and other learning experiences are available to strengthen our beliefs. In addition to our ongoing Sunday School and Nurturing Baptist Church classes (Baptist Training Union), other services are provided in an effort for us to learn more about Baptist Doctrine. (Mark 4:2), “And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in His doctrine…”.

Stewardship reminds us that as Christians, we are responsible for managing God’s property. Stewardship involves Christians contributing, managing their time, talents, money and resources in doing God’s work. We must recognize the fact that (Psalm 24:1) “The earth is the Lord’s, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.” As owner, God will come back expecting us as Christians to give a report of our stewardship. As we wait for His return, we must demonstrate our commitment through our gifts of time, talent, and tithes. Members are encouraged to tithe consistently and cheerfully. (Luke 12:42), “And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his Lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?”

Antioch Baptist Church North works aggressively to serve this present age as a rock that is:

Bible-based: 2 Timothy 3:16; 17; Psalm 119:105
Christ-centered: John 14:6; Revelation 17:14; John 1:1; Matthew 28:18
Holy Spirit-led: John 16:7-14; Galatians 5:25
Mission-bound: Matthew 25:31-46

TODAY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sunday School Lesson for today November 12th, 2017, is Written on the Heart, and the scripture is Jeremiah 31:27-34. Join us next Sunday when our lesson will be The Go-between, Scripture is Hebrews 12:14-15, 18-29.

THANKSGIVING/CHRISTMAS DONATIONS
Please bring toys, canned goods, and non-perishable food items to fill our Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes, so Antioch can help those less fortunate to experience the joyful holidays. The receptacles have been placed around the church to receive the donations.

ANTIOCH YOUTH BASKETBALL
Youth basketball season is upon us! If your child is interested in playing basketball for the Antioch Panthers, please see Bro. Fred DeVaugn or Bro. James Thompson in the Narthex for more information. Registration begins today after both services. Sign up now!

TERRY WEST BIBLE CLASS
Members and friends are encouraged to join the Terry West Bible Class every Wednesday morning, from 10:00 a.m. to noon in Burden’s Rest. Come share in the fellowship and study the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We are currently studying the Book of Psalms. You are also invited to remain for the Noontime Worship Service.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY CLASSES
Classes for the Antioch School of the Bible summer/fall session begin at 6:00 p.m. Classes are as follows: The Gospel League - Matthew, Mark & Luke Wonder Women of the Bible Let’s Go to Heaven Together - Packing for the Journey Children’s Bible Study Route 66:A Trip Through 66 Books of the Bible Youth Bible Study God’s Not Dead

ADDED MEMBERS OBSERVANCE
Added Members Observance will be held on December 3rd, 2017, during the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. All added members who have joined Antioch between 2015 through 2017 are asked to participate in the Added Members Observance. For more please Sis. Pat Ellis or Sis. Eletria Cossie in the Narthex following both Worship Services.

BAPTISM
Baptism will be held on Sunday, December 10, 2017, during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Candidates are asked to meet downstairs at 10:00 a.m. in Rooms 11-12 for instructions.

DEBIT/CREDIT CARD READER
For the convenience of members and friends, Antioch now offers a Debit Card Reader for giving your tithes & offerings. This service is available on Sundays after each service and is located just outside the door next to the elevator.
Because Antioch Cares…

TELEPHONE HOPE LINE MINISTRY offers prayer and confidential support. The phone number is 404-527-5790.

HUMAN SERVICES MINISTRY
For the week ending November 4, 2017, 434 bags of food were distributed. A total of 14,276 pounds of food was distributed through the AUMI food bank.

CLOTHING BANK
Twenty-nine (29) families received goods through the Clothing Bank.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE INFORMATION
Antioch members are asked to please update their membership profile information via Antioch’s website at www.antiochnorth.org, or call the church office. If you have changed your name, address, home, work or cell telephone number(s), or email address, please submit your new information to the church office. You may also write it on your offering envelope and indicate “New” where it applies. If you are registered with online giving through ACCESS ACS, you may update your information there. You must have an email address on file in order to use ACCESS ACS. For help on how to update your profile, verify your records, retrieve your envelope number, or how to use ACCESS ACS, contact Sis. Gwen Johnson or Dea. Benny Williams in the church office at 404.688.5679.

BABY DEDICATIONS
Baby Dedications are scheduled on a 2nd or 4th Sunday during the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. Baby Dedications are scheduled on a 2nd or 4th Sunday during the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. The dedications are for infants from birth up to six months of age. Please notify the church office at least two weeks prior to the birth of your child to obtain information on the required orientation. Members who joined Antioch in the past several months and have not completed their required orientation are asked to attend classes on Sundays after the 7:45 a.m. worship service in the rear of the Sanctuary. For more information, please contact Sis. Gwen Johnson in the church office at 404.688.5679.

