



# OneAccord

July/August 2020

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 2020

**Journeys and Reflections**  
Tom and Sarah Kirkpatrick

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**Feasting With a  
Reduced Income**



# personal from the president

## Graduation in the Midst of a Pandemic

**T***This has been a very strange year.* Lately, I find myself beginning virtually every sermon, conversation, email and phone call with those words. We are still in the midst of a pandemic, and now we're seeing protests, the likes of which we haven't seen in 50 years. You would have to go back to the civil rights movement of the 1960s to find something comparable.

In the midst of these world-changing events, there is graduation! Recently, my wife and I attended the high school graduation of one of our grandsons. The graduation ceremony was held in a giant football stadium with a seating capacity of 10,000. To make everything appear "more normal," they set up about 2,000 empty chairs on the field of the stadium even though no one sat in them. Each graduate was allowed five family members for a brief five-minute ceremony on a temporary stage in one corner of the stadium. With more than 1,500 graduates, the ceremonies began in the morning and continued until 9 that same evening. Each group was rushed in and rushed out, with no more than 25 students and family members at a time in a 10,000-seat stadium.

I am sure most of our graduates this year experienced something similar, although in some cases, the ceremonies may have been canceled altogether.

As a young person goes through life, there are few milestones as significant as a high school graduation—with or without a formal ceremony. It marks a point of achievement and education that will never be repeated. It is a rite of passage that takes one to another level—either of education or of life or of both.

Receiving a high school diploma is a statement that you have completed a significant part of your education. You may choose to go on to college for "higher education," or you may choose to begin a career. Either way, it is a point of decision making in your life. What will you do?

There is an example in the Bible of another young man coming to a major moment in his life, and his reaction gives us good advice on what we should do at such a time in our lives. Solomon was about 12 years old when he was appointed by his father David to be the next king of Israel.

He actually became king at around the age of 20. Today, most high school graduates are around 18 years of age, and college graduates are around the age of 22. So, Solomon would have been in this age group when he became the king of Israel. One of the things that made Solomon such a great king (at least during his early years) was his attitude and approach toward this major moment.

We read his prayer in 2 Chronicles 1:8-10: "And Solomon said to God: 'You have shown great mercy to David my father, and have made me king in his place. Now, O LORD God, let Your promise to David my father be established, for You have made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?' Then God said to Solomon: 'Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life—but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king—wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like.'"

As you look back on your graduation, I hope you will keep in mind the approach that Solomon took at a very young age. To ask God for wisdom is a good thing. And, believe me, in this very strange and fast-changing time, the greatest gift you could receive would be wisdom.

Congratulations to all of you in the class of 2020!



**Jim Franks**

President  
Church of God, a Worldwide Association



## CHURCH of GOD

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# feasting

## With a Reduced Income

With this year's turmoil, how do you properly plan for the Feast of Tabernacles?

By Phil Sandilands

God established a way of providing enough financial resources for most members. It is self-funded and set aside for festival use. Deuteronomy 14 gives us the biblical mandate to set aside this fund. But what if we don't have as much second tithe this year due to unforeseen circumstances?

### Beyond the budget

Last year we described a budgeting tool that can be used to ensure we have sufficient second tithe to last the entire Feast, as well as the trip home. Most of us have been doing this for years. We know the usual amount we spend and often plan according to past experience. In many cases, we even know the place we want to stay, as it brings back memories of favorite Feasts in the past!

This year may be different for you. You may be one of many who have had a reduction in salary due to the global crisis. How do you plan for the Feast when you do not have the amount you may be used to?

God understands our desire to serve Him and worship at the Feast every fall. He also is acutely aware of our finances. We plan in the most responsible way we can and then place the situation in His capable hands.

In many ways, this time has helped us to prepare for hard times that may lie ahead. We've learned that whatever the situation we find ourselves in, we must always put God first. We can discuss our concerns with Him and let Him provide us with comfort and relief. We watch His mighty hand as opportunities open up in ways we didn't see coming.

One thing that has become obvious to us all is that we do not need all of the things that we once thought were essential. Sporting events, movies, shopping for fun and going out to eat have taken a back seat. We've learned

to prepare meals on a budget, and we've experienced working or schooling from the dining room table. The lessons we've learned can be used for this year's Feast.

Remember, the main reason we attend God's festivals is to worship Him in the company of people of like mind. With our isolation this year, getting together at this year's Feast should be a shot in the arm! Even though there may be restrictions on our activities, we can still safely enjoy the fellowship that the Feast brings. Those who may remember the Feast in the piney woods of Big Sandy know there wasn't a lot of money, but the atmosphere was alive with godly communication.

### The purity of fellowship

Here are some suggestions that can enhance your enjoyment of the Feast. And perhaps they can become the new standard by which we judge our Feasts in coming years.

- Plan to have a kitchen or kitchenette. If you are used to staying in a hotel, changing your lodging preference to include a kitchen can reduce your expenses. Even though the cost of housing may be more per night, the extra money spent will be more than offset by the savings of cooking your own meals. Invite people over to share a meal with you. The expense of a fancy restaurant will be replaced with heartfelt fellowship! Evenings like this can be more enjoyable than trying to talk in a noisy restaurant.
- Team up on rides to and from services. You may meet other Feastgoers in your housing establishment who can carpool with your family. This is a great way to meet new people and make lifelong friends. If you have teenagers, perhaps find another family that also has teens to share expenses with. Your teens will leave this Feast with great memories.



- Find an afternoon or evening to call or write cards to shut-ins rather than go out for entertainment. This is also a form of fellowship—with those who can't attend. Get a list of those who can't attend from your pastor. They will appreciate your thoughtfulness, and God will see and bless your efforts.
- Many sites have an online visitors' bureau. By using these resources, you can find creative ways to plan some entertainment that doesn't involve a lot of money. Team up with another family and plan an

event together. Nature hikes, bicycle trails and other outdoor activities are often free or have minimal cost. Including a picnic lunch or dinner will make it that much better.

These are just a few ideas that should stimulate your creative juices! Make this Feast less about the spending and more about the fellowship. Many of your fellow members will be in the same set of circumstances as you are. A few simple adjustments and the true meaning of God's Feast of Tabernacles will come shining through! ☺☺

## Tithe of the Tithe

Your support of the tithe of the tithe fund is very important. The money you donate is used by the Church to pay for many of the Feast of Tabernacles expenses. The Church spends all of the tithe of the tithe that it receives on Festival expenses, thus reducing the amount of regular tithes and offerings that are needed to fund the worldwide festival. Here is a look at how your donations to the tithe of the tithe fund are spent:

In 2019 the Church received \$274,918 in Festival Fund donations (which includes both tithe of the tithe and excess Festival tithe) and spent \$397,878 to sponsor the Feast at 46 sites in the U.S. and around the world.

### U.S. Festival sites

The Church spent \$256,050 for the U.S. Feast sites. This included such categories as:

- \$126,113 for Festival assistance for needy members.
- \$86,351 for hall rentals.
- \$20,648 for auditorium expenses, such as staging, audio/video, flowers, etc.
- \$11,977 for senior activities.
- \$6,786 for coordinator expenses related to the setup and running of the sites.

### International Festival sites

The Church spent \$141,828 for the international Festival sites. This includes member assistance, the cost to sponsor the individual sites, hall rental, activities, etc.

Here is the Festival budget for the 2020 Feast of Tabernacles:

- \$289,995 is budgeted to cover expenses for the U.S. Feast of Tabernacles.
- \$123,995 is budgeted for the international Festival sites.

—Britton M. Taylor



# Sing With Understanding

By Bruce Gore

**M**ake a joyful noise! How exciting and how inspiring it is to join with others in lifting up our voices in songs of praise on the holy days! When we all collectively rise from our seats to sing on the Feast days, it is an inspiring experience. Singing with a much larger group than normal emboldens us to sing out more.

## Music through the millennia

Music has been around a long time. The book of Job tells us the angels sang with joy at God's creation of this beautiful earth (Job 38:7). Musical instruments were already being made and used within a few generations following the creation of the first two humans (Genesis 4:21). Mention is made of singing and playing musical instruments around the throne of God several times in Revelation, the last book of the Bible.

Music seems to be a universal language that allows us humans to express the full range of our emotions, from sadness and loneliness to joy and happiness.

