

OneAccord

July 2018

2018

2018 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Journeys and Reflections
Edwin and Billie Jean Marrs

Personal Contact
with Cecil Maranville

personal from the president

D-Day and Young People

June was a very busy month! Graduations, weddings, Father's Day, vacations and other special occasions filled the month. June also included an anniversary that went by mostly unnoticed. It was on June 6, 1944, that the Allied forces, under the leadership of Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, stormed the beaches of Normandy. It was the largest sea invasion in history. On that first day 2,500 Allied soldiers died, and 8,500 were wounded. From D-Day through Aug. 21, a total of 2,052,299 soldiers stormed ashore, and 36,976 were killed along with 153,475 wounded and 19,221 missing in action. In addition, 16,174 airmen were killed when their planes were shot down.

These statistics are taken from *Never Say Goodbye* by Robert Anstey. In it he describes what it was like to be 19 and part of the Normandy landing forces. The author's father and namesake, Bob Anstey, came ashore on June 9 as a 19-year-old, responsible, along with a crew of 15 other men, for firing the big guns that were brought to Normandy to protect the airfields. The book describes the exhilaration their crew felt when they shot down their first fighter plane. But the exhilaration was short-lived when they realized they had actually killed the pilot. As one of the men declared—"we killed someone!" That sober thought was compounded when they pulled the body out of the plane and discovered that the pilot was a 16-year-old flying his first mission.

The entire crew grew quiet when they realized they had killed a teenager with his whole life in front of him. They also realized that this 16-year-old was part of the raid that had killed one of their crew members. It was hard to separate the emotions—the anger that one of their close friends was killed by a German pilot and the sadness that this 16-year-old was now dead, his future taken away.

The events that followed D-Day displayed some of the best in human courage and the worst in the loss of young lives. Between 50 and 80 million people died in World War II. The average age of the combatants was 26. Of course this is true of most wars. The declaration of war is made by older and "wiser" men and women, but the actual fighting is done by the young people.

When you look at the history of mankind, you see one tragic war after another. Since 1945, major wars have been fought in Korea, Vietnam, Kosovo, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq, just to name a few. The combatants were mostly in their 20s.

The world is certainly better off without a Hitler-dominated Germany, but the victory by the Allied forces in World War II was only a temporary fix. Today we are closer to the total destruction of humanity than we were on that June day in 1944.

This issue of *One Accord* focuses on another group of young people, those graduating from high school and college. What does the future hold for them? Even though the world is growing darker and is more challenging than at any time in history, by choosing the right path, the narrow way (Matthew 7:13-14), we can be assured that God will take care of our young people.

Over the years I have read a number of books about the Normandy invasion. There is really nothing like it in history. It was the beginning of the end for Hitler, but it failed to solve the most basic problem of mankind—the rejection of God and His way of life. As Christians, we object to the use of war and killing to solve man's problems, but we know that man will continue down this wide and disastrous path until Jesus Christ returns to this earth.

Join me in congratulating our high school and college graduates. Join me in praying for their understanding of the real solution to man's problems. If they can grasp the significance of God in their lives at a young age, they indeed have a very bright future ahead. Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 12:1, "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come." Developing a relationship with God while you are still young is extremely important. Do it "before the difficult days come." That's good advice for all our graduates!



Jim Franks

President

Church of God, a Worldwide Association



CHURCH of GOD

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Edwin and Billie Jean Marrs

On Feb. 20, 2016, one of God’s faithful servants, Billie Jean Marrs, breathed her last breath, and her husband, Edwin, said good-bye to his partner of 64 years. Those years had seen them through chronic health issues. Billie Jean had suffered rheumatic fever and pneumonia during childhood, which caused heart damage and predictions of premature death (which she defied). Then there were relocations, the growing of a family and, ultimately, 31 years of service to God.

Edwin and Billie Jean’s friendship began in childhood and blossomed into a lifelong commitment. Her obituary summed it up: “The friendship of Edwin and Billie became a courtship, filled with long talks, walks through their small town, lots of laughter and several pints of ice cream. Ultimately this led to their marriage on Dec. 5, 1952, while Edwin was serving in the U.S. Navy.” Mr. Marrs mused, “We were both 19-year-olds—young kids.”

A new enlistment

The obituary continued: “During the early years of their marriage, Edwin and Billie moved throughout the U.S. for three years with the Navy, then settled in Chicago in 1956.” It was there that they were introduced to the teachings of Herbert W. Armstrong and became members of the Radio Church of God.

Chicago, Illinois was also the birthplace of three of their four children: Edwin Jr., Michael and Jonathan. Their fourth, a daughter, Deborah, was born later in Mobile, Alabama. And it was in Chicago that God called Mr. Marrs to His ministry. Mrs. Marrs was right there at his side. Sometime around 1961 Mr. Marrs was ordained a deacon, as longtime friend Larry Salyer recalled, serving in a growing congregation in Chicago.

The Marrs were among 7,000 brethren, by one count, attending the Feast of Tabernacles in Big Sandy, Texas in 1963. Mr. Marrs was one of nine men who were ordained as local elders by Herbert W. Armstrong on the Last Great Day. Soon after, the Marrs found themselves in Meridian, Mississippi, where Mr. Marrs was assigned to assist Arthur Craig, the minister there.

“Mr. [Gerald] Waterhouse had started a Bible study for the black brethren in Meridian on Sunday[s]. I had to visit them scattered throughout the south and report back to Mr. Craig,” Mr. Marrs explained. Later, the couple moved to Mobile, Alabama, to serve an integrated congregation there.

In 1966 Mr. Marrs attended a year at Ambassador College, and then it was back in the field to assist wherever he was sent. Eventually, in 1971, he arrived in Houston, Texas, as associate pastor to Mr. Salyer. Together they served that large congregation. When Mr. Salyer was transferred to Washington, D.C., Mr. Marrs became the pastor.



November 1963 *Good News* magazine announces Edwin Marris' (back row, right) ordination as a local elder.

A healing remembered

When asked whether he could share some inspiring examples that happened during his ministry, Mr. Marris recalled a healing. It was during his year at Ambassador College, and he had anointing duty. "A guy came in and wanted me to anoint him because he had tuberculosis. The next Sabbath he came to me excitedly, and said that God had healed him instantly. That was encouraging to me because I was a little nervous going to Ambassador."

