



ANTIOCH CONNECTION



An Antioch FFX Publication

VOL. 3 | ISSUE 5

TAYLORED TALK

a message for His people

Evangelism Month

Antioch Family,

As we enter the month of May—Evangelism Month—I am reminded that evangelism isn't just what we do, it's *who we are*. As a church that C.A.R.E.S., evangelism stands at the center of our identity. From our youngest saints to our seasoned soldiers of the cross, we are called to be soul winners for Jesus Christ. We are a six-generation church, and each generation carries the baton of spreading the Good News with love, passion, and purpose.

Our core mission is rooted in the command to make disciples. Evangelism is not merely about growing numbers—it's about growing hearts, growing faith, and growing the Kingdom. Loving God and loving others means we must give people the most precious gift we've ever received: the opportunity to know Jesus Christ and be added to His Church.

I want to take this moment to offer my deepest thanks to each of you for your participation in our Holy Week experiences. From Palm Sunday to the Easter Cantata, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Youth Fellowship and Easter Egg Hunt, all the way to Resurrection Sunday—*what a time we had!* We witnessed record attendance and most importantly, more souls were added to the church. Your commitment and enthusiasm were felt and appreciated.

Thank you for watching the *40 Days of Focus* videos during Lent. They helped keep us spiritually aligned as we journeyed toward the Highest Holy Day. And remember—God is *still* in the business of resurrection. Happy Mother's Day to all moms and mother figures.

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

In Calvary's Bond,

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:

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Join Us For Prayer & Bible Studies

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

Sunday School and C.A.R.E.S. Small Groups | 9:30am—10:15am

Wednesday 12Noon and Family Bible Study | 7:00pm

Thursday SonRise Bible Study | 6am and Friday Morning Bible Study | 9:30am



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ANTIOCH GREEN LEARNING & PLANTING DAY

Since Fall 2023, the Virginia Department of Forestry has advised Antioch on tree health, invasive plant removal, and eco-friendly landscaping practices. On Saturday, May 10th from 9am—12Noon, Antioch will hold a tree planting event. The guest speaker will be Jacob Zielinski of the Department of Forestry. The event will focus on caring for God's creation on the Antioch campus.

May 10th Event Activities Planned:

- Planting 80–100 native tree saplings across the campus
- Educational briefings with tree planting demonstrations
- Tree identification walks
- Hands-on learning activities promoting environmental literacy for all ages

You are invited to participate in this Green Initiative. Volunteers are asked to:

- Wear closed-toe shoes, long pants, and sleeves
- Bring gloves, water bottles, and sun protection
- Be physically prepared for outdoor work (digging, planting)



For more information, go to the Antioch Website at www.antioch-church.org or contact Sister Anna Dixon, Green Ministry Leader, at afd@dixonmediationgroup.com.

The **Antioch Green Ministry** was instrumental in preparing our campus for Resurrection Sunday. They trimmed overgrown branches, planted new shrubs, and assembled benches to ensure we were ready to welcome members and guests.



ANTIOCH FFX WORLD VISION GLOBAL 6K WALK/RUN/ROLL

World Vision
Annual Global 6K Walk/Run/Roll
for Clean Water

Help us raise \$50,000 to bring clean water to disadvantaged families.



For questions, contact Dr. Christie Murray,
christiemurrayexec@gmail.com

Did you know that over 703 million people globally lack clean drinking water access and walk an average of 6 kilometers or 3.7 miles each day to find water?

In support of the **World Vision Global 6K Walk/Run/Roll for Clean Water**, Antioch is inviting all members, your families, friends and colleagues to join us at **Burke Lake Park on May 17, 2025, at 9 am** for food, fun, and fellowship with a purpose. We invite you to join us in supporting clean water access to communities around the world. The **registration cost is \$50 for adults and \$25 for youth ages 18 and under**. The registration fee includes a t-shirt, race bib, and medal shipped to your registration address. **You can register or donate at [Antioch FFX - Fundraising For Team World Vision](#).**

If you are unable to join us at the park, you can participate virtually or donate online. Our goal this year is \$50,000. Unite with us and help to make a tremendous impact in bringing clean water to disadvantaged communities around the world.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this important mission! If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Christie Murray, Antioch's 6K Walk Coordinator at christiemurrayexec@gmail.com.