When my siblings and I heard Mom singing in our farmhouse as she stood washing the dishes in the white enamel dishpan, we knew she was happy. And when Mom was happy, it made us happy too!

## Singing in worship

Singing is a form of worship in most religions. King David wrote many psalms and created new instruments of music (Amos 6:5). As David was returning the Ark of God to Jerusalem, he made sure it was accompanied by music.

"Then David spoke to the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers accompanied by instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals, by raising the voice with resounding joy" (1 Chronicles 15:16).

## Singing in the New Testament Church

Singing continued to be a part of the worship of those

who responded to the call to become members of the Church Christ raised up at Pentecost.

Once, when Paul and his companion, Silas, were beaten for doing God's work in the city of Philippi and then thrown into prison, they spent part of the night singing. Paul had always taught others to rejoice when they had to suffer for Christ's sake.

"But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them" (Acts 16:25).

On another occasion, in his letter to the congregation in Ephesus, Paul encouraged members to be "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19).

## To whom are we singing?

Throughout the Old Testament, we are exhorted to sing to the Lord. Psalm after psalm speaks of singing praises to Him, a new song to Him and of how we are to come before His presence with singing.

Just to give a few examples from our hymnal: hymn 13, "Now Thank We All Our God"; hymn 11, "May Your Blessing Be Upon Us"; and 19, "How Excellent Is Thy Name!"

Would it be accurate to say that, in part, our song service is like doing special music for God? In Acts we read that Paul and Silas were singing hymns to God and in Ephesians Paul wrote of making melody in your heart to the Lord.

But the singing is not intended to be only *to God*. Some of our singing is *of God, of His attributes* and *of His expectations*.

- "But I will sing of *Your power*; yes, I will sing aloud of *Your mercy* in the morning; for You have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble" (Psalm 59:16, emphasis added throughout).
- "I will sing of *the mercies of the LORD* forever; with



my mouth will I make known *Your faithfulness* to all generations” (Psalm 89:1).

- “I will sing of *mercy and justice*; to You, O LORD, I will sing praises” (Psalm 101:1).
- “Yes, they shall sing *of the ways of the LORD*, for great is the glory of the LORD” (Psalm 138:5).
- “They shall utter the memory of *Your great goodness*, and shall sing of *Your righteousness*” (Psalm 145:7).

These types of songs are as much for ourselves and each other as to God. “Forgive, and You Shall Be Forgiven” (hymn 171) is an example. Obviously, the songs “Honor Your Father and Mother” (hymn 9) and “Keep God’s Sabbath Holy” (hymn 7) are not addressed to God, but to each other.

When we sing of God’s great attributes and acts of the past, we are reminding ourselves and each other of these things. As we read earlier in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, we are also to be “speaking to one another in psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs.”

### **Congregational singing, another teaching opportunity**

Notice what Paul wrote to the church at Colossae: “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, *teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs*, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Colossians 3:15-16).

Some of the hymns mentioned earlier would fall into this category. A couple other examples are hymn 169, “Have One Mind” and hymn 170, “Rejoice, the Lord Is King.”

Some of them even target different age groups. See hymn 97, “How Shall the Young Direct Their Way?” Here we find excellent instruction for our teens and young adults.

So we see that some hymns are to God, to express our thanks, praise and requests as a part of our worship. Some are to each other, intended to exhort, reassure and encourage. And some are to ourselves, as reminders of God’s greatness and our responsibilities toward Him.

But none of this will happen if we don’t think about the words we sing.

### **Sing with understanding**

We know that memorized prayers are ineffectual. They aren’t from the heart. No conscious thought goes into what one is saying.

We can run into the same problem with our singing. We have sung some of the songs so many times, we can sing them without even thinking about the words. We can just mouth the words and think about what we’re going to do after services, or what Mrs. Jones wore to church today, or where we’ll eat dinner tonight.

The sermons and sermonettes are there to teach us more about God and His way. So is the song service!

It’s important that we give thought to what we’re singing and the lessons we can learn from the words. Paul wrote, “What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding” (1 Corinthians 14:15).

Do we give thought to the words as we sing? A while back, a song leader told me that as he was leading the song after the sermonette, he realized it was one of the same songs they had sung earlier in the opening segment—and nobody noticed! We’re missing a vital part of the Sabbath service if we don’t give thought to the words we sing.

“Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with understanding” (Psalm 47:6-7).

Let’s go up to God’s festivals and make a joyful noise, and let’s do it with understanding! 🎵🎵



# Tom and Sarah Kirkpatrick



**I**n January 2020 Tom and Sarah Kirkpatrick retired from over four decades of active service to the Church of God. In reflecting on his years in the ministry itself, Dr. Kirkpatrick said, “I don’t think anything matches the satisfaction of helping a person, if even in a small way, to make a change in his thinking and doing that will bring him more into alignment with what God wants for him.”

## Calling

The Kirkpatricks each have a long association with the Church of God that began in the 1960s. Tom started listening to *The World Tomorrow* broadcast while he was in high school. He remembers being intrigued by the programs refuting the theory of evolution and studying *The Plain Truth* magazine. After visiting with a minister of the Church, he attended services of the Radio Church of God in Wichita, Kansas, in 1965.

Sarah attended services as a child with her parents. The family came in contact with the Church through the broadcast and began attending services in the 1960s in Knoxville, Tennessee.

A decade later, Tom and Sarah met at Ambassador College (AC) in Big Sandy, Texas. In 1977 they were married in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

## Church employment

Since his early days at AC, Dr. Kirkpatrick has been employed by the Church of God in several capacities:

as a teacher, an administrator, a financial manager and a pastor.

After earning a master’s degree in accounting from Wichita State University, Tom Kirkpatrick served for five years as budget officer, chief accountant and instructor at AC in Big Sandy, Texas. When the college closed, they moved to Denton, Texas, where he received a Ph.D. in accounting from the University of North Texas. Sarah finished her B.A. in home economics education from Texas Woman’s University and received a teaching certificate.

They next moved to Boone, North Carolina, where their three daughters, Tarah, Caroline and Bonnie, were born and where Dr. Kirkpatrick was ordained a Church elder. For nine years Dr. Kirkpatrick served on the faculty of Appalachian State University. “We loved Boone. ... The Boone years were good ones, both professionally and, of course, with the Church. We still have dear friends we first met there.”

When AC in Big Sandy reopened as a four-year institution in 1989, Dr. Kirkpatrick served there as chairman of the Department of Business Administration. In 1996 doctrinal changes prompted his resignation from the Worldwide Church of God. He became an associate pastor to Jim Franks in the Houston (North), Texas, congregation in the newly formed United Church of God (UCG).

In 1998 through 2008 they lived in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he worked as Church treasurer and operation manager for Financial Affairs. In 2008 they moved south to pastor the congregations in Birmingham and



Gadsden, Alabama. From 2010 to retirement in 2020, the Kirkpatricks served the brethren in Birmingham and in Trenton, Georgia, as part of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association (COGWA).

### Anchor points

In describing their anchor points during times of change, Dr. Kirkpatrick states, “God is true, and changes not, and that is the combined message of verses like Romans 3:4 and Malachi 3:6. ...

“We just can’t figure it all out by ourselves. We’re not that good, and we’re not that smart, and we’re just not that much on top of things. We have to trust God to work out many things, and know what to say in many circumstances, and proceed in many conditions.”



### Home

Since retirement, the Kirkpatricks have settled in Aiken, South Carolina, and attend the COGWA congregation in nearby Augusta, Georgia. Dr. Kirkpatrick says that Aiken is a lovely town. In 2018 *Southern Living* magazine named Aiken the “Best Small Town in the South.” Its location is convenient for their keeping in touch with friends and family. Two of the Kirkpatricks’ daughters, Caroline and Bonnie (and her newborn daughter, Madeleine), and their families live about half a day’s drive away. Daughter Tarah and her husband, Brandon, and their son Oliver live in St. John’s, Newfoundland.

In addition to their participation in the Augusta congregation, Dr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick both enjoy reading. Mrs. Kirkpatrick says she also has “a passion for gardening and entertaining, and decorating our home.”

