



# Antioch Connection



## Words of Encouragement from Reverend G

### Spreading God's Love: The Significance of Missions – Near and Far

Greetings, can I have a few minutes of your time? As we enter the month of November our theme is Missions. Let us take a moment to reflect on the profound importance of international and domestic missions to our faith journey. In the Bible we find numerous verses that emphasize the significance of spreading the message of God's love to all corners of the world. There is one verse that makes it crystal clear to me on how important missions are to our Christian faith and that is Matthew 28:19. In this verse Jesus commands us to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. These words from Jesus Himself remind us of our divine commission to go forth and share the Good News.



Through international missions, we bridge the gap between cultures, languages, and people, bringing the light of Christ to those who have not yet heard His name. Domestic missions also hold a special place in our hearts. Just as the early disciples were called to witness in their own cities and regions, we are called to be Christ's witnesses in our own communities and throughout our nation. Our homes, neighborhoods, and cities need the message of hope and salvation. Missions encompass more than just spreading the Word; they involve showing God's love through acts of compassion and service. Missions provide opportunities to care for those in need, just as Jesus did during His earthly ministry. Let us remember that missions are not just a responsibility but a privilege. They are an expression of our love for God and for our fellow human beings. As we support and participate in missions, we are sowing seeds of hope, love, and faith that will bear fruit for eternity, somebody ought to say amen.

> **BREAKING NEWS**

**ANTIOCH REPORTS**

## Antioch's Next Senior Pastor: Reverend Dr. Kevin B. Taylor



**ABC Welcomes Reverend Dr. Kevin B. Taylor and First Lady Leona Taylor**  
Antioch family, we are excited about what the Lord is doing and it is marvelous in our eyes. The word of God is true. Eyes have not seen; ears have not heard; neither have it entered into the hearts of man, the great things the Lord has in store. We simply believe that Greater is coming! It's celebration time, keep praying, keep praising, and watch God do wonders in our midst. We are excited, the question is are you? We will see you soon!



### Missions Matthew 28:18-20 NIV

"18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



### Pray with Us



**Tuesday Morning Prayer from 7:00—7:30am.** Dial (945) 218-0090, access code 1846260.  
**Churchwide Virtual Prayer Third Wednesday each month at 6:00pm** via the ABC website.



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## ANTIOCH'S PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE AND TURKEY



**Acropolis: Paul spoke to Athenians**

In mid October, Reverend Rochella Marable arrived in Greece with forty other saints eager to walk in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul. They journeyed to Amphipolis to explore the ruins of many Christian basilicas. Stopping first at a baptismal site in Philippi where God opened the heart of Lydia (Acts 16:13-15). Then on to the Acropolis and Neapolis (Kavala), one of Greece's most picturesque mainland ports where Paul landed with his disciples, Timothy and Silas. Next to Thessalonika and Veria (Berea) where Paul was accused of turning the world upside down with his preaching of Christ (Acts 17:3-6). As they visited Meteora, they imagined Paul walking through the treacherous terrain on his missionary journey. In the scenic Delphi, they gained a new appreciation for the tremendous spiritual opposition Paul faced in preaching the Gospel.

The group toured the city of Corinth where Paul received a vision from the Lord. (Acts 18:10). As Paul spoke, Crispus and many others believed and were baptized (Acts 18:8) and established the church at Corinth to whom he later wrote his two epistles. Discovering the Archaeological Museum, marketplace, and temples along the way, they walked among the ruins, stood on the Bema, where Paul stood before Gallio to face charges before departing to Syria (Acts 18:12-18). The rich architectural splendor of the ancient city of Athens introduced them to the world renowned Acropolis, the Propylaea, the Parthenon, and the Erectheum. Standing on Mars Hill as Paul did (Acts 17:23), the group gained an intimate knowledge of Paul's journey. The Antioch Missions Ministry is committed to training, encouraging, and exhorting the church concerning its participation in the Lord's Great Commission.



