

Welcome to Antioch!

Thank you for joining us this afternoon for a called worship service giving glory and thanks to God for the life and ministry of Rev. Charles E. Champion. The order of worship is printed on the inside left panel of this bulletin. On the right panel, you will find a personal testimony by Pastor Champion. Please visit with us after the service. Thank you for being with us today.

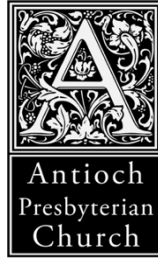
The Lord's Day at Antioch

9:30 AM	Morning Worship
10:45 AM	Fellowship Time
11:15 AM	Sunday School
4:30 PM	Kingdom Prayer
5:00 PM	Evening Worship

Worship at Antioch

The worship of the one true and living God is mankind's highest duty and greatest delight. Through Christ the living Word and by the call of the Holy Spirit, individual believers and churches approach God the Father in devotion and praise. The Father seeks those who will worship Him in Spirit and in truth. Do not content yourself with spectating, but rather join with the congregation in the singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Pray along with the elders, adding your "Amen" to the prayers. Give joyfully to God in the corporate offering as an act of worship and sanctified self-denial. Listen attentively to God speaking in and through the reading and preaching of His inspired Word. May God the Father receive an acceptable sacrifice of praise through Christ the Son as we actively worship Him by the Holy Spirit.

We believe that the children of believers are not only a heritage from the Lord and a special gift to parents, but also members of God's church. Therefore, we involve children as participants in worship. The children of believing parents are to be students of the Christian Faith – even baptized disciples – from infancy, and thus are not to be excluded from the assembling together of the saints. However, until such a time as they can examine themselves of their being in Christ, such members of the church are to refrain from taking the Lord's Supper. If you are visiting today and not accustomed to children in the worship service, we thank you for your understanding and patience. If you are here today with young children, please exercise courtesy by using our training room or our childcare space as needed.



Upcoming Events

Joint Evening Worship Service: 3/30 @ 6:00 PM
Roebuck Presbyterian Church (PCA) | Roebuck, SC
Lord's Supper & Fellowship Meal: 4/6 @ 9:30 AM
Session Meeting: 4/14 @ 9:30 AM

Vision & Mission

Our vision is for the historic Antioch Presbyterian Church to be a worshipping community that blesses every family in the growing residential hub at the crossroads of Greenville and Spartanburg Counties, to the glory of God. **Our mission** is the gathering and perfecting of God's people through biblical worship, evangelism, and pastoral care.

Areas of Ministry Focus

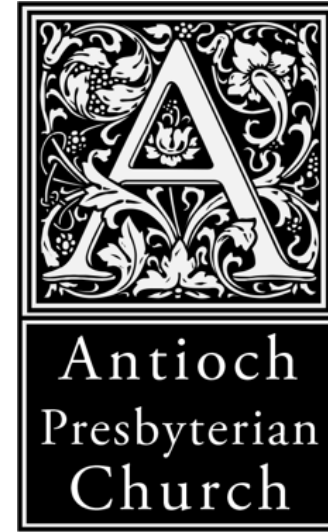
*Expository Preaching | Biblical Worship | Parish Evangelism
Pastoral Care | Discipleship*

Leadership & Accountability

Mr. Jeffrey A. Danes, Ruling Elder
Pastor Zachary Groff, Teaching Elder
Mr. J. Richard Long, Ruling Elder
Mr. Joshua N. Marcus, Ruling Elder
Dr. Joseph A. Pipa, Jr., PhD, Teaching Elder

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



Called Worship Service
of Praise to God for the Life of
Rev. Charles E. Champion

Friday, March 21, 2025

Order of Worship

March 21, 2025 | 2:00 PM

Memorial *Calvary Presbytery*

Meditation *Psalm 115:1*

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your Name give glory because of Your lovingkindness, because of Your truth.

***Call to Worship** *Psalm 48:1-3*

***Congregational Commitment**

Congregation, in whom is your confidence?

Our help is in the Name of the Lord, who made the heavens and the earth.

***Salutation**

***Hymn of Adoration** **No. 244**
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
EIN' FESTE BURG

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

Confession of Faith *Apostles' Creed (TPH 851)*

Reading of Scripture *Romans 8*

***Hymn of Faith** **No. 428**
'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee
CALCUTTA

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Supplication

conclude with the Lord's Prayer (see back of bulletin)

***Hymn of Praise** **No. 227**
How Great Thou Art
HOW GREAT THOU ART

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings *Psalm 115*
John 3:22-36

Congregational Response

Faith comes by hearing,

And hearing by the Word of God!