Matters of attitude

Over time Mr. Marris developed his approach concerning the responsibility of working with people: "I was a petty officer second class in the Navy and had to supervise personnel. You run across all kinds of attitudes. The thing that stood out in my mind in working with God's people was their attitude and willingness to serve God. I could never be hard on them because of their attitude. They made mistakes, like we all do, but when push came to shove, when you show them God's way, they are willing to do it. That stands out in my mind more than anything. ... I always considered myself as an older brother—I never considered myself over them, or greater than them."

The biggest lesson we learned

"You may not have the desire to confront people with problems and things," Mr. Marris reflected. "I found that when you practice God's way, it just works out. [Regarding] the things that I may be reluctant to handle, I look in the Bible, and God says, 'Do that.' I say, 'I've got to do that.' I start, and it's like God just opens a door, and it seems like things just work out. That has been an amazing thing to me. God's way just works. ... Some members have told me the same thing. 'Mr. Marris, I was afraid to do certain things, but I just bit the bullet (or took the bull by the horns) and said I'm going to do things God's way.' It's like God aids you—He assists you, and things work out."

Fitting tributes

Arnold Hampton recalled, "Harold Jackson [the first black elder ordained in the Radio Church of God] was the 'father in the faith' for most of the blacks in the Church back in the early days. When Mr. Jackson married ... in 1978, of all the men he could have used to officiate, he chose Ed Marris. That stamped the respect Ed Marris had achieved by not only Mr. Jackson, but the rest of us in the ministry."

In looking back at the Marris' record of faithful service, Mr. Salyer commented, "In the history of God's Church, both ancient and modern, there have been many heroes. I count Ed and Billie Marris among them. At the time they entered Christ's ministry, the nation was fraught with racial tension as it sought to break free from centuries of segregation. Ed and Billie were willing to serve not only the black brethren, but to go into cities in the Deep South in which they still had to enter certain white homes through the back door and serve integrated congregations during some of the most frightening clashes of the civil rights movement. In their eulogies at Billie's funeral, the children made it clear that these were traumatic years. The Marris long ago proved their sincerity when they said, 'God will work it out!' We can all learn lessons of humility and faith from their example." ©A

After his wife's death, Mr. Marris relocated to Colorado Springs, Colorado, and presently resides with his son Jonathan.



Edwin and Billie Jean Marris and their children, Edwin Jr., Jonathan, Michael and Deborah.

On the Road Again

Following are the congregations that the Marris served between 1963 and 1994 when they retired (in chronological order):

Meridian, Mississippi
Mobile, Alabama
Greensboro, North Carolina

Houston, Texas
Houston West, Texas
Baltimore, Maryland

Detroit East, Michigan
New Orleans, Louisiana
San Diego, California

Q

I don't know what to do about worshipping on the Sabbath, because all the churches in my area worship on Sunday. The nearest church to worship on Saturday is about three hours away each way. The church I go to right now is a good church—they teach right from the Bible, but on Sunday. Is that an acceptable alternative?

Through this column, we want to provide you with a window on the work of the Personal Correspondence Department. Because we interact mostly with people new to God's truth, some topics might not seem directly applicable to you. But think how you would answer the question if someone asked it of you! And many answers will contain spiritual principles that you can apply in your life, even if the question isn't one you would ask.

A



PERSONAL CONTACT

with CECIL MARANVILLE

We are happy to help. Genesis tells us that by resting on the seventh day, God set it apart—distinguished it—from the other days of creation (Genesis 2:3). The Fourth Commandment adds the insight that His act made the day “holy” (Exodus 20:8). Holy means not only *set apart*, but *set apart for sacred use*.

More understanding is added in Leviticus 23:3: “Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation.” The convocation itself is also called holy. A convocation meant calling the community together for a meeting—obviously, in this case, for the purpose of worship. The Sabbath worship service is more than just a convenient meeting. It is convoked or called together on God's authority for sacred use, for worshipping Him.

Let's break this down further by considering the purpose for a worship service. It is an opportunity to come before God in a unique way, different from the way a believer privately comes before God in prayer. In a worship service, a person receives instruction and encouragement in God's way of life from His ministers. The worshipper sings praises to God and can fellowship with people of like mind.

Now the answer to your question becomes clear. Sunday worship would not be “before God,” because His presence is in the Sabbath, not Sunday. Sunday-observing clergy can have some biblical values, but that isn't the same as understanding God's Word. A true minister of God would lead worship only on the seventh day. The best others could offer would be a mixture of truth and error.

The same is true about hymns sung in churches that do not understand the Sabbath. It is just as important to sing the truth as it is to speak it! And, while you might have amiable conversations with Sunday worshippers, genuine *fellowship* with people of like-minded spiritual understanding isn't possible.

Even before considering other matters, the fact that God makes the Sabbath *and* the worship service on it holy means that Sunday worship isn't an acceptable alternative to Sabbath worship.

There are other factors to weigh, because God's true Church must be faithful to the entire Word of God. Even some churches that worship on the seventh day do not grasp other biblical truths. You want to find the Church that Jesus built, which He promised would never die out (Matthew 16:18). We explain the identifying marks in “[The Church: What Is It?](#)” After you read it, scroll down to see 23 additional articles that address various questions people have on this subject. These articles enable you to dig as deeply as you want to into this important matter. You may also find our booklet *[Where Is the Church Jesus Built?](#)* helpful.

We invite you to examine our church in light of the scriptural criteria for the true Church. Scroll to the bottom of [LifeHopeandTruth.com](#) and click on “[Who We Are](#).” There you will find links to our fundamental beliefs and practices. If after learning who we are you would like to attend one of our services, you would be most welcome. Click on the link “[Find a congregation near you](#).”

