



# ANTIOCH CONNECTION



An Antioch FFX Publication

VOL. 4 | ISSUE 1



## 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*

### Trust: Trusting God. Trusting Others.

As we step into January 2026, Antioch Baptist Church enters this new year with a clear and sacred focus: trust. Our theme, rooted in Psalm 22:9—"Yet You are He who brought me out of the womb; You made me trust while on my mother's breasts"—reminds us that trust in God is not learned late in life; it is formed at the very beginning. The same God who has sustained us then is faithful to carry us now and into the future.

January is our month of consecration—a time to set ourselves apart and realign our hearts with God's will. We will begin the year with 40 days of prayer, in conjunction with the fivefold fast that challenges us to grow holistically: spiritually in our souls, intentionally in our physical health, and faithfully in our finances. This season is not about perfection, but about posture—placing our trust fully in God and recommitting ourselves to one another as the body of Christ.

As we consecrate ourselves, we are also preparing for significant moments in the life of our church. In January 2026, Antioch will celebrate 37 years of ministry, witness the ordination of our female deacons, and extend Christ's love beyond our walls through our mission trip to Belize. Each of these milestones requires unity, obedience, and trust—trust in God's leading and trust in one another's calling.

Let us grow together, pray together, fast together, and believe together that God is shaping Antioch for even greater impact.

*I love you and there's absolutely nothing you can do about it!*

*Pastor T*

*Happy New Year*

### Join Us For Prayer

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 resume on January 18th | 9:30—10:15AM

Wednesday Noon Bible Study and Wednesday Family Bible Study resumes January 21st | 7:00PM

Thursday SonRise Bible Study resumes January 22 | 6AM

Friday Morning Bible Study resumes January 9: | 9:30AM



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## Stepping into 2026 with Gratitude and Expectation

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 NIV

As the new year unfolds, our hearts are overflowing with gratitude for what God has already done and expectation for what He promised He will do. We give thanks for how He has carried us — providing exceedingly, abundantly and without fail — into 2026.

This past year, we leaned into Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves and into our mission of "Loving God, Loving Others." Through acts of compassion, service, and obedience, we showed our community that Antioch C.A.R.E.S. We were Charitable. We Adapted. We built Relationships. We Evangelized. We Served. And through it all, the heart of Christ was made visible.

May Jesus Christ stepping into humanity to demonstrate God's unfailing love — the greatest act of generosity the world has ever known — ground each of us as we move into the new year. Whether through caring for our unhoused neighbors, opening our doors and hearts through ministry, or simply showing up for one another, let us commit to fulfilling the lessons Christ taught in tangible and meaningful ways.

The year ahead invites us to deepen our worship, strengthen our fellowship, and expand our witness. We celebrate the gifts God has placed within Antioch, and we eagerly anticipate how He will use us to impact lives for His glory. Each opportunity to give, serve, and worship is a chance to reflect Christ to the world.

In 2026, let us move forward with faith, unity, and joy. Come prepared to make a joyful noise unto the Lord and experience sweet fellowship. Come ready to serve, putting love into action in big and small ways. The same God who sustained us yesterday is already at work for our good tomorrow.

## Why Weight? By Deloris Witcher

***"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. " Hebrews 12:11a NIV***

Our bodies are gifts from God, and disciplining them is one way we honor Him. Excess weight is a major health concern among African American adults and youth. It increases the risk of Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, heart attack, and stroke. African Americans experience more complications than the general population from these diseases. This health disparity reminds us of the call in Deuteronomy 30:19 to *choose life*. God calls us to love Him with our whole hearts and minds. Part of that calling includes making wise decisions about nutrition, exercise, and rest.

Don't wait to lose weight. Join a bunch of losers in the 2026 Antioch Baptist Church Pound A-Thon which begins on January 4th and runs through March 15th. Let's encourage one another to discipline our bodies and minds so we can be Fit for His Kingdom. Register online or scan the QR Code for this fun, motivational, faith-filled journey.



SCAN TO REGISTER

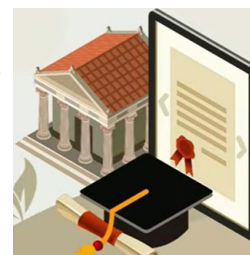


SCAN TO  
GIVE NOW

## ANTIOCH SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY

Would you like to make a difference in the life of one of our students? Invest today in our leaders of tomorrow! The Antioch Scholarship Ministry invites you to contribute to one or more of the scholarships areas. Your contributions will help to provide scholarships that empower our students to pursue higher education and achieve their dreams.

