



# Antioch Connection

## REVEREND JEFFERY GAINES, SR.

### ANTIOCH'S TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

We are delighted to have Reverend Jeffery Gaines Sr. as Antioch's Transitional Pastor. We want to share our conversation with Reverend G and invite you to personally "Meet and Greet" him on Sunday, January 29th after the 11:00am worship service.

Reverend Gaines' interest in serving as Antioch's Transitional Pastor was deeply rooted in his love for the Antioch family and his desire to give back. Reverend Gaines said, "As Transitional Pastor, my role will be to continue driving smart changes in preparation for the permanent Senior Pastor. I will press forward in serving God and serving others. I will ask the tough questions helping the church think about how best to move forward. I want to focus on what the members need during this transition. I never buy into the status quo. If it can be done better, then let's do it better now!"

The DOVE and Grief Share ministries are near and dear to Reverend G's heart. Though all ministries are important, he finds great joy in helping people who have experienced loss. He and Sister Gaines led the Grief Share ministry for almost eleven years at Antioch.

"I had to overcome a lot of negative influences throughout my early years," said Reverend G. The words of encouragement I received along the way coupled with 1 Thessalonians 5:11 "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing" changed my life trajectory and inspired me to write "My Journey and Life's Lessons Along the Way". If I can help somebody along the way that's exactly what I want to do.

My beautiful wife, Brenda has been very instrumental in my walk with Christ. Brenda initially encouraged me to go to church and has been my biggest influencer, champion, and supporter. We enjoy serving together as partners in marriage and ministry.

Working closely with the Executive Pastor will be critical to the success of this role. Reverend Jones and I will be lock, stock, and barrel. The Provisional Leadership Committee (PLC), Reverend Jones, and I will be like the trinity taking care of the God's people and Antioch's church operations.

Reverend G wants the congregation to know that he cares and that his ultimate goal is to live a life reflective of Christ. He also wants us to know that he is a fun person despite his serious look. He enjoys motorcycles, sports cars, movies, and the Miami Dolphins.



## Sister Brenda Gaines

provided encouraging words at the Antioch Women's Ministry Christmas Fellowship. She asked the women to carefully listen and be sure that we are truly discerning the voice of God. She gave a personal testimony and suggested that we follow God closely, cling to Him and put our words into action by "Overcoming and Thriving through Discernment, Obedience, and Hope". She capitalized on the Prince of Peace and the fact that He came to give us life and life more abundantly.



Reverend G and Sister Gaines have been soul mates for 38 years.



# Antioch Connection

## Holiday Highlights

Antioch continued its tradition of annual Christmas programs. On December 5th the Women's Ministry, led by Sister Sandra Streeeter, held its Christmas Program and on December 11th, we held two churchwide celebrations at 8:00am and 11:00am with the Men's Choir reuniting to perform their rendition of the famed Temptations version of Silent Night. Antioch's Choir sang a melody of Christmas songs including a touching version of O Holy Night. Reverend Keith Philips gave an inspirational sermon from Romans 8:24-28 titled "Frustration—To Hope—To Victory". He encouraged us to not to lose hope for all things work together for our good.



At the 11am service, the Dance Ministry, Youth Choir and the Praising Saints joined in for a festive performance that glorified God in the highest. We were truly blessed by the efforts of all involved with the worship services.

### Mobile Joy

Mobile Joy provided a joyful medley of Christmas songs during the Women's Ministry Christmas program. Mobile Joy consists of a group of women who love the Lord and share their gifts through song. Originally ministering to the elderly in Nursing Homes, they have expanded to other areas to include celebrations and worship services. Several of the women are members of Antioch. Mobile Joy was founded by Sister Bobbie Jean DeHaven, a long-standing Antioch member.



### Christmas Giving Tree Ministry Thanks You!

Your generous monetary contributions of \$12,900 enabled Antioch to provide gift cards to 14 individual families of our church and in the surrounding communities; five schools (Freedom and Woodbridge High Schools, Key and Luther Jackson Middle Schools, and Rose Hill Elementary School) for families in need determined by school counselors; and five organizations (Inova Juniper, Community Services Board, Youth for Tomorrow, Key Center, and Birmingham Green) for individual clients.