ANTIOCH CONNECTION

MISSION FOCUSED: CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK

Antioch Staff Puts C.A.R.E.S. Into Action at the Capital Area Food Bank

On a mission to serve beyond the walls of the church, Pastor Taylor and the Antioch staff spent a powerful half-day volunteering at the Capital Area Food Bank on April 8, 2025. Embodying the Antioch C.A.R.E.S. values—Charitable, Adapts, Relational, Evangelism, and Serve—the team not only donated \$1,000 but also rolled up their sleeves to sort 2,400 pounds of food for families in need.

With each family receiving 25 pounds of food, the impact was tangible. The experience also deepened relationships among staff and with volunteer coordinator Jeremy, who led with heart, music, and a moving personal testimony of loss and resilience.

The day was a reminder of the power of unity and compassion. Antioch looks forward to returning with even more hands and hearts ready to serve. At Antioch, serving is a part of our DNA.





ANTIOCH CONNECTION

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

"Pastor and People" 1st Anniversary — To God Be All the Glory!

Antioch joyously celebrated the first anniversary of Pastor Taylor's faithful leadership of our church family on Sunday, April 6, 2025, marking a year of spiritual growth, community outreach, and heartfelt worship under his shepherding care. Guided by the theme "All In!", the congregation gathered for two stirring services, unified in gratitude for God's faithfulness throughout Pastor Taylor's inaugural year.

A Morning of Worship and Thanksgiving

Both services brimmed with praise, prayer, and proclamation, led by songs of praise from the youth and adult choirs, echoing Psalm 100:4 — "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise."

Rev. Arthur Jackson III, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Miami



Gardens, FL, stirred our spirits at the 8a.m. service with his sermon, "Positioned to Prosper". His said, "If you keep pouring out, God will keep pouring in!" At 10:30, Pastor Jackson preached on "A Faith that Gives Birth to Favor." His dynamic preaching honored Pastor Taylor's milestone and also encouraged believers to deepen their commitment to Christ.



Ministries' Heartfelt Tributes

Antioch ministry leaders offered meaningful gifts and reflected on how Pastor Taylor's leadership has helped inspire their work during the celebratory reception. From the Hospitality Ministry to the Women's Ministry to the Music and Arts Ministry, each shared their ministry's commitment to Antioch and growing the kingdom.



Highlights of Fellowship, Remembrance, and Insight

Heartfelt video tributes brought tears and laughter during the reception: tears from Pastor Taylor as his mother shared her happiness and pride, and laughter as the pastoral staff offered an inside look at their day-to-day work with Pastor T. In addition, the "A Week in the Life" video provided a glimpse of Pastor Taylor's week of service to God, Antioch, and the community. These visual testimonies served as poignant reminders that every step of ministry is ordained by the Lord. Sister Keitha Johnson and Rev. Dennis Drake emceed the reception.



Looking Forward in Faith

Pastor Taylor and Lady Leona shared their gratitude and love for Antioch. Co-chairs Trustee Beverly Wilson and Deacon Kim Fuller-Reid shared expressions of thanks to volunteers, members, the staff, and to the Anniversary Committee. "Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for commitment, sacrifices, and hard work in making this an amazing event. We made the plans, and God magnified the efforts," Sister Reid said. With hearts renewed and spirits uplifted, Antioch steps boldly into the future, confident that "He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6 ESV). Here's to God's continued grace, power, and purpose for Antioch, our Pastor, and our People!