As an overview of his employment with the Church, Dr. Kirkpatrick states, “To help a person—someone God has called to be a firstfruit in His Kingdom, through counsel, or teaching, or preaching, or praying for him ... that is as good and rewarding and humbling as it gets.” ©



## On the Road Again

### Milestones in Tom and Sarah Kirkpatrick’s life and service to the Church:

1970	BBA in accounting, Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas	1989-1996	Chairman, Department of Business Administration, AC (later, AU), Big Sandy, Texas
1972	MS in accounting, Wichita State University; CPA certificate	1996-1998	UCG associate pastor, Houston (North), Texas
1972-1977	Budget officer, chief accountant, faculty, AC, Big Sandy, Texas	1998-2008	UCG church treasurer, operation manager for Financial Affairs, and office manager, Cincinnati, Ohio
1980	Ph.D. in accounting, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas	2008-2010	UCG pastor, Birmingham and Gadsden, Alabama
1983	Ordained as an elder in the Church of God	2010-2020	Pastor, Birmingham, Alabama, and Trenton, Georgia
1980-1989	Tenured graduate faculty, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina		

# “Whatever Your Heart Desires”

God commands us to rejoice at the Feast. An instruction from Deuteronomy gives us one way to do this.

By Larry Neff

Johnny Cace’s Seafood and Steak House opened in Longview, Texas, in 1949. When the Church (then the Radio Church of God) began holding the Feast of Tabernacles near Big Sandy in 1953, Johnny Cace’s was the go-to restaurant for those who sought and could afford fine dining. (Of course I’m sure the restaurant soon learned that some items on the menu were never ordered by our people!)

It was perhaps the only fine dining restaurant in the general area. But in those years the cost was beyond the means of most brethren, including my own family. Some traveled over 2,000 miles (one way) to the Feast with only a few hundred dollars in second (or festival) tithe.

One year in the 1950s, a member who was a successful businessman invited my family to dine with him at his expense at this restaurant. What a treat that was!

## Times have changed!

For the last few decades, most Church members have been able to afford “fine dining,” and virtually every Feast site has a number of “fine dining” restaurants. Times have changed! Most members today have a much greater ability to enjoy “whatever your heart desires.”

As most members are aware, this phrase is taken from Deuteronomy 14:26 and is embedded in the instructions regarding the use of the festival tithe. It explains one way of applying God’s command to rejoice on the holy days, especially at the Feast of Tabernacles.

The King James Version translates *desires* as “lusteth after”—obviously a poor translation for modern readers. In *The Complete Word Study Old Testament*, Spiros Zodhiates gives the first definition of the Hebrew *awah* as “a natural desire for food.” A second definition is “eager desire.” Though the word can also be translated “covet” in some contexts (the 10th Commandment, for instance), that clearly doesn’t fit in Deuteronomy 14 because God is commanding His people to do it—and He commands us *not* to covet.

Food and drink are given as the primary illustration of what to buy in rejoicing before God. The idea is to buy meals, wine—whatever one enjoys—that are of higher quality than can be afforded the rest of the year.

## Picturing the abundance of the world tomorrow

The principle that is introduced can be applied to other uses of second tithe. This subject interfaces somewhat with the appropriate use of second tithe. The idea is to be sure that our use of second tithe applies to the Feast of Tabernacles and the other holy days.

## Considering the desires of others

Of course it is not just Dad or Mom who might have a desire for something special for the Feast. Children’s desires should be considered as well. It would be appropriate to use festival tithe to buy a new (and quiet) toy the child has been wanting and that could be used during services.

Also, there will always be brethren who come to the Feast on a financial shoestring and can only afford the basic expenses, with no funds remaining for a nice meal at a restaurant. If we are blessed with sufficient funds, it is truly a Christian approach to treat someone in this category to a quality meal—just as someone did for my family so many years ago.

To put it a little differently, it should be our desire to help someone with minimal funds to enjoy something he or she desires during the Feast.

Why does God want us to enjoy nice things during the Feast? In part, because He loves us, is generous to His children, and wants to give good things to us. But it’s also to help us typify and look forward to the abundance of the world tomorrow, one thing pictured by the Feast.

As I look back on the early Feasts in Big Sandy, in those times, even basic needs were earnestly desired. Many of our meals en route from Portland, Oregon, and Pasadena, California, were cooked on a Coleman stove at a roadside park. Yet we considered that God was providing what we wanted. So, in part, our outlook relates significantly to this principle God gave us in Deuteronomy 14:26.

As we approach the Feast of Tabernacles 2020, let’s look forward to rejoicing and enjoying “whatever our heart desires,” with moderation, generosity and gratitude. @@



# HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 2020



Jackson Benton



Teagen Blencowe



Jessalyn Caple



Chloe Carver

## JACKSON BENTON

*Parents' names:* Mark and Erin Benton

*Congregation:* East Texas

*High school accomplishments:* Jackson graduated as the valedictorian from Central High School in Pollok, Texas. He was a member of FFA, serving as an officer and going to state multiple times. He was on the robotics team, which also went to state, and was a member of the National Honor Society. Jackson played basketball his freshman and sophomore years, and in his senior year he was voted most likely to succeed.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Prior to his senior year, Jackson was baptized. His hobbies include working and playing Ping-Pong.

*Plans after graduation:* Jackson plans to pursue a career in the family business, concrete construction.

## TEAGEN BLENCOWE

*Parents' names:* Donn and Maria Blencowe

*Congregation:* Jefferson, Georgia

*High school accomplishments:* While in high school, Teagen participated in Beta Club and was a Super Smash Bros. Club leader.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Teagen helps with the congregation's sound system and with hall setup and takedown. He enjoys writing, drawing, and film and media production.

*Plans after graduation:* After a relaxing summer break, Teagen will attend Georgia State University to

pursue a degree in film and media.

## JESSALYN CAPLE

*Parents' names:* Matt and Janet Caple

*Congregation:* Columbia, Missouri

*High school accomplishments:* Jessalyn has competed in piano, violin and music theory competitions on both the district and state level, receiving a superior rating each time. She has also competed in the Hippology Contest (horse knowledge) on the state and national level, receiving First Place Missouri Individual twice and Second Place Missouri Team twice. In addition, she has interned at two different zoos and at two different veterinary clinics.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Jessalyn accompanies hymns and

provides special music at church, and has attended Heritage, Winter and Carter teen camps. She is an active member of Missouri 4-H, serving as an officer at the club and county level. She has also actively served as a 4-H Ambassador, made blankets for Linus and Wounded Soldiers projects, and educated youth in nutrition and water conservation. Jessalyn loves to play both the violin and the piano. She also loves all kinds of animals—especially horses—and enjoys training and riding her horse.

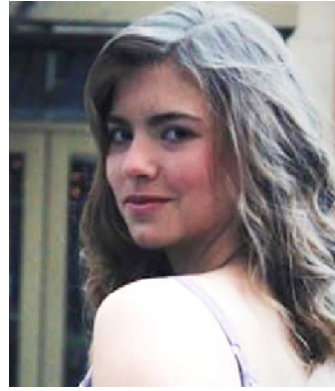
*Plans after graduation:* Jessalyn has been accepted into the Honors College at the University of Missouri-Columbia for the fall of 2020. She plans to achieve a bachelor's degree in animal science with an equine emphasis and a minor in wildlife management as preparation for entering



**Kimberly Cook**



**Bethany Holman**



**Raegan Hoyer**



**Kaitlyn Huizar**

the College of Veterinary Medicine. Jessalyn is working toward becoming a large animal veterinarian with an emphasis in equine medicine.

### **CHLOE CARVER**

*Parents' or guardians' names:* Anthony and Christie Anglin

*Congregation:* New Orleans, Louisiana

*High school accomplishments:* Chloe is an honor roll graduate. During her high school career, she participated in the State Championship for Health and Administration, interned at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital and was nominated for the Congress of Future Medical Leaders Award of Excellence.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Chloe has enjoyed attending the annual COWGA Youth Camps. She has volunteered at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital over summer break and enjoys camping, traveling, reading medical journals and watching various medical procedures.

*Plans after graduation:* Chloe will attend Southeastern Louisiana University, majoring in

integrated biology. She then plans to attend Louisiana State Medical School to pursue a doctorate of medicine.