Sister Tiffany Horne, lead servant for the ministry has received numerous responses from recipients on how thankful they are for Antioch's assistance during their time of need. The Giving Tree ministry is praying that we will be able to return to allowing members to choose stars and purchase gifts for the distribution to individual families and organizations for the 2023 Christmas season.



# Antioch Connection

## CONGRATULATIONS



*Congratulations* to Trustee Beverly Wilson, PLC Co-Chair, who has served as a Trustee at Antioch for twenty-three years and as Chair for seven years. She was elected and graciously served two full terms which end December 31, 2022. Trustee Willie Horne served as Vice Chair.

On January 14, 2023, Trustees Ron Beasley and Derrick Savage will serve as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. Please join us in congratulating and thanking them all for their dedicated service and continued commitment to Antioch.

*Congratulations* to Reverend Leonard Morton, Sr. who has been called to serve as Pastor for Poplar Forks Baptist Church in Warrenton, Virginia starting in January 2023. For the last six years, Rev. Morton and Sister Shelia, have been members of the Antioch family. Prior to serving as Associate Minister at Antioch, Rev. Morton retired after twenty-eight years as Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Plains, Virginia. He and his wife plan to continue worshipping with us at the 8am service. We thank God for his continued service.



*Congratulations* to Antioch's very own Jataro Mainor, David King, Kaitlyn Purvis, and Adia Elcock who received college scholarships from the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) on December 9, 2022. This celebration took place during the National Convention at the Gaylord National Convention Center at the National Harbor. Scholarships were awarded to twenty-seven students and ranged from \$1,000 to \$2,500. Way to go and keep up the great work!!!

*Save the Date*

- January 8—Antioch Anniversary (34 years)
- January 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Recognition
- January 29—Meet & Greet Pastor Gaines (after 11:00am)



# Antioch Connection

## Antioch's Feed The Homeless Ministry: Sharing the Love of Christ at Christmas and All Year Long

Christmas is a time of reflection on the birth of the Christ Child and about the love, kindness, and joy all around us. Antioch's Feed the Homeless Ministry embodies that spirit throughout the year.

The ministry, under Missions & Outreach led by Reverend Michael Coppedge, is Antioch's very first ministry. Established in 1989 by founding Pastor John Q. Gibbs, the ministry collaborated with Fairfax County's FACETS, which works closely with over one hundred faith communities to open doors for people in need, and with Shoppers Food Warehouse to secure food donations and/or discounts. In the early years, Feed the Homeless began preparing meals at the Salvation Army, then moved to Fairfax Presbyterian Church kitchen facility and as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, currently packages meals at Antioch.

Each month, on the fourth Tuesday, the ministry serves approximately 175 nutritious meals to thirty to forty people who are also picking up meals for their families in some cases.



Through your generous donations of \$2.100 during the Antioch Revival, Antioch also provided "hope bags" in December with the meals. The hope bags (backpacks) were filled with hats, gloves, neck warmers, socks, travel-size toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand sanitizers, wet wipes, fleece blankets, emergency mylar thermal blankets and other items.

With more families being impacted by inflation and rising costs, the ministry needs more servant volunteers. The ministry is open to all who have an open heart and are eager to show God's love while delivering, serving, and sharing the Gospel with the homeless.

Volunteers meet on the fourth Tuesday each month, beginning at 4:30pm. Meals are prepared in three phases – food/supply pickup, food preparation, and food delivery to two to four drop-off points/stops throughout Fairfax County. Volunteers can choose to serve in one, two, or all three phases, based on your availability. Youth can earn community service hours for school requirements. Deacon Gil McManus is the lead servant for the ministry. Earlier ministry leaders included: Sister Kim Ryals, Sister Gwen Patton, Rev. Keith Coleman, the late Rev. Emerson Ellis, Sister Kobe Owens, and Deacon Al Ruffin.

Christmas is a time for celebration of God's love for the world through the birth of Jesus Christ. Share your love and gratitude by volunteering for Antioch's Feed the Homeless Ministry and help light the world with joy and kindness. For more information, contact Deacon Gil McManus at [g19s65m@gmail.com](mailto:g19s65m@gmail.com) or 571-242-3468.



# 2023

# Happy New Year