



# ANTIOCH CONNECTION



An Antioch FFX Publication

VOL. 3 | ISSUE 1

## TAYLORED TALK

*a message for His people*

Dear Antioch Family,

As we embark on a new year, I'm thrilled to announce our church theme for **2025: "Focus: Fulfilling Our Purpose."**

In a world filled with distractions, we must remain steadfast in our faith and committed to our spiritual growth. We will kick off the year with **40 Days of Prayer** beginning on January 1st at 6am. This period of focused prayer and reflection will be a powerful opportunity for spiritual renewal and deepening our relationship with Christ. The Antioch Clergy, including myself, will be leading prayer each morning.

On January 19th, we'll begin our **21-Day Daniel Fast**, which will coincide with the end of the 40 Days of Prayer. Jesus declared that some mountains are only moved through prayer and fasting (Matthew 17:21 KJV). Please join us and stretch your spiritual muscles through these disciplines of fasting and prayer. Your church will support you with cooking classes, devotional messages, and prayer.

Antioch Baptist Church is turning 36! We are planning an amazing, spiritually uplifting celebration on January 12, 2025. The theme for this special occasion is **"All In."** We invite every member of the Antioch family to join us as we celebrate God's faithfulness and look forward to the future.

We're also excited to share that our **Belize Missions Trip** will be from January 13th to 17th. A team of 10 members, including myself, will travel to Belize to serve the elderly in a local nursing home. This mission trip is a testament to our commitment to being the hands and feet of Christ. Pray for us daily that our light will shine, salt will add seasoning, and the people in Belize will know that Antioch C.A.R.E.S.

Let's make 2025 a year of spiritual growth, renewal, and deepening our relationship with Jesus Christ. Together, we will achieve great things for the Kingdom of God.

I love you, and there is nothing you can do about it!

*Pastor T*



### 2025 FOCUS: FULFILLING OUR PURPOSE!

*Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.*

*Mark 8:25 ESV*

### Inside this edition:

- ◆ Christian Education
- ◆ Making Disciples Series
- ◆ Children, Youth, and Young Adult News
- ◆ Six Triple Eight Connection
- ◆ Member Recognition
- ◆ Good Housekeeping
- ◆ Gratitude Challenge Winner
- ◆ December Highlights
- ◆ Antioch's Goals for 2025

## Happy New Year! Join Us For Prayer & Bible Studies

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

Sunday School and C.A.R.E.S. Small Groups resumes January 19 | 9:30am

Wednesday 12Noon and Family Bible Study 7:00pm resume January 15

Thursday SonRise Bible Study resumes January 23 | 6am

Friday Morning Bible Study resumes January 24: | 9:30am



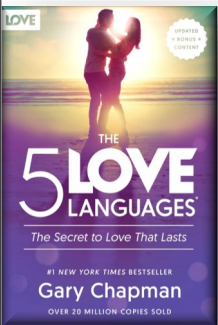
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**Christian Education resumes January 19th from 9:30AM—10:15AM**

*Start the New Year in one of our Bible Studies*

**Antioch C.A.R.E.S. Small Groups**

Choose from a host of spiritual growth opportunities selected or designed just for you. The winter sessions will be 11 weeks starting January 19th through March 30th. The spring sessions will last 6 weeks — from April 6th through May 18th and will include a break for Easter on April 20th. Pre-registration is required for these classes. You may register online. Also, check out the new Making Disciples Series highlighted on page 3 and the full line up of Antioch Bible Studies on our website.



## Married Couples

***The 5 Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts* by Gary Chapman**

Dr. Chapman identifies five basic languages of love and then guides couples towards a better understanding of their languages of love. The class will complete the *Love & Respect* book and then start this one. Deacons Capers and Beverly Brown will guide you on this journey towards stronger, more meaningful relationships.



## Who is the Holy Spirit? Part 2 Rev. Jim Harden

Learn more about the Holy Spirit and His role in your life.



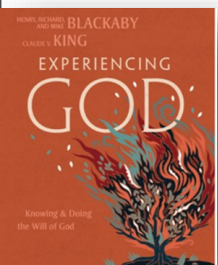
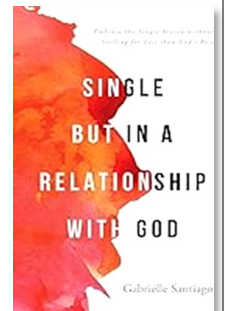
## How To Build a Strong Prayer & Devotional Life Rev. Rochella Marable

Develop and strengthen your prayer and devotional life.