Let me know if this has answered your question. And please contact us anytime we can be of further help. ©

2018 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Cora Nicole Anderson

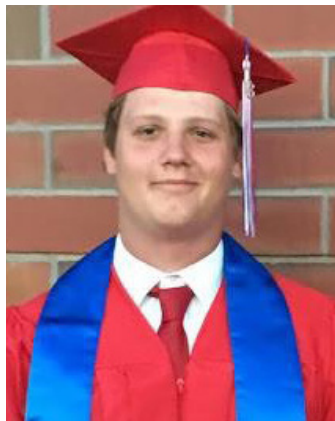
CORA NICOLE ANDERSON

Parents' names: Steven and Lori Anderson

Congregation: Los Angeles, California

High school accomplishments: Cora will be graduating from Rim of the World High School with a 3.9 GPA and many AP classes under her belt. She has played varsity softball for four years and was a team captain this season. She played the trumpet in the wind ensemble for four years.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Cora has served at the Camp Sequoia preteen camp. She attended teen Camps Sequoia and Carter and the extended session at Camp Sequoia. She enjoys singing in the choir and small groups



Brenner Austin

at the Feast. She is a third-generation trumpet player, and she enjoys playing hymns and special music for the Feast with her dad and grandfather. Her hobbies include art, music, hiking and softball.

Plans after graduation: Cora will be attending California State University San Bernardino to pursue a degree in kinesiology with the goal of becoming a physical therapist.

BRENNER AUSTIN

Parents' names: Roger and Joanna Austin

Congregation: Wichita, Kansas

High school accomplishments: Brenner graduated from Wichita South High School on May 10, 2018. He lettered in both



Jadon Barnett

swimming and track and field, as well as student leadership. He was voted "Most Likely to Make Your Day" by his senior class.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Brenner attended Osage, Carter and Bob White Youth Camps and is an active member of the local congregation's Youth Club. Brenner is an avid fisherman and his other hobbies include swimming and working on his car.

Plans after graduation: Brenner plans to take general education classes at Butler Community College for two years, and then transfer to pursue a degree in meteorology at the University of Oklahoma.

JADON BARNETT

Parents' names: Deborah and Donald Williamson

Congregation: Quakertown, Pennsylvania

High school accomplishments: Jadon graduated from Northampton Area High School on June 2, 2018. He graduated with honors in the top 10 percent of his class. He is a member of the National Honor Society. Jadon participated in several clubs, including Spanish, Biology and Ski Club. He also tutored fellow students in Spanish his senior year.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Jadon enjoys skiing, photography and travel.

Plans after graduation: Jadon will be attending Millersville University in the fall where he was accepted into the Honors College. He plans to major in Spanish.



Jacob Carson Bennett



Samantha L. Capó



Joshua Daniel Degagne

enjoys travel, volleyball and photography.

Plans after graduation: Samantha plans to attend the University of Delaware Honors Program and major in criminal justice and prelaw.

SHANE DONOVAN CHAISSON

Parents' names: Cary and Judy Chaisson

Congregation: New Orleans, Louisiana

High school accomplishments: Shane graduated magna cum laude with a 3.7 GPA from Loranger High School. Dual enrollment enabled him to take three college classes. He was also a member of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) for three years.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Shane has attended COGWA's Camp Carter as a camper and a worker. He assists in church hall setup and takedown. He enjoys history, especially World War II history.

Plans after graduation: Shane plans to pursue a two-year associate degree at Northshore Technical Community College's Hammond, Louisiana, campus in its electrician and HVAC programs.

JOSHUA DANIEL DEGAGNE

Parents' names: Ronald and Lora Degagne

Congregation: DeFuniak Springs, Florida

High school accomplishments: Joshua graduated May 10, 2018, with 49 hours of college credit already accomplished.



Riley William Burton



Shane Donovan Chaisson

and II, business economics, business essentials, and desktop publishing. Riley was a member of the Future Business Leaders of America Club.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Riley will serve on the staff at both Camp Cherokee and Camp Lone Star this summer.

Plans after graduation: Riley plans to attend Butler Community College this fall and work in the field of accounting.

SAMANTHA L. CAPÓ

Parents' names: Charles and Theresa Capó

Congregation: Queens, New York

High school accomplishments: Samantha graduated cum laude. She was a member of the National Honor Society, the girls' varsity volleyball team and the National World Language Honor Society. She made the Academic Honor Roll and received the AP Scholar Award and Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizenship Award.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Samantha

Plans after graduation: Jacob plans to attend Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia.

RILEY WILLIAM BURTON

Parents' names: Eric and Sara Burton

Congregation: Wichita, Kansas

High school accomplishments: On May 20, 2018, Riley graduated from Rose Hill High School. He was chosen by the business department instructors as the Outstanding Business Student of the Month for March. In addition to following the finance career pathway curriculum, including Accounting I

JACOB CARSON BENNETT

Parents' names: Kevin and Veronica Bennett

Congregation: Jefferson, Georgia

High school accomplishments: Jacob attended North Hall High School, where he was involved in FFA and various sports, including basketball, football and track. He also served as an assistant track coach for North Hall Middle School during his senior year.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Jacob's hobbies and interests include hunting, fishing, sports and volunteer opportunities, such as Whispering Angels Youth Ranch in Gainesville, Georgia.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Joshua has been part of the sound crew since he was 13, running the video and audio during church services for the last three years. He has attended the camp program since he was 5, serving as a volunteer at Camp Chattahoochee for the last four years. Joshua has been active on the family farm, raising turkeys, chicken, quail and lamb, as well as gardening. He loves weight training and has been a lifeguard for two years.

Plans after graduation: Joshua is currently attending Chipola College in Marianna, Florida, working towards his bachelor's degree in business management and plans to attend Foundation Institute sometime in the near future.

JAMES DAVID DEMAREST

Parents' names: Cliff and Susan Demarest

Congregation: Dallas, Texas

High school accomplishments: David graduated from Plano East Senior High School with an AP Honors diploma. He was recognized as a PISD Rising Star and Defensive All-Star Player of the Year for the junior varsity football team. He earned awards on the district and city level in high jump and triple jump on the track team. David was active in the National Honor Society and in the Young Men's Service League, where he served nearly 100 hours at WillowCreek Food Pantry.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: David enjoys travel, sports and all things outdoors, especially hunting

and fishing with friends. He participated in preteen and teen camps, including Lone Star, Carter, Strong Rock and Sequoia. He played basketball and volleyball with the Dallas congregation through the Church teen sports program.

Plans after graduation: David will attend Texas Tech University to study finance in the fall.