### **KIMBERLY COOK**

*Parents' names:* George Cook and Carmen Cook

*Congregation:* Kansas City, Kansas

*High school accomplishments:* Kimberly graduated from Center High School. During all four years in high school she was in the top 10 percent of her class. She lettered in academics and in Key Club, which required 25+ Key Club hours and 25+ hours of community service. She was inducted into her school's chapter of National Honor Society in her junior year. She also took on many leadership opportunities, such as secretary of Key Club and National Honor Society, as well as vice president of Political Science Club. In her senior year, she was appointed as a judge in the 2019 Missouri Youth and Government Lewis Convention. She also managed the boys' soccer team.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Kimberly enjoys fellowship and being part

of the choir. She also helps with youth instruction. In her spare time she enjoys reading, writing poetry, and playing volleyball.

*Plans after graduation:* Kimberly will be attending Regis University in Denver, Colorado, on a merit scholarship. She plans to study biochemistry on the premed track.

### **BETHANY HOLMAN**

*Parents' names:* Brian and Tammy Holman

*Congregation:* St. Louis, Missouri

*High school accomplishments:* Bethany graduated with honors from Waterloo High School on May 17, 2020. She played varsity tennis all four years and was on the varsity bowling team for three years. Bethany was inducted into the National Honor Society and was also a part of the yearbook club.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Bethany has attended and served at many Church of God teen and preteen camps. She has served as an assistant in Sabbath school classes and sings in her local congregational choir. Bethany also enjoys

photography, art and reading in her spare time.

*Plans after graduation:* Bethany plans on attending Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, where she was awarded multiple scholarships to pursue a degree in electrical engineering.

### **RAEGAN HOYER**

*Parents' names:* Craig and Rashele Hoyer

*Congregation:* San Antonio, Texas

*High school accomplishments:* Raegan graduated from Great Hearts Monte Vista High School. She received her first varsity letter as a freshman, when her soccer team went to state. She also competed regionally in cross-country, received a coach's track and field award for varsity throwing events, and ran a half marathon. Raegan earned a high pass with distinction on her senior thesis and has also been in several drama productions.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Raegan has contributed to services by singing in the choir and playing the piano and guitar for offertory and





Victoria Iacobucci



Joshua Kardell



Kayla Katai



Kaden Kobernat

special music. She has been very involved in camps and has served as staff at preteen camp.

*Plans after graduation:* Her favorite coach shared the struggles he had with his speech growing up, which solidified her interest in becoming a speech language pathologist. She's been accepted into Stephen F. Austin University to study communication disorders.

### KAITLYN HUIZAR

*Parents' names:* Ronald Huizar and Sandy Jimenez-Huizar

*Congregation:* San Antonio, Texas

*High school accomplishments:* Kaitlyn will graduate high school with about 40 college credits and was on the San Antonio College President's List for fall and spring of 2019. During her high school years she earned a brown belt in tae kwon do, completed Girl Scout Counselor-in-Training I and II, and received the Girl Scout Gold Award.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Kaitlyn enjoys tae kwon do, jazz and tap dancing, running, macramé, reading, cooking

and baking, clothing, sewing and volunteering. She likes school and learning and is interested in psychology, the brain, mathematics and science.

*Plans after graduation:* Kaitlyn plans to attend Angelo State University to earn her B.S. in psychology. From there, she hopes to attend Foundation Institute before going on to earn her M.S. in counseling psychology, concentrating in child and adolescent therapy.

### VICTORIA IACOBUCCI

*Parents' names:* Robert and Gail Iacobucci

*Congregation:* Central New Jersey

*High school accomplishments:* During her high school career, Victoria was coeditor of the *Coldwater Literary Magazine* for two years. She came in third place out of 15 in a Poetry Out Loud competition her junior year and fourth place out of 15 her senior year. She won grand prize, outstanding direction, and outstanding editing for a short film titled "Bubblegum."

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:*

Victoria participated in Camp Heritage, Camp Arrowhead, and the young adult/teen speech club. She enjoys exercising, writing poetry and stories, listening to music, drawing, photography and baking.

*Plans after graduation:* Victoria plans to attend community college and eventually Foundation Institute.

### JOSHUA KARDELL

*Parents' names:* Tony and Kari Kardell

*Congregation:* Twin Cities, Minnesota

*High school accomplishments:* Joshua has a love of music that has pushed him to learn and perfect guitar, piano and sax. He was selected for the all-conference music band. That love has also helped him build a formidable academic career. Josh is a National Honor Society student and, with a 4.1 GPA, is in the top 10 of his class.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Joshua was raised on classical rock, jazz and blues. He has performed live at multiple events, including the state fair, and has recorded in studio for an album.

*Plans after graduation:* Joshua has already finished two years of college studies through Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) and was awarded membership into Phi Theta Kappa as well as a scholarship to attend college at St. Thomas University, where he will begin in the fall.

### KAYLA KATAI

*Parents' names:* Lonnie and Angela Katai

*Congregation:* Dallas, Texas

*High school accomplishments:* Kayla graduated from Plano East High School, where she was active in PALS (Peer Assistance and Leadership), National Honor Society and choir. She graduated on the A honor roll.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Kayla has attended COGWA Youth Camps at Carter, Fort Bluff, Sequoia and Winter Camp and has been a volunteer worker at Camp Lone Star. Her hobbies include art, singing, playing the piano and volleyball.

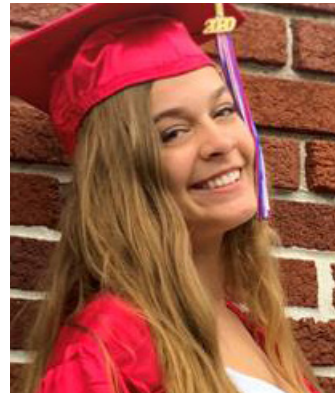
*Plans after graduation:* Kayla will attend Collin College in the fall.



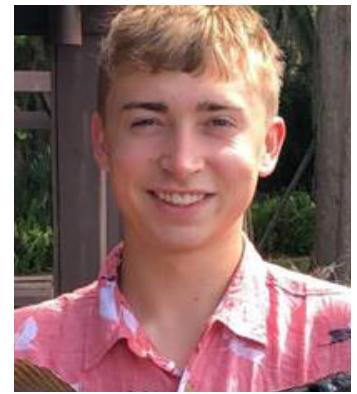
Elena Lee



Sarah Marín



Andrea Mastauskas



Anthony Mastauskas

### KADEN KOBERNAT

*Parents' names:* Kris and Molly Kobernat

*Congregation:* Dallas, Texas

*High school accomplishments:* Kaden was a member of the National Honor Society and National Art Honor Society. He was part of the Gifted Phoenix Program, was in the top 10 percent out of a class of 1,600, and graduated with honors, completing multiple endorsements. He graduated with Distinguished Level of Achievement and was awarded the Allen Foundation Scholarship and Merit Scholarship.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Kaden participated in the Dallas Teen Speech Club and the teen Bible study, and he often assisted with audio/video at church services. He took two years of AP art classes (he has a love of pencil/charcoal sketching) and reading classic literature.

*Plans after graduation:* Kaden will be attending University of Texas-Dallas on its Merit Scholarship. He was accepted for the neuroscience program.

### ELENA LEE

*Parents' names:* Allen and Alicia Lee

*Congregation:* Houston North, Texas

*High school accomplishments:* Elena is a member of the National Honor Society and graduated from Waller High School in the top 10 percent of her class with 44 college credits. She has a long-lasting relationship with volleyball and a newly acquired love for tennis, resulting in top varsity tennis placement.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Elena was raised on adventure with many days of pretend with her sisters, endless reading, and long road trips across the country. Through these adventures, Elena has developed a love for activities such as camping, hiking and rock climbing. Over the years Elena has grown deeper in the faith and wants to continue down the path of God's way.

*Plans after graduation:* With God's help and her love for English, Elena hopes to get a bachelor's degree in English so that she can then travel and teach those around her.

### SARAH MARÍN

*Parents' names:* Fernando and Luz Marín

*Congregation:* Los Angeles, California

*High school accomplishments:* Sarah graduated from Garfield High School in the top 3 percent of her class. For the duration of her high school career, she was a part of ASB Leadership and a collection of clubs. She held various positions at her school, including student body treasurer. Her favorite result of involvement wasn't exclusively the relationships garnered, but rather the influence on change, as she was frequently organizing events and reforming school policies.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Sarah has annually assisted and volunteered at Camp Sequoia. She enjoys socializing with friends, practicing photography, gardening, learning guitar and reading. She likes exploring subjects such as psychology and child development.

