



Antioch Connection

Words of Encouragement from Reverend G

Keep the Faith and Stay in the Fight

Today's words of encouragement come from 2 Timothy 4:7-8 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." Church family, if you've ever witnessed a professional boxing match, you've likely heard Michael Buffer's iconic announcement, "Let's get ready to rumble!" The electrifying atmosphere he creates with those words is undeniable. Today, let's prepare to stay in a different kind of fight— not one of physical confrontation but a spiritual battle against any thoughts that hinder our success in serving Christ.

Life presents us with numerous challenges, and there may be moments when you feel like giving up and walking away from the struggle. I urge you not to throw in the towel. Instead, hold on to your faith and stay in the fight. Fight for your purpose, your relationships, your mental well-being, and strive to make this life the best it can be with Christ Jesus as our guide. Remember, when we place our trust in God, He promises us a crown of righteousness. So, whether you're a new believer or a seasoned believer, I encourage you to keep fighting the good fight of faith and never give up. Surrendering guarantees a 100% failure rate, but fighting ensures that even if we lose some battles along the way, ultimately we will win the war with Christ on our side. The Bible reminds us that we are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus. Prepare yourself for the challenges ahead, knowing that there is a rewarding outcome for those who persist in the fight. The reward may come in the form of helping others through life's difficulties, making amends for past unwise decisions, or finding the perfect job. So, please, stay in the fight, for in the end, we emerge victorious. The next time the enemy knocks on your door and tries to bring you down, you need to boldly declare, "Let's get ready to rumble!" Can I get an amen?



Reverend Daniel Simpkins Director of Youth and Young Adults

We are blessed to have Reverend Daniel Simpkins join us as the Director of Youth and Young Adults. Reverend Simpkins is passionate about evangelism and ministering to youth. Reverend Simpkins said, "I am excited about joining the Antioch family, about meeting new brothers and sisters in Christ, and the opportunity to bloom and grow at Antioch. I am looking forward to building memories and working together for the cause of Christ." His favorite scripture is Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths." When faced with difficult challenges, Reverend Simpkins is confident of who he is in Christ. He wants our youth to know we are all fearfully and wonderfully made, and we can trust God to give us the tools needed to make it through any situation.

Reverend Simpkins is a graduate of Norfolk State University and is currently matriculating through the Master of Divinity program at John Leland Center for Theological Studies. He and his lovely wife Natasha of two years, have a beautiful daughter, Jordan and are expecting a new baby. He enjoys spending time with family and playing the saxophone. Please join us in welcoming Reverend Simpkins and his family to Antioch.



Faithfulness Proverbs 3:3-4

³ *Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.*

⁴ *Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.*

Pray with Us



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

Churchwide Virtual Prayer Third Wednesday each month at 6:00pm via the ABC website.



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JULY HIGHLIGHTS

We are incredibly blessed to be able to hold worship services in our Ministry Center Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) while the HVAC system is being replaced in our main sanctuary. Although the MPR is typically used for repasses, fun activities, and events, the MPR was transformed into a beautiful worship center in July. From the platform stage at the front of the room to the media station in the rear, we were blessed beyond measure. We ushered in the Holy Spirit with praise and worship, communion and the preached word. A huge shout out and thank you to our dedicated staff and leadership team for the seamless transition to the MPR.



Do Not Stumble *By Deloris Witcher*

Falls cause serious injuries and disabilities, one of the most serious is fractures. Risk factors that contribute to falls are visible but often not acknowledged until a fall happens. Do these things to help prevent falls.

- Pay attention! Avoid carrying too much at once.
- Talk to your doctor about medications, and health and eye conditions that may increase falls.
- Keep moving, strengthen your legs and muscles to improve balance.
- Wear sensible shoes, avoid slippers, and walking in socks.
- Remove home hazards. Declutter, watch out for electrical cords, and throw rugs that can be tripped on.
- Add night lights to your living spaces — bedrooms and bathrooms; turn on lights before taking the stairs.
- Invest in assistive devices such as handrails for both sides of stairs, grab bars for the tub and shower, shower seats, and handheld shower nozzles.