JADE ASHLYN FALLBRIGHT

Parent's name: Tammy Cressman

Congregation: Quakertown, Pennsylvania

High school accomplishments: Jade is a graduating senior from Crestwood High School in Mountain Top, Pennsylvania. Some of Jade's high school accomplishments include Principal's List (all years), National Honor Society (all years), president of Key Club and Young Scholars Early College Program.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Jade loves music and has been playing piano since she was 3 years old. She loves to sing and perform in theater.

Plans after graduation: Jade has been accepted into a guaranteed five-year master's program with the highest scholarship award for academic excellence at Misericordia University in Dallas, Pennsylvania, majoring in speech pathology/therapy.

REBECCA LYNN GORDON

Parents' names: Tracey L. Gordon and Lee E. Gordon



James David Demarest



Rebecca Lynn Gordon



Jade Ashlyn Fallbright



Samuel Charles Hanson

Congregation: Williamsburg, Virginia

High school accomplishments: Rebecca is graduating from L.C. Bird High School with an advanced diploma as a straight-A senior.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Rebecca has attended the local Williamsburg preteen/teen weekend camp and Camp Heritage and has assisted in Sabbath youth lessons. She is an animal lover and music lover and has an interest in decorating.

Plans after graduation: Rebecca plans to attend community college this fall.

SAMUEL CHARLES HANSON

Parents' names: Van and Polly Hanson

Congregation: Roanoke, Virginia

High school accomplishments: Sam graduated with high honors with a 4.0 GPA and was in the top 15 percent of his class. He is a member of the National Honor Society and the Key Club. Sam took four AP-level classes and college classes in high school.

Church activities/hobbies: Sam serves in the local congregation by helping put sound equipment away and cleaning up the hall. He has been to Camp Strong Rock, Camp Heritage, Camp Fort Bluff and Winter Camp, and he has helped as an assistant counselor at Camp Arrowhead. He also attends the Winter Family Weekend and church proms. Sam's hobbies include karate (he became a black

belt this year), kickboxing, playing the guitar, hiking, fishing, and designing and building longboards. He also enjoys Skyping his Church friends on the weekends.

Plans after graduation: Sam plans on pursuing an undergraduate degree in nursing and then going on to chiropractic school to become a chiropractor at either Palmer or Life Chiropractic. He would also like to attend Foundation Institute.

REGINALD L. BASIL HENNINGS

Parent's name: Regina L. Hennings

Congregation: Dallas, Texas

High school accomplishments: Reggie received a 2018 graduate diploma from The Einstein School. Reggie was born premature (3 pounds 6 ounces). School did not come easy for Reggie, but his mother worked with an advocate to get him a scholarship to this private school for 2½ years. (He and his mother clean the school as a way to give back for the scholarship.)

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Reggie is glad to be in God's Church. He has enjoyed getting to go to camp and the different Feast sites. Reggie enjoys sports and knows the stats with a passion. His faith has given him hope and he found himself being a mentor and a shoulder to lean on for some of his friends.

Plans after graduation: Reggie loves doing things with his hands, so he is planning to attend trade school for HVAC in McKinney, Texas, then after that maybe Foundation Institute.

HANNAH MARIE HERVEY

Parents' names: Sarah Hervey and the late Stephen Hervey

Congregation: Williamsburg, Virginia

High school accomplishments: Hannah graduated with highest honors and received the Principal's Award and a perfect attendance award. She was a member of Spanish Honor Society.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Hannah served as an aide for two years at the local Williamsburg preteen weekend camp.

Plans after graduation: Hannah will attend the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia.

JORDAN IACOBUCCI

Parents' names: Robert and Gail Iacobucci

Congregation: Central New Jersey

High school accomplishments: Jordan participated in both the Valley Voices Choir and the All-Men Ragazzi Choir. He also served as an officer in the school's chess club and was a two-year staff member of the Coldwater Literary Magazine.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Jordan's church activities involve helping to take down the sound system and ushering every week. Some of his hobbies and interests are writing, history and reading.

Plans after graduation: Jordan plans to attend



Reginald L. Basil Hennings



Jordan Iacobucci



Hannah Marie Hervey



Calvin Lance Alexander Jones

Dominican College in Orangeburg, New York (just 10 minutes away). After graduating in 2022, he hopes to enroll in Foundation Institute before beginning his career (something he hopes to have figured out by then).

CALVIN LANCE ALEXANDER JONES

Parents' names: Rebel and Diana Jones

Congregation: Fort Worth, Texas

High school accomplishments: Calvin graduated from Joshua High School in the top 10 percent of his class, with 18 college credits under his belt. He established himself as a dependable and encouraging teammate of the Joshua Owls varsity

golf team and a strong academic with his induction into the National Honor Society. He was awarded a Presidential Scholarship from Texas Tech, an M.E. Singleton Scholarship and the Baird-Hampton-Brown Engineering Scholarship.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Calvin is very active in serving in his local congregation. He assists with taking down the stage every Sabbath and regularly helps as a door greeter. He was an active participant in all facets of the Fort Worth Teen Program, including basketball, volleyball, Teen Speech Club, teen Bible studies and the senior citizen luncheon. As an outstanding speaker, Calvin has given two sermonettes on the annual Teen Service Sabbath. He enjoys playing the bass guitar, listening



Zachary Michael Kade Kennebeck



Jordan Khembo

to music, and spending time with his friends.

Plans after graduation: This fall Calvin will be attending Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, where he will study engineering. He plans to pursue a career in the field of civil engineering.

ZACHARY MICHAEL KADE KENNEBECK

Parents' names: Mike and Brenda Kennebeck

Congregation: East Texas

High school accomplishments: Zachary graduated from Big Sandy High School, where he was an active member of the Future Farmers of America. In his junior year he received the top award for ag mechanics,



Max Koester



John Kyle McGowen

and during his senior year he won Reserve Grand Champion for the trailer he welded that went to show. Zachary also participated in basketball, track and his main sport of tennis. During his high school tennis career, he placed fourth in the regionals and was also awarded Most Improved Player his freshman year and Most Valuable Player for two years.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Zachary enjoys welding, riding four-wheelers, working on the farm and traveling to Georgia to visit family.

Plans after graduation: Zachary plans on working for Grower's Source LLC, traveling to farms with products for crops and working farm shows.