Sermon

“The Greatest Love Story Ever Told”

John 3:22-36

Prayer of Application

Rev. Charles E. Champion

March 6, 1934 – March 16, 2025

I was born and raised in Chattanooga, TN, where I met my high school sweetheart, Raedean Brown. After high school, I received football scholarships to Vanderbilt University and Georgia Tech, but I chose instead to marry and take a job as an apprentice printer at the *Times-News Free-Press*. Over the next 18 years, I advanced through the ranks, ultimately becoming the assistant manager of the commercial printing department, which entailed supervising about 35 employees. When offered a promotion to foreman—which would have meant overseeing 125-150 people—I turned it down, not wanting the added stress and time away from my family, which by that time included Mike and Mickey.

From early childhood until a few years after our marriage, I attended our neighborhood church, Second Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga. After purchasing our first home, we moved our membership to Brainerd Hills Presbyterian Church. We immediately became involved, and I was quickly elected president of our Sunday school class. Within the first year, I was also elected president of the *Men of the Church*. During our time at Brainerd Hills, I served as a Deacon, a Ruling Elder, and the Clerk of the Session. Raedean and I even performed janitorial duties and spent considerable time helping to build a new educational wing for the church. I willingly did whatever I was asked to do—except for teaching a Sunday school class. Despite serving as the Sunday school superintendent and leading the singing each Sunday, I struggled with speaking in front of people. When asked to teach a Sunday school class, I always declined, unable to overcome the anxiety it caused me.

In 1968, my pastor and I attended an *Evangelism Explosion* program at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church. This experience profoundly changed my life. Upon returning, I could no longer refuse to teach a Sunday school class. I vividly remember my first lesson was from John 15, “*I am the true vine,*” though that’s all I recall. However, every Sunday thereafter, I taught that class, which grew from 10 members to 50 adults. I applied the evangelism training I had received and began teaching it to others willing to go out and share the gospel. During this period, the idea of a call to ministry arose when I was about 28, but I was convinced that I was serving in every possible way, remaining content with that decision for the next ten years.

For several years, our family would go fishing in Crossville, TN, about 85 miles north of Chattanooga. We would fish from Friday afternoon to Saturday afternoon, then return to Chattanooga to prepare for Sunday worship. During one vacation, I visited the local newspaper in Crossville and spoke with the owner, who offered me a proposition: manage the newspaper, stabilize its finances, and in return,

receive 50% of the stock over the next five years, with an option to purchase the remaining 50%. In just one year, we expanded the paper from a weekly to a twice-weekly publication, with plans to publish three times a week. The commercial printing department grew, and we were making significant profits. However, the stockholders decided to sell the newspaper, and my dream was abruptly ended. I was compensated for the 10% of the stock I had acquired.

As I weighed my options—whether to go into business or to return to Chattanooga—the Lord reminded me of the ministry. While mowing the lawn and praying, it became clear that He was calling me into full-time ministry. I argued, citing reasons why it seemed impossible: I didn’t have a college degree and doubted I could get into seminary. But the Lord assured me He would make a way. I contacted Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS, and after an interview, I was told I would need to attend college for at least a year to prove I could handle the academic rigor. Discouraged, I enrolled at Belhaven College in Jackson. After one semester, with grades of all A’s and B’s (at 38 years old), I returned to the seminary and expressed my desire to begin my preparation for ministry. After reviewing my grades, they allowed me to enter the winter quarter. During this time, the Lord provided an excellent position for Raedean with the *Mississippi Electric Co-op* so that she could help support the family.

Although seminary typically takes three years to complete, I finished in two and a half, taking every required course, including Hebrew and Greek, and earning all A’s and B’s (except for one C in Hebrew). During this time, I also served as a student supply pastor at Houston Presbyterian Church for two years until my graduation. Upon graduating, I accepted a call from the Houston church, where I served for about ten years.

Like Moses, I spent 40 years in the world before beginning my ministry as an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) at the age of 40. It was fascinating to see what the Lord did with the next 40-year period of my life as I focused on life as a minister at various PCA churches (*Editorial Note: Pastor Champion retired from his last call at 86 years old*). At the center of it all was ever and always my heart’s desire: “*He must increase, and I must decrease*” (John 3:30). This verse was at the core of my ministry. Though I did not repeat it every Sunday, its message was woven into every sermon I preached, and every lesson I taught.

Raedean and I have always considered it an honor and privilege to serve the Lord in His ministry:

Various Roles, Brainerd Hills Presbyterian (20 Years)
Student Pastor & Pastor, Houston Presbyterian (12 Years)
Pastor, Mount Calvary Presbyterian (3 Years)
Pastor, New Hope Presbyterian (11 Years)
Pastor, Antioch Presbyterian (25 Years)

** Congregation standing, unless physically hindered*