



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

DECEMBER 2009

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Volume 3, Issue 12



# Speaking of Hope

ABUNDANT HOPE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Rev. Mark-Anthony Middleton, Pastor

## FROM THE PASTOR

Beloved,

Blessed Holiday season to you. As Christians all over the world celebrate advent I greet you with the spirit of expectancy. God broke into history through the birth of Christ and ushered in a new way of looking at both life and death. My prayer is that each of you would experience a personal in breaking of Christ through the Holy Spirit and be empowered to view your future in an entirely new way. One of the chief ways to feel the welcome intrusion of Christ is through his Word. This is why I'm so excited that we will end 2009 and begin 2010 focused on **What Jesus Said** as recorded in the gospel of Matthew.

So it's that time when many of you will be making New Year's resolutions. Why not start 2010 with a commitment to increase church and bible study attendance? How about seeking greater financial and stewardship maturity through the exercise of the tithe? Have you considered getting involved in one of the many ministry areas of Abundant Hope? When is the last time you had a physical with an HIV test? Do you think 2010 should be the year to eat better and get some exercise? What's on your credit report? I'm asking God to help us make 2010 the year. I'm asking God to help us make 2010 the year of **Ministry that Matters**. We're going to have some discussions and

events that address practical areas of life and living. Join me and our leaders as we seek to meet people where they are and escort them to where they're going.

I invite each of you this holiday season to join me in consciously doing something for someone else. Get involved in one of holiday food and/or gift drives that will be going on. Grab some kids and take them to a holiday movie or show. When all of the gifts have been opened and holiday feasts consumed, join me on New Year's Eve for Watch Night services with brothers and sisters from across our city. This is indeed the season when we declare "Joy to the World the Lord has come..." It's up to us to prove through ministry that He not only came, but He also stayed. I love you and I love being your pastor.

PM

2010

MINISTRY THAT MATTERS

## ALLIANCES OF HOPE NEWS

### **New FUNd Raiser!!!!**

A new fund raiser kicks off this month:

### **"Spare Change for Hope"**

**Starts December 6**

#### **PURPOSE:**

The primary purpose of the "Spare Change for Hope" fundraiser is to support the building fund of Abundant Hope Christian Church.

#### **HOW YOU CAN BE A PART:**

This fundraiser is simple and it is easy to participate. All you need to get started is a collection container. Then, during the month, collect loose change. At the end of the month (normally the last Sunday in each month), bring your change to the worship space and place it in the designated receptacle.

Remember, you can make a difference collecting pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. Believe it or not, the old fashioned way of collecting spare change really adds up!

#### **HELPFUL HINTS FOR COLLECTING CHANGE:**

- Clean out your car.
- Check drawers and furniture in your house or apartment.
- Be on the lookout for change on the ground.
- Get family and friends involved.
- Get members of any organization, group, or sports team that you are a part of involved.
- Empty out change from your wallet, purse, or pockets once a week.
- Get your coworkers involved.

**Think.....**

**"Spare Change for Hope"**

### **AHCC Logo Christmas Ornaments on Sale Now!!**

AHCC logo Christmas Ornaments will be on display and for sale each Sunday.

COST: \$10.00 each

Proceeds go to the Nehemiah Building fund.

Visit the display table after service or contact Sis. Vinnia McCoy to purchase ornaments.

### **AHCC Alliances of Hope Bakery - Opens on December 20!**

The AHCC Alliances of Hope Bakery will open for the 4th quarter bake sale on Sunday, December 20 after service in the Pearsonstown Cafeteria. All AHCC bakers and 4th quarter Alliances of Hope team members (if your birthday is in October, November, or December) are asked to donate whole baked items (cakes, pies, and other goodies) for the sale. Pre-orders for baked items can be made beginning this month. To sign-up to donate items or to place pre-orders, please contact: Sis. Vinna McCoy or Sis. Gail Lloyd

*There is Hope in Jesus Christ our Lord!*



# SPEAKING OF HOPE

From the Women's Ministry:



**December is AIDS Awareness Month.** AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome), caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), attacks the immune system, and is spread by sexual contact with infected persons, needle sharing, or through transfusions with infected blood. Infected women can transmit the virus to their newborns before, during, or after birth. There is HOPE. U.S. deaths due to AIDS are declining. Some medical centers offer drug therapy, helping prevent HIV infection shortly after exposure during unsafe sex. Post-exposure treatment, not guaranteed to work, involves taking multiple drugs daily for at least 30 days, but may cause severe side effects. Pregnant women infected with HIV can take medication to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission. For some, having HIV/AIDS is like being alone in the dark. For some, not having an UNDERSTANDING of HIV/AIDS and its prevention KEEPS them in the dark. We all have the opportunity to move into the light of AWARENESS. Close to 40 million people are living with HIV/AIDS worldwide. There is some good news. U.S. deaths due to AIDS are declining. The bad news is that the spread of AIDS continues. Why? Public attention has diminished, in part because people infected with the disease are living longer. Diminished public attention has meant that resources have not kept pace with the increasing number of people living with AIDS; funding is being stretched to serve more people. Funding for some services, such as outreach and education, has actually decreased. "Community outreach and education needs to continue," says Patti Capouch, Executive Director of the Frannie Peabody Center, an HIV/AIDS service organization located in Portland, ME. "To stop the spread of HIV/AIDS, the public can't forget about this issue. It needs to be on people's radar screen. It's relevant."



*Merry  
Christmas!*



## 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](mailto:abundant.hope1@verizon.net)

**THERE IS HOPE IN CHRIST!**

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We're on the Web:  
[www.abundanthopecc.com](http://www.abundanthopecc.com)

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## CHURCH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

### CHURCH OFFICE:

**CLOSED**

**DEC. 21—JAN. 4;**

**WILL RESUME**

**NORMAL BUSINESS  
HOURS**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 5.**

### BIBLE STUDY:

**LAST BIBLE STUDY OF  
2009 WILL BE DEC. 15.;**  
**CLASS WILL RESUME  
JANUARY, 12.**



**RING IN THE NEW YEAR  
WITH PRAISE AND WORSHIP!**

## ANNUAL JOINT WATCH NIGHT SERVICE

**DECEMBER 31, 10:00 PM**

**ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH  
1415 HOLLOWAY STREET  
DURHAM NC**

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### Pettigrew Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center

Come for 1 hour of fellowship at Pettigrew Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center on Saturday, December 12 at 1:00 pm. Pettigrew is located at 1515 W. Pettigrew Street.

### SAVE THE DATE

IHN Week – Mt. Sylvan

**Sunday, January 3- Friday, January 8**

Feel free to join us on Sunday, January 3 at 4:00 to prepare the living quarters for the residents and/or Friday, January 8 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](mailto:GL6732@aol.com).

## Meetings & Rehearsals

### Adult Choir:

**December 3, 10, 17,** 7:00 pm  
at church office;

**December 21 & 28,** 6:00 pm at  
church office

### Adult Praise Dance:

Saturday, **December 12,**  
9:00-11:00am

### AHCC Quarterly Birthday

**Celebration:** Sunday,

**December 27** after service in  
cafeteria

### Alliances of Hope Leaders:

Sunday, **December 6,** after  
service in the Pearsontown  
Cafeteria.

### Christian Education:

Tuesday, **January 5,** 6:00 pm  
at church office

### Men's Ministry:

Saturday, **January 30,** 9:00 am  
at Golden Corral

### Usher's Ministry:

Sunday, **January 3,** 8:30am in  
Pearsontown cafeteria; A Con-  
tinental Breakfast will be pro-  
vided. All active ushers and  
those interested in joining the  
ministry are asked to attend.

### Women's Ministry:

**Holiday Social,** Saturday,  
**December 19,** 10:00 am at  
Lake Side Gardens-Martin Lu-  
ther King Drive.

**Youth Choir:** Will render mu-  
sic with adult choir Sunday,  
December 13. Rehearsals:  
Tuesday, **December 1 & 8** dur-  
ing Bible study and Thursday,  
**December 10** at 7pm at  
church office.