JORDAN KHEMBO

Parents' names: Henry and Cindy Khembo

Congregation: Queens, New York

High school accomplishments: Jordan graduated June 25 from John Bowne High School (JBHS), where he served on the Student Union, coordinating clubs and assemblies for students and the local community. He won lead roles in two productions under the Academy for Creative Artists program and was on the winning team in JBHS' SING competition. Jordan was honored with the JBHS Student Union Merit Scholars Award for outstanding leadership and commitment to the betterment of the JBHS community; the Silver President's Award for Educational Achievement; Certificate of Recognition for Cooperation in Government; Hackett Certificate in recognition of the Greatest Proficiency in Oratory; Human Service Certificate presented by the Association of Black Educators of New York for services to community and school; JBHS Silver Medal for Proficiency in Theatre Arts; JBHS Principal's Association of NYC Student Leadership Award for leadership in school and community.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Jordan began attending camp at 6, graduated to teen staff at Camp Arrowhead, and has served on the Queens sound/tech team since he was 11.

Plans after graduation: Jordan will attend Queensborough Community College, then transfer to Baruch College of Business to study business administration/marketing.

MAX KOESTER

Parents' names: Glenn and Sharon Koester

Congregation: Portland, Oregon

High school accomplishments: Max graduated with honors from Clackamas High School. He has been on the high school baseball team for all four years, playing varsity for three of them. He has had the opportunity to be with the baseball team for two 6A State Championship Title games. He played basketball for four years, the last two years helping take their championship title. Max has also been part of the National Honor Society and received both academic and technical honor cords. Max received the Teammate of the Year Scholarship for attitude and sportsmanship.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Going to church camp is always a highlight of Max's summer. He plans to return to Fort Bluff again this July.

Plans after graduation: This fall Max will attend Texas Christian University. He is excited to join the Fort Worth congregation.

JOHN KYLE MCGOWEN

Parents' names: John and Rachelle McGowen

Congregation: Bentonville, Arkansas

High school accomplishments: Kyle is a 2018 graduate of Westville High School in Westville, Oklahoma. He is a fun-loving, hard-working and dedicated young man. He has been a National Honor Society member



Pauline Cebrian Moral



Athena Adrienne Nonoy

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Pauline has participated in the COGWA Youth Camps as a camper. She enjoys hobbies of card making and Bible verse journaling. Her interests include writing articles about church activities and drawing cartoons on CYC magazines.

Plans after graduation: Pauline plans to take premed courses.

Congregation: Auckland, New Zealand

High school accomplishments: Athena received the top award for Trades Academy, Level 2 Hospitality 2017 Excellence in Catering and Tourism; Student Volunteer of the Year for Sports; Lacrosse Cup award; contribution awards for lacrosse coaching and sports committee; and merit awards (Auckland Lacrosse under 18 representative).



Jared Thomas Morgan



Emmanuel Ogunjirin

JARED THOMAS MORGAN

Parents' names: Brian and Suzanne Morgan

Congregation: Houston North, Texas.

High school accomplishments: Jared graduated in the top third of his class from Cypress Creek High School. He took classes in welding and received several certifications as well as an award in it before graduation. He also placed second in state in a TSA competition.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Jared loves to be active—hiking, basketball, camping, etc. He is exceedingly loyal to family and especially to God's Word, defending it vehemently. If you're in need, he's there in a flash!

Plans after graduation: Jared likes to work with his hands and plans to pursue a career of welding after graduation.

ATHENA ADRIENNE NONOY

Parents' names: Christopher Modina and Guia Nonoy

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Athena participated in youth choir and New Zealand Youth Camps. Her interests include baking, sports and outdoor activities, such as hiking, water rafting and rock climbing.

Plans after graduation: Athena completed year 12 and left the first term of year 13 and is now completing her Certificate in Baking. She wants to be a baker and plans to pursue a diploma and degree in baking and hospitality management. She also wants to travel overseas in order to learn more baking techniques and try different types of "sweet goodies."

EMMANUEL OGUNJIRIN

Parents' names: Adebowale and Jolene Ogunjirin

Congregation: Clarksville, Maryland

High school accomplishments: Emmanuel is an AP Scholar, completing numerous college-level classes. He is also a Project Lead the Way Scholar, completing five industry-level engineering courses. He completed 10 more credits than was required to graduate high school.

for three years, serving as sergeant at arms, and a Junior Bank Board member for two years for both local banks. He has also been on the prom committee, on the yearbook committee, a speech and drama member, and a teacher's assistant.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Kyle has a close relationship with God and has witnessed His work in his life through the years. Kyle has played an active role in the local church area and has had the opportunity to attend multiple camps, not only as a camper, but also as a staff worker at preteen camp the past several years. You will usually see a smile on his face!

Plans after graduation: Kyle plans to attend Indian Capital Technology Center,

where he will complete a course in auto body collision repair, which will add knowledge to the auto detailing business he has had for the past four years.

PAULINE CEBRIAN MORAL

Grandmother's name: Merlen V. Cebrian

Congregation: Butuan City, Philippines

High school accomplishments: Pauline has consistently been an honor student and classroom officer. She took the championship in the vocal duet competition and took second place in the choral a cappella competition and the vocal solo competition. She graduated with an average of 91.68 percent.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Emmanuel transcribes services for deaf individuals in the congregation. He performs special music, both choir and piano. His hobbies include playing the piano, building model satellites and rockets, and coding systems. He enjoys music, games, calculus and higher-level mathematics and theories.

Plans after graduation: Emmanuel will be attending the University of Virginia to major in aerospace and cyber security engineering.

JOCELYN RAMOS

Parents' names: Ismael and Sarah Ramos

Congregation: Houston South, Texas

High school accomplishments: Jocelyn graduated as salutatorian from Texas Virtual Academy. Over the last years her extracurricular activities have included the Engineering Club and M3 Math Challenge team.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Jocelyn likes reading and spending time with family. She's also been volunteering as an assistant volleyball coach for homeschoolers and enjoys playing racquetball and the flute in her free time.

Plans after graduation: Jocelyn will be attending University of Houston in the fall for mechanical engineering.

THOMAS E. ROCHELEAU

Parents' names: Thomas A. and Kristie Rocheleau

Congregation: Austin, Texas

High school accomplishments: Thomas graduated from Stony Point High School in Round Rock, Texas, as a four-year honor roll student with over 30 hours of college credit from dual-credit classes and Advanced Placement tests. He has played the bass in orchestra for seven years, been an orchestra officer, and achieved first chair. He is a "mathlete" and competed in UIL for Number Sense.