**Delphi: Archaeological site**



**Ephesus: Paul received encouragement from the church**

It has been said that traveling to spiritual sites allows scriptures to come alive. We spoke to Brother Steve Mial after the trip to Greece to get his perspective. Steve said, "I can confirm that the adage is true. Physically being in actual biblical sites accompanied by highly knowledgeable teachers and tour guides, we listened to historical and cultural aspects while seeing and touching the remains of archeological ruins. Simultaneously, with Bibles in tow for scriptural references and with mini sermons delivered by Antioch ministers, the scriptures did in fact come to life. This experience brought new revelations and great appreciation for Paul's significant contributions to spreading the Gospel and subsequently the Christian Faith."

"Seeing the incredibly challenging terrain and the long distances Paul traveled, notwithstanding, the strong resistance he faced by both Jews and Gentiles, you recognize his commitment, dedication, and tenacity to spreading the gospel. It causes one to examine one's own commitment to the Great Commission."



**Steve and Betty Mial at Delphi**





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## OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS



**Coat Drive:** ABC Women 's Ministry collected winter coats to support Woodley Hills Elementary School children.



**Walk, Talk, and Pray:** Despite the rain, the ABC Singles Ministry Walk, Talk and Pray was a success. Enthusiastic walkers came together to fellowship and exercise.



**GenC Cider Sip and Paint:** ABC members gathered to sample ciders, fellowship, and paint. Everyone had a wonderful time.

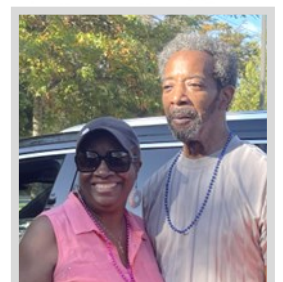


**Hallelujah Harvest—Trunk or Treat:** ABC provided a safe environment for children and youth to collect candy treats, play games, participate in cake walks, and much more.

### NOVEMBER is NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

From the White House Briefing Room, President Joe Biden proclaimed that how we treat our children, parents, and loved ones and how we value those who care for them are fundamental to who we are as a Nation. Early care and education give young children a strong start in life while long-term care helps older Americans, veterans, and people with disabilities live and work with dignity. During National Family Caregivers Month, we honor the Americans who lift up our communities and our Nation by providing dignified, professional and invaluable care to the people we cherish most.

At Antioch, we believe that caring for our loved ones is directly aligned to our purpose, Loving God, Loving Others. For more information on the Antioch Caregivers Ministry, contact Sister Debra Hicks-Johnson at [dhicksjo@aol.com](mailto:dhicksjo@aol.com).





# Antioch Connection

## Honoring our Veterans for Their Heroism, Service and Sacrifice

As we prepare to celebrate Veterans Day on November 11th, we honor those who honored our country by wearing the uniform of our armed services. We owe you our thanks, our respect, and our freedom.

President Barack Obama best expressed our deep appreciation for veterans in 2016: “We come together to express our profound gratitude for the sacrifices and contributions you and your family made on the battlefield, at home, and at outposts around the world. But America’s gratitude to our veterans is something always grounded in something greater than what you did on duty. It’s also an appreciation of the example that you continue to set after your service has ended -- your example as citizens.”

As President Obama said, we can never serve our veterans in quite the same way that they served us. “But we can try. We can practice kindness. We can serve.” Our Antioch family can show how much we love our country, as our church motto says, by Loving God and Loving Others.

## Join us on Friday, November 10th for Antioch's Annual Veteran's Day Celebration



## A WOMAN’S RIGHT TO VOTE!

The 19th Amendment makes it illegal to deny the right to vote to any citizen based on their sex, which effectively granted women the right to vote. On paper, the Amendment protected discrimination against all women, but in practice, it only gave *white women* the right to vote. Black women, Native American women, Asian American women, and women from other racial and ethnic minority groups were discriminated against for 45 more years until the passage of The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA). The VRA afforded crucial protections to Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color (BIWOC) voters. Women with disabilities only gained protections in 1990 with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Visit The Turning Point Suffrage Memorial at Occoquan Regional Park to learn more.

