



# Antioch Connection

## TAYLORED TALK a message for His people

### Children, Youth, and Collegiate: It's All About You!

Antioch Family!

Can we just take a moment to thank God for what a beautiful month July has been for our church? We sizzled in 100-degree temperatures! However, our Psalm Sizzle series was truly a blessing, and Psalm 23 has reminded us that with the Lord as our Shepherd, we have no reason to worry or fear. His goodness and mercy are following us every step of the way, and that is something to celebrate!

We are still celebrating the baptism of six new converts who decided to follow Jesus Christ. Keep praying and inviting people to our church to help us reach the world for Jesus Christ.

Additionally, we have also seen our family grow with the addition of 11 new members! Our first new member orientation and right hand of fellowship was such a joyous occasion. Seeing new faces join our church family is always a blessing, and I can't wait to see how God will use each of you in our community.

August is here and it's going to be **all about our children, youth, and collegiate members**. Rev. Simpkins and his team have been working hard, planning some amazing activities and initiatives. One of the things I'm most excited about is our youth leading a school supply drive for students at Freedom High School. Sister Angela Jenkins and her daughter, Rachel, (Antioch members) are on staff there, and it's a fantastic way for our youth to give back to the community.

We're also going to honor our college-bound students with a special altar call and prayer service. It's important that we lift them up in prayer as they prepare for this new chapter in their lives. We'll also be praying for their parents and educators, seeking God's guidance and protection for all of them.

And let's not forget, our public Antioch FFX Wi-Fi is now up and running! Over 200 people have already accessed free Wi-Fi with no issues. This is just another way we're "Shifting for Greater," ensuring that our community stays connected and supported.

As we go through August, let's carry this spirit of celebration, service, and unity with us. Together, we can continue to grow, support one another, and make a meaningful difference in our community.

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

*Pastor T*



## 2024 "Shift...Greater Is Coming!"

*<sup>31</sup>"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31 NIV*

### In This Edition

- ◆ Summer, Summer, Summer Time!
- ◆ Youth and Young Adult News
- ◆ July Highlights
- ◆ First Time Voting?
- ◆ Laughter Is Good Medicine
- ◆ HELPS: Lending a Helping Hand
- ◆ 2024 Summer Reading Program
- ◆ Hospitality: Honoring God Through Fellowship
- ◆ Save the Dates

### Join Us For



**Tuesday Morning Prayer**  
7:00-7:30AM Dial (945) 218-0090,  
access code 1846260  
**Bible Studies will resume**  
**September 8th.**

*It's All About You!*



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## SUMMER, SUMMER, SUMMER TIME!

Antioch FFX, summer has arrived with a bang! It's been hotter than ever in Virginia! Hopefully, the temperatures will drop a tiny bit so that we can embrace the season with a variety of fun activities. Whether you prefer staying local or venturing out for a vacation, there are options for all tastes and budgets.

Consider remaining local while acting as a tourist by enjoying a staycation in Old Town Alexandria. You could have breakfast or lunch at Hen Quarter, dinner at 1799, and dessert at Midnight Treats — all black owned restaurants. While in Old Town, take a nice stroll near the waterfront, picnic on the lawn, and also experience the beauty that is being created in The Torpedo Factory. There is so much to discover in Old Town including one of the many Black History walking tours. Of course, there are plenty of cute shops and places for people watching.

**For Families:** For those looking for a getaway, consider a trip to Williamsburg, VA. During the 18th century, half of Williamsburg's population was Black. Check out the *African American Experience* in Colonial Williamsburg to learn about the daily life and culture of African Virginians. Williamsburg also has an array of theme park rides at Busch Gardens, shopping, and other family-friendly attractions. Drive a few more miles to peruse the campuses of our renowned HBCUs, including Hampton University, Norfolk State University, and Virginia Union University. If you go to Norfolk, you've got to put your feet in the water in Virginia Beach!



**For Couples:** Reconnect with a romantic evening at the final performance of Jazz in the Garden series on August 9th at the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden in DC. Bring a blanket, a picnic basket, and enjoy the smooth tunes under the stars. If you arrive early, visit the National Gallery of Art to learn about the famous Black photographer, Gordon Parks, at the exhibit ***Gordon Parks: Camera Portraits from the Corcoran Collection***.

