



Antioch Connection

TAYLORED TALK *a message for His people*

COMMITMENT

The church is at a very critical point in history. For many years, Christianity had homefield advantage in America. PEW Research Center Study indicates that fifty years ago, about ninety percent of Americans called themselves Christians, today that number is sixty-four percent. According to Christian Scholar, Dr. Jeremy J. Buckner and Senior Pastor, Dr. Ray Fowler, to name a few, we have new gods in the land – gods of knowledge, gods of love and connection, and gods of desire.

Theologian Walter Brueggemann refers to this as “the dethroning of Christian privilege”. Consequently, we are called to minister in a world of atheists, agnostics, “nones”, and polytheists with fewer servants on the team. Most churches, including Antioch, need more servants. The words of Jesus are very relevant to our world, *“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few”*. Simply put, there is a commitment problem.

The COVID-19 pandemic widened the servant gaps in our churches. We have servants who are overly committed while there are many members who have not yet committed to serving in a ministry. I am asking every member to see serving as part of your discipleship and stewardship, because it is. Actually, I want you to do more than see it. I pray that you are or will be committed to doing the following:

- **Evangelism** – making followers of Christ
- **Discipleship** – maturing in faith
- **Fellowship** – meeting the spiritual and social needs of Christ followers
- **Outreach/Missions** – modeling Christlike service
- **Generosity** – financially undergirding the work of ministry and missions

Commitment means to entrust oneself entirely to Jesus the Christ and His commands to His church, irrespective of the circumstances. Are you truly committed? Do you need help to reach this level of commitment? Great news! I need help too. Therefore, I will be preaching the entire month to help us shift gears in our commitment to Christ and His church.

Shifting Gears,

Pastor T



2024

“Shift...Greater Is Coming!”

“And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ”. - *Matthew 22:37*



HISTORY MONTH

Black churches represent a cornerstone for the Black community. Churches have helped solidify black equality and forge social change in the community through: love and commitment to God, fellowship, and by nurturing the spiritual, personal and cultural growth for our people.

The theme for Black History Month in 2024 is African Americans and the Arts to include the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression.

Join Us For

Tuesday Morning Prayer 7:00-7:30am.
Dial (945) 218-0090, access code 1846260.

Churchwide Virtual Prayer Third
Wednesday each month at 6:00pm

Pastor’s Bible Study, Wednesdays 7:00pm

SonRise Bible Study, Thursdays 6:00am

Friday Morning Bible Study, 9:30– 11:00am



Commitment



Antioch Connection

Getting to know Pastor Taylor and Lady Leona

Pastor Taylor and Lady Leona invite you to participate in their Trivia Pursuit game as a fun and interactive way to get to know them better. Over the next several months, each edition of the Antioch Connection will include facts, clues, and/or questions that you can go to the Antioch website to answer. Whoever submits the most correct answers will be treated to dinner with the Pastor. We asked Pastor Taylor and Lady Leona the following questions for Round 3.



Trivia Questions Round 3:

- R3 Q1&2: What is your favorite childhood memory?
- R3 Q3&4: What was your first job?
- R3 Q5&6: Name a female in the Bible you admire, why?

Trivia Answers for Round 2:

- R2 Q1&2** If you could choose to do anything for a day what would it be?
Q1: Pastor Taylor: A. Politician or Military Operation Q2: Lady Leona B. Sleep;
- R2 Q3&4** Who is your favorite male in the Bible and why? Q3: Pastor Taylor: C. Barnabas because of his heart for God and people; Q4 Lady Leona: B. Job: despite losing everything, he continued to trust God and never doubted;
- R2Q5&6:** What skill have you always wanted to learn? Q5 Pastor Taylor C. Carpentry; Q6 Lady Leona B. Playing Piano

Pastor Taylor and Lady Leona Trivia Pursuit

Clues for Round 3 are in this edition. Can you find them?

BLACK HISTORY IS AMERICAN HISTORY!



Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950)
The Father of Black History Month

Black History is Key in Telling America’s Story

Black History Month is an important recognition and celebration worldwide of African American achievement and excellence. Programs are held in schools, government halls, churches and other areas to honor African American history, culture, and accomplishments. But did you know that historian Carter G. Woodson, who conceived the idea of Black History Month, initially mobilized his fraternity brothers from Omega Psi Phi in 1924 to introduce Negro History and Literature Week to recognize Black achievement?

Woodson built on that effort to formalize the annual recognition by using the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History—now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History—to launch Negro History Week in February 1926, according to Britannica. The month of February was selected for the recognition

because it was close to the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln, who had been responsible for the Emancipation Proclamation, and abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

The association organized the recognition to honor the accomplishments of African Americans to encourage scholars to engage in the intensive study of the Black past. “This area of study had previously been largely neglected or distorted in the hands of historians who accepted and perpetuated a biased picture of Black people’s role in and influence on American and world affairs. (Britannica). *World’s Fair*

The importance of the continued study of African American life, history and culture is even more critical today as book bans and legislation increase to erase African Americans’ contributions and rewrite history. It’s also important to remember that the celebration of our culture is a celebration of American history, not just African American history. Click the link below to read 7 Ways to Celebrate Black History Month.

<https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/celebrate-black-history-month/>



Antioch Connection

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS



Antioch's 35th Anniversary Celebration—Forward In Faith, Standing on the Promises of God. Founded on January 8, 1989, under the Leadership of the late Pastor John Q. Gibbs, Antioch celebrated 35 years in January. Our Senior Pastor-Elect, Reverend Dr. Kevin B. Taylor welcomed the Antioch family and guests and

It was an amazing day!... such a prayerful and inspirational communion!
— Sherelle Carper



Founders: Bill and Kim Ryals, Deborah Gibbs, and Virginia Carter

led us in Holy Communion. Reverend Dr. Weaver Blondin of Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Winter Park, FL rendered an inspiring message entitled The Foundational Stones of the Church from I Thessalonians 1:2-3 KJV. Sister Deborah Gibbs shared how Antioch was birthed around the kitchen table in her home and also spoke on behalf of our founders.



Today was amazing! Dawn, who sang **For Every Mountain** was phenomenal! It was a true blessing and a reminder to give God all the praise! - Shanda Ivory



Our anniversary celebration was about family, familiarity, connections, and long-standing relationships! - Aretha Carter



Prayer Breakfast The Partners In Prayer Ministry led by Brother Keith Yancey kicked off the year with a Prayer Breakfast. Reverend Rochella Marable delivered an encouraging message and prayer.





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JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

For 2024, Pastor Taylor’s priorities are preaching, teaching, building relationships, and serving our members and our community. These priorities are underpinned by prayer and a focus on Shifting and Stretching. In January, more than 300 members joined our prayer calls and Bible Studies. Below are the prayers and scriptures from the 21 Days of Prayer. Pastor Taylor’s Bible Study started on Wednesday, January 17th, in the Book of James and he challenged us to STRETCH. For Pastor Taylor’s sermons, prayers, and Bible Studies go to our website at www.antioch-church.org.

MEMBER RECOGNITION

Congratulations! Tyler Savage on achieving the Dean’s list for Fall 2023. Tyler is a senior at East Carolina University. He is an inside receiver/ tight end for the Pirates. Tyler graduates in May and will start his masters in Sports Studies.



Shifting Gears: SHIFTING MY PRAYERS 21 Days of Life Changing Prayers January 10-31, 2024

