

ABUNDANT HOPE CHRISTIAN CHURCH • REV. MARK-ANTHONY MIDDLETON, PASTOR
CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF HOPE 2003–2008

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Worship Space:

Pearsontown Elementary School, 4915 Barbee Road
Durham, NC

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AHCC Weekly

Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Bible Study: Tuesdays at 7:00pm

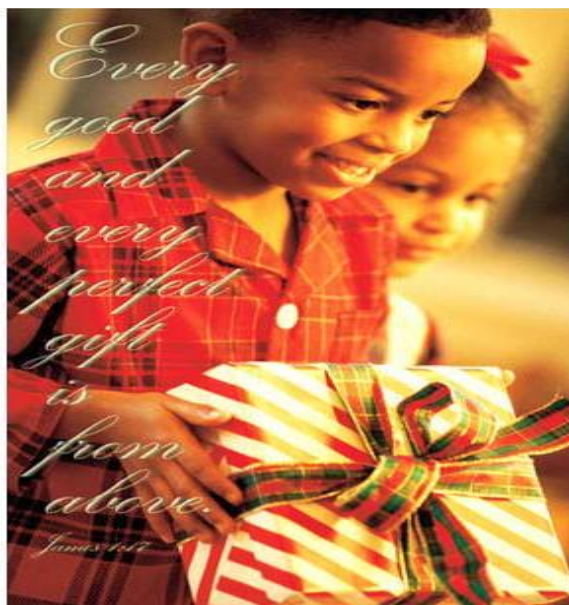
Christian Foundations

Institute: Each Sunday except 1st at 11:00am (For children ages 3–12)

Weekly time of fasting and meditation: Each Wednesday



THERE IS HOPE!



SERMON SERIES

"Issues of Christmas"

December 7	Matthew 1:18-25 "My Family Is Jacked Up"
December 14	Matthew 2: 1-10 "Conquering Your Context"
December 21	Luke 2: 1-7 "Bailing Out Christmas"
December 28	II Cor. 5: 1-17 "The Exchange Policy"

FROM THE PASTOR

Beloved,

Holiday Greetings to you this advent season. I know that a great many of us are now fully engaged in our holiday preparations. Many retailers are vying for our attention and indeed for our resources. I want to make a special appeal to you not to stress yourself out over the material aspects of your celebration. In fact, with times being so tough I hope that each of you will join with me in trying to quietly find a way to bless someone in need during this holiday season without expecting anything in return. As Christ came not to receive gifts but to be the gift Himself, let us celebrate this season in like spirit by emphasizing others.

You know, as much as Christmas should be about focusing on Christ (His name is in the word "Christ"mas), it's interesting that this is one of the times of the year when folk are most slack about church attendance. As we are caught up in the revelry of the season, let us not give the devil any reason for gloating because God's people are doing more "worshipping" at the mall rather than the church. Let us stay committed to our identity as the people of God during this season in our praise, attendance, tithing, and in our focus.

As 2008 quickly comes to an end, let us look forward to a 2009 filled with renewed energy and vigor about our ministry. I am believing that when our Gift Unwrapping series is concluded that our church will have a new cadre of disciples working in existing areas of ministry as well as the debuting of some new ministries. I invite you to consider with me during our sermonic discourses this month some of the "Issues of Christmas". Please make plans now to join me and other churches from around the city on New Year's Eve for watch night services at Antioch Baptist Church. I love you and I love being your pastor.

PM

WATCH NIGHT 2008

You are invited to bring in the New Year worshipping our Lord & Savior!

December 31, 2008, 10:00 pm

Antioch Baptist Church

1415 Holloway Street, Durham NC

Abundant Hope will join the disciples of Antioch Baptist Church and other local churches for a time of worship & praise!

Pastor Middleton will be the guest preacher.

ALLIANCES OF HOPE: Holding Year-End Update Meeting!!

The **Alliances of Hope**, Abundant Hope Christian Church's fund raising teams (under the auspices of the Nehemiah Ministry) were launched on November 18, 2007. The alliances have been busy and extremely excited about the key role they play in pursuing our vision, supporting the Campaign for Hope, encouraging each other, and having fun!

An information and update session (including light refreshments) for all AHCC disciples will be held after service Sunday, December 14, 2008, in the Pearson Elementary School Cafeteria. The meeting will serve as a way to update our church family on the work of the alliances and any program revisions. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for new members to become engaged. **Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.**

During the November 2007 launch session, each **Alliance of Hope** selected its leader(s). Congratulations and sincere thanks are extended to the following disciples who have taken the lead on the great work that has begun. These leaders are also to be applauded for wholeheartedly sharing in the pursuit of our ambitious vision that through our trust in Jesus Christ we will have a new edifice that will not only serve as a beacon for spiritual worship and hope but will also be a place of beauty and serve as a place of community outreach.

