

OneAccord

July/August 2022



**A History of the Feast of
Tabernacles in the Modern Era**

Feast of Tabernacles
Things That Don't Change

Tribute
Bob Mitchell

2022
GRADUATES

Pages 8-20

personal from the president

Looking Forward

In this issue of *One Accord* we focus on our high school and college graduates. I recall graduating from high school and college with a burning desire to get on with my life. From high school I was headed to college, and from college I was headed to Atlanta, Georgia, to begin my ministerial career. In both cases I had a great deal of excitement as I tried to imagine what my life would be like in my new surroundings.

One of the most important parts of all our lives is having something to look forward to. There is something about human beings that we all need—hope for the future. To look forward to new things or a positive change in our lives gives us energy and ignites a level of enthusiasm that drives us forward. But that feeling should not end with a graduation.

I learned early in life that God's holy days contain that element of looking forward, of anticipating what lies ahead. In fact, the very purpose of God's holy days is to reveal God's plan of salvation. It is a truth that is unknown to the world—the truth that all human beings will be given a chance for salvation, eternal life in the Kingdom of God. That is a profound truth that is denied by virtually every religion in the world.

The apostle Paul described our state as Christians in 1 Corinthians chapter 15, also known as the Resurrection Chapter. Some were of the opinion that “there is no resurrection” (verse 12). Paul described that as being “pitiable.” To take away hope for the future leaves one empty. Notice verses 17-19: “And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.”

In the annual holy days, God gives us something to look forward to, which ultimately is to become part of His family in the world tomorrow. We just finished celebrating the Day of Pentecost, the third festival of the year. The first three festivals each year symbolize events that have been fulfilled, at least in type.

Passover is a commemoration of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins. Unleavened Bread is an ongoing reminder of the need to remove sin from our lives and replace it with righteousness. And Pentecost represents the coming of the Holy Spirit, the beginning of the New Testament Church and the sealing of the firstfruits—all in one holy day.

We are now looking forward to the final four festivals. Each of these four pictures an event to be fulfilled in the future. The Feast of Trumpets pictures the return of Jesus Christ to this earth and the resurrection of the saints who have died and the change to immortal for those still alive. What a day that will be! Paul describes this as the only real hope of a Christian. There is nothing in this life more valuable than the gift of salvation, which we look forward to with much anticipation.

Of course, Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day round out the seven annual festivals. Just as I looked forward to my future after graduating from high school and college, I look forward to the ultimate future of mankind—to become part of God's family. That future world is something to look forward to and to be excited about!

But for now, we are still in the flesh, and we need to be reminded about that future. I hope you are looking forward to the upcoming festivals, not just because of the enjoyment they will bring, but because of what they picture—the real hope for mankind, eternal life in the Kingdom of God!



Jim Franks

President
Church of God, a Worldwide Association



CHURCH of GOD

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One Accord is published bimonthly online at members.cogwa.org by the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc.

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A HISTORY OF THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES IN THE MODERN ERA

Less than 100 years ago the observance of the biblical holy days had been mostly abandoned. Here's how the studies and conduct of two faithful people impacted our lives today.

By Phil Sandilands (with special thanks to Larry Neff)



As we all are making our plans to attend the Feast of Tabernacles this year, we thought it might be helpful to pause and reflect on the history of keeping the Feast of Tabernacles in the modern era of the Church of God.

Many of us have been keeping it all of our lives and perhaps have never thought about how we came to observe these days. To many, it simply is what we do. But that wasn't always the case.

By the 19th century, most of the Sabbath-keeping congregations in the United States had long since abandoned observing the majority of the festivals of God. There are documented cases where ministers in the early 1900s wrote articles advocating the keeping of some or all of the festivals, but the church leadership, in large part, disagreed.

It started with two

In the late 1920s, Herbert and Loma Armstrong began a deep study into the biblical festivals. By 1927 they came to see that these days were commanded observances, and they faithfully kept them from that year forward.

During this time, the Church of God (Seventh Day) allowed articles discussing a wide range of beliefs to be published in their journals. Many articles during the ensuing years debated the relevance of observance of God's festivals.

In 1933 Mr. Armstrong advocated for the keeping of the festivals and even presented his material to the brethren of the Oregon conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day). However, his research was largely rejected. The need to keep the festivals was listed as one of the reasons Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong parted ways with the Church of God (Seventh Day).

For seven years, the Armstrongs had kept these days, by themselves, at home. Imagine yourself in that situation. Would you have faithfully kept these days if no one else around you did? If the Church did not provide a place to meet each year, would you faithfully keep them at home? This was a test for the Armstrongs, and later for the church that would grow, in large part, due to the teachings of Mr. Armstrong.

In an article that would later appear in *The Plain Truth* magazine, Mr. Armstrong wrote that in 1933 a few others had also come to believe in the need to observe the festivals, and they started to attend as a group on those days. For the first time in their lives, the Armstrongs had others to keep the festivals with them!

In 1934 approximately 21 people kept the Feast of Tabernacles in Eugene. Each year, more people joined the Armstrongs in keeping these days together. These early festivals were often held either in individual homes for those who could not travel, or at the place where weekly Sabbath services were held.

Going to the Feast!

The idea of renting a facility for all to attend in one place didn't spring to life until 1945, when a site for keeping the

Feast of Tabernacles was secured in western Oregon. Quoting Mr. Armstrong from a *Good News* letter of that year:

"We have reason, indeed, for REJOICING! God has given us a most desirable place for holding the FEAST OF TABERNACLES this year! This year we can keep it more like they did back in Bible times.

"This is indeed splendid news. Nearly all the brethren who have heard of it are enthusiastic over the opportunity that God has opened. We have taken over, for the full period, beautiful Belknap Mineral Springs, one of Oregon's leading, nicest mountain resorts, high up the McKenzie in the lofty Cascades, 60 miles east of Eugene.

"Here we will be utterly secluded from the world. Belknap is a mile off the McKenzie highway, out in God's majestic, worship-inspiring nature. Here we will be away from the noise and hustle of man-made civilization, out in God's great natural out-doors where things are beautiful."

From that year forward, the Church has prayerfully sought places that, we believe, fulfill God's instructions: "Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God *in the place which He chooses*" (Deuteronomy 16:16, emphasis added).

This included several sites where we built our own tabernacle buildings—places like Gladewater, Texas; Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri; Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin; and Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania.

The attendance at the Feast of Tabernacles continued to swell as more people became affiliated with the Radio Church of God and then (as it was later called) the Worldwide Church of God. It started out with two people from 1927 to 1933. In the late 1980s there were over 150,000 people who kept the Feast. That was the largest Feast of Tabernacles attendance in our modern era.

Continuing steadfast

The Church of God, a Worldwide Association, will faithfully continue the early Church's mission of observing God's festivals. This year we will have 12 sites in the United States and Canada and over 30 sites outside of North America, serving around 11,000 people.

While at the Feast this year, let's reflect on the amazing story of the pioneer members of the Church of God, who stood up for what they had proved true and who trusted God with His Word!

Zechariah prophesied, "And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles" (Zechariah 14:16).

Imagine the future, when *millions* will be keeping God's Feast. That day will make 150,000 seem tiny in comparison—a lifetime away from two faithful members sitting at home in Eugene, Oregon, in 1927! ©



THINGS THAT DON'T CHANGE

The Feast of Tabernacles reinforces an encouraging truth that simply does NOT change!

By Doug Horchak

If there is one thing that all of us have experienced over the past 2½ years, it is that *uncertainty* has become a part of our everyday lives.

In mid-March of 2020, all of us began to look at the world we lived in *differently*. From our jobs and school, to travel and health, to masks and toilet paper . . . life became incredibly unpredictable. Unfortunately, that unpredictability became the *norm* and had a powerful impact on the way we've come to view our everyday lives.

Of course, one of the more important things that was affected was *how* we observed the holy days, and in particular, the Feast of Tabernacles. Whether we could travel to the Feast, whether we could meet in person at all, whether we'd have limits on numbers and requirements for distancing—these were but a few of the uncertainties we have dealt with over the past two

years. And, of course, the threat of actually contracting COVID-19 while at the Feast was of particular concern for a number of members with underlying health concerns.

Life became *uncertain* and *unpredictable*.

Despite these factors—and other issues in our society that added to the chaos—most people in the Church have navigated the past two years fairly well. While circumstances have improved for work, travel, school and (thankfully!) meeting together on the Sabbath day each week, unanswered questions still exist. We wonder if we will *ever* get back to “normal”—at least the way we defined “normal” three years ago! Clearly, the experience of the past few years has, on so many levels, affected *the way some of us look at life* from day to day.