“My son, do not lose sight of these — keep sound wisdom and discretion,... then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble.” Proverbs 3:21-23

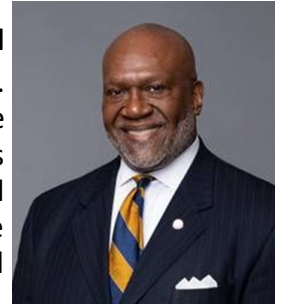




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MEMBER RECOGNITION

Congratulations! Julius “J.C.” Caesar, 2023 U.S. Naval Academy Distinguished Graduate. Antioch’s own Rear Admiral Julius S. “J.C.” Caesar, a 1977 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, was honored in March as a “compassionate leader and mentor” by the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation. The award recognizes recipients who have demonstrated a lifetime commitment to service, exemplary personal character, and distinguished contributions to the nation and their fields of endeavor. The recipients have also dedicated themselves to the support of the Naval Academy and alumni community.



Brother Caesar has held many leadership roles over his distinguished public and private sector career. He achieved Flag rank as a Navy Reserve officer while making his mark in the private sector, helping support a culture of inclusion within the alumni community. He was a minority officer recruiter before serving as a Surface Warfare Officer aboard DALE. Caesar’s first Flag assignment was Reserve Deputy, Commander Navy Installations Command, Washington Navy Yard. He also has served as Vice Director, Joint Concept Development and Experimentation, J9, U.S. Joint Forces Command. His final assignment was Deputy Director, J7, Joint and Coalition Warfighting, Joint Staff, Suffolk, VA. Bro. Caesar is an executive with NetApp, Inc., a Fortune 500 firm, and is president of the Naval Academy Minority Association (NAMA) Shared Interest Group where he began STEM and admissions programs for school-aged students in underserved areas and organized the first Naval Academy Alumni Leadership Forum. He mentors Naval Academy Preparatory School students, writes recommendation letters for Academy applicants, and organized virtual town halls in 2020 as forums where alumni and midshipmen could discuss social unrest issues. Well done! Brother J.C. To view highlights, go to <https://youtu.be/vGHn4xw89Ss> and <https://youtu.be/TOJLqiTHJr8>



Congratulations! Kayla Luss was appointed and served as National Sergeant-at-Arms (2021-2023) for the Top Teens of America (TTA) Conference on July 5-9, 2023, in Los Angeles, California. TTA is a youth organization for boys and girls in middle through high school. Kayla’s Sergeant-at-Arms duties included: being chair of the Timekeepers and Doorkeepers Committee, assigning other teens to ensure time limits of presenters, monitoring the doors to ensure entrants displayed proper credentials, and collecting the late fee from anyone arriving late to a business session. Kayla was initiated into TTA in 2019 and she currently serves as first Vice President of the Alexandria City Chapter. She is a rising senior at South County High School in Lorton, Virginia. Please join us in congratulating Kayla on this esteemed achievement.

Save the Dates:

- August 2: Sr. Pastor Candidate C Bible Study 7—9:00pm
- August 4: Sr. Pastor Candidate C Meet w/ Ministries 6—8:00pm
- August 5: Sr. Pastor Candidate C Breakfast Meeting with GenC /Youth 10am -12pm
Sr. Pastor Candidate C Meet & Greet Social 12:30—2:30pm
- August 6: Sr. Pastor Candidate C Preaches Worship Services 8am & 10am
Sr. Pastor Candidate C Congressional Meet & Greet 11:30am—1:00pm
- August 7: Bylaws Committee Virtual Town Hall 7—8:30pm
- August 17: Bylaws Committee Virtual Town Hall 7—8:30pm
- August 24: ABC Quarterly Business Meeting 7:00pm
- August 31: Bylaws Committee Virtual Town Hall 7—8:30pm



**Antioch Congratulates
College Graduate**

Javier Kendrick Clawson
North Carolina A&T State
University, BS Marketing



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Meet Reverend Langston Scott II, Associate Minister

Langston Scott II, originally from Lynchburg, Virginia, retired from the U.S. Army in 2016. He served service members and their families in healthcare, logistics, and ministry. He served as an enlisted and Non-Commissioned Officer; earned a commission via the Army Officer Candidate School; and served two tours in Iraq with the 3rd Infantry Division. Upon retirement, and recovery from a life changing event, Langston re-entered the workforce as a contractor with AKIMA. AKIMA is an Alaskan based company whose earnings help to support the Inupiat tribe's way of life and culture.

As an ordained minister, Reverend Scott has ministered both nationally and internationally, His life scriptures are found in Psalms 37, verses 1a and 4 which read, "Do not fret because of those who are evil, ... Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart." Reverend Scott said, "From a child and into adulthood, I witnessed how positive momentum in life is sustained, when my focus is on Christ and not tangible benefits. So, through service and genuine care for every person, I've never longed for anything needed." I could easily focus on being divorced, a cancer survivor, and many other societal defined negatives. Yet consistently in life, all that I've experienced, the "good" and the "bad" have led to a testimony to share in the glory to God. As his dad taught him, "Where there is life, there is hope", he continues this theme daily via divinely inserted resiliency and unique sense of humor.