**For Singles:** If you're up for an adventure, consider a solo or friends trip to New York City. With its vibrant arts scene, iconic landmarks, and endless dining options, the city promises an unforgettable experience. Consider *The Wiz* on Broadway, as it has received stunning reviews. If you decide to go, please enjoy a few favorite places, Serendipity, Strawberry Fields in Central Park, and Dallas BBQ in Times Square. A walk across the Brooklyn Bridge to Dumbo would also be a delight and would give you a nice view of the Statue of Liberty.



As you can see, there is so much to do locally and a short car or train ride away. Enjoy your family, your spouse/significant other, yourself, or just hanging out with friends. Don't let summer pass you by!

## YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT NEWS YOU CAN USE!



August is an especially great time to bring friends, neighbors, and extended family to Antioch as our children, teens, and collegiates have exciting activities planned for the month. Help us celebrate with our youth by showing up — geared up. See below:

- Aug 4:** Collegiate Sunday (rep your college shirt)
- Aug 11:** Back To School Sunday (rep your school shirt)
- Aug 18:** Children's Sunday (rep your favorite superhero/animated character/Christian theme shirt)
- Aug 25:** Youth Sunday (rep your favorite sports team shirt)





# Antioch Connection

## JULY HIGHLIGHTS



**Antioch's first New Member Orientation** under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Kevin B. Taylor was held on Saturday, July 13th from 9:00am—1:00pm with eleven new members participating in the class.

**Antioch's New Member Orientation** shares the reasons for discipleship, development, and engaging with our church family. It provides an overview of the church's history, mission, vision and core values, as well as the church covenant and ordinances. It also shares the roles of the church leadership and staff. It is scheduled for the 2nd Saturday of each month.



Deacons welcomed new members and fellowshiped with them after the New Member Orientation class.

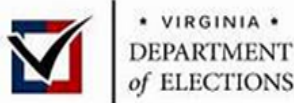
The **Right Hand of Fellowship** is extended to all new members after completion of Starting Point, Baptism class, and New Member Orientation as appropriate.



**Baptism** classes are held for children, youth and adults on the fourth Sunday of the month. Baptism symbolizes the believer's death to sin and the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. At the 8AM and 10:30AM worship services on Sunday, July 28th, six saints were baptized. Hallelujah!



# Antioch Connection



## FIRST TIME VOTING?



Before voting in the General Elections on **Tuesday, November 5, 2024**, let's walk you, your friends, and family members through the process.

### VOTING AT A GLANCE

**Step 1** Visit: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/> to check your registration status, and voting history, and update your address, if needed.

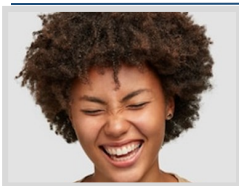
**Step 2 Register to Vote Online, if not registered** Requirements: have a valid Virginia DMV driver's license or state ID card, be a citizen of the US, be a resident of Virginia, and be age **18**, or if age **17 will be 18** on or before the General Elections on **Tuesday, November 5, 2024**. Also, an individual must **be at least 16** to pre-register but can't vote until the above rules are applied. Last, if a voter is currently convicted of a felony (pending restoration rights) or judged mentally incapacitated you may be disqualified from voting. **Now there is the Same Day Registration (SDR). Voters can register and vote via a provisional ballot on the same day as the election, pending all other rules, such as being registered in your district.**

**Step 3 Find your Polling Place** (enter your first/last name, date of birth, last 4 digits of your Social Security number, and locality, ex: Fairfax County). Next, find your precinct facility name and location, Congressional District, State Senate, and House of Delegates.

**Step 4 Apply to vote Absentee by Mail** (complete a form to be placed on the Absentee Voting list and receive a ballot before election day). The ballot should be returned via mail, postmarked, and received no later than **Friday November 8, 2024**, or cast on election day **Tuesday, November 5, 2024**, at your precinct in the Election Box. You may also surrender at the polling place in exchange for a regular ballot.

**Step 5 Vote Early and In Person, from Friday, September 20 to Saturday, November 2, 2024, at the Fairfax County Government Center or a selected Satellite polling location nearby.** You will need an acceptable form of ID like a current or expired Virginia driver's license, a U.S. military ID, or a signed ID confirmation statement. If the statement is not signed, you will be provided a provisional ballot and given a copy of instructions on where to call if your vote is counted.