Tuesday, November 7, 2023, is Election Day in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In Fairfax County, where the largest number of registered voters reside, the information that follows is applicable. On September 22, 2023, in-person early voting opened at three Government Centers (Fairfax, Mount Vernon, and North County). Visit [www.elections.virginia.gov](http://www.elections.virginia.gov) for other early voting locations. Effective Thursday October 26 through Saturday November 4, 2023, thirteen additional satellite precincts opened. Hours for in-person early voting are Monday - Friday 1:00pm -7:00pm, Saturday 9:00am -5:00pm and Sunday, 1:00pm - 5:00pm.

- Voter registration offices open for early voting: **Saturday, October 28th, 2023**
- Last day of in-person early voting: **Saturday, November 4th, 2023**
- Election Day: **Tuesday, November 7th, 2023. Polling Times: 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m**
- For more information on voting, please visit [www.elections.virginia.gov](http://www.elections.virginia.gov)

**VOTE on Tuesday, November 7th; Polls Open: 6:00am—7:00pm**





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## MEMBER RECOGNITION

**Congratulations!** Kennedy Fuller, daughter of Brother Nicholas Fuller, has been selected as one of the team captains for the Queens University of Charlotte Women's Basketball Team's 2023-2024 Season. Her duties as team captain of this North Carolina team include being the locker room voice and ensuring all team members are matching and on time. In addition, her goal is to set a good example and provide guidance for her teammates.

Kennedy started playing basketball in the second grade and was the only girl on the "co-ed" team, which culminated in a full-ride scholarship to Queens. Kennedy is a junior Sports and Exercise Science major who believes that "Health is Wealth". She says, "our bodies are God's temple, and everything starts with it. Therefore, you must take care of it mentally and physically. No amount of money can give you good health." Please join us in congratulating Kennedy on this highly respected title!

### F&B Spotlight

If you are giving online and no longer wish to receive giving envelopes in the mail, Please email Sister Maria Pernell at [mpernell@antioch-church.org](mailto:mpernell@antioch-church.org).

### Meet Nathaniel Johnson Antioch's New Facilities Manager

Brother Nathaniel Johnson joins the Antioch administrative team with more than eight years of experience in facilities management. He is a results driven leader providing strategic management and oversight for the Antioch campus. Nathaniel is excited to be a part of the Antioch team and ensuring our campus continues to be state of the art.



### Shot or Not? *By Deloris Witcher*



**"No evil will befall you nor will any plague come near your tent." Psalm 91:10 NASB**

Flu season is upon us, and the COVID-19 virus never left. The CDC predicts a wave of flu and COVID-19 this fall and winter suggesting everyone should consider getting a flu shot and COVID-19 booster. Protect yourself and others by getting vaccinated if your physician approves. The flu and COVID-19 can be deadly. The best time for a flu shot is before the end of October. Why continue to get COVID-19 boosters and flu shots? Dr. Theo Hodge an infectious disease specialist says, "Run not walk to get a COVID-19 booster and flu shot. A COVID-19 booster and a flu shot are not 100% prevention. However, if you get the flu or COVID after having had the shots you are more likely to be able to recover at home. Versus not having the shots risking hospitalization and dying." Talk to your doctor and if OK, get the shots.