ANTIOCH CONNECTION

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

On **Palm Sunday**, Pastor Taylor shared that Palm Sunday is about Kingdom assignments and the need for us to stay focused. In his sermon titled, "Stay Focused on the Signs" from Mark 11:1-11 ESV, he pointed to Jesus' shift and His awareness of what was to come. Jesus did not silence Bartimaeus when he called out to Jesus to have mercy on him. Instead, Jesus maintained His focus. We too must maintain focus. Later that day, Rev. Bernard Corbett, Minister of Music and Arts, blessed us with an Easter Cantata including a special assembly of orchestra, guest artists, and our Mass Choir. Selections included *Total Praise*, *Have You Heard About Jesus*, *Jesus Paid It All*, and a host of spiritual selections.



Our Women's Ministry journeyed to Sight & Sound Theatres in Lancaster, PA to see "Noah" on April 5th.



Rev. Dr. Henry P. During, Jr., Star Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, Triangle, VA blessed us **on Maundy Thursday** with a message from Luke 22: 14-22 NKJV titled "Remember Me." He compelled us to never forget what the Lord has done for us.



Maundy Thursday: With humility, 3 Deacons washed the feet of 3 Ministers.



Good Friday Service: Antioch's clergy delivered The Seven Last Sayings of Jesus Christ.



Friday Fellowship for Teenagers: Who betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver?

The Joy of the Resurrection Easter Egg Hunt: This year's event was a special multigenerational celebration that brought families together for a day of faith, fun, and fellowship. Children began with a meaningful Gospel message before joyfully hunting for eggs. Older kids served by helping set up for the younger ones, enjoyed a game truck, and received a Gospel message tailored to their age group. Meanwhile, parents had a space to relax and connect with Antioch's Connection Team. The event offered both fun and spiritual connection for all ages.





ANTIOCH CONNECTION

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

Resurrection Sunday! “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” was the question raised by three women as they planned to visit Jesus’ tomb early Sunday morning. (Mark 16:1-8 ESV) Pastor Taylor’s sermon titled, “The Resurrection: God’s Plan” brought home 3 key points: God Removed the Stone; God Repurposed Sunday; and God Resurrected His Son. Pastor Taylor urged us to keep trusting God and showing up even when we don’t have all the answers—Faith honors God and God honors Faith. We should not allow what we cannot do stop us from showing up. God raised Jesus just like He said he would. We should



Praise God because Christmas is the Promise and Easter is the Proof! Hallelujah!



Praise God because Christmas is the Promise and Easter is the Proof! Hallelujah!

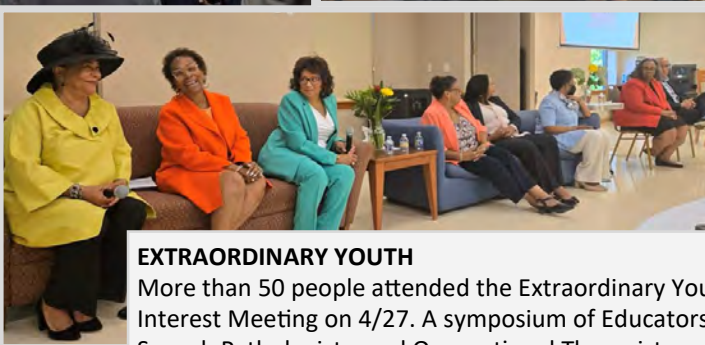
Baptisms:
Four of our youth professed their faith and were baptized on Easter Sunday.



We experienced God’s continued blessings and favor with a full house, baptisms, new members joining, and a powerful message, “The Resurrection: God’s Plan”.



Photo Booth: Dressed in their Sunday best, members and friends lined up to take photos.



EXTRAORDINARY YOUTH

More than 50 people attended the Extraordinary Youth Interest Meeting on 4/27. A symposium of Educators, Speech Pathologists, and Occupational Therapists discussed strategies for ABC to be inclusive. Bro. Darryl and Sis. VeVe Davis lead the Ministry.





ANTIOCH CONNECTION

LIFE AT THIS STAGE by Negleatha Johnson

A Petal (and a Thorn) from The Rose

Momma died unexpectedly on February 20, 2018. It's still the reality that will forever seem unreal. Would I ever be able to navigate life knowing that the person who brought me into this world, is nowhere in the world to be found?