**Remember you are voting for the freedom of our country and every vote counts!**



## Laughter Is Good Medicine! *By Deloris Witcher*

*"A merry heart does good, like medicine." Proverbs 17:22a NKJV*

God designed us with a built-in mechanism for relaxation through the simple act of laughing. Laughter is a good medicine because of its health benefits. Feel-good, mood-boosting endorphins are released, and the body's stress hormones, cortisol and epinephrine, are reduced when we laugh. Other benefits of laughter include increased infection-fighting and improved digestion. Some believe 15 minutes of daily laughter can be as good for your heart as 30 minutes of exercise three times a week, because it lowers blood pressure and increases blood circulation. Make the healthy choice to spend some time every day relaxing by taking a humor break. Read jokes, watch funny videos, and look for everyday humor. Remind yourself to laugh. Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.

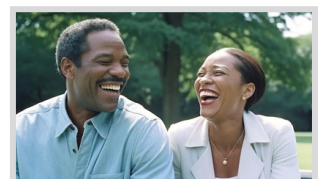
Knock, Knock.

Who's there?

Armageddon.

Armageddon who?

Armageddon out of here. I hope I made you smile.







# Antioch Connection

## HELPS – Lending a Helping Hand in a Time of Need!

The COVID pandemic of 2020 was a challenging time for many members at Antioch. Whether it was financial instability, the loss of a job, the loss of a loved one, or battling the illness itself, many members found themselves in situations that required additional prayer and resources to help them pull through.

During the height of the pandemic, a team of Antioch members began meeting in June 2020 to plan the launch of a ministry committed to compassionately listening, praying and referring members in need to the appropriate resources, in a confidential and Godly manner. The goal was to provide support to Antioch members experiencing social and emotional duress. HELPS is an acronym that signifies **H**ealing **E**ach other through **L**istening compassionately **P**raying and referring to appropriate supports **S**howing the love of Christ.



The founding and dedicated members include: Sister Debra Beasley, Brother Chase Beasley, Sister Lisa Black, Sister Felicia Meyer-DeLoatch, Rev. Jeffery Gaines Sr., Sister Keitha Johnson, Rev. Alan Harris, Sister Joy Harris, Sister Valerie Malloy, Deacon Andrea Newsome, Sister LaDoris Puryear, Trustee Derrick Savage, Sister Sandra Streeter, Deacon Joi Tann, Deacon Kevin Tann, and Deacon Faye Watson. Ultimately, this led to the creation of HELPS.

HELPS is currently led by Sister Debra Beasley, a retired Director of School Counseling (Administrator), a Crisis Intervention Specialist, Grief Counseling Specialist and Special Education educator. Sister Beasley credits her profession as an inspiration for her involvement in the development of this ministry.

For more information on HELPS or if you are interested in joining the ministry, contact Sister Beasley at [debrabeasley22@gmail.com](mailto:debrabeasley22@gmail.com).



## 2024 Summer Reading Program: "Jesus – The Carpenter's Son"

"Is not this the Carpenter's Son?" -- Matthew 13:55 ESV



Commit to reading this year as a part of Antioch's 2024 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 – 1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Hanging out with Jesus-The Impatient Carpenter</i> by Salem and Agnes de Bezenac
1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>The Carpenter's Trade</i> by Lauren Riggs and Dave Yauk
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	<i>A Carpenter's Son—The Early Life of Jesus</i> by Baby Professor Books
6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	<i>The Welcoming Door-Parables of the Carpenter</i> by Kenny Kemp
9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> & College	<i>More than a Carpenter</i> by Josh and Sean McDowell
Adults	<i>Walk Through Fire</i> by Sheila Johnson- Adult Book Discussion: September 12th 7PM <i>Watch Your Mouth: Understanding the Power of the Tongue</i> by Tony Evans

Adults may order *Walk Through Fire* on Amazon, Kindle, or Audible. Please contact Deacon Kimber Garland-Holmes, Antioch Library Ministry Team Lead, at [kimberg703@yahoo.com](mailto:kimberg703@yahoo.com) or 937-672-9477 with questions.

