



# ANTIOCH CONNECTION



An Antioch FFX Publication

VOL. 3 | ISSUE 6

## TAYLORED TALK

*a message for His people*

### Keep It Reel: A Message from Pastor Kevin B. Taylor

It's Men's Month at Antioch Baptist Church, and what a powerful season it is! In May, we focused on Evangelism, responding to the commission of Jesus that we be fishers of people. As we learned, fishing for souls isn't just a monthly mission—it's a year-round calling. That's why we're keeping it focused, intentional, and most of all—keeping it REEL!

This month, we're diving into a biographical study of the Apostle Paul, a true multiplier in the Kingdom. As we discussed last month, Paul wrote two-thirds of the New Testament, and Jesus went fishing for him on the Damascus Road, a dry and deserted place that became a doorway to purpose. Paul's transformation reminds us that God meets us wherever we are and calls us into greater.

Men, this is our time! We'll celebrate each other on Father's Day, and we're looking forward to some fun and fellowship at our Men's Conference at the end of June. It's a great time to be a man at Antioch FFX!

We're also celebrating our graduating seniors, and we're proud to say that eight of our ten graduates are young men. To God be the glory for what He's doing in the lives of the next generation.

Thank you to all who attended our conflict resolution training with Sis. Oletha Barnett from Dallas, TX. Our church is stronger, more unified, and better equipped to move forward in unity, healing, and hope.

Men, warm up those vocal cords—we're lifting up Jesus in song this month! Remember, it's our month, Happy Father's Day!

I'm so excited to be your Pastor. Remember, I love you and there is absolutely nothing you can do about it!

*Pastor T*



### 2025 FOCUS:

#### FULFILLING OUR PURPOSE!

*Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Mark 8:25 ESV*

#### Inside this edition:

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### Join Us For Prayer & Bible Studies

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

Sunday School and C.A.R.E.S. Small Groups Resume September 8th

Wednesday 12Noon and Family Bible Study | 7:00pm thru June 18th

Thursday SonRise Bible Study | 6am and Friday Morning Bible Study | 9:30am thru June 13th



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## Honoring Fathers of Faith: A Father's Day Reflection

This Father's Day, we pause to give thanks for the fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and spiritual fathers who have shaped our lives with wisdom, sacrifice, and love. In a world that often rushes past the quiet strength of godly men, we want to take a moment to honor the men in our lives who reflect the love of our Heavenly Father.

Scripture reminds us of the vital role fathers play in the spiritual foundation of the family. Proverbs 20:7 ESV tells us, *"The righteous who walks in his integrity; blessed are his children after him!"* A father's faith, consistency, and prayers leave an inheritance far more valuable than gold—one of character, courage, and devotion.

To the dads who rise early to provide, who teach their children to pray, who serve their families with humility and strength—we see you, and we thank God for you. Your love doesn't always make headlines, but it is the steady hand that guides the next generation.

We also recognize that Father's Day can be bittersweet. Some are mourning the loss of a father, others may have experienced fatherhood in painful or complicated ways. To those hearts, we offer comfort and the reminder that God is the perfect Father who heals, restores, and never leaves.

As a church family, let us encourage and uplift the men among us. Let us pray for the fathers who are leading their households, mentoring others, and growing in their faith. And let us celebrate with joy those who, by their example, point us to Christ.

Happy Father's Day! May God continue to bless and strengthen every father in our community.

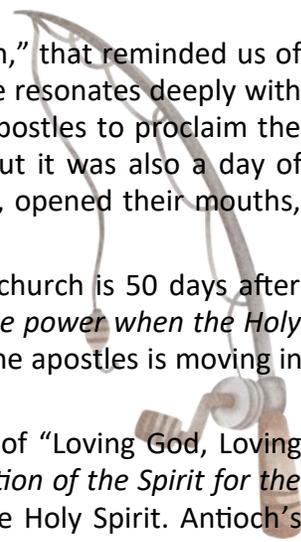
## FOCUSED FISHING: A REMINDER TO FISH

Pastor Taylor offered a message on April 27, titled "Focused Fishing: A Reminder to Fish," that reminded us of our ongoing call to evangelism — "to get your rod and reel and go fishing." This message resonates deeply with the spirit of Pentecost. Pentecost marks the moment the Holy Spirit empowered the apostles to proclaim the gospel boldly to a diverse crowd in Jerusalem. It was a day of divine outpouring — but it was also a day of "focused" action. The apostles didn't merely wait in the upper room; they stepped out, opened their mouths, and "fished."

Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and ignited the early church is 50 days after Easter. Pentecost is the fulfillment of Jesus' promise in Acts 1:8 ESV: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses..."* That same Spirit that fell on the apostles is moving in Antioch.

Each of us has been gifted — uniquely and intentionally — to fulfill Antioch's mission of "Loving God, Loving Others." Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12:7 ESV that, *"to each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."* Don't underestimate what God can do with a willing heart led by the Holy Spirit. Antioch's mission and ministry are to be a congregation that welcomes all, loves deeply, and reflects the body of Christ.

On January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation, which promised freedom to the over 3.5 million African Americans enslaved in Confederate states, went into effect. However, more than two years would pass before the news reached African Americans in Confederate states. On June 18, 1865, General Gordon Granger, along with nearly 2,000 Union soldiers marched into Galveston, Texas taking control of the Confederate state. On June 19, 1865, Granger read "General Order #3" which ended slavery in the area. Six months later, the Thirteenth Amendment was ratified on December 6, 1865 and ended slavery throughout the entire country. On June 19, 1866, the anniversary of Granger's announcement, formerly enslaved African Americans in Texas celebrated "Jubilee Day". The day was also called "Freedom Day" and "Liberation Day" at times before "Juneteenth". In 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, signed legislation that made **Juneteenth, June 19th, a federal holiday.**





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## MISSION FOCUSED: STEPS OF FAITH

### Antioch Walks to End Global Water Crisis: World Vision Global 6K Walk, Run, Roll

On Saturday, May 17th, 145 walkers, runners, and volunteers gathered at Burke Lake Park for Antioch’s World Vision Global 6k Walk for Clean Water. Antioch raised more than \$22,000, which allowed us to rank #11 out of 504 World Vision Global 6K teams nationwide. Antioch received more than 300 registrations/donations which will provide access to clean water for 445 people.

The six-kilometer walk represents the average round trip distance that women and children in the developing world walk to collect water that, unfortunately, is often contaminated. According to World Vision, 703 million people worldwide don’t have access to clean water. Antioch has partnered with World Vision for a decade to help bring people the clean water they need for daily life. Our willingness to play an active role in solving the global water crisis is just one way Antioch continues to demonstrate that we are a church that C.A.R.E.S.



### A Hard Head Makes A ... by Deloris Witcher

**“Train up a child in the way he should go.” Prov. 22:6a KJV**

“Summertime and the Living is Easy,” is the first line of Ella Fitzgerald’s legendary song *Summertime*. As outdoor fun peaks so do bike accidents. Riding a bicycle that has not been properly inspected or riding without a helmet can be a recipe for “scrambled heads.” Over 600,000 bike-related traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) happen yearly, with the highest rates among children ages 10-14 during spring and summer. Wearing a helmet reduces the risk of brain injury by up to 88%. Make sure helmets fit properly and teach children bike safety rules like riding in designated areas and following traffic laws. Parents, model this behavior yourselves. Put on a helmet or wear a halo.

June is National Alzheimer’s and Brain Health Awareness Month. Take proactive steps to learn how to protect your brain health. “A mind is a terrible thing to waste.”

### JUNE IS CARRIBEAN HERITAGE MONTH!

In June 2005, the House of Representatives unanimously adopted H. Con. Res. 71, sponsored by Congresswoman Barbara Lee, recognizing the significance of Caribbean people and their descendants in the history and culture of the United States. On February 14, 2006, the resolution similarly passed the Senate, culminating a two-year, bipartisan and bicameral effort. The Proclamation was issued by President George W. Bush on June 6, 2006.





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## TOO FAR GONE? NEVER!

The Apostle Paul is Proof You're Never Too Far Gone to be Used by God

Many of us have heard of Apostle Paul. He is one of the most influential Christians of the early church. In fact, Paul's life sets the standard for how we should live as modern-day Christians. However, it is important to know that Paul was not always a model Christian. The early days of Paul's life are quite different from his latter days.

Paul, also known as Saul, was born a Jew and Roman citizen. In his 20s, Saul led the campaign for the persecution of early followers of Jesus. He also advocated for and approved the murder of Christians. He was known to drag both men and women from their homes to prison because of their Christian beliefs. Paul hoped that the persecution and death of Christians would abolish the spread of Christianity.

Although Paul was not righteous, God changed Paul's path in one of the most miraculous ways. Paul was traveling to Damascus to continue his quest of Christian persecution when a bright light appeared, and he fell to the ground. He heard a voice questioning, "Why do you persecute me?" Paul asked who was speaking and the voice answered, "I am Jesus, who you are persecuting." Jesus told Paul, "Get up and follow my instructions."