## Singles

***Single But In a Relationship with God* by Gabrielle Santiago**

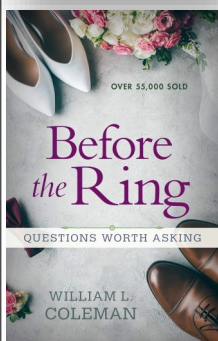
It can be tempting to take things into our own hands and settle for relationships that are less than God's best. The single season doesn't have to be a time of emptiness and fear. It can be a fulfilling one as we embrace our relationship with God. Learn how to embrace your single season with boldness as you embrace your relationship with God. Learn how to thrive in your single season. Sister Kiah Spinks will lead this transformative class.



## Adults of All Ages

***Experiencing God* by Henry, Richard, and Mike Blackaby**

Are you looking to deepen your relationship with God? The newly-revised *Experiencing God* Bible study has guided millions on this journey. This study will help you uncover seven essential truths about God that many Christians overlook. By understanding these truths, you can unlock a deeper faith, greater obedience, and transformative changes in your life. Brother Joe Alexander will lead this impactful study.



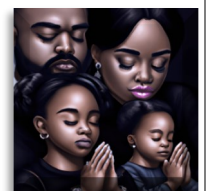
***Before the Ring: Questions Worth Asking* By William L. Coleman**

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have peace of mind after the big day? Many couples enter into matrimony without knowing how to grow and sustain their relationship. *Before the Ring* is a tool to enrich the marriages of engaged or soon-to-be engaged couples with wisdom and insight prior to saying

"I do". Discover compassionate guidance and wisdom that empowers couples to create a lifelong bond. Join this interactive couples-led session.

**Wednesday Bible Studies will resume on January 15th with a Daniel's Fast Bible Study.**

Join Pastor Taylor for an enriching verse-by-verse exploration of the Bible. Enhance your understanding of the scriptures and participate in engaging discussions. **Family Bible Study** begins at 7pm. Enjoy a nutritious dinner from 5:30p.m. to 6:30pm with a homework study hall for children and youth before Bible Study. For those who prefer an in-person experience but can not attend the evening session, each week there is an in-person **Wednesday 12 Noon Bible Study** for adults.





# ANTIOCH CONNECTION

## GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES

As Christians, each of us are called to fulfill the Great Commission. Matthew 28:19 compels us to seek the lost and to share our faith. We hope you will prayerfully consider participating in our new ***Making Disciples Series***. This 3-part study will equip you with the principles and techniques required to become an effective Ambassador for Christ. After completing the series, you will be fully prepared and armed with the tools necessary to engage in life-changing evangelism and discipleship. This is a vital part of our individual and collective commitment to grow God's Kingdom. If you have already completed Bible Foundations, you can start with the Evangelism Series — Parts 2 and 3: Every Believer Can and Share Jesus Without Fear on January 19th.



### MAKING DISCIPLES SERIES

**Objective:** This 3-part study will equip you with the principles and techniques required to become an effective Ambassador for Christ.

#### 1. Biblical Foundations



This **11-week course** that is designed to teach the basics of faith that every Christian should know. It is especially beneficial for new believers.

#### 2. Every Believer Can



This **6-week course** empowers the Christian to become an effective witness for Christ.

#### 3. Share Jesus Without Fear



This **4-week course** teaches you how to confidently and effectively share your Christian faith with others in any setting.

## Children, Youth, and Young Adults: News You Can Use

December was a joyful and activity-filled month for our children and youth ministries! The Youth Lock-In was a tremendous success with attendees enjoying a night of fun games, movies, and meaningful Bible study. It was so much fun; we will do this again soon. Save the Date for Good Friday, April 18, 2025!

Our younger kids celebrated the true reason for the season with a heartfelt birthday party for Jesus featuring an inspiring message from speaker Sister Tonyi Pelham. They also crafted Christmas cards that were sent to Sunrise Senior Living at Fair Oaks and Burke Health Rehabilitation Center.

Some of the children and youth also helped with sorting and organizing gifts for the annual Giving Tree project. We also welcomed our college students back home for winter break—embracing their presence in our fellowship. The Praising Saints blessed us all with their beautiful voices during the Christmas program, which added a perfect touch to the season's celebrations. Gen-C spread holiday cheer by going Christmas caroling throughout the community. What a wonderful month of faith, fellowship, and fun!

If you would like to learn more about how you can help minister to our children and youth, contact Rev. Daniel Simpkins at [dsimpkins@antioch-church.org](mailto:dsimpkins@antioch-church.org) or Sister Tiffany Horne at [tiffanymhorne@gmail.com](mailto:tiffanymhorne@gmail.com).







