



Antioch Connection



HALLELUJAH! Thine the glory! Revive Us Again!

Antioch members and friends were treated to three nights of spirit-filled worship during Antioch's first Homecoming Revival at the end of October. The worship services delivered on the revival theme. "Restore, Renew and Revive."

The sanctuary was near capacity each night for messages delivered by our own Reverend Jeffery Gaines Sr., Reverend Dennis Drake, Pastor Alan Harris, and Reverend Dr. Clarke L. McGriff, who closed out the revival on Sunday.

"When God restores us from our suffering, God does it right. God does it big," referring to his theme "A Little Suffering, The Big Restoration." "Stay strong in the midst of challenges/worries, and when you don't know what's going on, stay strong in the Lord because he's working it out for our good. I believe we're stronger than our problems, stronger than our own issues."

Quoting scripture, Reverend Gaines added, "the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few" and encouraged members to get involved. "Now is not the time to hold back. We've got to be busy doing the work of the Lord. There are prisons to visit, sick people to heal, homeless people need a blanket, young people need to be encouraged, married folks need counseling, single people need a place to hang out, the choir needs singers, hospitality needs servants, grievors need comforting," he said. "God has been good! We can't repay Him, but we can certainly pay it forward. Let's keep doing the work. We might suffer a little," he said, "but God is going to do something big."



HALLALUJAH! Thine the Glory!

Thursday night, Reverend Drake reminded congregants what revival means to anyone who grew up Baptist, coming down from the pulpit to sing "On Time God" with worshippers. "I won't judge you and you won't judge me," he said, urging members to let the spirit move them however they were moved.

"We're on solid ground," he said, quoting scripture: 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)

"I know my God is able, but it starts with knowing who He is," Reverend Drake said. "Know Him and recognize that no matter the circumstances, God has not taken His hand off the situation in

us, not to break us, he said. "He's getting us ready to navigate through the challenges because He is God. He is able to work on you while you're going through it for when you come out on the other end."

But "sometimes God has to turn the thermostat up to hell so that we can get uncomfortable with where we are to see where He wants us to go," Reverend Drake said. Yet "even when God doesn't deliver like we want Him to, He is still worthy to be praised," he said, explaining that sometimes we complain on Day 45 that God hasn't delivered on His promise, but "it's Day 45 and you're still standing. God gave you what you needed for days 1 through 45."



Antioch Connection



HALLELUJAH! Amen!

Pastor Harris was welcomed home with an enthusiastic standing ovation as he entered the sanctuary. He started by saying church members must realize the power of one. "Sometimes God only needs one individual who knows they can make an improvement," referring to Nehemiah, who rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem despite the critics and naysayers. Nehemiah didn't just talk about rebuilding, he acted on it, he said.

"The first requirement for rebuilding is having the ability to discern the difference between an obstacle and opportunity," he said. Where some will see a landmine, others will see a goldmine. "Some live in the 'woulds,'" he said. "We need to stop saying I would, but I will."

We also have to be devoted despite opposition, Pastor Harris said. "That's the mentality that God is looking for. God needs individuals who say, 'with God on my side, it doesn't matter how bad the problem, how high the mountain... because if God is for me, he's more than the world against me.'"

He said, "Sometimes you have to do the unimaginable to reach the unreachable. You have to believe God is going to deliver something outstanding. Even though Antioch is going through a season of transition, God is going to deliver something outstanding. We serve a God who operates in newness.

To experience revival after rebuilding, Pastor Harris said, we must repent, revere God's word, and be intentional about rejoicing. "You have to make praise a priority. Nehemiah says we need to praise God because we serve a God who can do what nobody else can do. There is no name above God. There is no one like him, He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. No one can do what God can do." Sermon Text: Nehemiah 9:1-3



HALLALUJAH! Thine the Glory!

Reverend McGriff delivered two powerful messages on Sunday. He began the 8:00am service in Judges 6:1-6 with the admonition that "Everybody Can't Go Where You Need to Go!" "God hasn't given up on us", he said. He asks who shall I send? But everybody can't go."

He said sometimes the crowd needs to be downsized to get rid of the cowards and the careless who aren't paying attention and are neglectful, leaving only the committed. "You want the ones who care about one another, who are concerned about the Word of God, the ones who love the church, the ones who will walk together and love together, and do what God wants you to do.

"March on with the committed," he said. "Where do we need to be? We need to be where Jesus is." He said Antioch is still here after all these years and urged members to stay committed. "Don't give up. Don't give in. Keep on moving because Jesus didn't give up on us. He died on the cross for the committed not for the cowards not for the careless."

Revive Us Again!

At 11:00am, Reverend McGriff told us, "Don't Waste Your Wilderness!" His message came from Luke 3:21-23; 4:1-15. He shared that even the Lord Jesus was tempted and suffered trials and tribulations. He surmised that in the wilderness there is temptation. He confirmed that Holy Ghost times and wilderness experiences have a symbiotic relationship. When we are victorious and things seem to be going our way, it is likely that there is a wilderness being prescribed just for us. He stated that there is much to gain in



Antioch Connection



understanding how Jesus dealt with temptation and how He was victorious. He set the context for his message sharing that just after the baptism of Jesus, it was a high time and a great celebration. "Then Jesus filled with the Holy Spirit returned from the Jordan and He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness." So, what is this wilderness? He stated that wilderness is akin to a difficult and demanding task, a physical, emotional, or spiritual challenge. He said that some will not be able to endure the tasks due to distractions or not being able to follow instructions, and that some folks are not team players. There are no shortcuts in the wilderness, but we can get through. He encouraged us to love one another; to work together; and to be committed! He told us to stay in the spirit, don't quit, don't give up, don't turn back. Jesus did not waste His wilderness. Antioch, Don't Waste Your Wilderness!