Amid the chaos that this world throws at us, it is very important for those of us in God’s Church to understand that there are *some things that simply don’t change!* And for that, we should be grateful!

Living with certainty

God’s incredible plan outlines His will and the way for people to be reconciled to their Creator and to understand their ultimate destiny. It gives us purpose and a lens through which we can look at life and see things that the rest of humanity simply cannot!

Paul’s comments to the congregation at Corinth are a powerful testimony to the future that lies ahead and the context within which we can live our lives:

“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the LORD of glory. But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God” (1 Corinthians 2:7-10).

These words, written almost 2,000 years ago, remain true today. Mankind is clueless to the unspeakably wonderful future that lies ahead!

The sure future God reveals

As we approach the fall holy days, we are reminded of that time in the future when society *will* have changed. A time is coming when the war and chaos that define our present evil world will eventually end.

As the prophet Isaiah points out, it will be a world where increasing millions of people will seek God’s truth and His way of peace:

“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and

say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:2-4).

The chaos, carnage and violent events that characterize our world will eventually be “no more.”

The apostle Paul expressed this revealed knowledge about our future (and mankind’s future) to the early Church amid the ongoing persecution he had to suffer. In like manner, during the troubled times in which we live, it is important that we, as God’s elect, have our minds *set on the future*. A future that is sure and secure—despite the uncertainty that surrounds us!

Many years ago, when the following words of the prophet Isaiah were explained to me, they had a powerful effect on my faith and hope for the future.

“Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,’ calling a bird of prey from the east, the man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it” (Isaiah 46:9-11).

Such a strong and compelling statement by God that His plans, His purpose, His vision of the future for His people and for all of mankind are sure! It is an illustration of the permanence, stability and *sure* nature of God and His Word.

The vision associated with our observance of the fall holy days, and in particular, the Feast of Tabernacles, is something we should *all* consider and dwell on in our lives. After all, Jesus’ instruction to us as His people is that we regularly pray, “Your kingdom come” and that we daily “seek first the kingdom of God.”

That vision of the future is something our Heavenly Father desires us to have as a part of our daily lives and *especially* as we convene together for the Festival of Tabernacles in just a few months.

The author of Hebrews shared an inspiring truth about the perspective of God’s servants in the past that should inspire how we view life today:

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth” (Hebrews 11:13).

Despite the chaos we see around us, the powerful truth of God’s promised future for mankind is absolutely sure. Some things simply don’t change! ©A

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

CLASS OF

2022

PETRA ALLWINE

Parents' names:

Tim and Shannon Allwine

Congregation:

Indianapolis, Indiana

School accomplishments:

Petra has been homeschooled since kindergarten.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Petra is a fourth-generation Christian. She has attended Camps Arrowhead and Heritage since the age of 6 and has served as teen staff at Camp Arrowhead. She also serves in her local congregation, helping with snacks and recently joining the sound crew.

Growing up in the Church, she has had the opportunity to attend Feasts throughout the U.S.—from Alaska to Florida—and also internationally, including Malaysia, Guatemala, Canada, Barbados and Ghana.

Petra has a love for music and art and enjoys singing and playing her violin. Petra also enjoys reading, writing, hiking and baking.

Plans after graduation:

Petra plans to study online at Arizona State University with the goal of earning a bachelor's degree in business administration. After earning her bachelor's, she plans to attend Foundation Institute and then become certified

as a personal trainer and nutrition coach at the National Association of Sports Medicine.

CALEB AVERETT

Parents' names:

Richard and Rachel Averett

Congregation:

Sherman, Texas

School accomplishments:

Caleb attended Canyon Creek Christian Academy from kindergarten through seventh grade. For high school, Caleb transitioned to taking dual credit courses at Collin College, attending Cabriole Christian Academy and working part time at Chick-fil-A and Starbucks. He is graduating high school being “core complete” at Collin College.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Caleb enjoys drawing, photography, illustrating and playing video games.

Plans after graduation:

After graduation, Caleb plans to continue taking courses at Collin College to earn his bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He plans to work as an architectural engineer after graduation from Collin College.

EVAN BAUDOIN

Parents' names:

Arthur and Kelly Baudoin

Congregation:

New Orleans, Louisiana

School accomplishments:

Evan graduated from University View Academy. He received his high school diploma and also graduated with an S/P2 certification (safety and pollution prevention training) as well as a credit for college English.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Evan enjoys troubleshooting computer problems, kayaking, weight lifting and cooking.

Plans after graduation:

Evan plans to attend Northshore Technical Community College to pursue his degree in information technology systems.

KASON BENNETT

Parents' names:

John and Kristine Bennett

Congregation:

Jefferson, Georgia

School accomplishments:

Kason recently graduated with honors from a high school dual enrollment program, where he was able to complete several college classes.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Kason has always been full of energy and confident in his decisions. He loves to keep people laughing and

on their feet. He has always enjoyed being outdoors and has attended many preteen and teen camps through the years. Kason loves adventure and has had many opportunities to travel the world. He has a caring and loving personality, mixed with a comical side that makes for never a dull moment.

Plans after graduation:

Kason will also begin college in the fall at the University of North Georgia.

STERLING BURKETT

Parents' names:

Lisa and JR Robles

Congregation:

Dallas, Texas

School accomplishments:

Sterling graduated Wylie High School on May 28, 2022. Throughout his high school career, he was very active in sports and work. He played football all four years and was on the squat squad for the powerlifting team. He started working as soon as he could drive.

Activities/hobbies/interests:

Sterling has worked at various fast-food places, as well as in the family construction business. He currently works at our local Tractor Supply store. He loves anything that

involves the outdoors, as well as a wide variety of music and dancing.

In the local congregation, Sterling has participated in the speech club, volleyball and basketball. He has attended the Texas teen camp every summer possible. He also served in archery at Camp Lone Star.

Plans after graduation: Sterling will be attending Southeastern Oklahoma State University this fall and is planning to major in business.

HUNTER CARLISLE

Parents' names: Shawnae and Greg Carlisle

Congregation: Youngstown, Ohio

School accomplishments: Hunter graduated with a 3.82 GPA. He received scholarships for his academic merit from both his high school and his college. He also received a business scholarship for his chosen career path of finance. Hunter played basketball his freshman year and played baseball all four years, receiving his varsity letter for the last three. Hunter had over 50 service hours as part of Key Club.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Hunter helps with the sound crew when there are combined services with area churches. He has attended many church camps since he was 6 years old. He enjoys spending his free time playing recreational basketball and fishing.

Plans after graduation: Hunter plans to attend Kent State University to study finance in the fall.

MOIRA COOKSEY

Parents' names: William and Ronda Cooksey

Congregation: Berthoud, Colorado

School accomplishments: Moira will graduate from Mead High School in Mead, Colorado, where she has been taking concurrent community college classes.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Moira was born and spent most of her life in North Texas. In 2014, while living in Texas, she began learning harp and has continued to play after moving to Denver with her family in 2018. Moira's greatest interests include music and animals, which have been the focus of her schooling, hobbies and college plans.

Plans after graduation: Moira plans to continue her college basics at Front Range Community College before transferring to Colorado State University to pursue a doctorate in veterinary medicine.

ZACHARY COOKSEY

Parents' names: Seth and Christy Cooksey

Congregation: Fort Worth, Texas

School accomplishments: Zachary graduates high school with three awards for achievement: Distinguished Level of Achievement in Math, Outstanding Performance in Dual Credit, and Outstanding Performance in SAT Placement. He has been offered scholarships at every school to which he applied.

Zachary graduates a year

ahead of schedule with 47 college credits, thanks to participation in the dual credit for homeschool program at Tarrant County College. Some of his favorite subjects are math, science and computer science.

Activities/hobbies/interests: In addition to his dedication to academic excellence, Zachary has a history of volunteer work. He served at the Fort Worth Zoo for three years as a preschool teaching assistant, at CYC preteen camps, and recently at church on the committee for senior activities.

Plans after graduation: Although it was a hard choice, Zachary has chosen to attend the University of North Texas, where he will major in computer science and minor in math. Most importantly, Zachary is dedicated to God's way of life and looks forward to the day he can attend Foundation Institute.

ANGEL CYNOR

Parents' names: Martin and Leanne Zais

Congregation: Eau Claire, Wisconsin

School accomplishments: Angel graduated from Chippewa Falls High School in Wisconsin. Angel was a cheerleader, where she lettered and was named MVP. She was also behind the camera for her high school news program, known locally as "Chi-Hi Happenings."