Your tax-deductible gifts and donations can be made online at [www.antioch-church.org/GIVE/](http://www.antioch-church.org/GIVE/), by texting "GIVE" to 571-200-2017, by Zelle at 571-583-2277, or by scanning the QR code.





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## LOOKING AHEAD

### Five Fold Fast



- ♦ **40 Days of Life Changing Prayer (1/1– 2/9)**  
Zoom in at 6AM from the Antioch website or use the following Zoom information: 646-931-3860 Meeting ID 828 0086 4524 Passcode 021972



- ♦ **Physical Fast (1/1—1/7)** Exercise daily for at least 30 minutes



- ♦ **Financial Fast (1/8—1/14)** No in-person or online shopping for non-essential purchases; no credit card usage; Spending plan update



- ♦ **Soul Fast (1/15—1/21)** No Social Media scrolling or posting (Facebook, TikTok, IG, YouTube, etc.)



- ♦ **Daniel Fast (1/18—2/8 at 6AM)**

### Winter 2026 C.A.R.E.S. Small Groups resume January 18th at 9:30AM

- ♦ Adult Sunday School—Sis. Cecelia Jones Rm 400
- ♦ Adult Sunday school—Min. Kevin Tann Rm 401
- ♦ Your Prayer Life – Rev. Rochella Marable, Deacon Margo Adams Rm 403
- ♦ Do Well: Biblical Financial Study – Sis. Valerie Purvis Rm 405
- ♦ Singles – Sis. Kiah Spinks Rm 407
- ♦ Book Study on Heaven – Bro. Lawrence Lee Rm 411
- ♦ The Mind of Christ – Deacon Joe Alexander Rm 406
- ♦ Married Couples – Deacons Capers and Beverly Brown Rm 205 A and B
- ♦ Biblical Foundations – Rev. Keith Phillips and Bro. Dmitri Perkins MPR

⇒ **WHICH SESSION WILL YOU ATTEND?**



### MEMBER RECOGNITION



**Congratulations!** to Sister Marquitta Foster and Brother Justin Waddell on their engagement. After receiving approval from her father, Justin asked Marquitta to marry him on December 16th on the Today Show with Jenna and Al. Marquitta is a long time member of Antioch and the daughter of Brother Kevin and Sister Sandra Foster.

*"Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase."*  
**Martin Luther King, Jr.**



On Sunday, January 19th, Antioch will recognize the life and legacy of a man whose life of service and pursuit of justice is an inspiration for many. King was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his commitment to non-violent activism. We are called to remember his humility, courage, compassion, kindness and fearlessness. But we also must acknowledge that his work is not done.



**ANTIOCH SERVES:** In partnership with the Fairfax County FACETS program, Antioch will serve as a Hypothermia Center from December 28th – January 3rd, providing warm meals, safe shelter, and essential items for our unhoused neighbors. All items needed for the Hypothermia Center

have been secured. Thank your for your caring spirit and generosity.

Antioch will also provide support to the senior residents of the Golden Haven Rest Home when **we travel to Belize, January 12 — 18, 2026. If you would like to contribute for Belize, below are the remaining items needed.** Please go to the Antioch website for more information.



♦ personal cleaning wipes	♦ hand sanitizers	♦ Toothpaste	♦ Shower shoes	♦ Nail files	♦ Feminine hygiene items
♦ Twin mattress covers	♦ T-Shirts (dry- fit or cotton)	♦ Toothbrushes	♦ Soap holders	♦ Shorts	♦ Comfortable dresses





### "His Story": The Real Reason for the Season

On December 7th, the true meaning of Christmas resonated throughout the church during our annual Christmas Program. This year's performance, entitled **"His Story,"** offered a moving and spiritual experience that centered hearts and minds on the core Christian message: The birth of Christ is the real reason for the season.

Our talented children's choir, music, dance ministries, and a host of dedicated volunteers brought the timeless narrative to life with a creative new approach.

The performance began in a familiar setting: a family living room alive with the hustle and bustle of making Christmas cookies and wrapping gifts. As the Christmas story was read aloud, the scene faded, and the cast transported the audience back in time to re-enact the Nativity story.

