



ANTIOCH CONNECTION



An Antioch FFX Publication

VOL. 4 | ISSUE 2



2026 TRUST: TRUSTING GOD; TRUSTING OTHERS!

Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts. Psalm 22:9 ESV

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TAYLORED TALK

a message for His people

From the Pastor's Heart: Trusting God. Trusting Others.

February finds us standing at a powerful intersection of trust, consecration, remembrance, and celebration. After beginning 2026 by giving God our first fruit, we now complete 40 days of intentional consecration for the work of ministry. As our 21-Day Daniel Fast concludes on February 8, we carry forward the spiritual clarity gained through our five-fold fast—physical, financial, soul, Daniel, and 40 days of prayer. This season has required us to trust God not only with what we need, but with who we are becoming.

Trust is at the heart of this moment. Trusting God with our hearts, our health, and our future. February is Heart Health Month, reminding us that sustained ministry requires wellness—spiritual, emotional, and physical. We cannot pour from empty vessels. Likewise, Black History Month calls us to remember the shoulders we stand on as a Black Church in these United States, while preparing our shoulders to carry the next generation forward with strength, wisdom, and faith.

This month also invites us into sacred remembrance. During our Wall of Remembrance Ceremony, we honor the faithful members who transitioned to glory in 2025. Their lives remind us that legacy is built through faithfulness and trust in God across generations.

At the same time, February makes room for joy. Gathering for our Super Bowl Party—yes, *"Next year for the Cowboys"*—is more than fun; it is fellowship. Trust grows when we spend time together, laugh together, and do life together.

As we move forward, let us continue trusting God completely and learning to trust one another deeply. This is how healthy hearts, strong churches, and lasting ministry are built.

Always remember, I love you and there is nothing you can do about it!

Pastor T

Join Us For:

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

Sunday School, C.A.R.E.S. Small Groups and Bible Studies | 9:30—10:15AM

Wednesday Noon Bible Study and Wednesday Family Bible Study 7:00PM

Thursday SonRise Bible Study | 6AM

Friday Morning Bible Study | 9:30AM



ANTIOCH CONNECTION

ANTIOCH SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY

SPF Forum

SPIRITUAL | PHYSICAL | FINANCIAL

FOR 9TH - 12TH GRADERS

About the Event: A one-day forum featuring interactive activities on spiritual, physical, and financial wellness.

Community Invite: Antioch students are encouraged to invite high school-age friends and relatives.

Registration: Online registration is required. \$10 Materials Fee.

FEB | 28TH | 2026

8:30 AM—3 PM

MINISTRY CENTER MPR

Online Registration
Jan 25th — Feb 15th
First 50 registrants are FREE!



Register Now!
First 50 registrants
are FREE

This forum is for
parents and
students!

All attendees
must register.



SPIRITUAL, PHYSICAL, AND FINANCIAL WELLNESS FORUM

This forum is dedicated to promoting the spiritual, physical, and financial wellness our of 9th—12th grade students and their parents. We invite you to come and gain valuable insights/tips on:

- * Staying Grounded in Your Faith While Fulfilling Your Purpose
- * Achieving Academic Success
- * Overcoming Obstacles: Strategies for Staying Fit Physically and Mentally
- * Preparing for College Now
- * Exploring Careers and Pursuing Scholarships

Don't miss this rare opportunity for parents and students to get ahead of the game.

Whose Heart is It? *By Deloris Witcher*



“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” Proverbs 4:23 NIV

As African Americans we must be vigilant about taking care of our hearts. Here are some reasons why:

- ◆ Heart disease is the #1 cause of death.
- ◆ We develop and experience more severe complications.
- ◆ High blood pressure is a major influence; we have the highest rates in the world.
- ◆ Silent symptoms are common and are not just chest pain. Other symptoms are fatigue, nausea, vomiting, and pain in the jaw, neck, back, or shoulder.
- ◆ Symptoms can often look different for women.

Guard your heart because it belongs to God, but he left you in charge. Move at least 150 minutes per week. Exercise is medicine. Eat more fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins. Reduce sodium and sugary drinks, and prioritize sleep and stress management. Talk to your doctor before making any changes.



ANTIOCH CONNECTION

Who Do You Turn To When Things Are Tough?

When things are tough, we often retreat inward or reach for temporary distractions, however, the Bible presents us with an alternative that transforms us in a special way. Turning toward God anchors us and gives us peace in the storm. When life feels overwhelming, scripture supports this approach to finding stability and hope:

Turn to God as your Refuge. The Bible does not promise an absence of trouble, but it does promise His constant presence. Psalm 46:1 NIV declares, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." This isn't a passive statement; it is an invitation to run toward Him. Unlike other humans or personal willpower, God's strength is inexhaustible. Jesus echoed this invitation in Matthew 11:28 NIV, saying, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Turning to Him means shifting our gaze from the size of the mountain to the power of the Mountain-Mover.