Activities/hobbies/interests: In her congregation Angel helped plan Sabbath school lessons. She loves dancing and attending Renaissance festivals.

Plans after graduation: Next year Angel will be attending vocational school, where she will be learning more about having a career in media. She also wants to keep traveling and share her smile with the world.

SAMUEL DAVIDSON

Parents' names: Tracy and Valerie Davidson

Congregation: Birmingham, Alabama

School accomplishments: Sam graduated from high school May 24, 2022, with academic honors and was a member of the National Honor Society. His extracurricular activities included being a member and president of SkillsUSA for three years, as well as a member of the Scholars' Bowl team.

Activities/hobbies/interests: In the local congregation, Sam enjoys assisting on the tech-ops crew and participating in the Men's Leadership Club. He also enjoys long-distance running, reading history books and keeping current on the news. Sam approaches life with a serious focus, but his dry wit is enjoyed by those who know him well.

Plans after graduation: Sam plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi in the fall on a full-tuition scholarship in order to pursue a degree in ocean engineering.

EMILY DICK

Parents' names: Philip and Jennifer Dick

Congregation:
Dallas, Texas

School accomplishments:
Emily was active both academically and athletically in high school. She played three years of varsity tennis and served as vice president of the National Technical Honor Society and as chief editor and photographer for the high school yearbook. She was a member of the National Honor Society, the National Society of High School Scholars, Student Council and Business Professionals of America. During her senior year, she received the MLK Character Award and was voted “most creative” in her class.

Activities/hobbies/interests:
Emily loves to travel with a camera in her hand. She is a passionate photographer, potter and designer. During her senior year, she interned at a local media company, created her own website and earned Photoshop certification. As a budding entrepreneur, she created a small business offering senior pictures and soccer photos to parents of players. Emily enjoys working with children and has absolutely loved working as staff at Camp Lone Star, serving as an assistant in Sabbath school and coaching young tennis players after school and during the summers.

Plans after graduation:
Emily will be attending the Honors College at Texas A&M University-Commerce in the fall, pursuing a degree in visual communications. After graduating, she hopes to attend Foundation Institute and eventually get her master’s degree.

ETHAN DUNGAN

Parents’ names:
Sam and Shaleena Dungan

Congregation:
Mobile, Alabama

Activities/hobbies/interests:
Ethan has attended preteen and teen camps since was 5 years old. He also helps with whatever is needed at church. He enjoys fishing, hunting and all things outdoors. He even worked a summer on an Alaskan fishing boat.

Plans after graduation:
Ethan’s plan is to enter the workforce at a local lumber mill, while pursuing other opportunities to establish multiple forms of income. One goal he has is to have his own lawn care business.

JOSHUA GOMEZ

Parents’ names:
Lazaro and Sandra Gomez

Congregation:
Dallas, Texas

School accomplishments:
Joshua completed the B-Tech program at Moisés E. Molina High School, which allowed him to also graduate with an associate degree from Mountain View Community College. He was senior class president and was voted class clown.

Activities/hobbies/interests:
Joshua is active in his congregation’s basketball and volleyball programs and has attended multiple teen camps, congregational campouts and various other teen activities. His other interests include cooking, eating, playing video games, singing and entertaining.

Plans after graduation:
Joshua has plans to attend the University of Texas at Arlington, where he will study and train to become a paramedic to serve his community with love.

CODY HARRIS

Parents’ names:
Troy and Cindy Harris

Congregation:
Wichita, Kansas

School accomplishments:
Cody graduated from Maize South High School on May 12, 2022. As a sophomore, Cody was part of the team that won first place in a schoolwide robotics competition. To win, the team had to design and build the “last robot standing” at the end of the competition. In his junior year he won a citywide graphic design contest with his artwork featured in a traffic safety campaign for the Kansas State Department of Transportation. In March of his senior year, Cody began taking college classes.

Activities/hobbies/interests:
Cody has actively volunteered both in the local congregation and at the Feast. Locally, he assists with meeting hall setup and cleanup. Cody is particularly attentive to senior citizens. He has also assisted with Sabbath school lessons for children and preteens. At the Feast he has done everything from working traffic flow and parking to serving at the seniors’ luncheon. He has attended several church youth camps, assisting with the preteen camps since he was 13.

Plans after graduation:
Cody is currently studying cyber security at Kansas State University.

SYDNEY HEGVOLD

Parents’ names:
Brian and Mary Ann Hegvold

Congregation:
Houston North, Texas

School accomplishments:
Sydney graduated magna cum laude from Grand Oaks High School in Spring, Texas, on May 24, 2022. She played the flute in band all four years and served as a section leader her senior year. She also completed her medical assistant certification and EMT certification through her high school, in addition to earning 30 college credit hours.

Activities/hobbies/interests:
Sydney has enjoyed dancing since she was 2, when she began classes at Excelsior School of Dance, a Christian ballet company. She also enjoys attending church camps and serving at preteen camps.

Plans after graduation:
Sydney was awarded two academic scholarships to the University of Texas at Tyler, where she will attend starting in the fall. She plans to study nursing and hopes to continue her education to become a physician assistant.

DUSTIN HENKE

Parents’ names:
Philip and Karen Henke

Congregation:
Rolla, Missouri

School accomplishments:
Dustin is graduating from Cuba High School, where he ran cross-country, earning many medals for six years.

Activities/hobbies/interests:
Dustin volunteered at Camp Cherokee and helps out where needed in his congregation.

Plans after graduation:
Dustin is considering some type of trade school after graduation.

RHIANNA HISSAM

Parent's and aunt's names:
Ronald Kirk Hissam (recently deceased) and Beverley Hissam

Congregation:
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

School accomplishments:
Rhianna Hissam was enrolled at Central Valley High School in Beaver County for her senior year of 2021-2022 and graduated with highest honors on June 3, 2022. In addition to her academic studies at Central Valley, Rhianna's accomplishments include qualifying for the tournament archery team and competing at the state championship level—most recently held at Penn State University, State College campus. She excelled within her journalism classes and was also actively involved in vocal performance with the high school concert choir.

Activities/hobbies/interests:
Rhianna participates in the teen speech club and loves to write and deliver speeches. She has also been an avid reader and writer for many years, which inspired her to further develop and pursue her talents.

Plans after graduation:
Rhianna will begin her freshman year at Seton Hill University with a double major in English-journalism and history. One of her biggest aspirations is to work for National Geographic and travel the world!

CALEB HOYER

Parents' names:
Craig and Rashele Hoyer

Congregation:
San Antonio, Texas

School accomplishments:
Caleb graduated from Great Hearts Northern Oaks Academy. He ran track every year and now holds the school record for the 110m hurdles and 300m hurdles. For fun, he and his friends started a volleyball team their senior year, and they actually did quite well competing against other schools. During his junior year, he contributed to the drama production of Everyman by designing and building several key factors of the set, including a large background that spun like a wheel to convey the change from day to night. Caleb was also a member of the Troubadour Club, playing drums.

Activities/hobbies/interests:
Caleb is integral in his congregation's setup and takedown. He has attended CYC camps in California and Texas, with the Camp Sequoia extended sessions being a highlight. He has especially enjoyed rock climbing at camp, which has led him to his hobby of indoor climbing. Caleb also spends time doing yard work in his neighborhood and has gotten to know some very interesting neighbors.

Plans after graduation:
Caleb plans on spending the upcoming summer months working in commercial salmon fishing in Alaska. He has been accepted to the University of Texas at San Antonio, where he plans on earning a degree in architectural engineering.

GLINDA LEE

Parents' names:
Allen and Alicia Lee

Congregation:
Houston North, Texas

School accomplishments:
Glinda graduated on May 27, 2022, from Waller High School. As a senior, Glinda sang in the Varsity Treble Choir, the Varsity Chorale Choir, and participated in the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Program, where her choir received all perfect scores for sight-reading.

Activities/hobbies/interests:
Not only does Glinda enjoy music at her school, but she has also consistently volunteered to serve in music at Camp Lone Star. She also was a student teacher, assisting fifth grade students, and earned a paraprofessional certificate. Glinda was a member of NHS and the National Society of Leadership and Success.

Plans after graduation:
Glinda plans to pursue a career in psychology and nutrition.

CANON LINK

Mother's and grandmother's names:
Brandy Link and Patty Link

Congregation:
Houston North, Texas

School accomplishments:
Canon graduated from Oak Ridge High School in Spring, Texas, on May 25, 2022. He played the bass in orchestra from middle school through high school, and this year taught himself to play the cello.

Activities/hobbies/interests:
Canon has attended church with his grandmother since he was 1. He participates in all the sports for the church teams. He especially enjoys volleyball. He has attended the summer and winter camps whenever possible and has volunteered at preteen camp.