ORIENTATION CLASSES!
Orientation Classes! Members who joined Antioch in the past several months and have not completed the required orientation are asked to attend classes on Sundays after the 7:45 a.m. worship service in the rear of the Sanctuary. For more information, please contact Sis. Gwen Johnson in the church office at 404.688.5679.

ANTIOCH’S MEMORIAL GARDEN
If you have a loved one who has recently passed away and was a member of Antioch who had at least 25 years of service in the Church, we invite you to provide a lasting memorial in the form of a Memorial Plaque that will be mounted in the Antioch Memorial Garden located on the South Wing of the Sanctuary. A nominal fee of $100 covers the cost of the Memorial Plaque and its mounting. This opportunity is made available once a year to family and friends who want the memory and legacy of their loved ones to live on. The Memorial Service is held the fourth Sunday in November of each year. If you would like to purchase a plaque for a loved one, please contact the church office at 404.688.5679 as soon as possible to request additional information.

140th Anniversary Committee
Rev. Lester Duncan
Dea. Clarence Anderson
Sis. Debra Anderson
Bro. Russell Labitue
Sis. Doris Labitue
Sis. Chelsi Lester
Sis. Ashley Phillips
Sis. Dianne Williams
Bro. Tommy Jennings
Sis. Karyl Clayton
Sis. Homerzelle Gentry
Sis. Gwen Williams

Program and Banner Designs
Sis. Lashia Levins
Sis. Johnnie Thomas
Bro. Reggie Tolbert

140th Church Anniversary Ministry Tribute
Verse Speakers - Occasion
Note Singers/Youth Choir - Selection
Dance Ministry (Vessels of Praise, Wise, Youth)
Tribute - Rachel Henderson
Antioch Adult Choir - Selection
Announcements and Recognition of Visitors - Bro. William Evans and Sis. Zion Byrd

THE LITANY OF PRAISE
MINISTER: Let us stand for our Litany of Praise
MINISTER: We are…
CONGREGATION: Bible-based, Christ-centered, Holy Spirit-led, and Mission-bound
MINISTER: We stand on...
CONGREGATION: The four pillars, Fellowship, Evangelism, Doctrine, and Stewardship
MINISTER: So, let us...
ALL: Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is GOD: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD IS good; HIS mercy is everlasting; and HIS truth endureth to ALL generations.

Psalm 100

THE DOXOLOGY..........Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
November 12, 2017

My Brothers and Sisters,

As our Antioch family gathers today for the celebration of our 140th Anniversary, I am deeply humbled to be a part of her rich history. We have come together in one service for a grand family reunion to celebrate our past, rejoice in our present, and look with hope toward our future.

There is a saying that “the more things change, the more they stay the same.” The disputed election of 1876 that installed a Republican as President of the United States signaled the end of Reconstruction in 1877 when the federal troops were withdrawn from the South. The gains made by African Americans during Reconstruction were effectively erased, and racial strife overtook the hope of Reconstruction that racial equality would one day be achieved.

In that climate in 1877, eight former slaves believed Matthew 18:19-20, “That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” The Bethursday Prayer Band knew there was more prayer power when they came together, but there was no church in the Fifth Ward “colored quarters”. It was dangerous to travel through white quarters to other colored sections, so they committed to meeting on Thursdays to rejoice together for how God had kept them and ask the Lord to continue to sustain them.

Like the early church, the Bethursday Prayer Band met from house to house until they were given space in a butcher shop to hold their regular meetings. No doubt, their prayer meetings, after grueling days of hard labor, were much like our old-fashioned worship service on Wednesday night. Our deacons raising hymns echoed the call-and-response foundation of Oscar Young, Miles Crawford, Jordan Beavers, and Lem Wright. Surely, the four other former slaves gave testimonies of how God had brought them through, just as our members did on Wednesday, drawing strength from each other to go on for one more day.

140 years later, we are thankful that we are still digging deep to serve the least, the less, and the loss, and that no matter what storms arise, our house, Antioch North, cannot be shaken. We are blessed to understand that Jesus Christ is not up for re-election; He is the same yesterday, today, and forevermore.

As a testimony to God’s goodness for where we are today, I am asking each member to make a sacrificial financial gift of $140.00, one dollar for each year that God has allowed us to grow and to give...to learn and to live by His grace. This sacrificial gift is above and beyond our normal tithes and offerings and will demonstrate our generational commitment to carrying out God’s plan.

Yours in God’s service,

Reverend Cameron M. Alexander
Pastor
Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

3 John 1:2