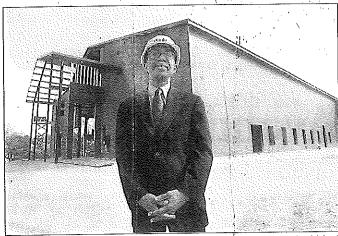
COMMUNITY OF FAITH



Pastor James C. Ward shows off the future home of Antioch-Lithonia Baptist Church on Turner Hill Road. The church has been in DeKalb County for 135 years.

Church marks 135th anniversary

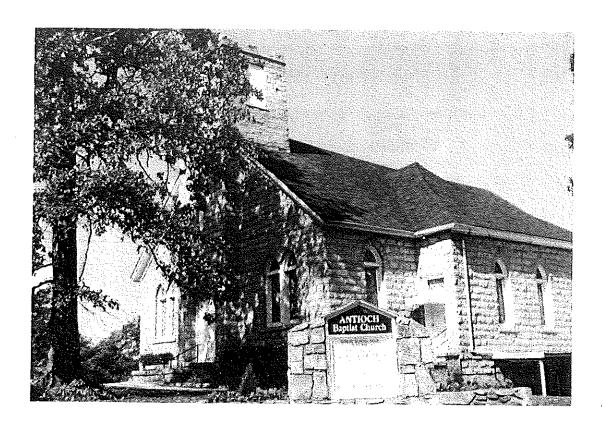
Antioch-Lithonia Baptist and Pastor James C. Ward will celebrate the church's 135th anniversary during the 9:30 a.m.

service on Sunday.

At 5 p.m. Saturday, the Albany State University Gospel Choir will appear in a free concert.

The church is at 2547 Parkway Drive, Lithonia. Information: 770-482-1277.

ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH MARCH 1869 - 1994



Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory, to glory, even as by the spirit of the Lord.

II Corinthians 3: 17-18

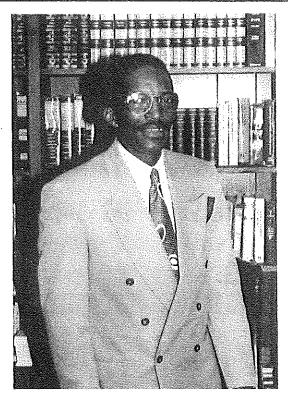
ASSOCIATE MINISTER - PASTORSHIP CHURCH



PASTOR JAMES C. WARD

Sis. Nell Ward Ministerial Acceptance - March 3, 1971

> Mount Enon Baptist Church Mount Enon Road Monroe, Georgia 30655



TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Antioch has reached another milestone in its' long and illustrious life. Born under a brush harbor then housed in a frame structure to this present beautiful rock structure, the echoes of the founders and pioneers are still vibrating with us today. As we continue to carry on the work of our Lord.

This momentous and historic celebration happens only once in a life time. To be alive at this time presents us with an opportunity to really appreciate a solid foundation and unshakable faith that has stood the test of time. One hundred and twenty five years of reaching the lost and teaching the saved has been such a success that the doors are still open to receive those who seek a Savior.

Now that we have arrived at this time in history each member should express thanks to our Lord, for his blessings. We should also seek to make this a festive time and atmosphere where we, as well as our invited guest can enjoy this once in a lifetime experience with greater expectations in the future. "TO GOD BE THE GLORY FOR THE GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE."

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH

1869 - 1994

In 1869 twelve faithful believers spent \$2.50 to build a brush arbor one mile west of the present site on the No. 12 Highway (Covington Road). As a result the first Black Baptist Church of Lithonia, Georgia, DeKalb County was The new church called Rev. Matthew Mitchell as pastor and he served one year. Rev. John C. Centers was called to pastor the church in 1870. After two years the members purchased three acres of land for approximately \$150.00, and placed an initial building on the property for about \$350.00. Later a more permanent building was constructed for \$800.00. While pastoring at Antioch Rev. John C. Centers served as one of the first Moderators of the Atlanta Baptist Association and Rev. Adam Daniel Williams was his assistant. The Missionary Society was organized under his leadership in about 1870. Two young men, Rev. Jerry Pruitt and Rev. Marty (Arthur) Scruggs were called out of the congregation into the ministry during Rev. Centers' tenure. Pioneers, experienced and spiritual Deacons were also a part of this early church. Several of them were Sandy Tygner, Allen Albert, John Hall, Lyles Phillips, John Gay, Calvin Crew, Bud Posley and Jim Rainwater. Rev. Centers' leadership caused the membership to increase and our present rock church was constructed. He died before the interior of the church was completed. However, he left a memorable landmark and spiritual memories for the future generations.