Plans after graduation:
Canon hopes to attend college in the fall to continue his education.

LEANNA MANGELS

Parent's name:
Kristin Bettes

Congregation:
Hickory, North Carolina

School accomplishments:
Throughout Leanna's high school career, she strove to achieve the highest grades with a 4.25 GPA and in the top 25 percent of her class. In addition to this achievement, she also accumulated numerous college credits as a dual-enrolled student. Leanna was formally recognized by academic peers multiple times for her kindness and resiliency through exceedingly difficult trials.

Activities/hobbies/interests:
Leanna's hobbies and interests include writing, reading, painting, cooking and volunteer work. Leanna is often found outside the church hall, greeting



Petra Allwine



Caleb Averett



Evan Baudoin



Kason Bennett



Sterling Burkett



Hunter Carlisle



Moira Cooksey



Zachary Cooksey



Angel Cynor



Samuel Davidson



Emily Dick



Ethan Dungan



Joshua Gomez



Cody Harris



Sydney Hegvold



Dustin Henke



Rhianna Hissam



Caleb Hoyer



Glinda Lee



Canon Link



Leanna Mangels



Caleb Martin



Logan Martin



Shelby Martin



Sophia Rand



Abigail Sanders



Chloe Sanders



CheyAnne Schweitzer



Jacob Slaughter



Nathaniel Smith



Jordan Staggs



Nicholas Stanley



Harrison Waddle



Jackson Waddle



Landon Whitley



Jackson Witcher



Sydney Witcher



Reagan Yost

members at the door before church services.

Plans after graduation: Following graduation, Leanna will be taking a gap year to move across the country, travel, work and focus on her writing. Following this, she plans to move to the Northwest to pursue a degree in creative writing.

CALEB MARTIN

Parents' names: Don and Heather Martin

Congregation: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

School accomplishments: On May 15, 2022, Caleb graduated from Martin Academy for Young Men.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Caleb has served as president

of the Great Lakes Regional Teen Speech Club, of which he has been a member for six years. He has attended Camp Heritage and served as staff at Camp Arrowhead. Caleb has volunteered at the local food pantry. Caleb enjoys hiking, fishing, basketball and football.

Plans after graduation: As the recipient of the Ralph Emerson Greasley Scholarship, Caleb will be attending Slippery Rock University to pursue degrees in exercise science and athletic training/physical therapy.

LOGAN MARTIN

Parents' names: Howard and Diane Martin

Congregation: Wichita, Kansas

School accomplishments: Logan graduated from Augusta High School in Augusta, Kansas, on May 15, 2022. As both a junior and senior, he was able to get dual credit at Augusta High School and Wichita State University Technical School. He had enough high school credits after the first semester of his senior year, so he only took WSU Tech classes the last semester. Logan was on the honor roll throughout high school, and as a senior, he was on the high honor roll.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Logan enjoys spending time working on anything mechanical in nature—especially his 2010 Camaro SS. He likes to challenge himself on things he has never attempted before and currently works a full-time job while continuing his education full time.

Plans after graduation: Logan is currently attending the WSU technical training program, working toward an airframe and powerplant license to become an aviation maintenance technician. Following in both his grandfather's and father's footsteps, he will become a third-generation aircraft mechanic.

SHELBY MARTIN

Parents' names: Eric and Monica McLeod

Congregation: Austin, Texas

School accomplishments: Shelby graduated from Success High School in Round Rock, Texas.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Shelby's main interest is in animals, especially dogs. She also has an interest in mechanics and recently helped her dad rebuild the front four-wheel driveshaft and bearings on one of their vehicles. Shelby also works on her own truck when repairs are needed.

Plans after graduation: Shelby is currently considering attending Austin Community College and, in the future, would like to become a professional dog trainer.

SOPHIA RAND

Parents' names: David and Deborah Rand

Congregation: Leicester, Massachusetts

School accomplishments: Sophia has been a creative

and excellent student, with some of the top grades in her class. Her coursework interests were focused on entrepreneurialism and history. She often had a pithy angle on school topics, and many students would describe Sophia as one of the “funniest” kids in class.

Activities/hobbies/interests: While in school, Sophia did many extracurricular activities, including being on the yearbook staff, which she thoroughly enjoyed.

Plans after graduation: Sophia will be attending The New School in New York City for university and plans to major in economics.

ABIGAIL SANDERS

Parents' names: Keri and Adam Sanders

Congregation: Columbus-Cambridge, Ohio

School accomplishments: Abigail graduated high school with a GPA of 4.65. She was third overall in her class of 417 at Ohio Connections Academy and was a part of the National Honor Society. Abigail was homeschooled since kindergarten but started college at the age of 12. She graduated from college with a bachelor's degree before even graduating from high school, and she was accepted to her first medical school at 17. She participated in Division I basketball and track and field for six years through Newark High School and lettered in both.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Abigail has participated

in youth camps since she was 6 and has volunteered at Camp Arrowhead. She has been part of numerous church choirs and special music duets. She is part of the youth group in her congregation, which organizes service projects in her area. She has also participated in several FOI projects and several yearlong service projects through college. Abigail enjoys traveling with her family, eating, spending time with friends and anything involving science. She published two books at the ages of 10 and 11.

Plans after graduation: Abigail plans on attending Bastyr University in Seattle, Washington, to pursue a naturopathic doctoral degree, with the goal of one day establishing her own wellness center and travel clinic.

CHLOE SANDERS

Parents' names: Adam and Keri Sanders

Congregation: Columbus-Cambridge, Ohio

School accomplishments: Chloe graduated on June 4, 2022, from Ohio Connections Academy with a GPA of 4.55, in the top 10 of her class and was homeschooled most of her life.

Beginning in middle school, Chloe began taking college classes and was a full-time, on-campus student by the end of her sophomore year. A month before her high school graduation, Chloe graduated with the highest honors, summa cum laude, with an associate degree in business administration from Mount Vernon

Nazarene University. She was a proud member of the National Honor Society.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Chloe participated in a variety of sports, including volleyball and basketball. Chloe is engaged with the community and her church congregation, volunteering in choir, cleanup, youth service group, Heartbeats organization, food pantry and more. She enjoys the outdoors and reading, as well as having fun with friends.

Plans after graduation: Chloe is currently in the next phase of her journey, enrolled in an online veterinary technician program with Penn Foster.

CHEYANNE SCHWEITZER

Parents' names: Edwina Schweitzer and Ray Schweitzer

Congregation: Orlando, Florida

School accomplishments: CheyAnne's high school accomplishments include honor roll, captain of the varsity volleyball team, volleyball MVP her junior and senior years, induction into the Parkhurst Athletic Hall of Fame, member of the National Honor Society, volleyball conditioning coach, athletic director's assistant and teacher's assistant. She received cords in fine arts and athletics.

Activities/hobbies/interests: CheyAnne enjoys attending COGWA Youth Camps, Winter Family Weekend and various other opportunities to get together with her church friends, such as going to

Renaissance fairs and camping. She is an avid reader and enjoys traveling, sewing and creating art in her spare time.

Plans after graduation: CheyAnne will be attending Eastern Florida State College to receive an associate degree. She has a guaranteed job in November at a preschool due to her early childhood education certificate, earned during her senior year.

JACOB SLAUGHTER

Parents' names: Jesse and Jeana Slaughter

Congregation: Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio

School accomplishments: Jacob studied at a secondary high school for engineering and graduated with a CAD certification. He also completed a logistics internship.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Jacob serves on his congregation's sound crew. His hobbies include playing video games, working with electronics, fixing cell phones and working on cars.

Plans after graduation: Jacob is moving to New York after graduation. He plans to work during a gap year and then is considering going to school for welding or IT.

NATHANIEL SMITH

Parents' names: Charles and Tammie Smith

Congregation: Houston North, Texas

School accomplishments: Nathan graduated from Cypress Woods High School. He ran cross-country for three years and participated in marching and symphonic band for seven years. Nathan had the privilege of attending the state marching band contest two years in a row, placing in the top 15 for drumline. He is an accomplished musician and lettered in percussion.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Nathan has played basketball and volleyball in addition to completing two half-marathons. He has attended several church camps and enjoyed serving as staff and assistant counselor at preteen camp for the past four years. He's very involved with his congregation, helping with Sabbath school, singing in teen choir, participating in speech club and serving as an usher.

Plans after graduation: Nathan will be pursuing a degree in cyber engineering at Houston Baptist University in the fall of 2022.