Paul stood but he could not see anything because he was blind. Three days later, God instructed his disciple Ananias to place his hands on Paul's eyes to restore his sight. This was the beginning of Paul's new life with Christ. The Holy Spirit filled Paul after his conversion to faith, giving Paul a miraculous testimony and empowering him to share the good news. God spoke to Paul, changed his hardened heart, and filled him with the Holy Spirit. What an awesome miracle Paul experienced! This testimony led to Paul's life purpose of spreading the gospel to Gentiles (non-Jews) and his missionary travel throughout the Roman empire. Paul founded 14 confirmed churches in Asia Minor and Europe, although some scholars argue it was closer to 20. He is also author of 13 books of the Bible – more than any other biblical author. Paul used his writings to encourage persecuted Christians and local churches to remain faithful. He also focused his writings on forgiveness and God's grace and mercy.

The most important thing we can learn from Paul's life is that God can choose us at any time and in any state. God chose Paul right in the middle of his quest to stop the spread of Christianity. We have all read scripture that gives evidence of how God choose a drunkard, a tax collector, a prostitute, and so many other unlikely candidates to accomplish His will or carry out His purpose. Scripture proves you are never too far gone to be chosen. God will meet you right where you are. He has the power to change your heart and to redirect your path at any time. We must have faith that God will reveal His power and design an impactful testimony for us to share with the lost.

### *Breathe In and Exhale with Praise and Gratitude!*

**Antioch's Women's Fall 2025 Retreat is Friday and Saturday, October 3—4, 2025, at Lansdowne Resort in Lansdowne, VA.** This year's theme is inspired by references from the Gospels where Jesus "set aside" time away to pray and hear from God. Sisters, please go to the Antioch website to register for the conference.

- Early Bird rate through June 30, 2025 is \$350.00 per person (Must be paid in full by 6/30; Split payments available).
- Standard rate is \$375.00 per person July 1st through July 31st. Registration includes: Three (3) Meals, Snacks, Resort Fee, Gratuity, and one-night stay Deluxe Double Occupancy Room. **If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Sister Kenya Savage at [KSavage@antioch-church.org](mailto:KSavage@antioch-church.org)**



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## MAY HIGHLIGHTS



### Antioch Unites in Hope for the 74th National Day of Prayer

On May 1st, we held our annual National Day of Prayer Breakfast. This year's theme, "Pour Out to the God of Hope and be Filled," was inspired by Romans 15:13 NKJV: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Rev. Dr. Jeffery O. Johnson, Sr., Senior Pastor of Mt. Calvary Baptist, Fairfax, presided over the program, which was sponsored by Antioch's Partners in Prayer Ministry.

Our speakers included Rev. Yolanda Waller Darden, Associate Pastor and Minister of Creative Arts and Worship Ministries at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Arlington; Senior Pastor Rusty Coram of New Hope Church in Lorton; Rev. Dr. J. Julian Dangerfield, Heritage Fellowship Church, Reston; Rev. Dr. Paul Sheppard, First Baptist Church, Merrifield; Rev. Dr. Taft Heatley, Shiloh Baptist Church, Alexandria; Rev. Dr. Bishop Patrick Thomas, Dale City Christian Church, and Antioch's Executive Pastor, Rev. Dr. Melvin Jones.

The pastors focused on the Seven Centers of Influence in our nation, commonly known as the Seven Prayer Pillars — **Church, Family, Education, Business, Military, Media, and Government.**



The Antioch **Green Ministry**, led by Sister Anna Dixon, held a successful green learning and planting day in partnership with the Virginia Department of Forestry. Volunteers planted 75 native trees and shrubs across the ABC campus.



Antioch and AKAs of Lambda Kappa Omega Chapter, Fairfax, VA hosted a Shred event which allowed for the secure disposal of important documents.

## ANTIOCH MEN ON FIRE FOR THE LORD!

In April, the Antioch Men's Ministry hosted an intergenerational panel focused on Christian Manhood. Brothers Chase Beasley, Daniel Purvis, and Joshua Luss were the Gen Z and Millennials representatives. Brothers Joe Alexander, Dmitri Perkins, and Jimmy Johnson represented our men of maturity. Deacon Terry Lee served as moderator. The panel discussed a variety of topics, including Faith and Identity; Mentorship and the Generational Bridge; Navigating Modern Challenges; and Leadership and Impact. This intergenerational dialogue allowed all participants to understand and appreciate how the younger generation views world challenges and the importance of always relying on God's word. Next steps involve reestablishing the mentoring program to support and guide the next generation at Antioch.