Rev. W. Arbie Johnson has some of the original pulpit furniture, purchased by Antioch Baptist Church in 1898 reconstructed in his home.

In about 1893 Rev. D. K. Williams came to Antioch and with the assistance of a few of Antioch's members and the blessing of Pastor Centers, the first mission out of Antioch was established in 1894. It was given the name Union Baptist Church and construction of their building was completed before Antioch. Rev. Centers and the Antioch congregation completed the exterior of the church before his death. He died in the pulpit after preaching the funeral of Sister Nancy Crew. At the time the church was being built the cut stones which were used cost only fifteen cents (.15) each.

At Rev. Centers' death, Rev. Adam Daniel Williams, the maternal grandfather of Dr. Martin Luther King and Vice Moderator of the Atlanta Baptist Association, completed the unexpired term of Rev. Centers. At the end of six

months Rev. Williams was called to serve as Pastor. During his five years of administration Rev. Adam Daniel Williams completed the auditorium of the church and purchased 350 chairs. Some of these original chairs remain in our building today. Under Rev. Centers' leadership, Rev. Gronda Mortam, a member of Antioch, participated in the organization of the Ebenezer Baptist Church of Stone mountain, Georgia in 1916. A Masonic Hall/The Mutual Aide Society was built on the church property and served as Lithonia Colored School after the burning of the Yellow River School.

When Rev. Adam Daniel Williams resigned in 1918, Rev. Manuel Glenn was called to Antioch and served as pastor from 1919 to 1924.

Rev. Adam Daniel Williams returned in 1924 to serve as pastor for one year. In 1925 Rev. Thomas Dorsey replaced Rev. Williams with a great deal of zeal and enthusiasm. During his 18 years of service, people came from far and near to hear his powerful and dynamic preaching. the leadership of Rev. Joseph Thomas Dorsey the following Deacons were pioneer leaders:

- Elias Bryant, Choir Director
- John Daugherty, Church Clerk
- Clifford Bullard, Chairman of the Board and Sunday School Superintendent
- Marcus Guthrie, Chairman of the Board Gene Rainwater, Chairman of the Board and Sunday School Superintendent
- Tom Bates, Sunday School Superintendent
- Levi Phillips, Church Clerk
- Henry Spratlin, Community Leader
- Thomas Spratlin, Community Leader
- Alonzo Hall, Men's Bible Class Teacher

Other Deacons who serviced were Claude Phillips, Tommie Bates, George Hicks and Grover Reynolds, Sr. Additional leaders were Bro. Charlie Tuggle, BTU President and Sis. Nellie Phillip Bloodsaw pianist. During this period Rev. W. Arbie Johnson was called to the Ministry, November 19, 1934 and ordained in February 1935. A Council of elders was established by Rev. Dorsey which included Rev. T. E. Robinson, Rev. Wilden Tyrus, Rev. W. M. Ellis, Rev. Thomas Hunter, Rev. N. T. Walker, Rev. L. T. Settles and Rev. J. T. Dorsey.

In May, 1945 Rev. A. G. Davis came to serve Antioch with an organized plan. He added to the church spiritually, numerically and financially. During his two and one half years of service these accomplishments were made:

- 1. Completed the first unit with kitchen space.
- 2. Secured running water from the city.
- 3. Installed restrooms.
- 4. Started a church fund to purchase pews.

In April 1949 the church called Rev. Oscar L. Jackson. Under his leadership the following accomplishments were made:

- 1. Office installed in first unit.
- 2. Junior Church organized.
- 3. The O. L. Jackson Chorus and the Women's Chorus were organized.
- 4. The heating system installed.
- 5. Pews and pulpit furniture were purchased.

In 1953 the church called Rev. A. G. Belcher. Rev. Belcher came to us with a well planned program. The following accomplishments were made under his leadership.

- 1. The Pastor Aide, Willing Workers, and Social Clubs were organized.
- 2. The Children's Division of the Sunday School was organized.
- Four Sunday School classrooms were built in the first unit.
- 4. Water coolers for children and adults were installed in the first unit.
- 5. The choirs were re-organized to render better service.
- 6. Four gas heaters were installed in the first unit and one was installed in the Pastor's study.
- 7. Rev. Grady Hughes was called to the Ministry in the 50's under Rev. Belcher.
- 8. In the late 50's Mother Ozelyer Kilgore announced her calling into the ministry. Saint James Holiness church was more acceptable to women in the ministry, therefore, she and her family were united with that church.