JORDAN STAGGS

Parents' names: Clay and Jamie Staggs

Congregation: St. Louis, Missouri

School accomplishments: Jordan was a member of the Staunton High School Student Council for four years. She was a member of the volleyball team and art club her freshman and sophomore years. During her senior year of high school, Jordan was selected to the homecoming court. She graduated summa cum

laude, with highest honors.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Jordan enjoys art, spending time with friends and family, and working at Cold Stone Creamery in Edwardsville, Illinois, where she serves delicious ice cream.

Plans after graduation: Jordan will be attending Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey, Illinois, where she plans to pursue a dental assisting and dental hygienist degree. She was also honored to receive a Lewis and Clark Foundation scholarship.

NICHOLAS STANLEY

Parent's name: Carly Kovatch

Congregation: Akron-Canton, Ohio

School accomplishments: Nick graduated with honors, magna cum laude, in the top 20 percent of his class, from Wooster High School on June 5, 2022. He lettered in academics each year and received the President's Award for Outstanding Educational Excellence. Nick played baseball for three years and played the trumpet earlier in his high school career, earning first chair. He earned 21 College Credit Plus credits while attending high school. During his senior year, Nick participated in a work-study program in the electrical trade.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Nick participated in the Great Lakes Regional Teen Speech Club for six years, serving as president in 2018-19, and vice president and treasurer in 2021-22. He serves on the sound

and web crews in his local congregation and has been very involved with both teen and preteen camps as a camper and staff. In his free time Nick enjoys playing basketball and video games online with his friends.

Plans after graduation: Nick plans to continue full-time employment with Mark Smith Electric, Inc., and work toward earning his electrical license.

HARRISON WADDLE

Parents' names: Bryan and Rhonda Waddle

Congregation: Houston North, Texas

School accomplishments: During high school, Harrison garnered several accomplishments and awards, ranging from state speech competitions to AP Scholar with Distinction. He was very involved in his two-day-a-week hybrid school, through its student leadership program, where he received the highest award for excellent character. Harrison will have 34 college and AP credits as a result of his high school efforts.

Harrison was Student Council president and AV Club president and was involved in several other clubs, including the Yearbook Club and STEM tutoring program. Harrison graduated from homeschool and the Paideia Classical School with highest honors.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Harrison worked as a lifeguard and also became a manager at Chick-fil-A despite not working on the Sabbath.

Harrison always enjoyed attending CYC summer camps, both as staff and as a camper. He enjoyed church sports, volleyball and hiking. Harrison taught himself how to play the cello and performs with the Houston North ensemble group. Through his teen years, Harrison has volunteered in the Sabbath school program, ushering and other service activities.

Plans after graduation: After graduation Harrison will be attending Baylor University, double majoring in business entrepreneurship and human health science, while pursuing a premed track. He was accepted into the Honors Program and received multiple academic scholarship awards.

JACKSON WADDLE

Parents' names: Bryan and Rhonda Waddle

Congregation: Houston North, Texas

School accomplishments: Jackson achieved many academic accomplishments, including AP Scholar with Honor, AP Scholar with Distinction, placing in the top 5 percent on the National Latin Exam, graduating with honors for Paideia Classical School and consistently placing in speech and debate competitions.

In Paideia, Jackson had a student-teacher internship in which he taught biology and math classes. He taught the classes with creativity and passion to convey the material to his students. In addition to the student-teacher internship, he worked the last three years as a lifeguard.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Each summer Jackson enjoys serving at Camp Lone Star, which is one of his favorite activities. He enjoys attending summer camps and participating in church sports, and he has participated in the Houston Teen Speech Club. Jackson volunteers in the Sabbath school program, ushering and other service activities.

Plans after graduation: In the fall Jackson will be attending Baylor University and plans to major in accounting while pursuing a premed track. Jackson was accepted into the Hankamer Scholars program, which is for high-achieving students in the business field. He has received many academic scholarships. Jackson's career interest is attending medical school. While Jackson's high school education might be over, he still has a long road of learning ahead of him.

LONDON WHITLEY

Parents' names: Anthony and Jill Whitley

Congregation: Bentonville, Arkansas

School accomplishments: Landon graduated with honors from Bentonville High School on May 20, 2022, with a focus in culinary arts. Running in the community's 5K race was his idea of a good finish to every school year through junior high. He played the trumpet for two years in the junior high band. Once in high school, he competed on the varsity swim team, and he also worked a part-time job for the last two years.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Landon has attended summer teen camps, proms and staffed at preteen camp. He can usually be found hanging out with family and friends. His hobbies include reading, cooking, watching movies, playing board games, being outside and with his two dogs.

Plans after graduation: In the fall, Landon will attend the University of Arkansas to pursue a bachelor's degree in supply chain management from the Walton College of Business. He sees his future in a job that is engaging and allows him to solve problems. He's excited to begin the next chapter in his life!

JACKSON WITCHER

Parents' names: Mark and Catherine Witcher

Congregation: Roanoke, Virginia

School accomplishments: Jackson is graduating from high school this year with an excellent GPA. He has completed college preparatory classwork, while also pursuing numerous extracurricular hobbies and activities.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Jackson enjoys hunting, hiking and working on anything mechanical. He is volunteering at our local fire station, where, upon completion, he will receive Firefighter I certification. During high school, Jackson has been part of the setup and sound crew team for the Roanoke congregation. Additionally, he has been part of the parking

crew for multiple Feast of Tabernacle sites.

Plans after graduation: Beginning in the winter, Jackson will be attending Liberty University's School of Aeronautics with an academic scholarship. He is excited to start a career in aviation maintenance.

SYDNEY WITCHER

Parents' names: Mark and Catherine Witcher

Congregation: Roanoke, Virginia

School accomplishments: Sydney is graduating from high school at the age of 16 with an outstanding GPA. She was a member of the student government and participated in community outreach initiatives, including raising a significant donation for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Sydney started her own business, which has steadily grown over the last two years, while maintaining excellent academic standing.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Sydney enjoys traveling, baking, sewing and hiking. During her junior and senior years, she served as the Sabbath instruction teaching assistant in Roanoke.

Plans after graduation: Sydney has been accepted into the nursing (BSN) program at Radford University, where she will begin this fall with an academic scholarship. Sydney's future goals include learning how to eat fire. She plans on beginning with very hot

marshmallows (gelatin-free) to condition and train for such an ambition.

REAGAN YOST

Parents' names: Jeff and Stacie Yost

Congregation: Atlanta, Georgia

School accomplishments: Reagan graduated high school with honors and the successful completion of 10 AP classes. Throughout high school, she was a member of Beta Club, Sources of Strength, and Unity Club. She served as a student ambassador and was in English and science honor societies. She also took French for five years, capping off her studies with AP French. Reagan was in orchestra throughout high school and, in addition, was a member of Fayette Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.

Activities/hobbies/interests: Reagan maintained her job as a lifeguard at an aquatic center throughout all four years of high school and also gave swim lessons. In addition, she volunteered as a lifeguard at Chattahoochee Preteen Camp. Reagan serves her local congregation by playing violin for special music and serves as a greeter.

Plans after graduation: Reagan will attend Kennesaw State University and plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in interactive design.

COLLEGE GRADUATES 2022



ETHAN AVERETT

Ethan James Averett graduated from Collin College in Allen, Texas, in May 2022 with an associate of science degree in construction management, specializing in HVAC (heating, ventilation and air-conditioning).

Ethan is currently working for an HVAC company in Anna, Texas, while continuing his education to earn two more associate degrees in construction management, specializing in electrical and plumbing.

Ethan attends the Sherman, Texas, congregation, where he serves on the audio/video crew, as well as security.



JADE FALLBRIGHT

Jade Ashlyn Fallbright, daughter of Tammy Cressman and member of the Quakertown, Pennsylvania, congregation, recently graduated with her bachelor's in speech pathology. Jade graduated on the dean's list, an accomplishment which she also achieved every semester, all four years.

Jade is currently enrolled in an accelerated master's program for speech pathology at Misericordia University and plans to become a speech therapist. Outside of time spent in her education, Jade loves playing the piano, singing and traveling.



LYNDA HOWELL

On May 13, 2022, Lynda Howell graduated from the Herron School of Art at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Lynda earned her bachelor of fine arts degree in drawing and illustration, with minors in book arts and art history.

Lynda, who attends the Indianapolis, Indiana, congregation, plans to find a job in the arts field, ideally as an illustrator, fine artist and/or installation artist. She also plans to continue to develop connections in the Indianapolis art community and online.