# ANTIOCH CONNECTION

## The ICONIC 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion



**Audrey Lucus**

Army Veteran; member of  
all female African  
American Army Unit **6888**

In 1944, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt along with Mary McLeod Bethune (National Council of Negro Women), advocated for the admittance of African American Women into the Women's Army Corps (WAC). They worked to get support for a role for Black women in Europe during World War II. Recruitment of African American women was limited to 10% of the WAC population, which was equivalent to the proportion of African Americans in the U.S. population.

In November of 1944, the War Department approved sending African American women to serve in Europe. The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was established. Making it the first and only predominately all Black WAC Unit sent overseas. The mission of the unit, which consisted of approximately 855 women, was to sort about 17 million pieces of mail that had been stored in warehouses and not delivered for up to three years. The troops serving in Europe during WWII and the families here at home were not receiving mail. This lack of communication had a major negative impact on the morale of the troops and their families.

The 6888th Battalion was deployed to Birmingham England in February 1945. Their motto was "No mail-low morale". The Battalion spent time in England, Rouen and Paris, France clearing millions of pieces of mail. The conditions were challenging. They faced racism, sexism, working in buildings without heat in the winter, discrimination by fellow service personnel, and the task of working around-the-clock shifts 7 days a week. They created systems to sort and deliver mail to the troops who were constantly moving and also to their families. The unit processed 65,000 pieces of mail each shift, and they handled mail for 4 million military troops.

The mission was completed in 90 days instead of the six months allotted. This was a task that they were not expected to accomplish. The unit returned to the United States where it was discontinued in March 1946. Upon their return, there was no public recognition for their service.

The House of Representatives introduced H.R. 1012 on February 11th, 2021 to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Battalion. This bill became law in March 2022.

***The Medal is currently being minted.***

On September 16, 2024, the Virginia General Assembly designated the day as the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day which will be recognized in each succeeding year.

The movie about the 6888th Battalion, currently available on Netflix, was written, directed, and produced by Tyler Perry.

Antioch has a direct connection to the 6888th Battalion: Mother Catherine Dailey is the sister of the late Audrey Romaine Lucas, who was a member of the 6888th Battalion. Ms. Lucas has two nieces who also are members of Antioch, Sister Madeline Arter and Sister Betty Mial.



*Thank You to all of our Service Men and Women!* ❤️



# ANTIOCH CONNECTION

## MEMBER RECOGNITION



Janice Brangman

### Two dedicated Antioch members elected to the Strategic Leadership Team

Congratulations to Sister Janice Brangman and Brother Julius Ceasar on being elected by the Antioch membership to join the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). Under the leadership of Pastor Taylor, the SLT collaborates on Antioch's mission, vision, and goals, and sets annual budget priorities among other responsibilities.



Julius "J.C." Ceasar

Both Sister Brangman and Brother Ceasar are dedicated, long-time members of Antioch, and bring years of service to the church in various capacities. Sister Brangman, a 20-year member, serves in the Justice Empowerment and Communications ministries. She has been active in the Fairfax County and has served on both the Economic Advisory Commission and the Human Rights & Equity Commission.

Brother Ceasar, also a 20-year member and a graduate of the Antioch Bible Institute, is involved in the CARES HIV-AIDS Ministry and serves as president and CEO of the U.S. Naval Academy Minority Association.

Thank you both for your willingness to serve in these important positions.

## Good Housekeeping *by Deloris Witcher*

**"Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit." 1 Cor 6:19a NKJV**

If Jesus was coming to visit for a couple of weeks, how would you prepare? You might start by cleaning your house. Saints, Jesus has already come into your home — not to visit but to take up permanent residency. Start the new year by critically examining yourself then clean your house. Sweep away bad habits like a sedentary lifestyle, unhealthy eating, and poor sleep habits. Vacuum then discard negative mindsets and procrastination. Purge all joy killers like stress. Only you know what is robbing you of peace and causing you stress. Don't waste time making resolutions you will not keep. Ask the Savior to help you see the areas in your life that need cleansing. Then, **Just do it!** Clean house, change direction, shift. Never underestimate the power of small, consistent changes.

In the spirit of removing items that stress us — regular exercise, eating healthy, and proper rest are also excellent ways to be ready to combat stress. Sign up for the Pound-a-thon starting the first Sunday in January. Join a team of losers to lay aside weight!



## Congratulations Rev. Dr. Melvin Jones

***Winner of the Gratitude Challenge!***

In November, the Antioch family united to express daily gratitude through the Antioch Gratitude Challenge on the Build Your Faith App™. A total of 29 participants joined the challenge.