I shared remarks during her homegoing service. That was the first time I called her The Rose. Like a rose, she was a combination of soft petals with a complement of thorny branches. That was Momma. She could engage her tongue in a way that was far more prickly than any thorn; yet she possessed a way of showing love that surpassed the tenderness of a rose's petal. That was Momma.

When she passed, my desire was to somehow extract and embed what I considered the best parts of her (the petals) and make them my own. As a mother and grandmother, I now realize that the best parts are both the petals and the thorns. Like Momma's rabbit tobacco tea, being a Mom is that combination of having to lovingly serve up that which was good for you, but not easily swallowed. Life at this stage has helped me to see the beauty of the rose more clearly—petals, thorns and all.



Every Dollar Counts

Our Graduating High School Seniors need financial support! Recent changes at universities across the country are resulting in fewer scholarships and less financial assistance for students of color. **From now until May 18th, you can make a difference for our graduates** by scanning the QR Code or visiting Antioch's website at antioch-church.org and clicking on the Giving Tab to **contribute to one or more of the Scholarships listed in the drop-down box.** If the U.S. Treasury Prints It, Antioch Will Accept It! Because more than ever: **Every Dollar Counts!**

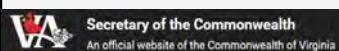


Justice Empowerment Ministry: JEMs For You!

VOTE: VIRGINIA PRIMARIES: Early voting: May 2-June 14; Primary on June 17

Most Americans know about elections held in November to fill offices, but how do candidates get on that ballot? Major parties use primary elections to determine their nominees. The 2025 June primary elections' called offices include the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General as well as Virginia House of Delegate Offices and called local offices. It is important for us to make our voices heard in the primaries. Be sure to cast your vote early or vote on June 17th. Candidate lists for the June 17, 2025 Republican and Democratic Party Primaries are posted on ELECT's Candidates & Referendums webpage.

SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL WORKERS AND CONTRACTORS: The State of Virginia, Fairfax County and NOVA have established resources to assist VA residents impacted by the Federal Workforce actions. For more information, click the links below or go to the website listed.



The State has established [a resource page for federal workers](https://www.governor.virginia.gov/constituent-services/federal-employee-resources). Click the link or go to <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/constituent-services/federal-employee-resources>

Fairfax County has created a dedicated [resource page](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/help-residents-affected-federal-workforce-restructuring). Click the link above or go to <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/help-residents-affected-federal-workforce-restructuring>



Northern VA Community College – **NOVA** is offering free courses for Laid-off Federal Workers. Click [NOVAnext | No](https://www.nvcc.edu/academics/workforce/novanext/index.html) or go to <https://www.nvcc.edu/academics/workforce/novanext/index.html>



ANTIOCH CONNECTION

No Thing by Deloris Witcher

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil 4:6-7 NIV

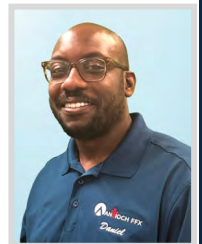


Are you having trouble sleeping and experiencing constant acid reflux, racing thoughts, and elevated blood pressure? Maybe you feel anxious. According to a leading psychologist, anxious thoughts arise from the brain's effort to keep us alive. For the brain, survival outweighs happiness, so it generates worse-case scenarios to prepare us for disaster. The issue is that the brain often miscalculates. Ninety-one percent of our anxious thoughts and worries do not materialize. So, stop worrying and start praying. Tell the Lord what is distressing you and what you want or do not want to happen. Then, release this prayer in faith, detaching yourself from those worries that were attached. The Lord promises you peace and protection for your heart and mind.