KAITLYN HUIZAR

Kaitlyn Huizar graduated summa cum laude with her B.S. in psychology and a minor in biology from Angelo State University (ASU). After bringing in 48 credits from high school, she was able to finish her degree in two years, maintaining almost all A's. She was active on campus—participating in the Psychology Club and numerous honor societies—and served as an honorary undergraduate member of the Graduate Student Research Organization.

Kaitlyn participated in research both with the Psychology Club (rat basketball) and with the graduate students in the Experimental Psychology MS Program. Additionally, she presented her research review on Perceptions of Youth Mental Health at the Alpha Chi Convention in Austin and Alpha Chi Induction Ceremony. She also presented her rat basketball research at the ASU

Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Furthermore, Kaitlyn worked as a student research assistant and peer mentor at the ASU Porter Henderson Library and tutored at the local Kumon Math and Reading Center.

Kaitlyn will now be working as a research specialist at the Pedersen Brain Science Institute, Drug Discovery, at Johns Hopkins University before reapplying to neuroscience Ph.D. programs.



JORDAN IACOBUCCI

Jordan Iacobucci graduated from Dominican University’s Honors program summa cum laude with a degree in English. Upon graduation, he received the Holt, Hurst and Forkel Awards for Academic Excellence, as well as the distinction of being his class’s baccalaureate honoree, an honor that came with the responsibility of addressing the graduating class at the award ceremony before graduation.

Jordan is the son of Robert and Gail Iacobucci and attends the Raleigh, North Carolina, congregation. At church services, Jordan helps set up and take down the sound system and leads the quarterly “Kids Club” with the congregation’s children.

Now that he has graduated, Jordan plans to enter the writing industry full time, aiming for an editorial position with Screen Rant (the website he currently writes for in a freelance position), all while saving up to attend Foundation Institute in 2023.



MAKENZIE KAPALES

Makenzie Kapales graduated from the University of Arkansas on May 14, 2022. She graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science in biomedical engineering.

During Makenzie’s college career, she joined the ADPi sorority, volunteered over 100 hours in community service, and was a member of the honor society, Alpha Eta Mu Beta. Makenzie researched in the UArk Cardiovascular Biomechanics Lab and is pursuing a patent for the design of her senior project.

Makenzie’s plans for the future are to attend Foundation Institute in the fall of 2023. She would like to research effective treatments for Lyme disease.



ADMIRAL OZochIAWAEZE

Admiral Ozochiawaeze is a graduate of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, earning her bachelor’s degree in English literature with a concentration in creative writing and a minor in Japanese language. Being a newly minted alumna at Montclair State University is one of her greatest honors, as she has grown so much during her undergraduate career.

Admiral is so excited for the next chapter of her life, which includes continuing her journey in New York City working in public relations at Antenna.



ZOË OZochIAWAEZE

Zoë Ozochiawaeze is a graduate of the Gallatin School of Individualized Study at New York University. She pursued an individualized major, concentrating in the politics and business of the cultural industries with a minor in the business of entertainment, media and technology. She was in Gallatin because it was the best school for her academic goals, and with an interdisciplinary major, she was able to integrate all of her interests.

Throughout her academic career at NYU, Zoë made the dean’s list. She worked five jobs and held five internships, was a resident assistant her junior and senior years, and completed her senior colloquium. NYU was a place where she was able to grow as a leader and young professional, and she can’t wait to see what the alumni network and future has in store for her.



ASHLEY PEOPLES

Ashley Peoples graduated from Texas A&M University–Commerce (TAMUC) magna cum laude with a bachelor of arts degree in liberal studies, concentrating in writing, journalism, video production and Spanish. During her time there, she held down a part-time job at the campus recreation center, operating the climbing wall and gear center in the outdoor adventure department. Prior to attending TAMUC, Ashley started her college career at Arapahoe Community College in Littleton, Colorado.

After completing her associate of arts degree at ACC, Ashley took a break from academics and attended Foundation Institute in the class of 2018-2019. She has now accepted a full-time job using her skills as a video editor and producer at COGWA’s headquarters.

Ashley has been actively involved with the COGWA youth camps and enjoys playing hymns in her local congregations. She participates in many outdoor activities and has a passion for rock climbing and hiking with her family and friends.



COLTON PETTY

Colton Petty, of the Bentonville, Arkansas, congregation, recently graduated in just three years from the University of Arkansas with a bachelor of science in marketing.

Colton has had an internship for the last year that had led him to accepting a job as project manager in activity planning with Walmart Realty.



WESLEY PORTER

Wesley Porter graduated in December 2021 from the University of Central Arkansas with his bachelor of business administration in management information systems, with a focus in telecommunications and networking. This degree will allow him to work in various positions in the IT support and management fields. Wesley graduated cum laude; his GPA was 3.6, and he made the dean's list in 2021.

Wesley enjoys drawing, writing and creating 3D-printed art. He is currently working on IT certifications while looking for employment.

Wesley is the son of Keith and Jo Ann Porter and attends the Little Rock, Arkansas, congregation.



BEREYLN RESCO

Berelyn S. Resco, the daughter of Nancy A. Santuele and a member of Tacloban congregation in the Philippines, has successfully completed her bachelor's degree in education, majoring in social studies, at Leyte Normal University. It was an arduous path, considering the sudden transition of learning in a four-walled classroom to online learning due to the pandemic. There were unforeseen obstacles, but through God's guidance and strength, she has made it this far. It was a tough but worthwhile journey.

Berelyn would like to share a Bible verse that helped her get through it all: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).



ABIGAIL SANDERS

Abigail Sanders graduated from Mount Vernon Nazarene University summa cum laude this spring with a 3.98 GPA. She is the youngest girl to ever graduate from her university with a bachelor's degree, and she actually graduated from college before high school. She majored in biology and minored in chemistry. She graduated top of her class.

She was also the youngest person to present research at Mount Vernon Nazarene University, and at the age of 17, she was the youngest person to be accepted to medical school at her institution. She participated in a variety of service projects on campus. She also assisted in chemistry club and tutoring in the biology department during her junior and senior year.

Abigail is excited for the next step in her journey—attending medical school at Bastyr University in Seattle, Washington, this fall with the hopes of becoming a naturopathic doctor at the age of 22.



LAUREN SCHUMACHER

Lauren Schumacher, who attends the St. Petersburg, Florida, congregation, is a recent graduate from Liberty University with a B.S. in marketing: sales management and professional selling. Lauren finished her four-year degree in just 2½ years, making the dean's list every semester. She was also involved in volleyball and bowling intramural teams. (But, she says, the bowling was "all for kicks and giggles.")

Since graduation, Lauren has been working as a market manager for a healthcare data solutions company, Innovation. She is also planning to get her master's in healthcare administration in the next few years.

Lauren states, "God has blessed me with amazing friends throughout the Tampa Bay area, so in my free time, you can catch me out and about with the girls! A few other hobbies of mine include traveling, reading a good book in the sun, and going to the gym. My best wishes and congratulations go out to all the other recent graduates! Cheers to discovering more of God's plan for your life!"

FOI Hilltop Outreach Program: How to Volunteer in a Post-Pandemic World

By Kevin Carter

Q Quarantine. Isolation. Lockdown. These are just a few of the words that have echoed through our lives over the last two years. The COVID-19 pandemic has been stressful and challenging, but it has also drawn our attention to some of the things that we might have taken for granted in the past . . . like toilet paper and human interaction. It has changed the way that we look at life, making us worry that we might lose the simple things in life that we have grown accustomed to.

Just as our needs have changed during the pandemic, so have the needs of those who are less fortunate. Charities and nonprofit organizations have continued to serve their local communities during the pandemic, but many have struggled to find enough volunteers. After all, how can people serve while under the restrictions of a pandemic?

How to serve? Adapt!

How can you help in an increasingly isolated world? The answer is quite simple: adapt. Many charities have found ways to incorporate COVID safety protocols into their service and donation opportunities, and many of them have created ways to serve virtually as well! Whether in food kitchens, women's shelters, orphanages or nursing homes, there are new and existing ways to express love to those less fortunate in your community.

Another way to serve others is to simply provide companionship, whether in person or virtually. For many, the lockdown has created mental and emotional isolation that is every bit as real as their physical needs. There may not always be a way to socialize in person with those in a nursing home or a children's hospital, so what can we do? We adapt! Maybe you could become a pen pal for someone, or if that sounds too outdated, maybe try being a virtual "game pal" over a smartphone app instead!

Brainstorming meaningful ways to serve can feel daunting, especially during the current COVID-19 pandemic. If you are inspired to serve but don't know where to start, visit FOI's Hilltop Outreach Program! This program can be your partner for community service projects, helping via grants and ideas for projects you can accomplish in your local community.