Turn to Prayer. Hardship often robs us of our peace, but prayer restores our perspective. Philippians 4:6-7 NIV instructs us not to be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, to present our requests to God. This divine exchange is remarkable: We give God our anxieties, and He gives us a peace that surpasses all understanding. Even when we lack the words to speak, Romans 8:26 assures us that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us.

Turn to the Body of Christ. God does not intend for us to carry our crosses alone. Galatians 6:2 ESV commands us to "... bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." Turning to our faith community — friends, family, mentors, and the church — allows us to experience God's grace and find strength in community. Whether through shared prayer, wise counsel, or simple presence, the support of others serves as the primary way God manifests His provision and care in our lives.

When things are tough, the biblical response is clear: Look upward for strength, inward for the Spirit's peace, and outward for the support of the church. In doing so, we find that while our circumstances may not change immediately, our hearts are anchored in the One who has already overcome the world.

LIFE AT THIS STAGE *by Minister Negleatha Johnson*

Daniel: Knee Bowed and Body Bent

Daniel in the Bible possessed countless attributes that I admire: confidence, faith, leadership, credibility, and unbridled boldness. He knew how to trust in and stand up for his God, while respectfully serving a king who didn't. That's hard. But perhaps what I love most about Daniel was his discipline and consistency—characteristics that paid off greatly for him when facing trials. He didn't just start praying when he was under attack by the people around him. Daniel *always* prayed and had a *posture* of prayer that the saints of old would refer to as "knee bowed and body bent." Fervent. Surrendered. Humble.

Daniel showed us that the habit of prayer is necessary if we are to face the weapons of the enemy with courage and faith. Daniel talked to His God regularly and knew his Father's voice. This allowed him to make *God-ordained* decisions and not just execute what was necessary to "go along just to get along."

Daniel's life was undergirded by prayers of thanksgiving, intercession, or cries for help. My desire in this season is to develop a life of prayer so disciplined and consistent that I can feel the breath of God as He speaks. Like Daniel, I want my times of prayer to be my "custom," not as a routine, but where the daily call of God to pray is so overwhelming that everything within me stops to hear His voice. May my posture, like those before me, be "knee bowed and body bent."

Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he did before.

Daniel 6:10 NIV

ANTIOCH CONNECTION: JANUARY 2026 HIGHLIGHTS



ANTIOCH SERVED AS A HYPOTHERMIA PREVENTION CENTER

The week of December 28th—January 3rd, Antioch partnered with the Fairfax County FACETS program and opened its doors to our unhoused neighbors providing food and shelter, but more importantly warmth and love. Antioch, you provided meals, shoes, clothing, toiletries, and thermal blankets as well as social, emotional, and spiritual support for nearly 40 guests each evening. Our guests engaged in activities such as karaoke, line dancing, Bingo, Double Dutch, and so much more. Thank you for your generosity, prayers, love, and support. A special shout out to the groups and ministries that served: Donovan Angel Foundation, Antioch’s Walking Deacons, Ministers’ Spouses, Ushers, Chef Robo, D9 Ministry, and Dr. Michelle Edwards & Friends.



40 Days of Prayer

“In a world filled with distractions, we must remain steadfast in our faith and committed to our spiritual growth”, said Pastor T. Antioch kicked off the new year with 40 Days of Life Changing Prayer and Consecration, which included exercise, financial growth, and healthy lifestyle changes. Daily devotional prayers began each morning at 6 am. The 21-Day Daniel Fast began 1/18 thru 2/8 at 6am.

Antioch’s College Ministry enjoyed an evening of food, fun, and fellowship at Bond’s Escape Room in Fairfax, VA. They successfully completed The Joker’s Trap challenge in under an hour and concluded the night with pizza and conversation.



ANTIOCH CONNECTION: JANUARY 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

Antioch's 37th Anniversary and Deacon Ordination

On January 11th, Antioch celebrated 37 years of Loving God; Loving Others. The day was filled with joy as we recognized our founding Pastor, the late Rev. John Q. Gibbs, and our other four founders; remembered those who gained their wings in 2025; celebrated six generations of our church family; viewed the anniversary celebration video & heard highlights on an amazing year of blessings; ordained 12 female Deacons; recognized our first Deacon Emeritus; witnessed the licensure of Minister DeMarcasa "Dee" Jones; collected a special offering for our Mortgage Eliminate efforts; and extended the right hand of fellowship to 9 new members. Rev. Patrick J. Walker, Senior Pastor, The New Macedonia Baptist Church, Washington, DC preached a powerful message and proclaimed that A Church Making a Difference is a Loving Church; a Learning Church; and a Living Church. Pastor Walker challenged us to keep loving; to keep guiding, and to keep producing righteous fruit.