Church activities/hobbies/interest: Thomas enjoys serving at church, where he has helped with setting up for church and potlucks, welcoming and greeting duty, and performing special music. He takes part in the regional weekends, playing basketball and volleyball. He has attended preteen and teen COGWA Youth Camps and served on the staff of COGWA preteen camp. He enjoys watching and playing all sports and being competitive.

Plans after graduation: Thomas plans to complete his associate degree at community college and then transfer to Texas A&M to study mechanical engineering.

TREVOR AUSTIN SMITH

Parents' names: Trey and April Smith

Congregation: DeFuniak Springs, Florida

High school accomplishments: Trevor graduated from Geneva High School with an advanced diploma. While in high school, he played football and varsity basketball and was very active in FFA, FBLA and student council.



Jocelyn Ramos



Trevor Austin Smith



Thomas E. Rocheleau



Lily Spitzer

He volunteered many hours at the local elementary school, helping teach gifted students about plants and growing produce. He was the president for the local FFA chapter and placed first in several county and district competitions. He recently won first place in the proficiency awards for landscape management at the state level. He was also selected to represent his school and hometown for Boys State at the University of Alabama, where he was chosen as mayor for his city.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Trevor enjoys attending church camps, volunteering where he is needed, and playing basketball with the Deep South team during the Winter Family Weekend. Trevor enjoys farming and has his own herd of cattle. During his free

time, he enjoys running and being outdoors, riding four-wheelers and horses, fishing and hunting, and watching football.

Plans after graduation: Trevor plans to attend Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia, this fall. He plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in agribusiness and cattle production.

LILY SPITZER

Parents' names: Kirk and Jenny Spitzer

Congregation: Roanoke, Virginia

High school accomplishments: Lily graduated a year early from her homeschool program.



Amadeus Solomon David Thorne

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Lily loves to help out at the preteen camp and likes to crochet and knit.

Plans after graduation: Lily is currently taking a summer class at Patrick Henry Community College. She will attend there this fall working on an associate degree in electronics in hopes of getting her journeyman electrician license within three years. She hopes to have her master electrician license by the time she is 20 and her class A contractor license a year later. She would like to join the family electrical business in hopes of helping it expand and grow for many years to come.

AMADEUS SOLOMON DAVID THORNE

Parents' names: George Thorne and Camille Clinton

Congregation: Bentonville, Arkansas

High school accomplishments: Amadeus graduated from Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, on May 18, 2018. He maintained a GPA of 3.28 with a 4.0 in his last semester as a senior. Amadeus was honored to be selected to attend



Clint Joseph Townsend

Boys State at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in June 2017 and to participate in the Oklahoma State Legislature's High School Page Program in April 2018. At Boys State he spent the week participating in activities designed to create a deeper awareness and appreciation for America, our Constitution, and sacrifices made by those serving our country in the military. Serving as page for Representative Will Fourkiller, Amadeus was responsible for running errands, delivering messages, participating in and developing mock legislation.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: The highlight of his senior year was attending COGWA Church Winter Camp in Wisconsin. Amadeus appreciated participating in scheduled activities and making new friends. His interests include photography, film production, art, reading, documentaries and video games. He likes to travel and spend time in national parks.

Plans after graduation: Amadeus plans to attend college and study film production and information technology.



Kahle Tucker

CLINT JOSEPH TOWNSEND

Parents' names: George and Carol Townsend

Congregation: Dallas, Texas

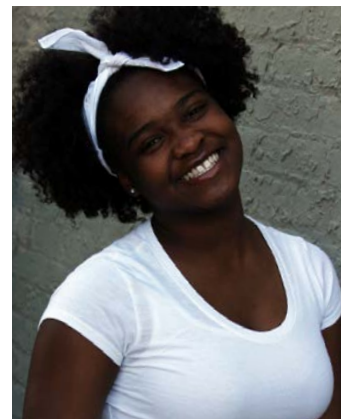
High school accomplishments: Clint graduated from Plano East Senior High School with an AP/Honors diploma. He was a member of the National Honor Society and Habitat for Humanity.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Clint enjoys playing basketball and soccer, playing his guitars, skateboarding and video gaming. He played church basketball, volleyball and participated in the Dallas Teen Speech Club. He participated in several preteen and teen camps (Carter, Strong Rock and Winter Camp) over the years. Clint had fun organizing a league basketball team (the Benchwarmers) that won first place in its division.

Plans after graduation: Clint will attend the University of Texas at Austin, pursuing a degree in civil engineering.

KAHLE TUCKER

Parents' names: Robert and Carlene Tucker



Diamond Wade

Congregation: Wichita, Kansas

High school accomplishments: Kahle graduated from Wichita South High School on May 10, 2018. Kahle lettered in academics and varsity swimming. She was captain of the girls' swim team, a member of the Quill and Scroll (an honor society for high school journalists), and a reporter for the yearbook staff.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Kahle attended Osage, Carter and Bob White Youth Camps and is an active member of the local congregation's Youth Club. Her hobbies include photography, graphic design, painting and ceramics, and playing the guitar.

Plans after graduation: In the fall, Kahle plans to attend Wichita State Technical College to study photography. She looks forward to a career in portrait and wedding photography.

DIAMOND WADE

Parents' names: Stephanie Rowan and Kenya Wade

Congregation: Louisville, Kentucky

High school

accomplishments: Diamond was valedictorian and on the honor roll. She is a Dot Wade Scholarship Award winner, St. James Art Court exhibitor, 12-time winner of regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, AP Scholar Award winner, and KMAC Couture designer.

Church activities/hobbies/

interests: Diamond has attended teen camp and occasionally helps with church potlucks. She enjoys visual art, dance, refashioning clothes and listening to music. She is interested in sociology, psychology, anthropology and language—anything that has to do with the culture and behavior of other human beings. She likes to understand where people come from, how that affects their behavior, and how they're able to overcome.

Plans after graduation:

Diamond plans on attending the University of Louisville in pursuit of a bachelor of fine arts degree in 3-D studio arts with a particular focus in fibers. She wants to work toward becoming a textile designer.