Children, Youth and Young Adults: News You Can Use

We are grateful for all that God has allowed us to do in April through our Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries! Special thanks and shout outs go to the following:

- ◆ Sis. Candace Chambers and her dedicated team for organizing a wonderful Easter Egg Hunt. Your willingness to serve both God and our community is truly appreciated!
- ◆ Our Youth Ministry Team for leading an impactful Youth Fellowship on Good Friday. Our youth were actively engaged in two community service projects:
 - Filling over 2,000 Easter eggs for our church outreach
 - Assembling 50 blessing bags for the homeless served by the Lamb Center



Rev. Daniel Simpkins

We are so proud of their commitment to service!

- ◆ Sis. Debra Beasley and her team for preparing college care packages for our students. These thoughtful gifts are a blessing as our students approach final exams. Let's continue to lift them up in prayer—for strength, success, and safe travels home.



Save the Date: Family Vacation Bible School (Family VBS): July 7 – July 11 (Churchwide)

Dinner: 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Classes for Children & Youth + VBS Revival Services: 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

We're looking forward to a powerful week of fellowship, learning, and fun for the whole family!

If you have any questions about our programs or upcoming events, feel free to reach out to me at

dsimpkins@antioch-church.org.

CALLING ALL ANTIOCH BUSINESS MEN & WOMEN

Antioch Baptist Church is creating resources for our members who are impacted by the Government firings. This will be a multi-pronged process that will start with creating a business directory.

INFORMATION REQUESTED

- Business Name
- Business Description
- Business Contact Info
- Pro Bono Services?

SCAN TO SIGN UP

Call Us 703-425-0710

Visit Our Website www.antioch-church.org

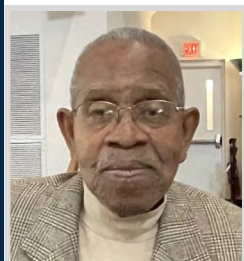
BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Antioch is creating resources for members impacted by the mass layoffs of government employees. As we support each other in these challenging times, this multi-pronged process will start with creating an Antioch business directory. If you are a business owner and you would like to participate, please scan the QR code and provide the following information: Business Name, Business email and phone number, and Business description/services, as well as pro bono services you are willing to provide.



ANTIOCH CONNECTION

WELCOME CLERGY



Welcome Minister Elijah Crawford's first encounter with Antioch was at Mount Olive Baptist Church, Arlington, VA where he witnessed Rev. Dr. John Q. Gibbs' trial sermon. He and his wife, Pauline, of 48 years, were dedicated members and he also served as a Deacon. When Pauline passed in 2004, Deacon Crawford united with Antioch Baptist Church and served here from 2005 – 2010. He was blessed to meet and marry Elder Rosa Harper of Alleyne AME Zion Church in Alexandria, VA. Believing that it was important to serve together, he moved his membership to Alleyne where he served faithfully with his bride until November 2024 when she gained her wings.

Minister Crawford was called to ministry in April 2013. He did his trial sermon in June 2013 and was licensed in the AME Zion Church in September 2013 at the age of 80. In 1990 he was inducted into the Vashon High School Hall of Fame along with fellow classmate, Congresswoman Maxine Waters. At 93 years young, he is still on the battlefield with no intention of going backward.

His favorite book of the Bible is Hosea as it depicts God's incredible love and displays that the door is never closed. His dear Rosa expressed this same loving sentiment as she stated, "Irrespective of what we encounter together, the door is never closed. You are always welcome to come back home."

Welcome Minister Negleatha Johnson, affectionately known as "Dr. J," is a native of Kinston, North Carolina, and the youngest of five daughters. In 1996, Dr. Johnson answered the call to full-time ministry. She and her husband, Jimmy, co-founded *Life Water Ministries International*, an outreach committed to hope, healing, and restoration. Their flagship program, *Sarcoma REACH*, supports those impacted by Sarcoma Cancer. She is also a songwriter, vocalist, and CEO of Negleatha Johnson LLC, with her latest single, "The Juniper Tree," set to release this spring.