## November Save the Dates:

- Nov 4: Women's Ministry Prayer, Praise, and Paint Fellowship 10:00am MPR
- Nov 5: Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Nov 7: Election Day
- Nov 9: Bylaws Town Hall 7:00pm
- Nov 10: ABC Veteran's Day Celebration 9:30am MG Byron Bagby (Ret) Army

- Nov 11: National Veteran's Day
- Nov 19: Rising Above Ministry (RAM) 1:00pm
- Nov 23: Thanksgiving Day
- Nov 26: Men's Forum 8:00am
- Nov 27: Bylaws Town Hall 7:00pm
- Nov 30: ABC Quarterly Business

## ABC Quarterly Business Meeting November 30th 7:00pm



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## Antioch's Missions Ministry

Our founding Pastor, Reverend John Q. Gibbs, was given the vision and the burden by God to establish The Antioch Missions Ministry in 1993. Working alongside Pastor Gibbs, Reverend James Graham served as the ministry leader and ventured out on Antioch's first mission trip to Haiti that same year. Reverend Graham and Deacon Michael Coppedge at the time, were both instrumental in the success of Antioch's first mission's trip. Reverend Graham was called to Pastor Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Herndon, VA in 1995. Deacon Coppedge became the new Ministry Director for Missions and Outreach. Subsequently, Deacon Coppedge was licensed in November 1997 and ordained to the Gospel ministry at Antioch in September 1999. He has carried the Gospel Message and the missions torch both locally and globally for the past twenty-eight years.



Reverend Michael Coppedge

The purpose of the Missions Ministry is to train, encourage and exhort the church concerning their participation in the Lord's Great Commission. The ministry believes that each Christian is called to a wonderful life of obedience to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. One of His clearest commands is that of bringing a lost and dying world to a saving knowledge of Him. God calls us to reach the lost across the street and around the world. Reverend Coppedge stated, "Obedience to the Great Commission was the impetus for my joining the ministry. I felt called to teach and preach God's Word and to make disciples of and minister to God's people around the world." The foundational scripture that guides the ministry is Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Reverend Coppedge believes that each of us must be obedient to God's word as we will stand accountable for our role in spreading the Gospel and sharing Jesus Christ. The ministry is also guided by Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

As Associate Pastor of Missions and Outreach, Reverend Coppedge is responsible for all domestic outreach and international missions. Over the years, he has trained, equipped, and led mission teams and/or joined God on mission in Haiti, Tobago, Slovakia, Austria, Uganda, Kenya, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Russia, Italy, and Antigua. Additionally, he has planned and executed biblical study tours to the Holy Land, Greece, and Turkey.

For 2023, Antioch's domestic missions include our annual World Vision Global 6K Walk for Water, the Thanksgiving Basket Project as well as our Christmas Giving Tree. This edition of the Antioch Connection also highlights the recent pilgrimage to Greece (page 2) and upcoming outreach activities below. To learn more, see our website or contact Reverend Coppedge at [mcoppedge@antioch-church.org](mailto:mcoppedge@antioch-church.org).



For over 20 years, **The Thanksgiving Basket Project** has been an annual tradition at Antioch. Antioch will be distributing grocery gift cards to local schools and community organizations so students, their families, and those in need can enjoy a delicious Thanksgiving meal. If you are interested in contributing, monetary donations can be made through online giving under "Thanksgiving Baskets Project" on Antioch's website. If you are an Antioch member who is in need of help this Thanksgiving, please contact your Deacon/Deaconess or Jessica Horne at [abcthanksgivingbaskets@antioch-church.org](mailto:abcthanksgivingbaskets@antioch-church.org).



**The 2023 Christmas Giving Tree** efforts will provide gifts to a number of individual families as well as families at Freedom High School (HS), Woodbridge HS, Key Middle School (MS), Luther Jackson MS, and Rose Hill Elementary. Organizations include Prince William County's Clinical Behavioral Health Program, Youth for Tomorrow, Key Center, Birmingham Green Nursing Home and Woodley Hills Elementary. Please consider supporting Antioch's Christmas Giving Tree by picking a star, making a donation, or helping to sort the gifts and pick-up efforts the week of December 11th. To learn more contact: Tiffany Horne at [abcgivingtree@antioch-church.org](mailto:abcgivingtree@antioch-church.org).