Day Prayer and Scripture

- 1 Lord, Not My Will, but Your Will... Matthew 26:39
- 2 Lord, Remove The Scales From My Eyes. Acts 9:18
- 3 Lord, Let It Be To Me According To Your Word. Luke 1:34-38
- 4 Lord, Don’t Let My Faith Fail. Luke 22:31-32
- 5 Lord, Please Answer Us When We Pray. 1 Kings 18:37
- 6 Lord, Remember My Walk. Isaiah 38:3
- 7 Lord, Thank You for Remembering Your Word. Isaiah 38:3
- 8 Speak Lord, For Your Servant Hears. 1 Samuel 3:9
- 9 Lord, Remember Me and Not Forget Me. 1 Samuel 1:10-11
- 10 Lord, Please Show Me Your Glory. Exodus 33:18
- 11 Lord, Have Mercy On Me. Psalm 51:1
- 12 Lord, Wash Me Thoroughly. Psalm 51:1
- 13 Lord, Cleanse Me. Psalm 51: 1-2
- 14 Lord, Purge Me. Psalm 51:7
- 15 Lord, Create in Me a Clean Heart. Psalm 51:10
- 16 Lord, Renew A Right Spirit Within Me. Psalm 51:10
- 17 Lord, Don’t Cast Me Away. Psalm 51:11
- 18 Lord, Do Not Take Your Holy Spirit From Me. Psalm 51:10
- 19 Lord, I Will Not Let You Go Until You Bless Me! Genesis 32:26
- 20 God Will Provide! Genesis 22:8
- 21 Lord, Here I Am, Send Me! Isaiah 6:8

Cashier

We are grateful to God for using Antioch over the past 35 years as a rock upon which His kingdom is being built. While we are shifting gears for greater, Matthew 6:33 tells us to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. As we Move Forward in Faith, let’s put on the full armor of God to protect us against any adversaries that might keep us from fulfilling God’s will and purpose for our lives. - ABC Communications Team

I’ve been blessed by our 21 Days of Prayer. I enjoy Pastor Taylor’s bold proclamation of why we must pray and the songs he references. After the call, I listen to the songs and praise God as I start my morning devotion. I text the songs and scriptures to friends and invite them to join us in prayer.
— Shirley Elam



In Loving Memory:

The Antioch Wall of Remembrance was established in 2014 to memorialize members who gained their wings during the calendar year. For 2023, Antioch will honor the following members during the Wall of Remembrance Ceremony on **Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 12:00 Noon** in the Ministry Center:

- ◇ Sister Barbara Goins
- ◇ Brother Phil Julien
- ◇ Sister Dorothy Goins-Graham
- ◇ Brother Otis Elam
- ◇ Sister Deborah Johnson
- ◇ Sister Lorette McKenzie



Shifting Gears: SHIFT MY FAST **BREAKING NEWS**

**Antioch’s Daniel Fast
March 6-28, 2024—21 Days**



Antioch Connection



Brick House by Deloris Witcher "Upon this rock, I will build." —Matthew 16:18a

A brick house can be a term of endearment or a strong secure structure. Which are you? Are you mighty, mighty letting it (stomach and hips) all hang out, or are you a rock? Work is required to make bricks. Hardened clay must be mixed, molded, and put in a hot furnace to produce bricks. Do you have a brick-hard health foundation? Pivotal to a firm health foundation is your weight. Do not make excuses for excess weight. Lose weight now. There is no secret to weight loss — Eat less and move more! It might require effort, but nothing is impossible with God. A brick alone is strong, but the strength of bricks is in numbers. Help build Antioch Baptist Church by doing your hard work to become a strong brick that is healthy enough for the Master builder to use. Be sure to consult your physician before starting your eat less, move more strategy.

Go to the ABC website for information on the **Pound-A-Thon Weight Loss Challenge.** Mary Mark

NEWS YOU CAN USE: DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT TIPS!

Pastor Taylor is passionate about sharing the gospel and spreading the good news in various venues. Many of you have asked how to download apps to follow and like Antioch (AntiochFFX) on social media. See instructions below. To launch your Digital Engagement Journey, join us for a digital engagement training session on **Sunday, February 25, 2024 after the 8:00am and 10:00am worship services.**

Android



1. Open the Google Play store by locating the app on your device..
2. Locate the search box and type the name of the app you are looking for.
3. Click Search.
4. Select the app from the search results.
5. Tap INSTALL.
6. When installation is complete, tap OPEN to launch the app for the first time.

Apple



1. Locate and open the App Store on your device.
2. Click the Search button located in the lower right corner.
3. Tap the Search bar and type the name of the app you wish to download.
4. Click Search.
5. Tap "Get" next to the app name and icon.
6. When installation is complete, tap Open to launch the app.