Through a beautiful blend of voices, instruments, and dance, the event captured the essence of the season. The narrative unfolded, reflecting on key moments:

- **The Annunciation:** The moment the angel Gabriel appeared before Mary to announce she would give birth to the King of Kings.
- **The Journey to Bethlehem:** Joseph and Mary's journey and the humble setting of Jesus' arrival in a manger.
- **The Arrival of the Wise Men:** The journey of the Wise Men who followed the star to worship the newborn king.

The church was filled with proud parents, grandparents, friends, and the Antioch family. The performance concluded on a heartwarming note with a spirited sing-along representing the true joy and spirit of the season. We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who poured their hearts into making this inspiring performance possible. Your dedication captured the essence of the holiday and provided a cherished memory for all who attended.



*"For unto us a child is born, a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6 ESV*





### 2025 Christmas Giving Tree:

Antioch, thank you for showing how much you CARE! Through your generosity, the 2025 Antioch Giving Tree Project provided over 850 gifts to 153 families in our community. Your support made this season brighter for so many. Thank you for making a difference.



**Antioch Women's Ministry:** The Antioch Women's Ministry and the Giving Tree Project team partnered to prepare 30 baskets of paper goods and products in support our Christmas Mission and Outreach efforts. This Gift of No Dishes blessed families with baskets filled with festive plates, bowls, cups, cutlery, napkins, as well as large aluminum serving pans topped with a beautifully crafted and bow.



**Modern Maturity Ministry Glitz and Glamour Christmas Luncheon** was an all out good time with Brother Jim and Sister Jean Jones crowned king and queen for the event. Pastor Taylor provided a reflective message on the reason for the season. There was delicious food, bingo, and line dancing.



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

We thank you for a wonderful year of growth, development, and faithful service to God and others. It has truly been a blessing to serve alongside such a supportive church family.

In 2025, we joyfully welcomed Minister Khanner Hancock to our team, and we look forward to the new initiatives and meaningful experiences planned for our Children, Youth, and Young Adults (CYA). Looking ahead to the New Year, we want to share our “big rocks” for 2026.

Please save the dates for the upcoming program experiences:



Rev. Daniel Simpkins

## 2026 CYA PROGRAM EXPERIENCES

- ♦ **Jan 25:** Quarterly Check-In with Families
- ♦ **Feb 28:** Spiritual, Physical, & Financial (SPF) Workshop for 9th—12th Grades 9AM—3PM
- ♦ **Mar 22:** Quarterly Check-In with families
- ♦ **Apr 4:** Easter Egg Hunt
- ♦ **May 22:** VBS Registration Begins
- ♦ **May 24:** Fish Fry
- ♦ **Jun 5:** Night of Worship
- ♦ **Jun 7:** High School Graduates Recognition
- ♦ **Jun 22–26:** Vacation Bible School (VBS) Week
- ♦ **June 28–July 3:** Mission Trip to Nashville, TN
- ♦ **Jul 16:** Virtual or In-Person CYA Retreat
- ♦ **Jul 17 or 18:** Amusement Park Outing
- ♦ **August:** Children, Youth, and Collegiate Month
- ♦ **Sep 27:** Quarterly Check-In with Families
- ♦ **Oct 31:** Harvest Festival
- ♦ **Nov 22:** Quarterly Check-In with Families
- ♦ **Dec 27:** Young Adult Takeover Sunday (CYA)

What are Quarterly Check-Ins? I’m glad you asked — I will be reaching out to families via email, text, and phone calls each quarter to see how you are doing and to determine how we can best meet your needs spiritually. In 2026, our goal is to ensure there are opportunities for growth and engagement for each member of our CYA family. We welcome your ideas and support.

Thank you for your continued support of our children, youth, and young adults. They are truly the church of now and next. We want to wish you a Happy New Year and pray that this year is filled with peace, love, and prosperity.

## LIFE AT THIS STAGE *by Minister Negleatha Johnson* ***Trusting God with the Invisible!***

I can’t speak for you, but I am the person who likes to know the pitfalls and possibilities before I make a commitment. Some would call that “counting up the costs.” I like to be able to “see” down the road and be prepared for contingencies. I don’t like being caught off guard. It causes me to feel unsettled and unable to control the situation.