Hilltop is rolling out a brand-new library of resources that will help you create and fund a service project, whether it's in-person or virtual. Our goal is to provide you with the resources you need, and if you have an idea that needs funding, our grant program could provide the means!

We're told in 1 Peter 4:10, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (English Standard Version). Now is the best time to express love and grace through service for our fellow man.

You can follow Hilltop on Instagram @HilltopOutreach, or visit us at foundationoutreachintl.org/projects/hilltop-outreach-program for updates on project ideas for your community! @@



10 BAPTISMS IN KENYA BEFORE PASSOVER

We have all been affected by the global pandemic to one degree or another.

While Kenya has not had high rates of COVID-19 illnesses and deaths as some parts of the world have, Kenya has nevertheless been affected by the inability of tourism to drive the economy. Whether on the destination end or the origination end, travel restrictions have made it difficult to get in the country.

This has, of course, also affected the senior pastor's visits to the Church members in Kenya. Normally, we would have three or four two-week visits during the year and a minister in the country for the Feast of Tabernacles.

My wife, Valerie, and I were able to visit the members in February of 2019, not that long before the coronavirus shut the world down. But that was the last minister visit until the Feast of 2021. Even then, due to gathering restrictions, we were not able to have everyone together as we typically strive to do for the Feast. We had two sites where the majority of members were able to travel to services and enjoy a meal together each day. Valerie and I alternated daily between the two sites.

Finally, for the First Day of Unleavened Bread this year, we were able to combine all three of the Kenyan congregations for a joyful service and a wonderful holy day meal together. We also had 36 members together for Passover services.

But prior to that—on April 10, the Sunday before Passover—I conducted a three-hour Bible study on baptism. With no minister in the country, a number had a strong desire to see a minister, complete counseling and be baptized. Some had been waiting for baptism since shortly



after our last visit in February 2019, and all those at the study had been counseling previously for baptism.

It should be noted that there is no Internet in rural Africa—no Zoom calls for counseling. Instead, I asked the leaders of each congregation to complete all 11 lessons of the Bible Study Course with everyone who was counseling for baptism. This tool ended up being very effective in covering subjects in detail that we would normally cover in baptism counseling. Especially helpful was Lesson 10, “The Process of Christian Conversion.” It took hours and hours for the men to translate the courses from English into the local language of Luo. They were also encouraged to read each and every scripture.

The end result was that later on Sunday, April 10, 2022, a total of 10 people—Kennedy Njoga, Albert Otieno, Winnie Odoyo, Hellen Okinyi and James Owino (all from the Ochuna congregation) and Irine David, Beatrice Kuye, Pauline Nicholas, Mercy Erick and Tobias Oloo (all from the Got Kachola congregation)—were baptized in Lake Victoria.

Tim Waddle

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ERIC AND SHEILA WILSON

On March 19, 2022, the Columbia, Missouri, congregation celebrated the 50th anniversary of Eric and Sheila Wilson with a surprise potluck.

After sharing a few words of thanks, they were kind enough to cut the cake that all of our young dessert connoisseurs were eyeing.

Besides a chance to enjoy a good cake, it was a chance to appreciate two longtime members who have made the Columbia church area the welcoming place that we all call home.

Shalynn Mellerup



CONGREGATION HONORS 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

After Sabbath services, May 7, 2022, the Wichita, Kansas, congregation honored longtime deacon and deaconess John and Nita Maskrid in recognition of their 50th wedding anniversary. The congregation gave them a gift bag and served a beautifully decorated cake and refreshments.

Although they both grew up in Wichita and graduated from the same high school, they never met until years later through mutual friends. Being recently divorced, neither Nita nor John was interested in dating. But one evening Nita called a friend for help with a bathroom remodeling project, and he brought John along to help. As they say, the rest is history. With their dry sense of humor, John and Nita love to tell people that they “met in a bathtub.”

When they married, John took on three children who still fondly think of him as their only dad, and a year later, their daughter Cindy was born.

John started reading *The Plain Truth* in 1969. He had been working with a couple Church members and through their discussions over lunch, he says, “the light slowly came on.”

Nita was fascinated when John told her a Friday crucifixion and Sunday resurrection “didn’t add up.” Her own Bible reading had never squared with the beliefs she was taught growing up.



They began attending church and were baptized in 1974. John was ordained as a deacon in 1980, and Nita was ordained as a deaconess in 1997.

When asked what advice they would have for young couples, they said, “Love each other,” and “Always put God first.”

Lynda Wasser

CONGREGATION HAS TWO-PART 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Athens, Ohio–Parkersburg, West Virginia, congregation celebrated the 50th anniversary of the local Parkersburg congregation this spring. (The Athens and the Parkersburg congregations combined as one congregation in 2017.)

The original anniversary celebration was scheduled for March 12, 2022, but had to be canceled due to bad weather. Thankfully, church services were still able to be held, allowing everyone to enjoy fellowship with those who had traveled in for the special event: Tim and Valerie Waddle, Lyle and Margie Welty, and Carolyn Winner—all of whom had served in the area at one time.

The celebration was rescheduled for April 2, 2022. Ten members who were part of the original congregation attended the rescheduled event. Former pastor Bill

Jahns and his wife Cheryl came, and he gave the sermon.

After services, brethren enjoyed a wonderful beef brisket dinner provided by the local ladies, as well as a special cake that pictured the first meeting hall. A picture slideshow compiled by some of the original members was shown, and members were able to take a stroll down memory lane.

In the end, the event was so momentous that it took two days to fully enjoy it!

Joshua Travers





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.

Births



Asher William Evans

On Monday, May 16, 2022, at 10:24 a.m. Asher William Evans met his parents, Zach and Sydney Evans. Although his arrival was two weeks later than expected, his parents greeted their son in the comfort of their home. He weighed 9 pounds 12 ounces and measured 22.25 inches long.

Surrounded by family, he is being loved and nurtured as a welcome addition to the Evans and Proctor family.

Chant'a Collier

Baptisms



Monica Barker

On April 2, 2022, Monica Barker of the London, Kentucky, congregation is very happy to announce that we have a new brother and sister in God's spiritual family.

She has been attending all her life. Her father, Rufus Wooten, a deacon in the Church, died last July. Her mother, Glenna; children, Aaron and Avery; and many of the brethren were there to witness and celebrate this special occasion.

Eric Evans



Virginia Benjamin

The St. Kitts and Nevis congregation is happy to announce the baptism of Virginia Benjamin on April 9, 2022. The ceremony was conducted by elder Don Simpson.

Virginia began her association with the Church two years ago, during the COVID-19 lockdown and was delighted when she was able to attend the in-person services. She loves her new Church family and is very excited about the Church's teachings about God's truth.

Virginia's baptism was witnessed by two of her four children and Verlene Simpson.

Please join us in welcoming Virginia to the family of God.

Don Simpson



Sharonda and James Jones

The Williamsburg, Virginia, congregation is very happy to announce that we have a new brother and sister in God's spiritual family.

On Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022, during our annual Virginia Beach Weekend, the Williamsburg congregation and visitors all gathered at an indoor swimming pool, where James and Sharonda Jones were baptized by their pastor Larry Lambert and assistant pastor Andrew Tranquada. Mark Winner and Mr. Tranquada assisted with the laying on of hands ceremony.

Afterward we all joined together for a very special Sabbath dinner. From left to right are Larry Lambert, Sharonda Jones, James Jones and Andrew Tranquada.

Larry Lambert



Kenya Reid

On March 26, 2022, the Trinidad and Tobago congregation rejoiced at the baptism of Kenya Reid. Kenya has been attending services for over a year and had been enthusiastically looking forward to her baptism.

She was baptized that Sabbath morning by Arnold Hampton, and the joy shone on her face throughout the day. The congregation also celebrated with a potluck after Sabbath services.

Marsha Basant



Joshua Kardell

The Twin Cities, Minnesota, congregation added a new family member with the baptism of Joshua Kardell on May 14, 2022.

Cory Erickson performed the laying on of hands ceremony. Attending the baptism were Joshua's family and several of his closest friends.

Joshua helps in many ways in his local congregation and uses his musical talent in numerous ways. Joshua has grown into a fine young man and will add so much to God's family.

Mary Peyton



Jordan Iacobucci

Jordan Iacobucci of the Raleigh, North Carolina, congregation was baptized on May 24, 2022, by his pastor, Ron Kelley. Jordan is the son of Robert and Gail Iacobucci. Jordan just graduated from college.

Ron Kelley



Ella Erickson

On the afternoon of April 24, 2022, Ella Erickson became a third-generation baptized member of the Body of Jesus Christ.