*Plans after graduation:* Sarah will be attending University of California-

Berkeley as a rhetoric major. Through an interview process, she became a recipient of a selective scholarship (centralized on grades and community involvement) that will cover the majority of her expenses. She anticipates obtaining her bachelor's degree and continuing her education at UC Berkeley School of Law.

### ANDREA MASTAUSKAS

*Grandparents' names:* Tom and Joy Kosharek

*Congregation:* St. Petersburg, Florida

*High school accomplishments:* Andrea was active in the First Responder Program during her high school career at Pinellas Park High School, and was awarded her Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) certification. She was a member of the National Honor Society and was the starting quarterback on the school's flag football team.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Andrea looks forward to attending COGWA Youth Camps every year and thoroughly enjoys baking for and serving at congregational potlucks. It delights her





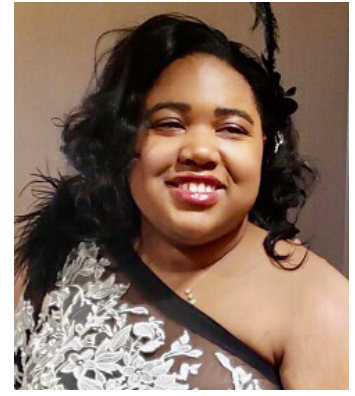
Allison May



Logan McNeil



Zoe Miranda



Dara Moore

to bring a smile to other people's faces.

*Plans after graduation:* Andrea plans to attend a community college to obtain an A.A. degree, then transfer to a university majoring in sports medicine to pursue her dream of becoming an athletic trainer.

### ANTHONY MASTAUSKAS

*Grandparents' names:* Tom and Joy Kosharek

*Congregation:* St. Petersburg, Florida

*High school accomplishments:* Having successfully completed his credit requirements, Anthony became a first semester graduate from Bayside High School in Clearwater, Florida, in December 2019.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Anthony enjoys setting up the sound equipment for services and serves as a greeter for members as they arrive. He has attended both summer and winter COGWA Youth Camps and likes to collect vintage clothing and shoes. His interests include fishing, painting and repairing automobiles.

*Plans after graduation:* In the future Anthony hopes to secure an apprenticeship in elevator maintenance.

### ALLISON MAY

*Parents' names:* Tom and Molly May

*Congregation:* Tulsa, Oklahoma

*High school accomplishments:* Allison graduated from Epic Charter School with the honors of salutatorian, superintendent's honor roll, and Oklahoma Academic Scholar. She also attended Tulsa Community College, where she completed 40 hours of college credit. She received the Regent's Distinguished Scholarship.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Allison assists with running the sound system and webcasts in her congregation. She has also attended teen camp at Fort Bluff. In her free time, Allison enjoys drawing, sewing, reading, writing poetry and meeting with her Girl Scout troop. During her teen years in Girl Scouts, she received the Bronze Award and the Silver Award for community service, as well as the Silver Torch Award for leadership in her community.

*Plans after graduation:* Allison plans to attend Oklahoma State University, where she intends to major in entrepreneurship.

### LOGAN MCNIEL

*Parents' names:* Landon and Denise McNeil

*Congregation:* Bentonville, Arkansas

*High school accomplishments:* Logan graduated from Classical Conversations homeschool group in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Her favorite classes were literature, foreign language, writing, debate and biblical studies.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* At an early age, Logan found she enjoyed baking, which led to her first job at the Huntsville Y Café, where she was both a waitress and a cook. Logan has enjoyed raising several farm animals. Her favorite are the bottle lambs, which she refers to as her "sheeples" because they develop personality much like people! Logan attended preteen and teen camps with Living Church of God for several years. She worked to attain her lifeguard certification and also served at camp as a lifeguard and on kitchen staff.

*Plans after graduation:* Logan's interest in language has led to her decision to consider a degree in speech pathology. She also plans to attend Foundation Institute, where she hopes to continue her development of biblical knowledge.

### ZOE MIRANDA

*Parents' names:* Esmond and Sonya Miranda

*Congregation:* Clarksville, Maryland

*High school accomplishments:* Zoe is a two-sport athlete (volleyball and track) and was captain of her volleyball team. She graduated with a 4.4 GPA (in the top 23rd percentile of her class) and was a member of the National Honor Society. She served as a mentor to at-risk youth.

*Plans after graduation:* Zoe received a merit-based scholarship to Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia. She plans to major in prelaw.

### DARA MOORE

*Parent's name:* Millicent Moore Anderson

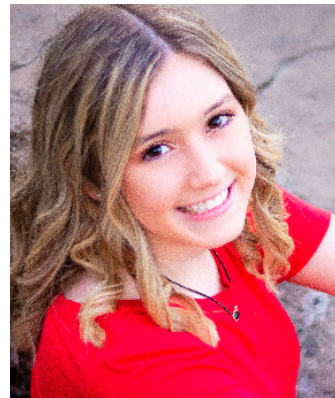
*Congregation:* Dallas, Texas



Noah Quintana



Mathew Rehm



Taylor Rocheleau



Joshua Rule

*High school accomplishments:* Dara was a May 2020 graduate from Harmony Science Academy in Euless, Texas. She was on the honor roll and received an award for good citizenship. She participated in Art Club, TCU Teen Night and STEM Festival. She also served as a PE assistant and Elementary Fall Festival facilitator.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Dara participated in the Dallas congregation's Teen Speech Club. She enjoys being a bit of a gamer, drawing art, creating tie-dyed shirts, blinging out clothes, extensive reading and listening to K-pop music.

*Plans after graduation:* In the fall of 2020 Dara plans to attend Tarrant County College, where she will take all her foundation courses, and then transfer to a university to pursue her interest in culinary arts, specializing in nutrition and diet to help others, like herself, who are diabetics.

**NOAH QUINTANA**

*Parents' names:* Mark and Rebecca Quintana

*Congregation:* Jefferson, Georgia

*High school accomplishments:* Noah graduated in May from Heritage Classical Study Center for Homeschool while dual enrolled at Athens Technical College, working towards a paramedical diploma.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Noah is a lifeguard and swim instructor at the local YMCA and teaches taekwon do and computer engineering at a local homeschool co-op. He enjoys playing video games with friends (both in person and online), playing guitar, reading, writing poetry and short stories, and composing songs, as well as producing music and working on his YouTube Channel.

*Plans after graduation:* Noah plans to work full-time this summer and return to Athens Technical College in August to pursue his degree in paramedicine. He will work part-time while pursuing his degree.

**MATHEW REHM**

*Parent's name:* Kerri Bradford

*Congregation:* Atlanta, Georgia

*High school accomplishments:* Mathew graduated from Paulding County High School. He is ASE certified and took three years of culinary classes.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Mathew enjoys volunteering; singing in the church choir; serving the brethren; attending church activities, winter camp, Winter Family Weekend; spending time with his family and friends; listening to music; working out; boxing and MMA.

*Plans after graduation:* Mathew will be attending Chattahoochee Technical College in the fall and will then transfer to Mercer College to pursue his doctorate degree in pharmacology.

**TAYLOR ROCHELEAU**

*Parents' names:* Thomas A. and Kristie Rocheleau

*Congregation:* Austin, Texas

*High school accomplishments:* Taylor graduated from Stony Point High School. She was a sports medicine trainer, Girl Scout member and completed the dual credit program.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Taylor has attended both preteen and teen camps as a camper and a worker. She loves serving at church in any way she can.

*Plans after graduation:* Taylor plans to attend college at Texas State University and obtain a degree in radiology.

