



Celebrating 6 Years of Hope & Service

Worship: 10:00am

Bible Study: Tuesdays at 7:00pm

Christian Foundations Institute: Sundays at 11:00am *(For children ages 3-12)*

Fasting and meditation: Each Wednesday

In this issue:

From the Pastor 1

Anniversary Schedule 2

Meetings & Rehearsals 4

JUNE 2009

Volume 3, Issue 6



Speaking of Hope

ABUNDANT HOPE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Rev. Mark-Anthony Middleton, Pastor

FROM THE PASTOR

Beloved,

Congratulations and welcome to year 6 of Hope! It is with great excitement and appreciation to God that I wish each of you Happy Anniversary as we celebrate our ministry this entire month. Our theme for this month can be summed up in one word - **SERVICE**.

A few months ago we had an extended discussion about spiritual gifts. We learned that we are gifted for the purpose of edifying the body of Christ locally and globally. My prayer is that our anniversary celebration will challenge each of us to more diligently seek the Lord on our gifts and on our ministry assignments. That's why **on Sunday, June 14th we will have our Ministry Fair here at Abundant Hope**. On this day many of the "service opportunities" here at our church will be on display to provide information and answer questions about the vital role they play in the life of Hope. Please be certain to read the full schedule of anniversary events in this issue and make plans to attend the celebrations in honor of what God has done through YOU.

As we reflect on the marvelous things the Lord has done for and through us these last six years, I invite you to hang out with me in Romans the 12th chapter this month as we consider getting our minds right for service. Our anniversary theme for this year is **"Be Who God Made You - Do What God Told You"**. I have an idea - since things have worked out pretty well these first six years, why don't we keep this thing going for another six and press on to see what the end will bring.

We've still got a God to glorify, a gospel to be preached, new ministers to develop, hungry and homeless to care for, a community to be engaged, an edifice to be built, and a story to be told. I still love you, and I still love being your pastor. Let's get to work.

PM

ANNIVERSARY SERMON SERIES

Be Who God Made You - Do What God Told You

June 7th - "A Wake Up Call" Romans 12:1-3

June 14th - "A Call To Serve" Romans 12:3-8
(This will be the first time in AHCC's history that you the people will be the sermon.)

June 21st - Sixth Anniversary Celebration
AHCC welcomes Pastor Martel Jones

June 28th - "Waving Our Flag" Romans 12:9-21

ABUNDANT HOPE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

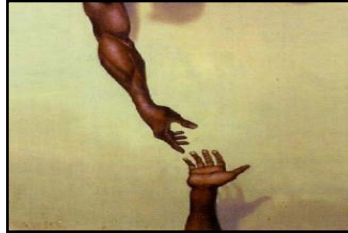
6TH ANNIVERSARY

"Be Who God Made You - Do What God Told You"

Schedule of Events

Sunday, June 14 —Ministry Fair kicks off anniversary celebration

"Purposed To Serve"... Time to Get Involved



Be present to find out what our ministries are all about, meet your ministry leaders and find out how you can get involved.

Tuesday, June 16, 7:00pm—Baptismal service at Antioch Baptist Church,
Rev. Michael Page, Pastor

Friday, June 19—JOY Night w/guests from Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church,
Elder Mark Gibson, Pastor

Family dinner at 6:00pm; Worship at 7:00pm

Saturday, June 20, 11:00am—3:00pm—FAMILY & FRIENDS Fun Day

The Men's, Women's, Education and Transportation Ministries will perform preventative maintenance on "Hope 1" in the back parking lot of Pearsonstown. We are asking all men, women and youth of AHCC to participate in this joint ministry effort being held at 9:00 am the morning of our Family & Friends Day.

Sunday, June 21—Worship Celebration

Abundant Hope Welcomes Pastor Martel Jones



*Celebrating 6 Years
of Service & Hope!*

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THE AHCC MEN'S MINISTRY

FLYING WITH HEAVENLY AIRLINES...

Some say the word is "trust", some say the term is "blind trust"; some say the term is foolishness.

Imagine this, we give strangers, complete and total strangers the trust with our lives when we board an airplane and take a flight. We entrust air traffic controllers with providing clear and safe passage for the flight while in the airport's vicinity.

Little do we know that Captain Bob Smith may be struggling to get over last night's night-out with the fellas. Always a rip-roaring good time; especially when "good ol' Charlie" puts the lampshade on his head. Or could his co-pilot, Jim be going through a tough time at home with the family. Have either of them been informed about the upcoming reduction in workforce. Maybe Julia the navigator on board is concerned about her child's group of new friends and the potential they have on negatively affecting her child's life.

The list could go on and on...we could come up with many scenarios and they could be very accurate. People go through things in life; some pleasant - some not so pleasant. Those individuals that fly airplanes are not exempt from this rule. Without interviewing, without questioning, without even seeing their faces or credentials we blindly get on airplanes and put our unbridled trust in pilots.