OLIVIA WITT

Parents' names: David and Sarah Witt

Congregation: Twin Cities, Minnesota

High school accomplishments:

Olivia graduated in the top 10 of her class in GPA. She was a school and section winner the Minnesota State High School League Triple A (Academics, Athletics, Arts) Award; Wellesley College Book Award Winner; three-time state meet qualifier for cross country; first team all-conference basketball; state meet qualifier for track and field (high jump and long jump); captain of cross country, basketball and track teams; and PEO Star Scholarship recipient. She received the school leadership award (twice) and the school service award. She was voted by her peers as "student choice award" winner and served as student council president for two years.

Church activities/hobbies/

interests: Olivia volunteers at preteen camp and as photographer at church events. She is a setup



Olivia Witt

and takedown team member and a member of church ensemble.

Plans after graduation:

Olivia will attend Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, as a Provost and Cox BBA Distinguished Scholar.

MADISON DALE YOST

Parents' names: Jeff and Stacie Yost

Congregation: Atlanta, Georgia

High school accomplishments:

Madison graduated with honors from McIntosh



Madison Dale Yost

High School as a member of National Honor Society, Beta Club and Key Club, where she earned the position of vice president. She played water polo for one year and was a member of the varsity swim team for three years.

Church activities/hobbies/

interests: Madison enjoys traveling, reading, baking, swimming and volunteering. She loves spending time with family and friends.

Plans after graduation:

Madison will attend Missouri Southern State University this fall as a member of the honors program and will pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing.

CONGRATULATIONS,
GRADUATES!

CHURCH POTLUCK

What's cooking in your congregation?

AUSTIN MEMBERS ENJOY WILDFLOWERS

On Sunday, April 22, 18 brethren from the Austin, Texas, congregation got together for a walk through the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and enjoyed seeing some of God's beautiful creation!

It was the perfect sunny day to be outdoors and a great experience with everybody. It was amazing to view the spring blossoms and uplifting to fellowship with brethren outside of the Sabbath.

Taylor Rocheleau



MEMBERS ENJOY PENTECOST WEEKEND IN THE MOUNTAINS

Nestled in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, with its quiet stillness and scenic beauty, Carson Springs Resort is truly a place to worship God. For the past four years it has hosted the Pentecost weekend for congregations from London, Kentucky; Asheville, North Carolina; and Knoxville, Tennessee.

The brethren gathered together and observed a Sabbath of seminars, interactive Bible studies, sermons and fellowship! Jeannie Evans and Martha White presented special music pieces. Elders Eric Evans, Jeff Baker and Steve Ferencchiak and deacons Peter Holmes, Ed Werden and Brian White delivered inspiring messages.

The resort gives the Church the whole weekend without any other guests, so it is like a Feast getaway. The delicious meals are prepared by the resort staff.

The brethren look forward to next year's Pentecost weekend at the Carson Springs Resort!

Judy Swanson



DALLAS HOLDS SILVER AMBASSADORS BRUNCH

This spring marked the 15th year the Dallas brethren have taken the time to show appreciation, love and honor for the senior citizens in the congregation. Approximately 25 senior citizens and 25 teens, along with some of the teens' parents, attended this year's brunch, which was prepared and hosted by Dallas teens and their families.

The tables were decorated with historical and popular pictures from the 1940s to the 1960s, arranged to elicit past memories and stir conversation. During the brunch, popular music from years gone by was played, along with special musical selections performed by some of the teens and their parents.

The event represented a wonderful way in which teens and families were able to honor the seniors with great food and fellowship in a comfortable and pleasing atmosphere.

Greg Vaughn



EAST TEXAS HONORS MOTHERS

"Her children rise up and call her blessed." The East Texas congregation hosted an elegant dinner after Sabbath services on May 5 for its blessed honorees: mothers! The well-attended event was held a week in advance of Mother's Day in order not to conflict with individual family celebrations.

Amid the tables enhanced with fresh local blooms, the attentive servers assisted the ladies and families. While the congregation is renowned for its abundant potlucks, the buffet was particularly notable in its varied entrees and accompaniments. With soft music in the background, guests lingered over coffee and dessert. Several generations of mothers could be seen enjoying the time together. Pictured is Nancy Case with a generation or two of her own.

Dee Trotter





We encourage members to send announcements to be featured in *One Accord*. We feature events in members' lives, including baptisms, births, engagements, weddings, significant anniversaries (25, 40, 50, 60, etc.), and obituaries. Typically they run between 50 and 100 words; however, we ask that all submissions stay under 250 words. Please submit a high-resolution color photo along with the written copy to your congregation's reporter.

Anniversaries



Cliff and Carolyn Adams

On May 2 Cliff and Carolyn Adams celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. To celebrate the joyous occasion and honor their many years of commitment to each other, the Louisville, Kentucky, congregation hosted a reception following services on May 12. It was a full house with food, fellowship and congratulations.

Mr. and Mrs. Adams are longtime members of the Church of God, and Mr. Adams serves as an elder in the Louisville congregation.

Carolyn Winner



Mary and Donald Rice

Donald Rice and Mary Hines were married June 3, 1968. They recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Mary was baptized in 1975 and attends the New Orleans, Louisiana, congregation, which is pastored by Phillip Sandilands.

Three dogs live with the Rices in their Holden, Louisiana, home. Though Donald has some serious health problems and is often dependent on portable oxygen, this couple is not letting their age and health problems keep them from being active. Assisted in planning and goal setting by their only son, Stephen Rice, Mary has become somewhat of a world traveler, visiting several international Feast of Tabernacles sites. She has been to France, India, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Mauritius, New Zealand and Sri Lanka.

Mary likes to visit her international Church family to understand the conditions, cultures and problems they face and how they are able to live the Christian life in the present evil age. She has established friends all over and even enjoyed riding a camel and an elephant.

Watch out! She takes lots of pictures and will attend the Feast this year in the Philippines.

Buford Louque

Baptisms



Larry and Cathy Kulla

On March 24, after Sabbath services in Knoxville, Tennessee, the brethren in that congregation were happy to welcome Larry and Cathy Kulla as their new brother and sister in Christ, after they were baptized by pastor Eric Evans.

Larry and Cathy were introduced to God's truth through a coworker of Cathy's when they lived in Connecticut. They looked up the Church on the Internet and have been attending with us since October of 2017!

