



Antioch Connection



Words of Encouragement from Reverend G

Have you not heard? God is an everlasting God, an awesome God. He does not faint or grow weary. Praise the Lord!

I am grateful that 2022 is behind us and that we are pressing onward into 2023. As we start the new year, I submit to you that it's not about resolutions but about commitments and I am committed to serving God and serving others. As your Transitional Pastor, one of my first orders of business has been to ensure you have a way to connect with me personally. I invite you to reach out to me directly via email at jgaines@antioch-church.org, or by cell at **571-365-8109** so that we can chat or coordinate a time to meet in person or virtually.

Our prayer focus for the month of January is Pressing Onward, Philippians 3: 12-14. This is the time of year when many of us set goals and do self-assessments. Often these goals are at the forefront of our minds for about 30 days or at best 90 days. I encourage you to commit to having an active bible study and prayer life (individual and group study) and to enlist an accountability partner or mentor for the full year. I have found that these strategies provide the greatest opportunity for success in achieving my goals. Your accountability partner or mentor should be someone you trust; someone who will not only encourage you but also tell you when you are slipping.

Ask yourself, Am I soaring? You see, eagles soar. Eagles represent strength, courage, wisdom, and power. God has not given us a spirit of fear but the power of love and sound mind. Many of us do not soar because we are fearful; we see the obstacles versus the outcomes. I challenge you to be fearless as you strive to achieve your goals. Understand that it is not about our own abilities but about what God can do if we get past the fear and rely on Him.

I look forward to seeing you at the "Lunch and Learn with Rev G" on Sunday, January 29th in the Ministry Center Multi-Purpose Room after the 11:00am worship service. Please register on the church website. Feel free to dress casually.

2023

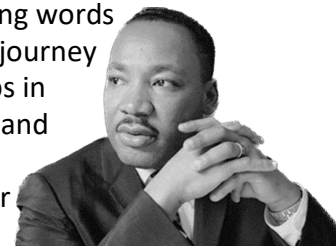
Pressing Onward

Philippians 3:12-14

A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

During the January 15th services, on his actual birthday, Antioch honored the life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Reverend Drake beautifully recited some of Dr. King's most prominent words and captivating speeches as Sisters Victoria Parker and Tanya Easley sweetly sang "If I Can Help Somebody" and "Precious Lord".

Dr. King, a young Baptist minister and civil rights activist, marched on the frontlines in peaceful protest as a champion for human rights while demanding justice and equality. A strong and courageous leader, Dr. King envisioned a world where acceptance and tolerance overruled racism, bigotry and hate. As we reflect on the current state of this country and world, may we continue to let Dr. King's inspiring words motivate us on the journey to the mountaintops in the fight for justice and learn to love and respect one another despite our many differences.



"If you cannot fly, then run, if you cannot run, then walk, if you cannot walk, then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward." —Martin Luther King Jr.

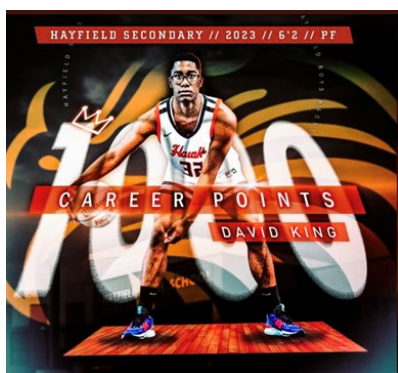
Happy 34th Anniversary Antioch



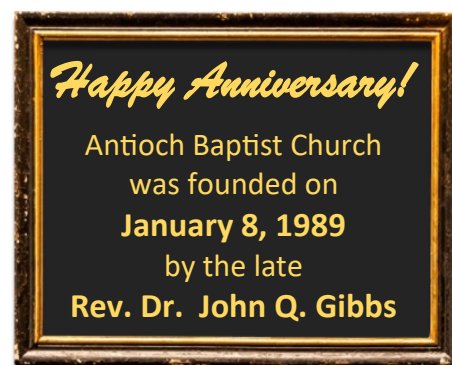
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Congratulations LaShanda Cobbs, President and CEO of Optum Serve Preparedness & Emergency Response (OSPER), was selected by G2Xhange and FedHealthIT.com as 2022 Leading for Impact, Women in Leadership Award winner.