ANTIOCH REVIVAL GIVES Sharing Blessings

Throughout the years, God has given Antioch the spirit and desire to share our blessings with those in need in our local community and around the world. Each night of the revival, an offering was collected and will be donated to the following:

10/26: \$1,300 for the American Red Cross to help support Hurricane Ian restoration efforts.

10/27: \$1,000 for the Mississippi Water Crisis to help Mississippians renew/replenish their water.

10/28: \$2,100 for various local outreach areas to help support and revive our community.

10/30: \$1,600 for our Antioch revival efforts.

THANK YOU for your generous support of our local and national outreach initiatives.



ANTIOCH HOMECOMING REVIVAL T-SHIRT

If you would like to purchase Antioch's Inaugural Homecoming Revival T-shirt for a cost of **\$15.00 from 11/13 -11/27** at www.antioch-church.org



SERVANT LEADERS NEEDED Volunteer to Use your Spiritual Gifts

The PLC is standing up two additional subcommittees and your help is needed. If you have skills in the following areas, please go to the Antioch website under ABC Transition to download the ABC Statement of Interest form. The completed form should be submitted to ABC.PLC@antioch-church.org by November 30, 2022.

Information Technology/ Media - this committee will assist in researching technology, software, and products to enhance overall church operations and increase productivity. Desired skills include strong communications skills, web design and development, database planning, design and management. Working knowledge of social media platforms, internet analytics, and digital content creation.

Property and Facilities - this committee will assist in reviewing current property and facilities maintenance and records management policies and procedures for potential enhancements. It will also review short and long term capital planning and improvements as well as architectural and engineering needs. A keen eye for detail and problem solving is desired.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER "Being Grateful"

Our focus for November is "Being Grateful". We are encouraging our church family and visitors to put our gratitude in action. Please join us in daily prayer as we meditate on these scriptures:

11/06: Hebrews 13:16, 2 Corinthians 9:7, Colossians 3:17

11/13: Colossians 3:15-20

11/20: Luke 6:38, Malachi 3:102, Corinthians 9:7

11/27: Psalm 100:1-5, Mark 16:15

Unite with us on Tuesday mornings 7:00am to 7:30am for prayer (701) 802-5047, the access code is 1846260 and on the third Wednesday each month at 6:00pm via the ABC website.



Antioch Connection



Antioch's DOVE Ministry Determined to Overcome Valley Experiences

The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. 1 Timothy 5:3

Antioch's DOVE Ministry was launched in 2017 by Sister Deborah Gibbs, the wife of Antioch's founding pastor, Rev. John Q. Gibbs, and Sister Carrier Hester, the wife of Deacon Lawrence Hester, two God-fearing men who loved Jesus and lived the mission of our beloved church, "Loving God and Loving Others."

"I was the first to be widowed as a member in the first 5 ½ years of Antioch," Sister Gibbs said. "I had feelings, emotions, and thoughts that I felt were too uncomfortable for others to hear, which added to my feeling totally alone though in the midst of many. As the years passed and more were experiencing the loss of a spouse, the idea continuously nudged at me. After the passing of Deacon Hester, Carrie and I started DOVE."

Explaining the scripture that undergirds the ministry, Sister Gibbs said, "Contextually, 'widows' in Greek means any woman who has lost her husband through death, divorce or desertion and 'need' references financial support. However, the DOVE ministry addresses spiritual, emotional, social, health, and financial concerns for both men and women. No matter how long they have been on this journey, DOVE will assist spouses left behind to embrace their new normal."



Participation in the DOVE ministry is open to anyone who has lost a spouse. "DOVE has participants who have been recently widowed and who have been widowed for over 30 years," Sister Gibbs said. "We have several regular participants who are members of neighboring churches as well. The ministry allows you to ask questions or share thoughts and feelings more freely with someone who has walked in similar shoes," she said.

Sister Gibbs shared advice from other DOVE members:

- It's important to have support from people who have had the same experience.
- Other people (who haven't lost a spouse) can sympathize and feel for you, but it's not the same.
- Avoid the tendency to isolate yourself from others and withdraw into yourself.
- Make an effort to stay connected with family and friends.

The ministry has been very active over the past five years, creating a loaning library on grieving and related topics, offering presentations from mental health professionals, and sharing information on securing the Real ID, estate planning, and health issues. Although they've met primarily via ZOOM since the pandemic, the group has had outings to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, concerts, dinner dances, game nights, exercise outings, and more.

Upcoming events include a tentative "men's only" session and a Marriage Ministry presentation on "What we wish we had known." Also planned is a brochure formally introducing the ministry to those who have recently experienced loss.

For more information or to join the DOVE Ministry, email DOVE@antioch-church.org.



*A Very Special thank you to all those
who serve our great nation!*