In May, the men continued their study on Love: Unconditional Love, Agape Love and discussed the work they are doing at the Fairfax Adult Detention Center. Hold on tight, in June, the men will host a **Men's Conference which will be held on Saturday, June 28th and 5th Sunday Revival on June 29th!** Men, register now through June 21st. Church family, mark your calendars for a smoking hot, foot-stomping good time on the 5th Sunday.

<p><b>MEN'S CONFERENCE</b> AT ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH <b>SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2025</b> 8 AM TO 4:30 PM REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! WWW.ANTIOCH-CHURCH.ORG</p> <p><b>COST PER PERSON \$45</b></p> <p><b>GUEST SPEAKER</b> BISHOP DEREK GRIER FOUNDING PASTOR GRACE CHURCH IN DUMFRIES, VA</p>	<p><i>5th Sunday Fire</i> <b>Men's Revival</b></p>	<p>8:00 AM Service</p> <p><b>Rev. Dr. Carl J. Solomon</b> United Baptist Church Baltimore, MD</p>	<p>10:30 AM Service</p> <p><b>Dr. Rolous Frazier, Jr.</b> St. John Baptist Church Orlando, FL</p>
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## LIFE AT THIS STAGE *by Negleatha Johnson* Come **REST** with Me, Under the Juniper Tree

As we celebrate men this month, I’m reminded of the Prophet Elijah. 1 Kings 19:1-8 shares a wonderful story about how he experienced fear, and yes, even burnout. Elijah was ready to throw in the towel. The previous chapters tell of the incredible things Elijah had done. He was the one who stood up to King Ahab, whose God won the contest on Mt. Carmel, and who prayed down rain after a period of drought. With all this, how did he end up running from the death threats of Jezebel, King Ahab’s wife? He had just witnessed the one true and living God doing the *impossible*, but when Jezebel spoke, Elijah ran. He ran and finally stilled himself under the juniper tree.

Undoubtedly, one threat can unravel us in spite of everything we’ve accomplished, especially for men who often equate success with keeping the grind always in motion. I’ve often heard it said that rest is for the *weak*. At this stage, I’m convinced that rest is for those *wise* enough to recognize that it moves us closer to our best. My brothers, heed God’s voice as He whispers— *Come REST with me, Under the Juniper Tree.*

## Children, Youth, and Young Adults: News You Can Use

The Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministry will host this year’s **Family Vacation Bible School on Monday, July 7 - Friday, July 11 from 5:00pm - 8:30pm**. This year’s theme is “Magnified!”, focusing on Psalm 34:3 ESV, “Oh magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.”

Dinner will be served from 5:00pm - 6:30pm and classes for the children will commence at 7:00pm. While the children are in their classrooms, adults will participate in worship for our VBS Revival beginning at 7:00pm and ending promptly at 8:00pm. Children will need to be picked up from their classrooms at 8:30pm.

There is no cost for Family VBS, however, each family must register by June 30, 2025. We’re looking forward to a powerful week of fellowship, learning, and fun for the whole family!

Revivalists for the week include: Rev. Yolanda Waller Darden, Rev. Dennis Drake, Min. Negleatha Johnson, and Rev. Bernard Corbett.



Rev. Daniel Simpkins



If you're interested in serving in any capacity—such as teaching, assisting a teacher, hospitality, or other roles—we'd love to have your help. Please email [abc.vbs@antioch-church.org](mailto:abc.vbs@antioch-church.org) for any questions or to volunteer.

Please also save the date for our Youth Trip to **Busch Gardens on Saturday July 12th**. More to come...



## Justice Empowerment Ministry: JEMs For You!

### VOTE: VIRGINIA PRIMARIES: Early voting through June 14; Primary on June 17

Most Americans know about elections held in November to fill offices, but how do candidates get on that ballot? Major parties use primary elections to determine their nominees. The 2025 June primary elections’ called offices, include the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General as well as Virginia House of Delegate Offices and called local offices. It is important for us to make our voices heard in the primaries. Be sure to cast your vote early or vote on June 17th. To review the candidate lists for the June 17, 2025, Republican and Democratic Party primaries, go to the Virginia Department of Elections webpage at <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/candidate-list/>

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## MEMBER RECOGNITION



**Congratulations** to Antioch's very own Taylor King. Taylor was recently promoted to Captain in the U.S. Army. She is currently attending the Logistics Captains Career Course as a Transportation Officer. With the completion of this course in September, Taylor will also earn her Master's in Logistics Management. Taylor is the daughter of Donald and Gwendolyn King. Congratulations Taylor!