**JOSHUA RULE**

*Parents' names:* Tim and Elizabeth Rule

*Congregation:* Dallas, Texas

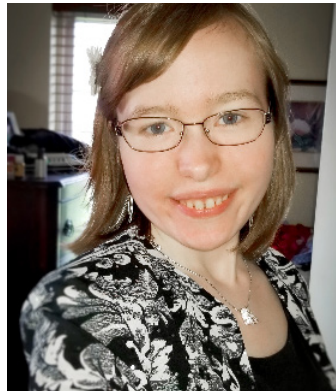
*High school accomplishments:* Joshua graduated from Wakeland High School with a GPA of 4.7. He was part of the tennis team and the school video game team, and he was a member of DECA and the National Technical Honor Society. He graduated having achieved the AP Scholar Award and the AP Capstone Diploma.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Joshua has enjoyed attending Church summer camp since he was 4 years old, and then serving as a staff member at preteen camps since he was 14. He loves being with his Church friends and serving the young ones. He has





Noah Sanchez



Gwendolyn Scarborough



Miriam Sinon



Angela Smith

been an active participant in the local congregation's activities, including Teen Speech Club and volleyball.

*Plans after graduation:* Joshua will be attending the University of North Texas where he was awarded an academic scholarship and was accepted into the honors program. He plans on majoring in data science or accounting.

### NOAH SANCHEZ

*Parent's name:* Joe Sanchez

*Congregation:* Stockton, California

*High school accomplishments:* Noah graduated at the top of his class in math and science.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Noah enjoys debating Scripture, working on cars and shooting guns.

*Plans after graduation:* Noah has enrolled in Sierra College to begin classes in the fall of 2020. He plans to major in computer science.

### GWENDOLYN SCARBOROUGH

*Parents' names:* David and Shanna Scarborough

*Congregation:* Kansas City, Kansas

*High school accomplishments:* Gwendolyn survived brain surgery. She started her own calendar making business.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Gwendolyn has served at Camp Cherokee for three years. She also enjoys helping with snacks at services. She loves serving and singing at the senior citizens' luncheon at the Feast and singing in the choir. She enjoys playing and singing special music for services as well. She also loves to cook, dance, make calendars, write letters, and spend time talking to her grandpa on the phone.

*Plans after graduation:* Gwendolyn is working two part-time jobs, one as a baker at Schlotzsky's and one as a cashier at Hy-Vee. Her hope is to be able to start attending college in 2021 to be a dietician or physical therapist. She would also like to move to Louisiana to be with her grandparents, and eventually she would like to go to Foundation Institute.

### MIRIAM SINON

*Parents' names:* Chuck and Deneen Sinon

*Congregation:* St. Petersburg, Florida

*High school accomplishments:* Miriam excelled scholastically in honors, dual-credit and AP courses through her four years at Calvary Christian High School in Clearwater, Florida. She earned a weighted GPA of 4.365 and was inducted into the Spanish National Honor Society, the Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society and the Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Miriam has attended COGWA's youth camps the past six years and has enjoyed serving at preteen camp. She enjoys talking to and spending time with her friends, reading, running, kayaking, rock climbing, crocheting and camping. She has a goal of visiting all the national parks.

*Plans after graduation:* Miriam has been awarded a full four-year Bright Futures Scholarship and will attend the University of Central Florida in Orlando, majoring in radio and TV production.

### ANGELA SMITH

*Parents' names:* Charles and Tammie Smith

*Congregation:* Houston North, Texas

*High school accomplishments:* Angela graduated with honors from iSchool High and Lone Star College, earning both her high school diploma and her associate of arts degree. She was a member of the National Honor Society and Mathematical Association of America, and she was selected by her principal to be a school ambassador. Her high school activities included choir, cross-country, yearbook staff, Student Council representative (junior and senior years), and theater club (secretary, vice president and director).

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Angela finds joy working with children through Sabbath school and preteen camps, helping them grow in God's way. She enjoys spending time with her Church family and has attended various COGWA camps since she was a preteen. Angela plays piano, ukulele and guitar. She participates in league volleyball, plays basketball, and enjoys long runs—she recently completed her second half-marathon.

*Plans after graduation:* Angela has been accepted into the Honors College at Texas A&M University and will pursue a bachelor's in



Hannah Turner



Alyssa Turnquest



Michael Wilson



Anna Wine

mathematics, a business minor and a teaching certificate. After college, Angela would like to attend FI before pursuing her career and earning her master's. She also loves to travel and has set a goal to visit every continent.

### HANNAH TURNER

*Parents' names:* Jodie Turner and Kevin Turner

*Congregation:* Bakersfield, California

*High school accomplishments:* Hannah graduated from Frontier High School on May 28. She was on the varsity swim team for three of her four years and was selected into the medical assistant ROC program her senior year.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Hannah attained her lifeguard license and has served at COGWA preteen camps as lifeguard for many years. She herself has been a camper in both the preteen and teen camps since COGWA camps began.

*Plans after graduation:* Hannah will be relocating to McKinney, Texas, in late summer and plans to attend Collin Community College to pursue a career in nursing. She plans to apply

to attend FI after finishing her associate degree.

### ALYSSA TURNQUEST

*Parents' names:* Kevera and Janace Turnquest

*Congregation:* Freeport, Bahamas

*High school accomplishments:* Alyssa graduated from Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Academy. She was on the Principal's and Dean's List and was an honor student with a cumulative GPA of 3.91. She received awards in all subjects (especially art) and for best disciplined, good citizenship and Christian attitude, and community service.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Alyssa enjoys art and design, baking, singing and writing.

*Plans after graduation:* Alyssa plans to go to college and get a degree in art and graphics.

### MICHAEL WILSON

*Parents' names:* Mark and Leah Wilson

*Congregation:* Austin, Texas

*High school accomplishments:* Michael

was an honor student and received the DECA Virtual Business Award.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* Michael enjoys programming, writing, reading and 3D modeling.

*Plans after graduation:* Michael plans to attend Austin Community College with the intention of transferring to the University of Texas at Austin.

### ANNA WINE

*Parent's name:* Heather Wine

*Congregation:* Dallas, Texas

*High school accomplishments:* This year, Anna graduated from THEO Christian School with honors. During high school, she volunteered in the Chick-fil-A Leader Academy, the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children's Junior Volunteer Program, and a community outreach thrift store. For her volunteer work, she received the President's Volunteer Service Award at the Gold level all four years. During this time, she earned an AP Scholar award and completed 33 dual-credit hours. She has also been admitted to Duke

TIP and National Society of High School Scholars, and was a service chair in National Honor Society.

*Church activities/hobbies/interests:* In her congregation, Anna has served as a Sabbath school aide since 2014 and participated in the COGWA teen program since 2013. She has also volunteered at Camp Lone Star since 2015. Throughout high school, Anna worked as a babysitter, tutor and assistant gymnastics coach. During her limited free time, she loves to sew, learn new languages, watch movies and bake.

*Plans after graduation:* Anna plans to graduate from the University of North Texas at Frisco in a three-year degree program. There, she will major in project design and analysis and minor in Spanish.





# CHURCH POTLUCK

What's cooking in your congregation?

## WEST PALM BEACH HOLDS SNOWFEST

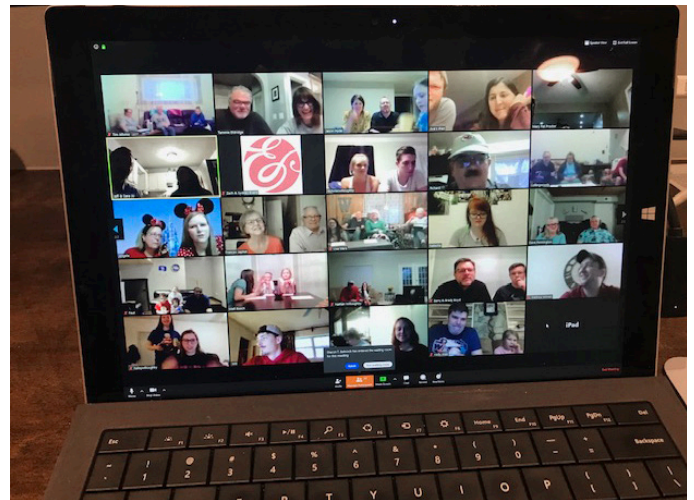
After services on Feb. 22, the West Palm Beach, Florida, congregation hosted a "Winter Snow Festival." The stage set included Florida-style snow and an igloo created by Tracy Carreiro.

The evening started off with a pizza-and-salad supper, followed by a parade of brethren dressed in costume. Both young and old participated, with prizes awarded to best female and male contestants.