In 1958 the church called Rev. Sim McIver. He too came to us with a heart full of love and a determination to do a good job. Some of the accomplishments made under his leadership were:

- 1. New windows and doors were added at a cost of \$2121.80.
- 2. The Pastor's study was redecorated.
- 3. Runners and carpets were placed in the church.
- 4. Microphone was installed.
- 5. Central gas heat was installed.
- 6. McIver Youth Choir organized.

- 7. Communion set to administer communion to the sick and shut-ins.
- 8. Beautification and Budget Drive Committee were elected.
- 9. An organ was purchased.
- 10. The first unit was renovated.
- 11. Deacons ordained under Rev. McIver in 1965 were: Clark Hall, Henry H. Hall Sr., William Kelly, Allison Venable and Horace Ragsdale Lyons.
- 12. Other Deacons ordained under Rev. McIver were: Robert Battle, Norris Johnson and Thomas Shumake.
- 13. In 1969 Sis. O. B. Jackson Thomas wrote the first Church History.

In 1978 Antioch overwhelmingly chose Rev. Robert Truman Glass to serve as pastor. Erratic changes began to take place with emphasis on reorganization in conjunction with greater spiritual awareness.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 80'S

<u>First Written Constitution ('82)</u> Objective: To inform the congregation about the policy, the purpose, and doctrine of Antioch Baptist Church.

Educational Ministry - Objective: To enhance and provide for spiritual growth through the Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Baptist Training Union, Prayer Board and Bible Study.

<u>Youth Ministry</u> - Objective: To train the youth to become active christian participants and leaders as they learn about the functions of the church.

Organized Functions: - R. E. Glass Youth Choir, Usher Board, Cherub Choir, Youth Bible session.

Music Ministry - Objective: To minister to God's people in songs and on the instruments.

Ministering Choirs - until 1993: Senior Choir, Gospel Choir, R. E. Glass Youth Choir, Male Chorus, Cherub, ELH Ensemble.

Instruments: Piano, Organ, Drums, Guitar, Saxophone.

<u>Mission Ministry</u> - Objective: To reach out and help those in need.

Reorganized Missions - Home: <u>Radio Broadcast</u> Messages are aired every Friday at 4:00 P.M. on WXLL.

Tapes - Messages are sent to those who are incapacitated.

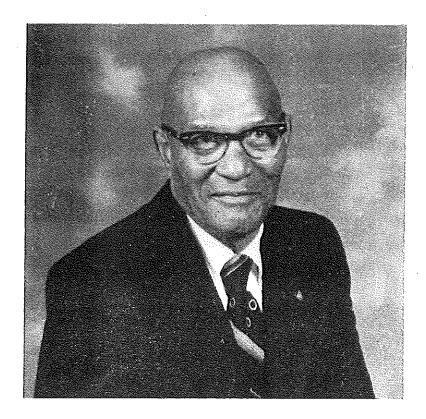


SIS. OLA BRYANT JACKSON THOMAS (NANNY)

As a concerned native of the Lithonia Community, Mrs. Ola B. J. Thomas shared her love for mankind in many civic, religious, and professional organizations. A few of these are: Georgia Teachers and Education Association, DeKalb Association of Educators, NEA; Secretary of the Atlanta Baptist Association (Parent Body), Georgia Baptist Convention, National Baptist Convention, Yellow River Association, Atlanta Chapter-Ministers Wives, DeKalb Baptist Ministers' Wives and Widows, and the Baptist Congress. (Offices were held in many of these organizations by Sis. Thomas as well).

Locally, she was an honorary member of Saint Paul A. M. E. Church (serving on the Trustee Board), and Union Baptist Church. AT ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH, SHE WAS ACTIVE IN: The Mothers' Board, where she served as president; Director of the Junior Mission, and the Young People's Department; President, Senior Mission: organized the children's Division and was Department Superintendent of the Children's Division of the Sunday School; was chairperson of the Pastor's Aid Committee; Superintendent of the Sunday School; assisted in the organization of the Community Vacation Bible School; Pianist of the Senior Choir; Church Historian, and served as Church Clerk for 40 years.