**Congratulations** Joy Galberth, one of Antioch's newest members. Joy was elected President of the Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The chapter currently has over 200 members that remain active and dedicated to addressing the needs of the Fairfax County community and beyond. Congratulations Joy!



### 2025 Summer Reading Program: #PUSH [Pray Until Something Happens]



"And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart." *Luke 18:1 ESV*

Commit to reading this year as a part of Antioch's 2025 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 – 2nd	<i>How can I pray?</i> by Steph Williams or <i>Millie and the Praying Bear</i> by Lydia Asri-Brech
3rd– 5th	<i>What Happens when I talk to God</i> by Stormie Omartian or <i>Any Time, Any Place, Any Prayer</i> by Laura Wifler
6th – 8th	<i>How to Pray: A Guide for Young Explorers</i> by Gemma Hunt and Pete Greig
9th – 12th	<i>The Power of a Praying Teen</i> by Stormie Omartian

If you have any questions, 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.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY & CAREER FAIR

The Antioch Business Directory is being developed in support of our members impacted by the mass government layoffs. As we support each other in these challenging times, our multi-pronged process includes the creation of an Antioch Business Directory. Business owners, please consider participating by scanning the QR code and providing the information requested. The next step includes assisting members with resume updates and hosting a **Career Fair on Saturday, September 6th.**

### CALLING ALL ANTIOCH BUSINESS MEN & WOMEN

Antioch Baptist Church is creating resources for our members who are impacted by the Government firings. This will be a multi-pronged process that will start with creating a business directory.

SCAN TO SIGN UP

## INFORMATION REQUESTED

Call Us  
703-425-0710

Business Name

Business Contact Info

Business Description

Pro Bono Services?

Visit Our Website  
[www.antioch-church.org](http://www.antioch-church.org)

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## ANTIOCH'S KINDNESS KORNER NEEDS YOU!

At Kindness Korner, we believe the command to "train up a child in the way he should go" (Proverbs 22:6a KJV) is a divine calling. We invite you to prayerfully consider serving in our Nursery Ministry during the 8:00am or 10:30am worship services. We are dedicated to caring for children ages birth to 4 years old, providing a safe and nurturing environment where they can begin to experience the love of Jesus. Here's how you can serve:



Ain Johnson



**Passion for Service:** Have a heart for serving the youngest among us.

**Safe Gatherings Clearance:** All volunteers must complete the Safe Gatherings application process, which includes background checks and online abuse prevention training. This ensures a safe environment and aligns with best practices in child protection.

**Church Membership:** To work directly with children, volunteers must

be active members of Antioch for at least six months and have completed the Safe Gatherings training. If you are new to our congregation and have not reached the six-month threshold, we encourage you to become involved in our Young People Matter training until you meet the requirements to serve.

**Support Antioch's Kindness Korner:** We have created an Amazon Wishlist to ensure we have the necessary supplies to run our nursery efficiently and effectively. If you feel led to contribute, please review the list and consider donating items that will bless those using our nursery.

For more information, contact Ain Johnson, Kindness Korner Servant Leader at [littleones@antioch-church.org](mailto:littleones@antioch-church.org).



*Have a Great Summer!*

Children's Church wishes you a relaxing and fun-filled summer! See you in September.

## Save the Dates

- Jun 1 High School Senior Graduation Recognition 10:30AM Worship Service
- Jun 2 Grief Share 7PM (Virtual Mon 6/2—6/16)
- Jun 4 12Noon & 7PM Family Bible Study (Wed 6/4-6/18)
- Jun 7 Starting Point (Virtual) 9AM—12Noon
- Jun 7 Women's Ministry Bible Study 10AM
- Jun 8 Pentecost Sunday
- Jun 8, 15, 22 Summer Reading Program—Pick Up Info in Worship Center Foyer
- Jun 12 Pastor and Lady Leona's Wedding Anniversary
- Jun 13 Karaoke Fun Night 7PM

- Jun 14 New Member Orientation 9AM
- Jun 15 Father's Day
- Jun 19 Juneteenth—Office Closed
- Jun 22 Singles Ministry 12:30PM
- Jun 24 Feed the Homeless 4:30 Prep/Del/Distributions
- Jun 27 All In Golf Outing 1PM
- Jun 28 Men's Conference 8AM—4:30PM
- Jun 29 Men's Revival 5th Sunday Fire 8AM & 10:30AM
- Jul 7-11 Family Vacation Bible School
- Oct 3-4 Women's Fall Conference Landsdowne Resort (Registration is Open now)