Dr. J and her family first joined Antioch in the mid-1990s and reconnected in July 2024. Married for 43 years and a proud mother to Zenita and grandmother to three, she values family time. She also enjoys road trips, live concerts, and supporting her husband's photography. A 46-year member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., she is active in the Zeta Chi Omega chapter, writes for the *Antioch Connection*, and serves on the Assimilation and Connection Team. Dr. J holds a B.A. in Music Education from St. Augustine's University, an M.S. in Student Personnel Administration from Central Missouri State University, and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of New Mexico.



Welcome Reverend Randy Story joined Antioch in September 2024, encouraged by his daughter, Trinity Story, a current member and servant leader for the Gen-C Ministry. Drawn by the church's strong leadership, powerful preaching, and commitment to outreach, Rev. Story and his family felt called to Antioch. With a passion for teaching, preaching, pastoral care, mentoring, and senior living care, Rev. Story has devoted his ministry to serving the homeless and marginalized. His favorite scripture is Joshua 1:8, emphasizing the importance of meditating on God's Word for success.

A member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Reverend Story is also a former Assistant Scoutmaster and belongs to the prestigious Order of Military Medical Merit. He holds a Master of Science in Health Services Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Telecommunication and is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity at Wesley Theological Seminary. Rev. Story and his wife, Audrey, have been married for 35 years and are the proud parents of Trinity and Randy, Jr., who is soon graduating college and commissioning as a 2nd Lieutenant. In his free time, Rev. Story enjoys reading, attending antique car shows, sports, and traveling.



ANTIOCH CONNECTION

MEMBER RECOGNITION

Congratulations Colleen Allen: Sis. Colleen retired as Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Mgt, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); Senior Executive Service, USAID after 37 years of service and many career accolades, including the Distinguished Presidential Rank Award in 2022. She has been a member of Antioch for 21 years and has served in various ministries including Awana, Dance, and College Ministry. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, gardening, and coaching/mentoring, and taking dance and foreign language classes. She has traveled to over 30 countries. She is originally from Philadelphia, PA and has two older brothers. Colleen is married to George Allen and has two beautiful adult daughters, Christina and Chloe. Her favorite scripture is "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." Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV



Congratulations Pat Cloud: Sis. Pat is originally from Auburn, Alabama. She earned her undergraduate degree from Auburn University and a graduate degree from the University of West Florida. She retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2007 after 23 years of service, having served in Florida, Ohio, Texas, Alabama, Virginia, California, and Paris, France. After retirement, Pat worked for Whitney, Bradley and Brown, Inc.; The Addx Corporation; Red River Technology; and the MITRE Corporation for over 17 years. Pat plans to spend her retirement years traveling, gardening, perfecting recipes, and serving others. Her favorite scripture is, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." Philippians 2:3-4 NIV

Congratulations Melvin Cloud: Bro. Melvin is originally from Columbus, Georgia. He earned his undergraduate degree from Tuskegee Institute and his graduate degree from the University of North Dakota. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2004 after 20 years, having served in Florida, North Dakota, Ohio, Texas, South Korea, Virginia, and Washington DC. Melvin went on to work for Riverside Research, Leidos, and the MITRE Corporation for 20 additional years. His retirement goal is to purposefully live a life of purpose. His favorite scripture is, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13: 13 NIV



Congratulations Sandra Nelson: Deacon Nelson retired as a Lead Personnel Research Psychologist at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Talent Acquisition, Classification, and Veterans Program/Classification and Assessment Policy Group after 20 years of service. Sis. Nelson has been a member of Antioch for 20 years and has served as a Deacon for the past 6 years. She enjoys trying new things related to arts, crafting, gardening, and the sciences. In retirement, she's looking forward to enjoying and pouring into her two grandchildren, Lucas (9 yrs old) and Rose (newborn); serving on short-term missions; and continuing to serve as a board member of Christian Community Center. Most of all, Sis. Sandra looks forward to practicing following the Lord's lead more and more... sharing the Gospel, bringing Glory to God through the "words of my mouth and works of my hands". She is married to Deacon Arvin Nelson, and they have two adult children, David and Samantha McKinney.