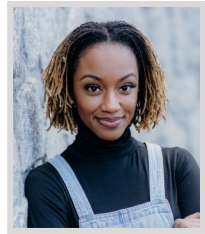
Yet in Christ, I am reminded that HE is in control which *should* allow me to loosen the reins. He has bid me to cast my cares on Him, to give Him my burdens, and to trust Him with what I cannot see. That’s a huge task for me. At this stage though, I know full well the sense of peace that comes with trusting Him with the invisible, as well as the angst I can expect when I only trust God as far as I can see. If my trust in God extends only to the distance of my sight, then even with 20/20 vision, I would *still* be unable to capture the big picture or the fullness of God’s plan for me. I’ve got to go with Him when He makes me walk through unlit paths. Starting now, I’m working harder to trust God with the invisible.

***Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. Jeremiah 17:7 ESV***





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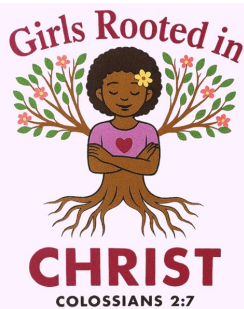
Minister Khanner  
Hancock

## CHOSEN: Antioch's New Young Adult Choir!

Minister Khanner, Director of Youth and Young Adults Choirs, launched Chosen on December 28th. **Chosen is the New Young Adult Choir open to all young adults ages 19-35**, including college students. Whether you've been singing for years or simply love to worship, this is your space to connect, grow, and serve.

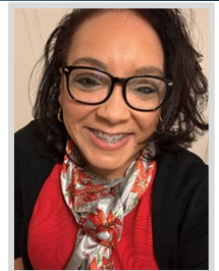
This new ministry was created to engage and empower young adults in worship and community. Our goal is to provide a consistent opportunity for young adults to use their voices and gifts for God's glory while deepening their faith and relationships with one another.

Grounded in *1 Timothy 4:12*, we seek to lead by example; bridge generations; foster community; and develop leadership and musicianship. To get involved contact Minister Khanner at [khancock@antioch-church.org](mailto:khancock@antioch-church.org). Let's build something powerful together!



## 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. 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 [demarcasa.jones@gmail.com](mailto:demarcasa.jones@gmail.com) for details.



Minister Dee Jones



## 37TH ANTIOCH ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP SERVICE

*Join us in person on January 11, 2026 for a single worship service at 9:15am!  
We will recognize our 37th Antioch Anniversary, ordain our female Deacons, and  
have a special offering for the Antioch mortgage elimination.*

## SAVE THE DATES

Jan 1—3	Hypothermia Center (Ministry Center)	Jan 12-18	Belize Mission Trip
Jan 1— Feb 8	40 Days of Prayer (Virtual) 6AM via Zoom 646-931-3860 Meeting ID 828 0086 4524 Passcode 021972	Jan 15—21	Soul Fast: No Social Media or YouTube
Jan 1—7	Physical Fast: Exercise for at least 30 minutes per day	Jan 18— Feb 8	Daniel Fast (21 Days) ends at 6AM on Feb 8th
Jan 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	40+ Double Dutch Club (Ministry Center) 10AM	Jan 15	Modern Maturity Ministry Center MPR 12Noon
Jan 5	Antioch Bible Institute Orientation 6PM	Jan 18	Children's Church
Jan 7	Financial Workshop (Virtual) 7-8:30PM	Jan 18	Antioch Cancer Care Ministry Rising Above (Virtual) 2PM
Jan 8—14	Financial Fast: No shopping/No credit card usage	Jan 19	MLK Sunday
Jan 9, 16, 23, 30	Friday Morning Bible Study (Virtual) 9:30AM	Jan 24	Men's Forum (Ministry Center) 8AM
Jan 10	New Member Orientation (Ministry Center) 8:45AM	Jan 26	Feed the Homeless 4:30PM Prep/ 6PM Delivery
Jan 11	Church Anniversary & Deacon Ordination 9:15AM	Jan 28	Singles Ministry (Ministry Center) 12:30PM
Jan 12	Gen C Ministry Topical Bible Study (virtual) 7PM	Feb 28	<b>SPF Workshop: Spiritual, Physical, &amp; Financial Well-Being for Youth Grades 9 - 12 (MPR) 9AM—3PM</b>



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