Save the Dates:

- Feb 3: ABC Congregation Meet & Greet w/ Minister of Music & Arts 10:00—11:30AM Sanctuary
- Feb 4: Minister of M&A leads Music at 8:00AM & 10:00 AM
- Feb 10: Children and Youth Trip to the National Museum of African American History 9:30AM—3:30PM
- Feb 11: NoVA National Pan-Hellenic Council at Antioch 10:00AM
- Feb 11: Wall of Remembrance Ceremony 12:00Noon
- Feb 11: Big Game Fellowship 6:00PM –10:00PM MPR
- Feb 18: RAM—Rising Above with Purpose 1:00PM Virtual
- Feb 22: Quarterly Business Meeting 7:00PM Sanctuary
- Feb 24: Men’s Forum 8:00am—9:30am

Senior Pastor Installation Save the Dates

- Apr 18: Ladies Night to Celebrate Lady Leona
- Apr 19: Sr. Pastor Installation Gala Hilton McLean Tysons Corner
- Apr 20: Sr. Pastor Installation Services



Antioch Fairfax (FFX)

Help us spread the good news and increase our social media presence. Click on the links below and then Follow and Like us on:



Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/AntiochFFX/>



YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/antiochfairfaxstation>



X (formerly Twitter)

<https://twitter.com/antiochffx>



Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/antiochffx>



Antioch Connection

Antioch's Dance Ministry—Glorifying God Through Movement

The Antioch Dance Ministry has always brought a sense of joy to Sunday worship services. Established in 1999, the ABC Dance Ministry was founded by Sister Patricia Jennings after being inspired by songs she heard after returning from a church road trip. She was moved to dance to those songs and was encouraged to birth the ministry. Joining alongside were Sisters Keitha Johnson, Joy Thomas, Sheryl Wyatt, Tanya Easley, and Gizelle Abernathy. Sister Abernathy was instrumental in preparing garments and sewing kits for the dancers.



Currently the Dance Ministry is led by Sister Elaine Chandler. Sister Elaine found herself in awe after seeing a group of dancers praise and worship God through dance. She was encouraged to join the ministry by Reverend Yolanda Waller who suggested she pray about becoming a member and has now been leading the ministry since 2008. She states, "the Dance Ministry is especially important because in obedience and by His Word, we are instructed to praise God in this way. Psalm 149:3 reads, "Let them praise His Name with dancing and make music to Him with timbrel and harp." We are to be The Word and His Music, made visible." The Dance Ministry is dedicated to worshiping the Lord through the art of dance and seeking to glorify God in all aspects of our lives.



Hylton Chapel (Circa 1999) Antioch Dancer under the leadership of Pat Jennings, Dance Ministry's 1st leader



Hylton Chapel (Circa 2007) Antioch Dancers under the leadership of Paula Newman, Dance Ministry's 2nd leader

The Dance Ministry is unique as it is one of Antioch's ministries that is open to just about all ages. It is open to anyone who has a heart to worship God in movement and no prior dance experience is needed. There are five levels within the Dance Ministry: Wee Worship Dancers (ages 5-6), Joyful Praise Dancers (ages 7-9), New Life Dancers (ages 10-18), Hearts of Worship Dancers (ages 19+), and He Is Our Banner Dancers (flag, streamers, and pageantry dancers for ages 10+). Currently the Dance Ministry has 6 adults, 3 teens, and 1 youth dancer. If you are a worshiper who enjoys movement and want to experience worship before the Lord from "the top of your head to the bottom of your feet", then you are strongly encouraged to join this ministry.

The Dance Ministry ministers during worship services on the 4th Sundays of the month, during holidays and at special events. The ministry will soon resume their outreach to local nursing homes. To learn more about this vibrant ministry and how to join, contact Sister Elaine Chandler at abcpraisemovement@gmail.com or 703-517-1965.



Antioch (December 2023) Antioch Dancers under the leadership of Elaine Chandler, Dance Ministry's 3rd leader