**"According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it... which is Jesus Christ." -- 1 Corinthians 3:10-11 ESV**



# Antioch Connection

## Antioch's Hospitality Ministry Honoring God Through Fellowship

*You're in the Ministry building and as you travel up the stairs with each step you begin to feel and smell the warmth of hospitality. It's not just the food, but the spirit of sharing and loving that creates the aroma of people caring for one another.*

As shared by our Ministry Servant Leader Donna Jackson: "Antioch's Hospitality Ministry provides a welcoming environment of acceptance, comfort, and unity for all its members, guests, and friends. A quality hospitality experience enables the opportunity of an enhanced worship experience. It encourages fellowship, which results in a community of believers—

believers who reflect the love of Christ through their gratitude, excitement, and enthusiasm!"

"The word of God teaches us that we have a duty to greet and welcome each other, be hospitable toward others, and fellowship with each other," referring to Romans 12:13, which reflects the Hospitality Ministry. "We are commanded to be hospitable."

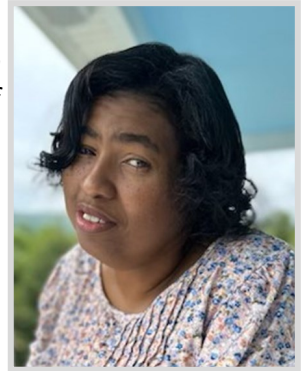
The Hospitality Ministry is a vibrant ministry and all Antioch members have seen the ministry in action—gladly serving church events as an extension to our caring and loving one another. An example of events would include Vacation Bible Camp, Family Dinner Bible Study nights, High School and College Students Chat & Chew, First Lady Leona's Girls Night, the Global 6k Walk for Clean Water, repasts for families, and celebrations of all types.

"The ministry loves to be busy. However, we are currently taking a well-deserved break. We are working on the upcoming calendar of events for

various ministries and a thorough clean-up day for the kitchen."

Sister Jackson shares, "If you don't mind a little work, along with lots of fun, then we welcome any member of Antioch to join the Hospitality Ministry." The Hospitality Ministry was established in 1996. Past ministry leaders were Sister Joyce Cooper and Sister Terry Davis.

To learn more about the ministry, contact **Sister Jackson, 703-989-4695, [don1jac@yahoo.com](mailto:don1jac@yahoo.com).**



### KBT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- Rev. Dr. Kevin B. Taylor
- KBT Scholarship (Online Giving)
- Endowed Scholarship
- Rising College Sophomores, Juniors, & Seniors
- Annual Awards of \$1K, \$2K, & \$3K
- Liberation Capital
- GPA of 2.9 or Better plus Short Essay
- Application is on the ABC website ~ Due August 15th
- Awards: Fall Semester/Quarter 2024
- Donations by August 18, 2024 urgently; continuously open...
- Questions: jtaylorharden@gmail.com



Support the **KBT Scholarship Fund** for rising college sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Student applications are due by 8/15. Donations are due by 8/18.



Donate supplies for **Freedom High School**. See supplies list on the ABC website.

Save  
the  
Dates:

**Aug 3: Iron Sharpeners Leadership Summit 9AM—12NOON**  
**Aug 4: Collegiate Sunday**  
**Aug 11: Back To School Sunday**  
**Aug 15: KBT Scholarship Applications due**  
**Aug 18: Children's Sunday; KBT Scholarship Donations due**  
**Aug 22: Quarterly Business Meeting 7PM**  
**Aug 25: Youth Sunday**  
**Aug 25: Taylored Talk (Keeping You Informed) - 12NOON**  
**(after the 10:30AM Worship Service)**



Watch for the AntiochFFX Video Series coming soon...  
 "WHO IS ... PASTOR TAYLOR AND LADY LEONA?"  
 "WHO IS ... ANTIOCH FFX?"



### Antioch Fairfax (FFX)

Help us spread the good news and increase our social media presence.



Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/AntiochFFX](https://www.facebook.com/AntiochFFX)



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



X (formerly Twitter)  
[twitter.com/AntiochFFX](https://twitter.com/AntiochFFX)



YouTube  
[www.youtube.com/antiochfairfaxstation](https://www.youtube.com/antiochfairfaxstation)