Garnet (January) – **Radiah Minor**
Amethyst (February): **Vivian Jackson**
Aquamarine (March): **Charles Dino**
Diamond (April) - **Travis Hinnant**
Emerald (May): **Melissa Butler**
Pearl (June): **Marjorie Black**
Ruby (July): **Arvis Bridges Epps**
Peridot (August) - **Maurice Johnson** and **Clarence Johnson**
Sapphire (September): **Vinnia McCoy**
Opal (October): **Gregory Blair, II**
Topaz (November): **Sherri Smith**
Turquoise (December): **Daria Jones Harris**

Remember...we are at a defining moment in Abundant Hope's short history, and the Campaign for Hope is mobilizing our members and friends in the community in pursuit of our ambitious vision. Through this campaign the city of Durham will have a new edifice that will not only serve as a beacon for spiritual worship and hope but also will be a place of beauty and serve as a place of community outreach.

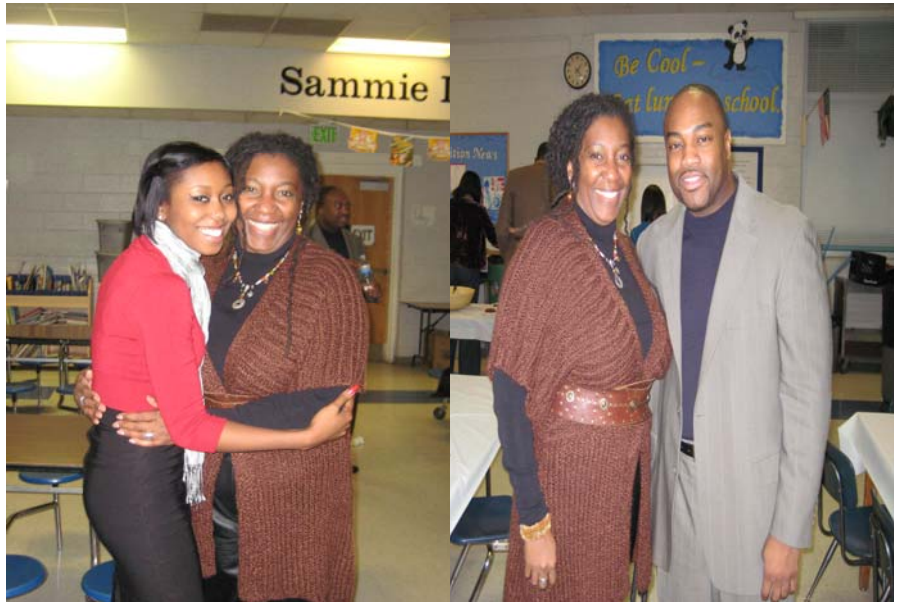
There is Hope!

Abundant Hope Family,

With much love in my heart, I want to thank each and everyone of you for the cards, gifts, prayers and words of encouragement that you offered!

You are a great people and I praise God for allowing me to share a time in my life with you. I pray the service I offered was pleasing to God and pleasing to you. Know that I hold a special place in my heart for each of you that will be there for eternity. I will continue to keep you in my prayers as we all move forward following Christ in all that we do and say. Please continue to pray for me as I navigate the path which God has set for me and every time you see a little yellow Volkswagen beetle remember me.

Regards,
Tammy



Jesus is Better than Santa

*Santa lives at the North Pole.
JESUS is everywhere.
Santa rides in a sleigh
JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.
Santa comes but once a year
JESUS is an ever present help.
Santa fills your stockings with goodies
JESUS supplies all your needs.
Santa comes down your chimney uninvited
JESUS stands at your door and knocks..
And then enters your heart.
You have to stand in line to see Santa
JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.
Santa lets you sit on his lap
JESUS lets you rest in His arms.
Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is
"Hi little boy or girl, What's your name?"
JESUS knew our name before we did.
Not only does He know our name,
He knows our address too.
He knows our history and future and He
even knows how many hairs are on our heads.*

*Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly
JESUS has a heart full of love.
All Santa can offer is HO HO HO
JESUS offers health, help and hope.
Santa says "You better not cry"
JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me
for I care for you.
Santa's little helpers make toys
JESUS makes new life, mends wounded
hearts,
repairs broken homes and builds mansions.
Santa may make you chuckle but
JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.
While Santa puts gifts under your tree
JESUS became our gift and died on the tree.
It's obvious there is really no comparison.
We need to remember WHO Christmas is all
about.
We need to put Christ back in Christmas.
**Jesus is still the reason for the sea-
son.**
May the Lord bless and watch over you and
your loved ones this Christmas 2008.
And may He prosper and bless the work
of your hands in the New Year.*

**YOU DON'T
WANNA MISS
AHCC'S
CHRISTMAS
PRODUCTION,
DECEMBER 14
DURING WORSHIP
SERVICE. OUR
YOUTH HAVE
BEEN WORKING
HARD TO
PRESENT THIS
SPECIAL GIFT!**

Ministry Meetings & Rehearsals

Adult Choir: December 4, 11 and 18, 7:30pm; December 13, 11:00am; December 22, 7:30pm. All choir rehearsals will be held at the church office.

Adult Praise Dance:
December 13 & 27, 9:00-11:00am

Alliances of Hope:
Year-End Update meeting **Sunday, December 14** after service in the Pearisontown Cafeteria.

Men's Ministry:
Saturday, **January 31**, 9:00am in the church office —All AHCC men are encouraged to attend.

Usher's Ministry:
January 4, 8:30am in Pearson-town's cafeteria

Women's Ministry:
Christmas Social— Saturday, December 20, 10:00 am at the church office. All ladies are welcomed. If you are interested in this fellowship, contact Sis. Leslie Jones at 800-1529 or alphadelta27@hotmail.com.

Youth Choir:
Will resume rehearsals in January; all interested youth/parents are asked to sign up following service during December

Youth Praise Dance:
No rehearsals in December; will resume in January.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If your contact information (address, phone number, or email address) has changed, please provide the current information to the office or Sis. Shajuana McMillan.

OUTREACH IN THE COMMUNITY



Saturday, December 13, 2008
Durham Ridge Assisted Living

Community Outreach invites you to come for 1 hour of fun and fellowship with the residents of Durham Ridge Assisted Living facility Saturday, December 13 at 1:00 pm. Durham Ridge Assisted Living Center is located on 3420 Holloway Street.

Sunday, December 14, 2008 thru
Friday, December 19, 2008

IHN Week – Mt. Sylvan United
Methodist Church

Feel free to join us on Sunday, December 14 at 4:00 to prepare the living quarters for the residents and/or Friday, December 19 at 5:30 for dinner and fellowship at Mt. Sylvan United Methodist Church. For more information please see Sister Gail Lloyd or email her at GL6732@aol.com

Outreach In The Community
2008 Year In Review

In January, the Community Outreach Ministry desired to reach out into our community to model the love of God and to be His hands on earth. The efforts identified included fellowshiping monthly with the residents of Durham Ridge Assisted Living Facility, saving tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, donating cell phones to the Durham Crisis Response Center, improving the supply of magazines at the Durham VA Medical Center and quarterly hosting families in the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) in collaboration with the Mt. Sylvan United Methodist Church.

At Durham Ridge, our fellowship became Bible Study with hymns of praises and testimonies. The Ronald McDonald House received tabs to carry out its mission to provide a "home away from home" for families of seriously ill children receiving treatments at nearby hospitals. We were uplifted by the fellowship as we shared dinner with the families twice this year. A total of 32 cell phones were donated to the Durham Crisis Response Center to end domestic and sexual violence while the veterans at the VA Medical Center received numerous African-American and sports magazines to update their

supply. Throughout 2008, AHCC continued to serve as a support congregation for IHN, partnering with Mt. Sylvan United Methodist Church: *Working Together* and *Fulfilling the Promise* for homeless families in Durham.

As 2009 begins, we invite you to continue to spread HOPE with us! There is room for you!

TASTE OF HOPE is finally being printed and will be in soon!
Reserve your copy TODAY at the great price of \$12.50.



The Abundant Hope immediate and extended family has contributed almost 200 of their favorite recipes to our memorable collection. Pre-order a copy for yourself, family members, and friends. Taste of Hope will make a great Christmas gift! All proceeds go to the Nehemiah Building Fund.

INVITATION FROM MT. SYLVAN UMC

Mt. Sylvan United Methodist Church, 5731 Roxboro Road Durham, NC 27712, invites all the Abundant Hope Christian Church family to their **Love Feast on December, 7, 2008**. They will have a hand bell choir, other music, plus a *Love Feast* service. The festivities begin at 7:00 PM. Mt. Sylvan will also have an "Alternative Market" from 9:30AM – 1:00 PM with lunch being service by the church's youth.