At the time preceding her death, Sis. Thomas was president of the Mission and Mothers' Board, Moderator Secretary, Reporter for the Lithonia Observer, Member of Senior Citizens, Women's Club, and was Clerk/Historian Emeritus of Anitoch.

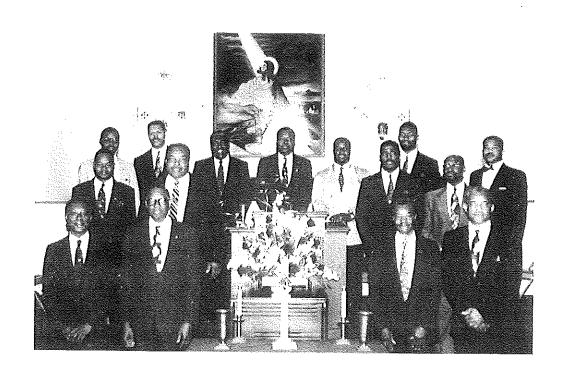


DEACON WILLIE BULLARD

Dea. Bullard was born February 11, 1907, in Oglethorpe County, Georgia. He followed in the footsteps of his father, Dea. Clifford Bullard, when he became a deacon of Antioch. He later became Chairman of the Board of Deacons and held this position during the leadership of the following pastors: A. G. Davis, Oscar. L. Jackson, A. G. Belcher, Sims, McIver, and Robert T. Glass. He also served as Vice Chairman of the Senior Usher Board.

Deacon Bullard was truly a civic minded gentleman, who loved his church and community. He was instrumental in getting a chapter of the NAACP organized in DeKalb County. He, along with Dea. Albert and Dea. Lucious Sanders (Union Baptist Church), would solicit membership in Lithonia and carry these fees to the Atlanta chapter. The fees could not be mailed because of the KKK. Someone could have been beaten or worse if they were not careful. Antioch obtained life membership in the NAACP in 1973, upon encouragement from Dea. Bullard.

His other affiliations included, The Lithonia Civic League, Charter Member Lithonia Federal Credit Union and he was once a Grand Juror.



BOARD OF DEACONS 1994 Dea. Charles Johnson, Chairman Dea. Effer C. Guthrie, Vice-Chairman Dea. Norris Johnson, Secretary

lst Row Allison Venable, John Hunter, Grover Reynolds, Walter Guthrie.

2nd Row Ronald Reynolds, Effer C. Guthrie, Cedric Smith, Michael Person, William S. Mabry.

3rd Row Lynn William, Roy Binion, Henry H. Hall, Sr., Charles Johnson, Derek Slaughter, Henry H. Hall, II.

PICTURE NOT SHOWN:

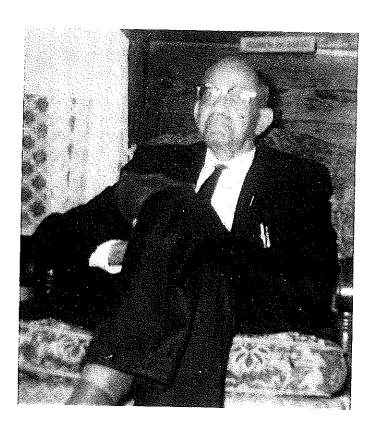
Robert Battle
Bennie Brown
James O. Boyd
Willie Cooper
Anthony Golden
Johnny F. Guthrie
Lawrence Guthrie
Phillip Guthrie

Willie Clark Hall Norris Johnson Isaac L. Myers Robert Rafter Barry Reynolds Thomas Shumake David Springfield

DEACON DAVID C. ALBERT

Dea. Albert was a very dedicated Civil Rights Activist in the Lithonia area and in DeKalb County. He refused to take the back seats when riding the Southeastern Stages bus from Lithonia to Decatur. He worked very closely with the NAACP, encouraging citizens of the community to become members. His interest in equal rights for all human beings caused him to take a positive stance on many issues, which served to enhance the lives of Blacks who would follow. Some of his brave acts are as follow: He showed up at the swimming pool (whites only), clad only in swim trunks, at age seventy. Needless to say, the pool closed immediately. He ran for Lithonia City Council and received only two votes, his and that of Mrs. Albert. He sat at the soda fountain in a local drug store, causing it to close (rather than serve Blacks).