They are a delightful addition to our congregation!

Judy Swanson



Kristen Brunner

Kristen Brunner was baptized on May 18, 2018, by Gary McConnaughey, pastor of the Ocala and Tallahassee, Florida, congregations.

The baptism took place in the Withlacoochee River near her home, while her father stood guard for any passing alligators. Thankfully none were spotted. Afterward, those in attendance returned to her parents' home for light snacks and a champagne toast.

Susan Brunner

Ordinations



Ken and Jeanne Walton

May 20, 2018, was a very special day for the sister congregations of Florence and Columbia, South Carolina, and Augusta, Georgia. All three congregations were gathered together in Lexington, South Carolina, to observe the Feast of Pentecost. There could not have been a more fitting time to have the added blessing of witnessing the ordination of Ken and Jeanne Walton as deacon and deaconess by local pastor Tom Schultz, assisted by Arnold Burns, an elder from the Greensboro, North Carolina, congregation.

Ken and Jeanne have faithfully served the Augusta congregation for many years in many capacities. Whether the task involves hall setup or takedown, setting up the information table or compiling the monthly church bulletin, they have repeatedly and consistently demonstrated their love for God's Church and His people in everything they set their hand to do. They have always been very hospitable, involved with service projects, and cared for and assisted the sick and infirm of the congregation.

Although this list of their current and past service is nowhere close to exhaustive, space will not allow for the numerous ways the Waltons have given of themselves to the local brethren throughout the years. They are wonderful examples of godly character, and we look forward to continue working alongside them as we prepare for God's coming Kingdom.

Ann Hewston

Births



Simon David Winner

Vince and Melissa Winner of the Louisville, Kentucky, congregation, are pleased to announce the birth of their third child, Simon David Winner. Simon was born March 14, 2018, at 4:19 a.m., weighing 7 pounds 6 ounces and measuring 21 inches.

The family is delighted at the opportunity to raise a son and give big sisters Claire and Kate the gift of a brother.

Proud grandparents are Mark and Colleen Winner, Debra Rogers and Dave and Karen Fergen.

Melissa Winner

Obituaries



Judith Chapman

Judith Ellen (Schuler) Chapman, of Pasadena, California, died Feb. 2, 2018, at the Huntington Hospital in Pasadena after suffering two strokes. She was 74 years old.

Judy was born Oct. 22, 1943, to William and Jeraline Schuler in Harvey, Illinois. She was one of three children. On July 21, 1966, Judy married Gerald Chapman in Pasadena. They were married for 51 years and had two children, Ben and Susan.

She learned about the Church in 1960 from her brother, William

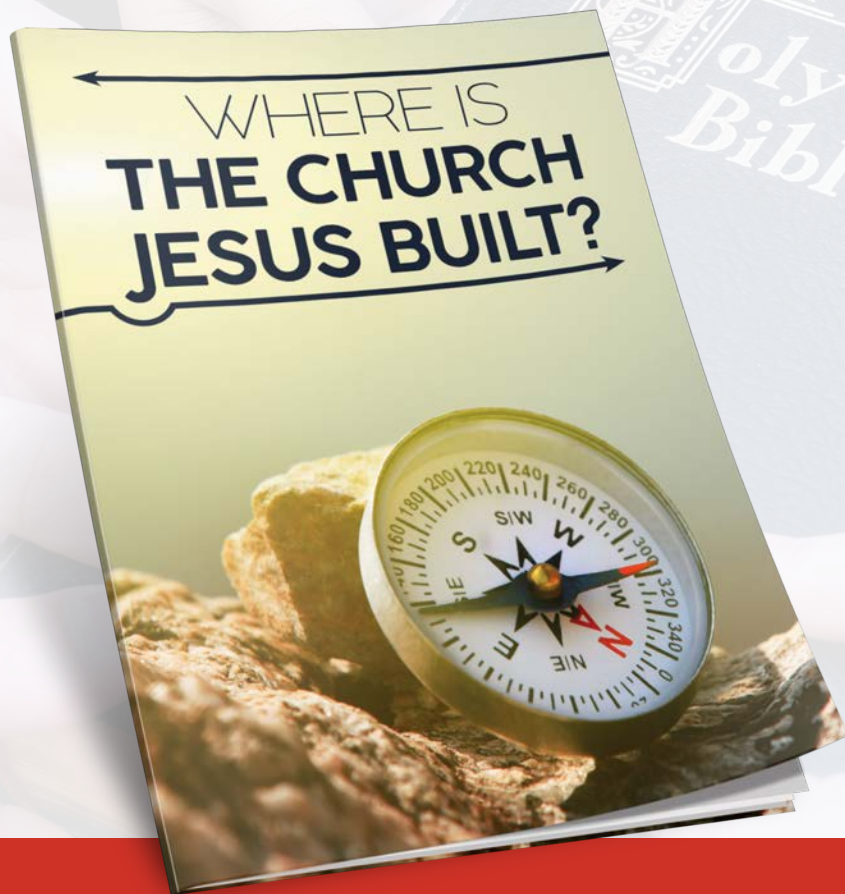
Schuler, who was a student at Ambassador College. Judy was baptized in September 1961 and attended the Chicago congregation until January 1966 when she was asked to move to Pasadena to work as a typist for the Church. She soon met Gerald and was married later that same year. Judy then became a homemaker. In the 1970s she returned to work part-time for the Church in the Mail Receiving.

Judy is survived by her husband, Gerald; two children, Ben Chapman of Pasadena and Susan (Ben) Brunner, of the Ocala, Florida, congregation; two granddaughters, Jennifer (Nathaniel) Martin, of the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, congregation, and Kristen Brunner, of the Ocala congregation; her brother, William Schuler of Enumclaw, Washington; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Susan Clement; and her grandson, Brian Brunner.

Judy will be remembered for her kindness, generosity, sense of humor, good cooking and her love of animals, especially cats and horses. She also liked to paint, raise flowers and spoil her grandchildren. Judy will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Susan Brunner

Which church would Jesus attend today?



With all the variations of Christianity that have appeared over the centuries, many people no longer use Christ's teachings and example as the basis of their beliefs.

Discover what the Bible says about the beliefs and practices of the true Church and where it can be found today.

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