ANTIOCH CONNECTION

Turn Awareness Into Action during Mental Health Awareness Month



May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a national observance started in 1949 by Mental Health America to raise awareness of the millions of Americans living with mental health conditions. This year's theme is "Turn Awareness Into Action." The theme is meant to challenge individuals, organizations, and communities to take meaningful steps toward creating a world where mental health is prioritized for all.

This May, Mental Health America wants you to:

Take action for yourself by setting boundaries, reaching out for support when needed, and practicing self-care.

Take action for others by sharing resources, supporting friends, and advocating for policies that will positively affect the lives of people with mental health conditions.

Mental Health America and other organizations have worked tirelessly to remove the stigma surrounding mental health issues, which in the Black community can be a significant barrier to seeking treatment. If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health challenges, it's important to get help. Visit Mental Health America's website at www.mhanational.org for more resources.

Show your support for mental health throughout the month of May, by wearing green, the universal symbol for mental health awareness.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING ALL WHO SERVED — HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!



Military Appreciation Month

For many people, Memorial Day is simply a three-day weekend and a day we look forward to consuming hot dogs, burgers, and ribs. There is nothing wrong with enjoying time with friends and family, but we should be sure to acknowledge that the holiday has a much deeper meaning. Memorial Day is a day that we should collectively take time to remember, appreciate, and celebrate over a million soldiers who have died in wars and military operations, to protect us and defend our freedoms.



Take a moment and really think about it; it is truly a blessing that each of the brave soldiers who have served our country, obeyed God's call to serve. On Memorial Day we should show gratitude and honor the selfless service of our fallen military heroes. By their willingness to defend our country, each person took on the responsibility for our country's success. As Christians, we know Jesus paid the ultimate price for our salvation. Our fallen heroes, in a not as impactful, but comparable way, paid the cost for our liberty.

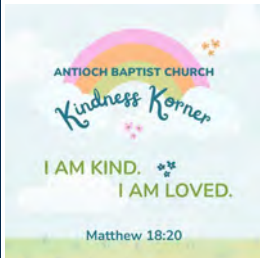
The willingness of these faithful men and women to heed God's call enables us to live with protections that other countries do not have. We shall be in their debt forever. This Memorial Day let's honor our fallen soldiers by remembering their courage, sacrifice, faith, and obedience.



ANTIOCH CONNECTION

ANTIOCH NURSERY: KINDNESS KORNER GRAND OPENING

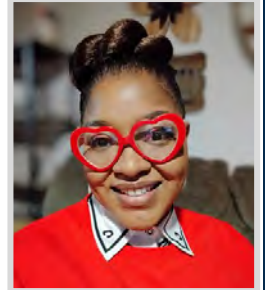
At Kindness Korner, we believe the command to "train up a child in the way he should go" (Proverbs 22:6) is a divine calling. The early years of a child's life are about planting seeds of faith, love, and kindness that will take root and grow into a strong spiritual foundation. By teaching children to live with kindness and love, we prepare them to thrive as teenagers and adults who walk boldly in their faith.



Vision: To raise a generation of children who are rooted in Christ and embody KINDNESS.

Mission: To create a Christ-centered, nurturing environment where children can grow spiritually, emotionally, and socially.

Goals: 1. Teach children about Jesus in an engaging way, helping them understand His love.
2. Instill **kindness** as a lifelong practice reflecting God's love.
3. Equip children with spiritual tools for their walk with God as they grow.



Ain Johnson

Why join the Kindness Korner Ministry?

Joining Kindness Korner means becoming part of God's work to shape His smallest saints (ages 0-5 years) into mighty warriors for His Kingdom. This ministry offers a chance to pour into the lives of children and share Christ's love in impactful ways. Volunteers will witness transformation—not just in children but also within yourself. Serving here encourages growth in patience, humility, and love, reflecting Christ's heart in your work.