Afterward, there were numerous games (with multiple prizes) for the younger set, while the more mature played board games through the evening.

It was a fun and memorable night for all!

**Kathy Cochran**



## CONGREGATIONS ZOOM TO PLAY BINGO

After sunset on April 18, 2020, members from the Nashville, Tennessee, and Henderson and Louisville, Kentucky, congregations "met up" online via Zoom for a game of COGWA family virtual bingo.

There were 110 participants representing 41 households from the three congregations. Bingo winners logged out with e-gift cards to use online (or in store at a later time).

The teasing, laughter and cheering throughout the event was a source of encouragement—and a wonderful reminder of the joy God's people share when they are together.

**Amanda Willoughby**



## CHRISTEN PETTY GRADUATES

Christen Hope Petty, the daughter of Charles and Valerie Petty of Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, graduated from Arkansas State University on Dec. 14, 2019, with a bachelor of science in psychology. She finished her last semester on the chancellor's list and graduated with a cumulative GPA of 3.6 out of 4.0.

During her time at Arkansas State, she was a member of Delta Zeta Omicron Epsilon sorority, where she held multiple leadership positions and served as vice president of programs. She was also a member of the National Honor Society and the psychology club.

Christen plans to further her education with a master's in business administration and is currently in the process of obtaining her insurance license. She is a member of the Sedgwick, Arkansas, congregation, where she attends with the rest of her family.

**Justin Adkins**

## REACHING OUT DURING THE QUARANTINE

Recently, our Fort Worth, Texas, congregation developed a vision statement with a goal of providing a clear picture of what we hoped to achieve and become. Key elements are knowing and encouraging each individual member and calling upon their unique talents as we seek to better reflect the fullness of Christ.

When the quarantine and other COVID-related stressors and concerns arose, our members recognized that it was important to extend even greater love, support and understanding to our brethren.

In addition to regular, small-group Zoom meetings, pastor Ken Giese initiated a weekly Facebook Live program titled “Still Waters,” which allowed all interested Fort Worth and Tulsa, Oklahoma, members to connect midweek and receive comfort and assurance from the Scripture.

Our Facebook page also became a place where members could post recent family photos and “hellos” to keep in touch.

Andrea West shared several stories featuring the adventures of “JP Kittycat” and “Susie Q” for children of all ages. The series concluded after the COVID break with a fun installment in which the appropriately masked characters were smuggled via stroller into Sabbath services!

Over the weeks, our resident poet, Helen Hebert, posted a Mother’s Day tribute as well as several other comforting poems. Most of our preteen Sabbath school students were able to connect with each other through Zoom during our recess. As was the case in most congregations, cards and calls of encouragement, as well as prayers for those who were struggling, who had lost their jobs and who had been ill continued to be an important service.

We all appreciated and enjoyed opportunities to relate with one

another in new and different ways during a difficult time. Though we are happily meeting together again, we still look forward to the time when we can each receive our full share of hugs and handshakes!

**Kathy Giese**



## STEPHAN PETTY GRADUATES

Stephan Nicole Petty, the daughter of Charles and Valerie Petty of Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, graduated from Arkansas State University on May 20, 2020, with a bachelor of science in elementary education. She attained the chancellor’s list during her last three semesters and graduated with a 3.1 cumulative GPA and a 3.9 GPA within her major.

During her time at Arkansas State, she was a member of the Delta Zeta Omicron Epsilon sorority, a *Wolf Tracks Yearbook* spread designer, as well as a member of the National Honor Society.

Stephan plans to further her education with a master’s in administration and is working to obtain a certificate in dyslexia therapy. She has accepted a teaching position at her alma mater, Walnut Ridge Elementary School.

Stephan is a member of the Sedgwick, Arkansas, congregation, where she attends with her family.

**Justin Adkins**



## CHARLENE WILLIAMS RECEIVES MBA DEGREE

Charlene Williams, a member of the St. Petersburg, Florida, congregation, received her master of business administration degree from Capella University, an accredited online university, on March 7, 2020. She did so while working full-time with the Florida Department of Revenue, where she’s worked since 2000, currently as service center manager.

Charlene has a history of taking classes while working full-time. In 2006 she earned her bachelor of science degree in public affairs from the University of Central Florida.

Charlene plans to continue working with the Department of Revenue in her present position. She is also very interested in the work she does evaluating essays on a part-time basis with the Educational Testing Service’s TOEFL program for international students.

**Charles Haughe**





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.

## Weddings



**Seth and Sarah Cooksey**

Tim and Melodie Smith of Dallas, Texas, and Seth and Christy Cooksey of Fort Worth, Texas, are proud to announce the marriage of their children, Sarah Christine Smith and Seth Brinton Cooksey.

On Saturday night, Dec. 14, 2019, in Leonard, Texas, the happy couple were united with so many of their family and friends sharing this wonderful occasion. Many thanks to so many for their love and support!

**Melodie Smith**



**Chase and Greta Holland**

March 15, 2020, was a special evening to celebrate the marriage of Chase Holland to Greta Movsisyan in Dahlonega, Georgia.

In the presence of God, family and friends, the couple pledged their love and commitment to each other with the beautiful background of the Georgia mountains. It was an evening of love, tears, laughter, food, and dancing as the two families became one.

The ceremony was performed by Mark Winner, pastor of the Atlanta, Jefferson and Macon, Georgia, congregations.

**Chant'a Collier**

## Births



**Luke David Pavlik**

Matt and Erica Pavlik from the Cleveland, Ohio, congregation happily welcomed their new son, Luke David, into their family on Dec. 24, 2019. Luke was born at home at 5:10 a.m. and was 8 pounds, 4 ounces and 20 inches long.

Luke is adored by his whole family, especially by new big brother Jacob and big sister Hailey. Grandparents Dave and Terry Pavlik, who attend the Akron-Canton, Ohio, congregation

and don't live too far away, keep finding reasons to drop by and see their three grandkids!

**Erica Pavlik**



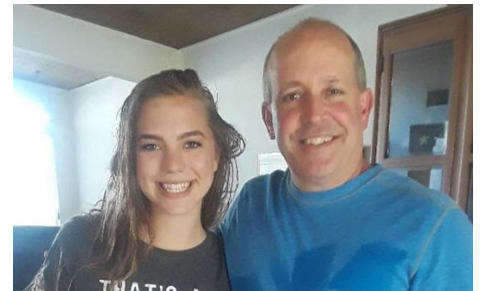
**Madeleine Elizabeth Smith**

Brandon and Bonnie Smith from the Birmingham, Alabama, congregation are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Madeleine Elizabeth. She was born on May 8, 2020, at 6:31 a.m., weighing 8 pounds 5 ounces and measuring 21.75 inches.

Maternal grandparents are Tom and Sarah Kirkpatrick, and paternal grandparents are Bob and Linda Smith.

**Ruth Dickey**

## Baptisms



**Averie Elizabeth Hoyer**

Averie Elizabeth Hoyer was baptized into the Church of God on Oct. 18, 2019. This made for a very special Feast of Tabernacles with family and friends in San Diego, California. Assisting Paul Carter with the baptism were both of Averie's grandfathers, Gerald Hoyer and Randal Rapp.

Averie is the daughter of Craig and Rashele Hoyer of the San Antonio, Texas, congregation. She is the sixth generation to be baptized in her family and recently completed her year of study at Foundation Institute.

**Rashele Hoyer**



**Daniel Clark**

Daniel Clark was baptized on March 15, 2020. His dad, Tom Clark, who pastors in northwest Arkansas, was overjoyed to be able to perform the baptism.

Daniel attended Foundation Institute this past year and plans to return to college in the fall.

He is a part of the fourth generation to be baptized on his dad's side of the family and third generation on his mom's side. His family and many friends are very happy to welcome him to our wonderful spiritual family.

**Mary Clark**



**Kyle McGowen**

On March 27, 2020, a new brother was welcomed into the family of God. John Kyle McGowen was baptized at the home of Denny and Sheila Ledford in northwest Arkansas, with his immediate family and a few friends in attendance.

The baptism was performed by Dennis Fultz and Tom Clark, with special thanks to Nathan Willoughby, who has known Kyle from birth and counseled him for baptism. Mr. Willoughby could not travel to be present and perform the baptism due to coronavirus restrictions. The restrictions also limited the number of brethren in attendance, but the love of all has been greatly felt.