We are thrilled to announce that Rev. Dr. Melvin Jones submitted the most entries, earning an Amazon Gift Card and the prestigious title of 2024 Antioch Gratitude Challenge Champion!



Special thanks to Sister Deloris Witcher and Sister Sonja Sulcer for organizing and inspiring this wonderful challenge.

The Build Your Faith App™ remains available to the Antioch family for prayers and daily reflections of gratitude. For free access to the app, please contact Sister Sulcer at [buildyourfaithapp@gmail.com](mailto:buildyourfaithapp@gmail.com).



# DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



**Music & Arts Ministry  
Annual Christmas Program**



**Music & Arts Ministry  
Annual Christmas Program**



**Music & Arts Ministry  
Annual Christmas Program**



**Music & Arts Ministry  
Annual Christmas Program**



**Lifewaters Ministries  
Annual Fundraising Gala**



**Music & Arts Ministry  
Annual Christmas Program**



**Women's Christmas Fellowship  
and Service Project**



**Extended the Right Hand of  
Fellowship**



**New Members United with Antioch**



**Donovan Angel Foundation  
8th Annual Gala**



**World AIDS Day Awareness and  
Support**



**Missions Advisory Committee  
partnered with F.A.C.E.T.S.**



# ANTIOCH CONNECTION

## 36 YEARS AND COUNTING!

On January 8, 1989, Antioch Baptist Church was founded by the late Rev. Dr. John Q. Gibbs. Pastor Gibbs and his wife Deborah, his sister Virginia Carter, and close friends, Bill and Kim Ryals, prayed for one year before planting this church we call Antioch. After a brief but rich ministry, Pastor Gibbs was called home to be with the Lord on May 23, 1995. The Rev. Dr. Marshal L. Ausberry then served as Pastor from 1995 to 2022. Under his guidance, Antioch continued to thrive with numerous ministries established and missions supported.

Under the leadership of our new Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Kevin B. Taylor, this year Antioch will celebrate 36 years of serving God. Pastor Taylor is inviting and encouraging all members to engage in this jubilant celebration! Come and see the goodness of God up front, close, and in person.

Our 2025 goals are directly tied to our vision, mission, and core values. Antioch's Vision is to be a six-generational church that **C.A.R.E.S.** Our Purpose is **Loving God, Loving Others**. Our Mission is **Worshipping** God, studying God's **Word**, volunteering to **Work** in ministry, and reaching the **World** for Jesus Christ. We are enthusiastic about what God has in store for Antioch in 2025. With each member actively engaged, we can make great progress in growing God's kingdom, in growing spiritually, and in serving our local, national, and global communities.



Theme for 2025: "Focus"  
Mark 8:24-25

### Antioch Goals 2025

1. **Win 50 souls for Jesus Christ**
  - Reaching the **World** for Christ
  - **E**vangelizes
2. **Be a tithing church via missions and community outreach:**  
50% locally; 35 nationally; 15% globally
  - Reaching the **World** for Christ
  - **C.A.R.E.S.**
3. **50% of active membership serving in ministry and missions/ community outreach**
  - **W**orking in Ministry
  - **S**erves, **C**haritable, and **R**elational
4. **200 members engaged weekly in Christian education and discipleship.**
  - Studying God's **W**ord
  - **A**dapts and **R**elational
5. **50 children and youth engaged weekly**
  - Studying God's Word and **W**orshipping God
  - **C.A.R.E.S.**

<sup>24</sup>And he looked up and said, "I see people; but they look like trees, walking." <sup>25</sup>Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Mark 8:24-25 ESV

Come In-Person on  
January 12, 2025  
for our

36

ANNIVERSARY  
celebration

"All In"

8:00am and 10:30am Worship Services

## Save the Dates

- Jan 12 Antioch's 36th Anniversary Celebration
- Jan 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- Jan 27 DMV Musicians & Singers honor Todd Gholar\*
- Apr 5 Noah - Sight and Sound Trip/Women's Ministry
- Apr 6 Pastor Taylor's 1 year Anniversary Celebration

\*Third Party Event hosted by or honoring Antioch members

Join Pastor Taylor on a study tour to Greece and Turkey  
September 2025.

For more information contact:  
Rev. Rochella Marable at [rcmarable@cox.net](mailto:rcmarable@cox.net)



Facebook

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Instagram

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X (formerly Twitter)

[www.twitter.com/AntiochFFX](https://www.twitter.com/AntiochFFX)



Instagram

[www.instagram.com/antiochffx](https://www.instagram.com/antiochffx)