Won't you prayerfully consider being a volunteer with Kindness Korner? It's so much more than just changing diapers. We're dedicated to building the smallest saints for His Kingdom. Here's what you need to join us:

- Member of Antioch Baptist Church
- Current Safe Gatherings Training
- Patience and sensitivity to sensory needs
- A heart for support, and most important, KINDNESS

Together, we can create a nurturing environment for our children to grow in love and kindness. For more information, contact Ain Johnson, Kindness Korner Servant Leader at KindnessKornerABC@gmail.com.



2025 Summer Reading Program: #PUSH [Pray Until Something Happens]

"And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart." Luke 18:1 ESV



Commit to reading this year as a part of Antioch's 2025 Summer Reading Program. The Library Ministry encourages children to read these and other enriching Christian books on their own using the local library, Antioch Library, bookstores, etc. Below is the list of the books by group.

| Grade/Group | Title |
|-------------|--|
| PreK – 2nd | <i>How can I pray?</i> by Steph Williams or <i>Millie and the Praying Bear</i> by Lydia Asri-Brech |
| 3rd— 5th | <i>What Happens when I talk to God</i> by Stormie Omartian or <i>Any Time, Any Place, Any Prayer</i> by Laura Wifler |
| 6th – 8th | <i>How to Pray: A Guide for Young Explorers</i> by Gemma Hunt and Pete Greig |
| 9th – 12th | <i>The Power of a Praying Teen</i> by Stormie Omartian |

If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Kimber Garland-Holmes, Antioch Library Ministry Team Lead, at kimberg703@yahoo.com or 937-672-9477 with questions.



ANTIOCH CONNECTION

OUR STRENGTHS ARE APPRECIATED THROUGH INQUIRY & INTELLIGENCE

Storytelling is an exemplary means of sharing knowledge so that others may also visualize the experience as positive and appreciate its value. The Appreciative Inquiry methodology seeks to engage stakeholders in self-driven change.

In March and April, 60 Antioch members participated in two workshops and a series of individual interviews that used Appreciative Inquiry to examine how Antioch's C.A.R.E.S. values can help strengthen our capacity to make a greater impact at our church, in our community and across the globe.

The workshops were the result of a partnership between George Mason University professor, author, and founder of the Appreciative Inquiry and Intelligence model, Dr. Tojo Thatchenkery and our Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Kevin B. Taylor. Facilitators of the workshops and interviews were graduate students of GMU's Organizational Development and Knowledge Management department.

At each workshop, all participants eagerly demonstrated a readiness to share their positive experiences (*what's working*) at Antioch past and current. There was not a quiet voice in the room. Everyone shared how our C.A.R.E.S. values have created a renewed excitement about moving forward. Several participants also shared ideas on how we might enhance our values to become an even greater resource to others. The Appreciative Inquiry process gave our members an opportunity to more deeply connect with one another and dream practically about the future of our church.

The GMU graduate students will submit their final reports to their instructors. Antioch will receive a copy of the report once the grading process is completed and the students have received their final assessments.



Can't you see the wheels turning? We can't wait to see what's coming next!

Save the Dates

| | | | |
|--------|---|--------|--|
| May 1 | National Day of Prayer 7AM | May 10 | Green Learning & Planting Day 9am—12Noon |
| May 3 | Community Shred 9AM– 12 Noon | May 11 | Mother's Day |
| May 3 | Starting Point (Virtual) | May 17 | World Vision 6K Run/Walk/Roll Burke Lake Park 9AM |
| May 3 | Women's Ministry Bible Study 10AM | May 18 | Last Sunday School/C.A.R.E.S. Small Groups |
| May 4 | Summer Reading Program—Pick Up Info in Worship Center Foyer | May 22 | Quarterly Business Meeting 7PM(Members Only) |
| May 4 | Taylor'd Talk 12:30PM MPR | May 24 | Men's Forum 8AM |
| May 5 | Grief Share (Virtual) (Tues 5/5—5/19) | May 25 | Mental Health Awareness and Military Appreciation |
| May 7 | 12Noon & 7PM Family Bible Study (Wed 5/7-5/21) | May 27 | Feed the Homeless 4:30pm Prep/6PM Delivery and Distributions |
| May 10 | New Member Orientation | | |