Kyle just completed Foundation Institute in McKinney, Texas, and is the third generation of his family

to be baptized. He will reside in northwest Arkansas and attends the Bentonville, Arkansas, congregation.

**Rachelle McGowen**

## Obituaries



**Andy Gowens**

The Salisbury, Maryland, congregation is sad to announce the death of a much-loved member, Andy Gowens.

Andy died on Sept. 11, 2019, after a brief struggle with a respiratory illness.

Andy was most known for two things: his infectious smile and his dedication to God. Andy loved people, and especially the people of God. He never knew a stranger, according to his wife, Sharon. Whenever you met Andy, you left with a new friend. The author remembers meeting Andy at the Feast of Tabernacles in Fernwood, Pennsylvania, where Andy was in charge of custodial. As he served God and His people by cleaning the bathrooms and the hall, Andy wore a grin a mile wide.

Andy was called by God late in life. He was 62 when he began attending services. One of the things he valued most in his life was his business as a disc jockey at a bar he owned, the Goosepit. Andy's business was successful and thriving, and in order to please God, he forsook all that he had.

Andy was baptized in 2007 by Todd Carey at the Virginia Beach weekend. He remained a faithful member of the Church until the

end of his days. He will be missed by all who knew him, but especially by his family and loving wife.

**Scott Lord**



**Faye Williams**

Faye Williams of Dallas, Georgia, a member of the Atlanta, Georgia, congregation, died on April 4, 2020.

Mrs. Williams was born in 1937 and was married to Fred Williams for 57 years before his death in January 2015. They both were wonderful examples of service in the congregation.

Mrs. Williams always had a smile and kind words for those who knew her. She was a homemaker and seamstress who raised two sons, Jeff (Debbie) Williams and Johnathan (Bridgett) Williams.

She will be missed by her family, including grandchildren, great-grandchildren, brothers, sisters and her spiritual family.

**Chant'a Collier**



**Alice J. Graf**

Alice J. Graf, 96, died April 6, 2020, after a short illness. She was a longtime member and the oldest



member of the Akron-Canton, Ohio, congregation. Alice was preceded in death by her husband, Elmer, who died in the faith in 1985.

She was a graduate of the University of Akron and became a teacher in the Akron public schools and later tutored neurologically handicapped students.

Alice is survived by her four children, Kathryn (David) Giza, Susan (John) Foster, Kenneth (Janet) Graf, Jerry (Perri) Graf; her brother, Gene (Elanor) Pamer; 10 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Alice was a very sociable person and served in the congregation whenever

possible. Even though she suffered from memory issues in her later years, she never lost her sense of humor and her graciousness. She was well-liked by the staff at her nursing home.

A graveside service (along with a live video webcast) was conducted on April 10 by her pastor, Dave Myers.

**John Foster**

## Tribute



**Richard Robert Rand**

Richard began his life's journey in the small, rural town of Aberdeen, Washington, on Aug. 28, 1940. He was the first of four children welcomed by his parents, Charles and Wanda Rand.

At an early age, Richard loved family, often riding with his grandfather (Pa) and uncle (Izzy) to car shows where new cars were displayed. This led Richard to purchase a used car at the young age of 14, when he could not yet legally drive. In order to purchase the car, he worked diligently as a paperboy for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *The Oregonian* and the *Aberdeen Daily World*. To him, the car was art! He would repeatedly polish the car and pretend to drive it. Over the next 65 years, Richard owned over 100 cars.

As a teen, Richard had his interest in music piqued. He would often play drums while Pa played

the fiddle and Izzy played the accordion at a local Polish American club. For all of his life, Richard was fascinated with music, sharing many wonderful experiences, including Broadway shows and symphony orchestras, with family and friends.

As he entered his adult years, Richard graduated with a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Washington. It was during this time that he discovered the Radio Church of God and began listening to Herbert Armstrong's radio broadcast. This led him to attend Ambassador College in 1965. In 1968 he earned his bachelor's degree in theology and married Florence (Judy) Morse, who was also an AC graduate. They spent many wonderful years together and celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary last June.

At the time of his graduation from AC, Richard was pleasantly surprised when it was announced that he would be a ministerial assistant in the field ministry. Following local training in Michigan and Indiana by George Meeker, he was ordained at the Mount Pocono Feast site in September 1969. During their time in Michigan, Richard and Judy welcomed their first two children, David and Julie.

Later, Richard reunited with Mr. Meeker as an associate pastor in Columbia, Missouri. After a few years, Richard became the pastor of the Columbia and Kirksville, Missouri, congregations, where he served for 11 years. While in Missouri, Richard and Judy

welcomed two additional children, Carolyn and Michael.

In 1984 Richard was transferred to central Oregon, to be an associate pastor for the Eugene, Bend, Roseburg and Coos Bay congregations. Later, he was asked to pastor the Roseburg and Coos Bay congregations, where he served for seven years.

In 1991 he was assigned to Midland, Texas, and then in 1999 to South Florida, where he served the West Palm Beach, Fort Myers and Miami, Florida, congregations. In 2007 he retired from the full-time ministry and continued to serve part-time until he became ill. For three years, he endured, spending time with family and friends until his peaceful death on Sept. 10, 2019.

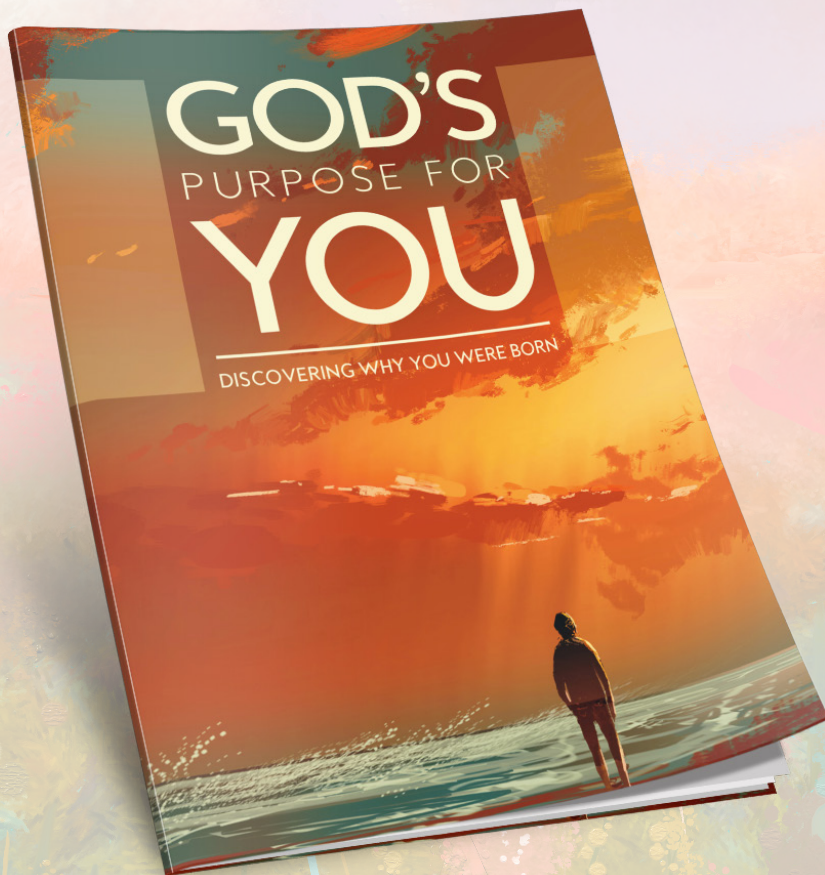
A Florida Church member's comment helps illustrate who Richard was as a minister of Jesus Christ:

"[Richard Rand] exemplified the word *minister*. He was a consistently loving, *very real* and transparent servant who was the same to everyone always and could *always* be counted on in a time of need. He was truly loved. We miss him greatly."

Richard will be remembered for his faithful service to the Church of God, his love of family and friends, and his wonderful sense of humor. Richard is survived by his wife, Judy; their children, David (Deborah), Julie, Carolyn and Michael (Maria); granddaughters, Savannah, Mirielle and Sophia; and his siblings, Janis, Barbara and Roger.

**David Rand**

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