Optum Serve was recognized for its exceptional response to the COVID-19 pandemic. LaShanda leads a business unit that helps customers prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from public health emergencies and other contingencies. LaShanda and her family have been members of Antioch since 2006. She is a proud member of the Alpha Beta Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated.



Congratulations David King. On Saturday January 14th, 2023, David scored his 1000th high school basketball point. David is a four year varsity player at Hayfield Secondary School. David plans to attend Marymount University in the fall with a major of Criminal Justice/ Crime Scene Investigation and play basketball. Way to go David!



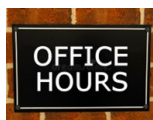
ANTIOCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Thursday 9:00am—5:00pm

Main Office: 703-425-0710

Reverend G: 571-365-8109

In person: Tuesday—Thursday 10:00am—2:00pm



In Loving Memory:

The Antioch Wall of Remembrance was established in 2014 to memorialize members who gained their wings during the calendar year. For 2022, Antioch will honor the following members during the Wall of Remembrance Ceremony on Sunday, February 12, 2023 at 12:30pm in the Ministry Center:

- ◇ Sister Nancy Barbour
- ◇ Sister Eula Ryan
- ◇ Brother Frank Austin
- ◇ Brother Clarence "CJ" Kelley
- ◇ Sister Ruby James

Pray with Us



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

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

Jan 29 : Lunch and Learn with Reverend G (after 11:00am)

Please register on the church website. Casual Dress.

Feb 9: Church Incorporation Virtual Town Hall 7:00pm

Feb 12: Wall of Remembrance Ceremony 12:30pm

Feb 19: Black History Month Recognition

Feb 23: All Saints Meeting 7:00pm Sanctuary



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Antioch's Jail/Prison Ministry: Spreading Love, Hope, and Salvation Through Jesus

Have you heard about the opportunity to serve in the Antioch Jail/Prison Ministry but think it might be “too hard” to minister to people who’ve “been touched by the justice system.” Or wondered how effective you would be ministering to people in situations you could never even imagine. As children of God, we are blessed with goodness, love and mercy which enables us to extend grace in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



The Antioch Jail/Prison Ministry started in 1995 with the mission “to minister to those incarcerated by providing teaching, preaching and serving as compassionate agents of God’s love for all incarcerated persons.” The ministry is founded upon scriptures from Matthew 25:36 and Matthew 25:40;

³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. ...

⁴⁰ The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

The ministry serves a diverse population of men, women, and youth—all ages, races, and ethnicities—through the Fairfax County Detention Center on Ox Road. Under the pastoral direction of Reverend Michael Coppedge, the following ministries are ongoing:



The Men’s Prison Ministry has been led by Brother Samuel Giles, Reverend Jim Harden, Reverend Keith Coleman and currently, Reverend Nathaniel Wright and Brother Xavier Streeter. Residents at the men’s detention facility are not meeting at this time due to Covid-related restrictions by the county.

The Women’s Prison Ministry, formerly led by Sister Deborah Grinkley, is currently led by Deaconess Sandra Nelson joined by Sister Irene Dennis and Sister Rochella Marable.

The Juvenile Detention Center Prison Ministry formerly led by the late Deaconess Yvonne McCall joined by Deacon James McCall, now led by Brother James Griffin joined by Deacons James Malloy and Donald Hawkins to serve the juvenile detainees 18 years and under.

Many other members of Antioch, including Trustee Shirley Norman-Taylor and Deaconess Brenda Norman served the ministry independently. Antioch members lead worship services that include prayers, music, biblical lessons, and one-on-one conversations as requested. Brother Griffin, who has been involved in the ministry for over 20 years, said, “The work is challenging but rewarding. We are trying to turn lives around...but it doesn’t happen overnight. It takes time to allow the Lord to work in these kids’ lives. We’re just planting seeds.”



Mutual respect is essential in ministering to the residents. Sister Nelson said, “We don’t ask why they are there. As we were once all sinners without hope, they too deserve to be offered the salvation that comes through grace. Many of these folks grew up in Christian households and know of the Lord, yet never accepted Christ. Others accepted the Lord, yet wandered away from their calling. It is about transformation. They come in thinking like the world. We want them to understand that they have a role to play in the world... to be a light for Christ and to bring others to Christ.”

To join the Antioch Jail/Prison Ministry or for more information, contact. Sis. Sandra Nelson sannel13@aol.com.

Stay tuned for more opportunities to participate in the various Antioch Ministries ...