In February, 1985, acting on behalf of the Antioch Church, Sis. Lillie Bailey met with the Lithonia City Council. She was instrumental in getting the name of the street directly behind the church (Baptist Alley) changed. The name of that street became Albert Way in March of 1985. Deacon Albert certainly deserve this honor for he was a very courageous man.

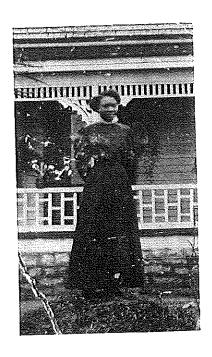




SIS. ADA ANDERSON BECK

Sis. Beck was born October 4, 1898, in Taliaferro County, Georgia, where she attended school for a very short time. She received only a second grade education but used good common sense and ingenuity to achieve her goals. She joined the Antioch Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Manuel Glenn and served in the Senior Choir, Senior Mission, and Mother's Board.

Sis. Beck gained love and respect of children and adults alike in the Lithonia Community. She worked to raise money for the purchase of land to build Lithonia Colored School. She was also the first cook at the Lithonia school and fed many children who could not pay and would have otherwise gone hungry.



SIS. NELLIE PHILLIPS BLOODSAW

Sis. Bloodsaw was a pillar of the Lithonia Community. She touched the lives of many young people in the area while teaching piano lessons. Many of her students went on to become professional musicians. She began her career as a piano teacher in the early nineteen twenties and taught until her health failed.

Sis. Bloodsaw was also a very fine pianist and choir director for the Antioch Baptist Church for many years. Several of her students followed her example and became musicians here also. They are: Sis. Ola B. Jackson Thomas, Sis. Lynette Daugherty Ellis, Sis. Rebecca Usher Byrd, Min. Lillie Allen Bailey, and Sis. Louise Lee Hall.

HISTORICAL PASTOR ROSTER



Rev. J. C. Centers Rev. J. C. Centers

Rev. A. D. Williams

J. C. Center

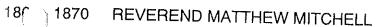
S. C. Center



J. C. Centurs



Rev. A. G. Davis



1870 - 1872 REVEREND JOHN C. CENTER

1877 - 1889 UNKNOWN

1889 - 1911 REVEREND JOHN C. CENTER

1911 - 1919 UNKNOWN

949 - 1953

1919 - 1924 REVEREND MANUEL GLENN

REVEREND ADAM DANIEL WILLIAMS 1925 - 1926

1927 - 1945 REVEREND JOSEPH THOMAS DORSEY

1945 - 1948 REVEREND A. G. DAVIS

REVEREND OSCAR L. JACKSON

953 - 1958 REVEREND A. G. BELCHER

958 - 1977 REVEREND SIM McIVER

9**77 - 1978 PULPIT VACANT**

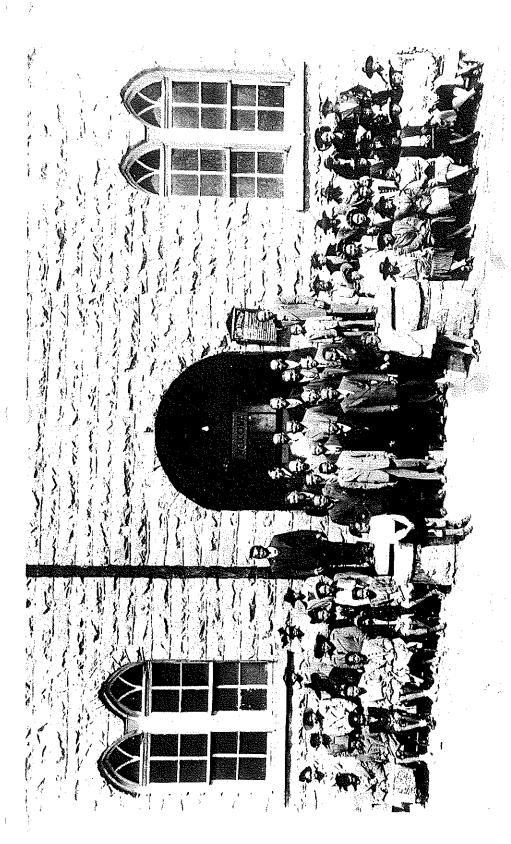
97() REVEREND ROBERT TRUMAN GLASS



Rev. J. T. Dorsey



Rev. Sim McIver



LEFT TO RIGHT MIDDLE

ROW 1

VERT BRYANT, DOROTHY CREW, JUANITA BULLARD,

DEARISA BULLARD.