Pastor Taylor proudly presented Minister DeMarcasa "Dee" Jones with her certificate of license.

Founders, Debra Gibbs and Virginia Carter, waved to Bill and Kim Ryals, who participated virtually. All four were recognized and appreciated by Antioch.



The late Deacon Lawrence Hester was recognized as Deacon Emeritus for 27 years of service as a role model and exemplary man of God. His wife, Deacon Carrie Hester, and children received the award.



BELIZE MISSION 2026

Antioch Goal #2: Be a tithing church via missions and community outreach: 50% locally, 35% nationally, and 15% globally

Antioch continues to reach beyond the walls of our church to share God’s love and to spread the Gospel. Pastor Taylor, along with 18 Antioch members and 18 members of Wesley AME Church, Houston, TX led by Pastor John White, II journeyed to Belize, January 12th—17th to serve. The team supported three major organizations/efforts: The Golden Haven Rest Home in the village of Hattievilleville; constructing a swing set for a playground in the Jane Usher Community; and painting the Rhema Assembly of God Church.



During Antioch’s first visit to Belize in January 2025, we painted the exterior of the Rest Home, the pavilion, and the small companion building at the front of the property. In addition, Antioch provided toiletries, personal hygiene items, mattress covers, sheets, towels, clothing, shoes, and other items. This year’s focus was the interior living quarters at Golden Haven. This labor of love included painting 22 resident rooms and again providing much-needed supplies and essential care items.

ANTIOCH CONNECTION: JANUARY 2026 HIGHLIGHTS



God’s hands and feet in action.



Missionaries/volunteers painted 22 rooms at the Golden Haven Rest Home.



Inside Rhema Assembly of God where bible study is held for children and adults weekly.





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



Rev. Daniel Simpkins

The Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministry is hosting a Youth Leadership Luncheon on Sunday, March 22, from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM. This luncheon is for servant leaders and certified children and youth volunteers. During our time of fellowship, we will honor the service of those who work with our young people and discuss upcoming children and youth events where maximum volunteer support is needed.

If you are interested in attending, please register in advance. If you are not currently child and youth certified, please complete the required training online by March 15 in order to receive an invitation. If you have any questions regarding the luncheon, please contact Rev. Daniel Simpkins at dsimpkins@antioch-church.org.

Additionally, we are preparing for our Youth Mission Trip to Nashville, Tennessee, scheduled for June 28 – July 3. There are eight spots available for middle and high school students: four males and four females, ages 12–18. Youth interested in attending must submit:

- A one-page personal statement explaining why they would like to attend the mission trip
- Documentation of participation in one local mission or service project
- A \$75 commitment fee

All applications will be reviewed. Selected participants will be required to attend weekly mission training sessions leading up to the mission experience. Look for more information on the submission process in the weeks ahead. For questions regarding the mission trip, please contact Rev. Mike Coppedge at mcoppedge@antioch-church.org or Rev. Daniel Simpkins at dsimpkins@antioch-church.org.

We have a number of exciting program experiences planned for 2026. Please save the dates.

2026 CYA PROGRAM EXPERIENCES

- | | |
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| ◆ Feb 28: Spiritual, Physical, & Financial (SPF) Forum for 9th—12th Grades 8:30AM—3PM | ◆ June 28–July 3: Mission Trip to Nashville, TN |
| ◆ Mar 22: Quarterly Check-In with families | ◆ Jul 16: Virtual or In-Person CYA Retreat |
| ◆ Apr 4: Easter Egg Hunt | ◆ Jul 17 or 18: Amusement Park Outing |
| ◆ May 22: VBS Registration Begins | ◆ August: Children, Youth, and Collegiate Month |
| ◆ May 24: Fish Fry | ◆ Sep 27: Quarterly Check-In with Families |
| ◆ Jun 5: Night of Worship | ◆ Oct 31: Harvest Festival |
| ◆ Jun 7: High School Graduates Recognition | ◆ Nov 22: Quarterly Check-In with Families |
| ◆ Jun 22–26: Vacation Bible School (VBS) Week | ◆ Dec 27: Young Adult Takeover Sunday (CYA) |

In Loving Memory: ANTIOCH'S ANNUAL WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

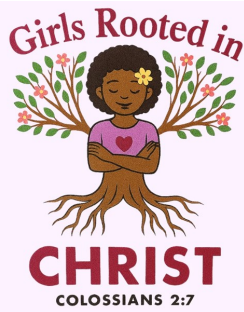


Antioch Baptist Church hosts an annual Wall of Remembrance ceremony for family members who recently lost a loved one. The ceremony is a tribute to active church members who gained their wings in the prior year. It is designed to publicly acknowledge Antioch's love and appreciation of the deceased church members' servant-life to the Lord, willingness to serve others, and their commitment and dedication to Antioch. For 2025, Antioch will honor the following members on Sunday, February 8, 2025 at 12:30 PM in the Ministry Center:

- ◆ Charles Johnson ◆ Vera Gant ◆ Catherine V. Dailey ◆ Synese Thompson ◆ Shirley Elam ◆ Merlene Scales
 ◆ James E. Griffin, Jr. ◆ Bradley Love ◆ Mary Alston ◆ Ricardo Watts ◆ Donna Lou McFadden



ANTIOCH CONNECTION



Mentorship for Middle School Girls

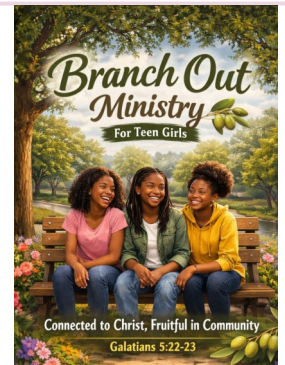
Girls Rooted In Christ is a new ministry designed to mentor middle school girls. Minister Dee Jones, Ministry Lead, is thrilled to welcome all middle school girls to join her on the 2nd Wednesday each month in the Ministry Center from 6:15PM to 7:00PM. **Our next meeting will be on February 11th in Room 403.** The servant lead is Sister Joyce Stockton.



The mission of the ministry is to cultivate a generation of young girls who are deeply rooted in Christ, growing in faith, wisdom, and gratitude. Through biblical teaching creative expression and community, we empower each girl to stand firm in truth, flourish in love, and live purposefully as daughters of the Kingdom. The vision of the ministry is to be a vibrant sisterhood of middle school girls who know their identity in Christ, walk boldly in faith, and reflect His love in every area of life. Contact Minister Dee Jones at djones@antioch-church.org for details.

Branch Out Ministry: Mentorship for High School Girls

Branch Out Ministry is excited to introduce our new High School Girls Mentoring Program. This ministry is designed to help lay a strong spiritual and emotional foundation to positively shape the journey of the young ladies who participate. The meetings will be on the 2nd Wednesday each month. **The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 from 6:15 to 7:00 pm in the ministry building Rooms 406/407.** Servant Leads are Sister Necole Allen and Sister Lani Evans.



This gathering will be an intentional evening rooted in love, devotion, fellowship, and spiritual commitment. Our desire is to create a safe, uplifting, and joy-filled environment where high school girls feel welcomed, valued, and supported. It will be a space where they can grow in their faith, build authentic relationships, and freely express who they are in a nurturing, Christ-centered setting.

Here our girls will have space to breathe, to belong, and to be inspired. We invite all high school girls to take part in this impactful experience and encourage parents and families to support, pray for, and partner with us as we invest in the next generation. Contact Minister Dee Jones at djones@antioch-church.org for details.

SAVE THE DATES

- Feb 1—8 40 Days of Prayer (Virtual) 6AM via Zoom 646-931-3860 Meeting ID 828 0086 4524 Passcode 021972
- Feb 1—8 Daniel's Fast (ends 2/8 at 6AM)
- Feb 1, 15 Children's Church 10:30AM
- Feb 8 Wall of Remembrance (In-Person/Virtual) 12:30PM MPR
- Feb 8 Super Bowl Fellowship 5PM MPR
- Feb 9 GenC Topical Bible Study (Virtual) 7-8:30PM
- Feb 11 Middle School Girls Mentoring (In-Person) 6:15PM –7PM
- Feb 15 Cancer Care Rising Above Ministry (Virtual) 2-3:30PM
- Feb 16 Line Dancing for Fitness 7PM MPR

- Feb 19 Modern Maturity Ministry (In-Person) MPR 12-2PM
- Feb 21 Iron Sharpeners Leaders Summit 9AM –3PM ☆
- Feb 22 D9 Sunday
- Feb 22 Single's Ministry (In-Person) 12:30—2PM
- Feb 22 Taylored Talk (In-Person) MPR 12:30—1:30PM ☆
- Feb 24 Feed the Homeless 4:30PM Prep/ 6PM Delivery
- Feb 26 Quarterly Business Meeting (In-Person/ Virtual) 7PM
- Feb 28 Men's Forum (In-Person) 8:30AM
- Feb 28 SPF Forum: Spiritual, Physical, & Financial Wellness for Youth Grades 9 - 12 (MPR) 8:30AM—3PM

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING | FEBRUARY 26TH 7:00PM | SANCTUARY



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X (formerly Twitter)
www.twitter.com/AntiochFFX



YouTube
www.youtube.com/AntiochFFX