So we're going through our own tough times. We want a way out, we submit our petitions to the Lord and we move forward with our lives. Unfortunately we forget to weigh-anchor and leave it dragging in the waters behind us...

I don't understand: God said in His word that "no good thing will I hold from you"...and "ask and ye shall receive, knock and the door shall be opened for you", and "all good things work together for good, for those that love Him and are called according to His purpose." So why am I not moving forward.

We don't let go and let God. We keep revisiting the past, the hurts, the pains; we forget about reconciliation and focus on equity distribution of pain and hurt. We forget about forgiveness...true forgiveness, and we focus on questioning someone else's motives. Not realizing that our focus tends to be tinted with our own baggage and historical issues. How can we ever clearly see the issue while our vision is impaired in this manner? We forget about a bunch of God's teachings and decide to continue down the road of life paved with our depression and disappointments (in ourselves and others). Sometimes we even unfairly try to smile through it all without acknowledging our hurt, and our temporary suffering, while deflecting the blame on someone else and not acknowledging some accountability to the issues, when it matters the most.

We've got a choice, it's not easy to accept, go through, or live through but we can go through the door that God is opening. Sometimes medicine like peace is achieved with first the consumption of a bitter pill. We've got to be willing to tote our load, and lift the anchor so we can move forward toward where God wants us.

ALLIANCES OF HOPE EXCURSION

The Alliances of Hope would like you to join us in taking a journey back in time to witness/experience the birth of Christ November 14 thru 15, 2009 in Strasburg PA .

Cost : \$275 per adult; \$175 per child under 12

**** To be paid in 3 installments; \$100 (\$75 child) deposit by June 30th , \$100 (\$50 Child) due on August 31st and final payment of \$75 (\$50 child) due on September 15th.

The weekend cost includes the round trip coach fair, overnight hotel accommodations, ticket to the play, dinner on Saturday evening, a trip to the Hershey factory on the 15th and more....Plan now to join us for an unforgettable weekend!

Interested persons please contact: Sherri Smith— 919 624-4398 (H) 919 624-4398; Gail Lloyd—919 491-5574 (H) 919 477-1927; Phyllis Briggs— (H) 919 484-8481.



ABUNDANT HOPE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Worship Space:

Pearsontown Elementary School,
4915 Barbee Road Durham, NC

Office Location:

Executive Park
1920 Highway 54, Suite 110
Durham, NC 27713

Phone:

(919) 806-1610

(919) 806-1225

Fax: (919)-806-1002

E-mail: abundant.hope1@verizon.net

THERE IS HOPE IN CHRIST!

We're on the Web:

www.abundanthopecc.com

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Durham Ridge Assisted Living
Please join Community Outreach as we fellowship for 1 hour with the residents of Pettigrew Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center on Saturday, June 13 at 1:00pm. Pettigrew is located at 1515 W. Pettigrew Street.

CELL PHONES CAN HELP DURHAM CRISIS RESPONSE CENTER

How about putting that old cell phone to work as something other than a paperweight? Most everyone has at least one sitting around, so don't throw it away! **You can donate your cell phone(s).**

Durham Crisis Response Center will distribute the cell phones (911 ready) free of charge to high-risk victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST



All men are cordially invited to attend the **FATHER'S DAY CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST** sponsored by the Women's Ministry on Sunday, June 21st beginning @ 9am. Please sign up immediately after service with Minister Chris Cotton if you plan to attend.

GRADUATE & STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT SUNDAY

GRADUATE RECOGNITION AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT SUNDAY, JUNE 14

WE WILL RECOGNIZE ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES. IN ADDITION, WE WILL CELEBRATE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES K-12. SEE SISTER PATRICIA TOWNSEND FOR MORE DETAILS.

The Ronald McDonald House is in need of mattress pads and covers, sheets, pillowcases, hypoallergenic pillows, bed spreads, and comforters for twin beds. Donations will be collected on Sundays. If you have questions, please see Sister Paulette Williams Scott.

Meetings & Rehearsals

Adult Choir: Monday, June 8 at 7:15pm & Friday, June 12 at 7pm; Thursdays, 7:00 pm at church office; all who are interested please feel free to join us.

Adult Praise Dance: June 13, 20, & 27, 9:00-11:00am; new members are welcome to attend

Alliances of Hope Leaders: No meeting in June; meetings will resume in July.

Men's Ministry: Saturday, **June 27, 9:00am** in the church office

Usher's Ministry: Sunday, **July 5, 8:30am** in Pearsonstown cafeteria

Women's Ministry: Tuesday, **June 23, 6:10pm** at Pearsonstown

Youth Choir: Tuesday, June 23 7pm during Bible study; Thursday, June 25 at 7pm-church office; Rendering service the 4th Sunday Contact Sis. Leslie Jones at alphadelta27@hotmail.com if you'd like your child to join.

Youth Praise Dance: June 9th, 13th, & 20th. No rehearsal on June 27th.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Any women interested in the Women's beach outing weekend October 23-24 2009 are asked to please contact Sis. Patricia Townsend as soon as possible. More details to follow!