ROW 2

MOTHER HARRIS, MYRNA BULLARD,

LEFT SIDE

ROW 1

(REV. DORSEY'S GRANDDAUGHTER) JOHN WESLEY KILGORE, ALBERT USHER, REV. JOSEPH T. DORSEY, CLIFFORD BULLARD, GROVER REYNOLDS SR., EVA USHER.

ROW 2

LUE MAE GUTHRIE, PINKIE

MARTHA REYNOLDS, SARAH SHUMAKE, MILDRED

GUTHRIE, ANNETTE CREW

ROW3

REYNOLDS.

ANNIE REYNOLDS, MARION REYNOLDS, JULIA

REYNOLDS

GENE RAINWATER, ORBRIE LYLES (UNION BAPTIST), HENRY SPRATLIN, MARCUS GUTHRIE, (STANDING ON STEP) REV. ZACK BROWN (UNION BAPTIST) JAMES THOMAS SPRATLIN (STANDING ON LEFT STEP) WILLIE BULLARD, FRANK SMITH, ALONZO HALL DAVID ALBERT ROW 3

BACK ROW

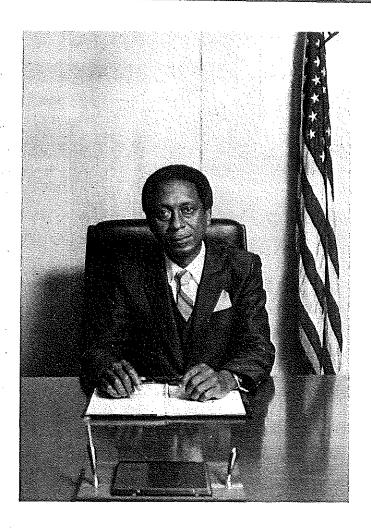
CLARENCE ALBERT, REV. WILLIAM BRYANT, REV.

BENJAMIN MCCLOUD, JOHN DAUGHERTY. RIGHT SIDE RO₩1

NORA SPRATLIN, ADA BECK, ALICE SHUMAKE, LOUISE BATES_________ EFFIE RODD, EFFIE PECK. MATTIE ALBERET, ANNIE FLORENCE SMITH, FRANKIE BATES, MARY RAINWATER, LULA CREW, KATIE ROW 2

BARNES ROW 3 ADA BARNES, MATTIE BUTLER, FANNIE TUGGLE ETHEL BRYANT, OLA B. BRYANT, MAGGIE SPRATUN.

NORRIS BENEFIELD



DEACON ALLISON VENABLE is a native of Lithonia. He was educated in DeKalb County Public Schools and served in the United States Marine Corp. Upon his return from the Armed Forces, he became employed by Lithonia Lighting Company. Dea. Venable is married to Juanita Starks Venable and they are the proud parents of three fine sons.

He became a member of Antioch during childhood and has served in various capacities, some of which are as follow: Senior Choir, Male Chorus, Trustee Board, Deacon Board (ordained in 1965), and Tape Ministry.

Dea. Venable has been active in city government for many years. He became a part of history in 1984, when the citizens of Lithonia elected him the First Black Mayor. He was also the first Black to be elected to the DeKalb County Municipal Council in 1972. In 1978, he was elected President of Georgia Municipal Association. We are proud and honored that Dea. Venable is a part of our Church Family.

Lethonice Ulbrenser - May 12, 1969

Antioch Baptist Chu, ch Plans Centennial May 25

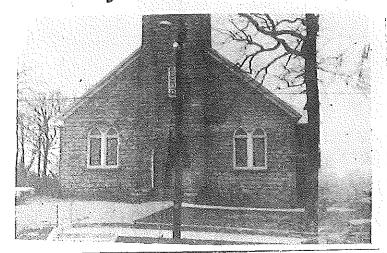
Antioch Baptist Church, Parkway Drive, Lithonia will celebrate its Centennial Sunday, May 25 with services at the church which will begin at 3:00 o'clock.

Antioch was constituted in 1867 in a brush arbor on the Old Covington Road one mile West of the present site. The present granite building replaced a frame structure. The Rev. Matthew Mitchell was the Church's first pastor.

The present membership of 350 has the Rev. Sims McIver as pastor. Chairman of the board of deacons is Mr. Willie Bullard; Clerk is Mr. John Kilgore; Treasurer, Mr. Grover Reynolds; Financial Secretary, Mrs. O. B. Jackson. Services are held two Sundays each month, the second and fourth, with Sunday School every Sunday.