He finds joy in the expression of art, through music, audible books, and joint ventures with his children. He has two adult daughters: Jhazmyne and Janai; and a teenage son Nathaniel of Georgia.

Antioch's Tutoring Ministry Pours Into Our Youth

The Academic Tutoring Ministry at Antioch Baptist Church has been a blessing to many students for quite some time. Founded in the early 1990s by the late Deacon Larry Hester, the Academic Tutoring Ministry serves elementary through college students who desire or need tutoring on academic subjects such as Math, English, Science, Reading, and more. This ministry provides scholastic support to students who are performing well and those who may require help in developing better learning skills. Guided by Proverbs 1:5 "Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance", this ministry contributes to the ABC mission of Loving Others by providing support and academic assistance to students.



Currently led by Brother Ron Middlebrook, The Academic Tutoring Ministry consists of adult volunteers who lend their time, talent, and ideas to assist students in their academic pursuits. Brother Ron felt called to join the Academic Tutoring Ministry based on his love for sharing knowledge combined with a spirit to serve. "Members who join this ministry enjoy assisting students in achieving their academic goals. It's a joy to see the light bulb come on for students who have struggled with a particular topic. And sharpening the skills of students who may be doing well is just as rewarding," says Brother Ron.

Generally following the Fairfax County Public School schedule, the Academic Tutoring Ministry will resume on September 12, 2023 and meet every Tuesday at 7:00 pm during the school year. Volunteers are currently needed to serve and must complete the ABC Child Youth Protection Certification. Student volunteers can gain volunteer credit hours by sharing their talents and strengths with other students. Under the guidance of adult volunteers, these student volunteers will attend the tutoring session and mentor younger students in courses the student volunteer has mastered.

If you have a love for education, a desire to pour into our youth, and are committed to serve, **contact Brother Ron Middlebrook at ron.middlebrook@cox.net to learn more information.**



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Antioch's Elderly Care Ministry Uplifts and Encourages our Senior Community

Visits to local nursing home residents were one of the first outreach ministries initiated by Antioch Baptist Church under founding Pastor John Q. Gibbs. The Elderly Visitation Ministry began in 1990 and was faithfully led from its inception and for many years by Deacon and Deaconess Lee and Zelda Batts. The ministry began with visitation to individual residents of Burke Health Care Center.

The Elderly Care Ministry (ECM) seeks to provide opportunities for worship, instruction, fellowship, and evangelism to the senior community. Activities of the ECM are designed to uplift, encourage, and comfort seniors as the message of Jesus Christ is communicated through the spoken word and caring acts of service. There are many scriptures that speak to giving honor and respect, caring, and seeking wisdom from our seniors. 1 Timothy 5:1-2 provides these thoughts, "Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity."



Membership in the ECM is open to all who desire to provide spiritual fellowship to our seniors. Also, those that are willing to seek out and share new opportunities and resources for senior care. Seniors in our community are often overlooked, forgotten, or assumed to have access to all the resources necessary to fulfill their needs, said Deacon Cary Threat, who leads the ministry. "It is often forgotten that spiritual fellowship is fundamental; essential to the foundation a healthy life and lifestyle," he said.

ECM activities not only include opportunities for fellowship, but symposia and workshops also provide information pertinent to the entire ABC congregation and the local community. These events provide presentations by experts on a range of issues that older adults and their family members face in daily life. The Information Fairs provide access to many community organizations and resources that aid in addressing the needs of aging adults.



Many of the ministry's activities were interrupted by the COVID pandemic and ministry participation was negatively impacted. The ECM is currently seeking to reestablish its activities, inside and outside the walls of Antioch. "We are currently seeking members to take up the staff and assist in the rejuvenation of this vital ministry, developing new opportunities and continuing past outreach activities," said Deacon Threat, who joined the ministry after attending a symposium/conference in 2010. "I attended the conference seeking information which would help me in supporting my mother," he said. "I was so impressed with the information presented, the expertise of the speakers, and the manner in which the event was conducted that I suggested a like event should be held on a more frequent basis. The next year, I was "invited" to assume the task of managing the event!"

To learn more about the ministry, contact Deacon Threat at cthreat@verizon.net, (703) 371-1189.