In his invitation to the public to join the church in this celebration of 100 years of service, the Rev. McIver said that "the church is the one institution which deals with the development of the whole man". He said "this first 100 years have been filled with trials, heartaches, some success and some failures, but in all of this the church has kept the faith". In speaking of the next 100 years, he said "the church must lead the way, and if it does not we are headed in the wrong direction". He also believes that a "person cannot be a good citizen unless he is a Christian."

Mr. McIver and the entire church membership extend an invitation to the public to join them on this auspicious occasion Sunday at three.



where people regularly gather A look at one of the many to pray and seek spiritual places in metro Atlanta

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church

Services: Sundays, 7:30 a.m., 9:30 Pastor: The Rev. James Ward 2547 Parkway Drive, Lithonia Phone: 770-482-1277 Membership: 1,000 am., 11:30 am.

sionary Baptist Church began in what would become one of the By the numbers: Antioch Misofficials purchased three acres of brush arbor to formally establish \$2.50. A dozen people pooled their 1869 with an initial investment of and a short time later the County. Two years later, church churches in Lithonia and DeKalb first African-American Baptist financial resources to build a and for \$150 in the same area

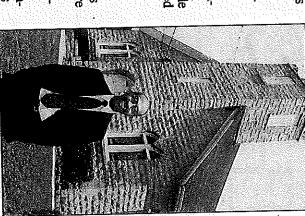
ture was constructed. The cost? church's first permanent struc-

church nestled in a country setting near downtown Lithonia — Worth noting: Antioch, a stone ers. The Rev. Joseph Thomas brush arbor — celebrates its theologians, preachers and singand influential African-American been home for several prominent ust a mile from the original and the Rev. Adam Williams, served as the first moderator of in the Valley"), was a former pas Lord Take My Hand" and "Peace crafted such classics as "Precious known gospel music author (he Dorsey, a successful and well-Dorsey, cousin of Thomas A. 31st anniversary this year. It has maternal grandfather of the Rev the Rev. John Centers, who tor. Other notable pastors include the Atlanta Baptist Association, Martin Luther King Jr.

and pastor have had a huge Community influence: Church soring programs and ministries impact on the community, spon-

A word from the Rev. James given gifts and talents to partici all members to use their Godnot a spectator sport. We implore bench members.' Christianity is Ward: "We do not believe in munity at large. As one releases pate in the work of God both in more significance and purpose in natural talents and spiritual gifts to the strategy. Connecting with Building relationships is essential out losing the personal touch. tinue our numerical growth withwhat paradoxical: We wish to con life is found. Our goal is somehe congregation and in the compensable part of spiritual growth both God and others is an indisand abundant living. Our purpose

people — young and old, black and white, rich and poor. Music tour and recently cut a CD, called choir just completed a nationwide tant role at Antioch, which has that impact the lives of numerous temporary gospel music. The Jewels of Christ — performs confive choirs. One of the choirs nas historically played an impor



Ward of Antioch. "We do not believe in 'bench members,' " says the Rev. James LAURA NOEL / Staff

members, Equip our leaders, ing, Extend the love of God." weak, Empower for abundant liv-Evangelize the lost, Enable the Exalt our Savior, Educate the for existing is simple. We wish to

ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. James C. Ward, Pastor 2547 Parkway Drive, Lithonia, GA 30058 (404) 482-1277



Sunday Worship Services

8:00 A.M. Early Morning

9:45 A.M. Sunday School

10:45 A.M. Mid Morning

Wednesday Worship Services

12:00 Noon Hour of Praise

6:30 P.M. Hour of Prayer

7:30 P.M. Bible Study

Relocation Celebration Schedule antiwh-Dithoria

9:30am Last Service at 2547 Parkway Drive <u>Saturday October 2"d</u> 9:00am Parade & Open House 2152 Rock Chapel Sunday September 26th

Lithonia, Georgia. 30058

5:00 pm Georgia Mass Chair Cancert Sunday, October 3rd

9.30am Inaugural Service at 2152 Rock Chapel Road

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Madember 3 _ 5

7:30pm Pre-dedicatory Services Sunday November 7th

9.30an Dedication Service

The antiach-Dillonia Church cordially invite you to an Family and Pastor James C. Ward

Lithania, Georgia 30058 at 9:30am 2152 Rack Chapel Road Sunday, October 3, 2004 Inaugural Service