Ella's baptism was held during the regional Twin Cities, Minnesota, Families Glorifying God Weekend, and a number of close friends were able to travel to the Twin Cities to be in attendance for the joyous occasion.

An elder and longtime family friend, Dustin Ellison, performed the baptism. Ella's father, Cory Erickson, who is also an elder, led the laying on of hands, along with Larry Solomon (her pastor) and David Johnson, who was visiting as a guest speaker for the special weekend.

The ceremony concluded with hugs and tears of joy as Ella, surrounded by family and close friends, was welcomed into God's spiritual family.

Jana Ellison



Chase Petty

The Sedgwick, Arkansas, congregation is excited to announce the baptism of Chase Petty on April 9, 2022. Chase was baptized after Sabbath services by Justin Adkins, pastor of the Sedgwick and Little Rock, Arkansas, and Memphis, Tennessee, congregations.

Many family and friends gathered to witness the joyous occasion. Chase was born and raised in the Church and is a fourth-generation Christian.

Justin Adkins

connected online, combined for Pentecost, June 5, 2022, and witnessed a very special event. During the afternoon service, Jeff and Stacie Yost were ordained as deacon and deaconess.

Jeff and Stacie along with their four daughters, Madison, Reagan, McKinley and Kennedy, relocated to the metro Atlanta area from Oregon in 2017 and have served in a variety of ways ever since. They attend the Atlanta congregation.

The ordination was conducted by pastor Mark Winner, and Bruce Gore was involved in the laying on of hands.

This event added to our celebration of God's annual Festival of Firstfruits, and we are very excited for Jeff and Stacie to take this special journey in their faith.

Chant'a Collier

Obituaries



Ronald Ries

Ronald Ries, a member in the St. Louis, Missouri, congregation, died on May 28, 2021, at the age of 82. His beloved wife, Shirley, died four months earlier on Jan. 26. He is survived by his son, Kurt (Sheri) Ries; daughter, Kelly (Bob) Schoonover; four grandsons; two granddaughters; five great-grandsons; other relatives and many friends.

Ronald graduated from Roosevelt High School in St. Louis, where he met the love of his life, Shirley Bauman. They were married on July 9, 1958. He was a paratrooper in the U.S. Army and then worked in

Ordinations



Jeff and Stacie Yost

The Atlanta and Jefferson, Georgia, congregations, with Macon, Georgia,

sales for most of his life. Ronald also enjoyed working the front desk at his daughter and son-in-law's gym, Armstrong Health & Fitness in Troy, Missouri.

Ronald was baptized in May 1972 and was a loyal, dedicated member in the Church. Ronald and his wife were thankful to have attended the Feast in Branson in 2020. He enjoyed spending time with his family and liked running, traveling and watching the news.

Ronald and Shirley were very kind and caring people. They will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved them. The family held a joint funeral for both of them in early July of 2021.

John Foster



Shelby Faith

Shelby Faith, 82, a longtime faithful deaconess in the St. Louis, Missouri, congregation, died on June 29, 2021, after many years of heroic battles with cancer. She is survived by her devoted husband of 39 years, Bill Faith; two sons, Steve (Angela) and Mike (Margaret) Calascibetta; five grandchildren; a sister, Loretta (Dan) O'Driscoll; and a brother, Ken (Tressa) Reagan.

Shelby was truly a remarkable woman and touched the lives of many people of all ages. She was baptized 53 years ago and served in the Church throughout her years in the Church. Shelby and her husband (a deacon) both served on the local leadership team.

Shelby authored a number of the children's Bible stories that are currently on the Life, Hope & Truth website. She was also a valued member of our local congregation's Sabbath school program. Shelby and Bill would also make sure that the information

table was fully stocked with articles and booklets from the Church.

Even though Shelby was suffering from cancer, she was always concerned for others and prayed for them a lot. Shelby set a wonderful example of being positive and outgoing and had a deep love for all. She is truly missed by all who knew her.

John Foster



Gayle Hogland

Gayle Hogland, 71, a longtime member of the Rolla, Missouri, congregation, died on July 5, 2021. She is survived by her loving husband, Loal Gene Hogland, Jr.; daughters Rebecca Hogland, Carrie Chavez (Hogland) and Amy Hogland; and three grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Stephanie Hogland.

Gayle and Gene were married for 53 years. Both were baptized in 1970 and served in the Church together. She would often accompany her husband on the piano while he led songs. Gayle also loved to cook family recipes and prepared them for church potlucks.

Gayle worked as a registered nurse for many years and cared for numerous patients. She used her knowledge to help others outside of work, serving as a first responder to accidents, volunteering at church camp, and helping friends or family members who were seeking health advice. She loved her family and was like a mother to many Church members' children through the years.

Gayle and Gene enjoyed the farm and country lifestyle immensely. But they were quick to travel as the opportunity would arise and enjoyed attending the Feast of Tabernacles. She will be missed as a vibrant member in Rolla.

John Foster



Donald Loveland

Donald S. Loveland, 80, of the Rolla, Missouri, congregation, died Thursday, April 28, 2022. He served as a faithful deacon for many years and was loved and appreciated by all.

Don was born June 15, 1941, in Sparta, Illinois. He is survived by his wife of over 50 years, Barbara; two daughters, Linda (Phil) Daniels and Karen Loveland; four grandchildren, Kyle, Katie, Luke and Ryan Daniels; a sister, Dorothy (Donald) Dykes; plus a number of nieces and nephews and many friends.

During the Cuban Missile Crisis, Don was stationed in Cuba and served in the Navy. He was involved in the tracking of ships surrounding Cuba.

After coming into the Church, he worked for a brief time at the Ambassador College Press in Pasadena, California. Later, he and his family moved to Missouri, where he worked for 29 years as a printing press operator at the University of Missouri–Rolla (UMR).

Don enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening and spending time with his family. He also was so much a part of the Rolla congregation that, in a sense, he was "Rolla" and will be greatly missed.

The one hope we all have was his hope as well—the coming of Jesus Christ to establish the Kingdom of God.

John Foster



Marcia Dungan

Marcia Dungan, 76, a faithful member of the Mobile, Alabama, congregation, went to sleep Oct. 29, 2021.

Marcia was baptized Aug. 15, 1976. She was preceded in death by her husband, Eddie Dungan, in 2004. She was a loving mother of four children: Eddie (Janet) Dungan, Sherrill (Kurt) Tannert, Anne (Matthew) Lucas and Sam (Shaleena) Dungan. In addition to her children, she is survived by her sister, Mary Gregson; brother, David Bullock; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Marcia's life was centered around serving God and His Church. She served at many church summer camps, as well as at the Feast and in her local church congregation. She was a wonderful friend and confidant to many. Her kind, loving words and wisdom will be greatly missed by all.

Marcia loved to bake bread and sew. She enjoyed fishing, gardening and traveling with her children, as well as serving at her local farmer's market, where she sold her wonderful baked goods and herbs.

We will miss Marcia and look forward to seeing her again in God's Kingdom.

Debbie Daugherty



Mary Elizabeth Hewston

Mary Elizabeth Hewston, 92, died peacefully at home on April 7, 2022, following a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease, as well as other health complications. She had been lovingly cared for by her daughter Karen for many years prior to her death.

She was a longtime member of the Augusta, Georgia, congregation and was baptized in 1968.

Mary Elizabeth was born June 25, 1929, to George and Era Jones in

Atlanta, Georgia. After graduating from high school, she went to business school in Atlanta and later accepted a job with Colonial Stores in Columbia, South Carolina, where she met her future husband, William Hewston. She was also a keypunch instructor in an Aiken, South Carolina, business school.

Mary Elizabeth was very creative and enjoyed gardening, interior decorating and designing drapery. She was an excellent cook and enjoyed entertaining and bringing people together.

In addition to her parents, Mary Elizabeth was preceded in death by her husband, William B. Hewston; one grandson; one sister; and two brothers. She is survived by her children, Bruce, Stanley, Bryan, Karen, Kim and Deborah—as well as 15 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, two sisters and one brother.

Mary Elizabeth (Mom) will be greatly missed. We look forward to seeing her again in God's Kingdom.

Ann Hewston

Tribute



Bob Mitchell

Bobby Lee Mitchell, who served as an elder in the Sacramento, California, congregation, died on Jan. 23, 2022, at the age of 89. He was born the sixth child of eight on an Alabama cotton farm on June 12, 1932.

For the past 55 years, Bob and his wife, Lois, lived in a home they built together in Granite Bay, California. A funeral service, conducted by pastor David Register, was held Feb. 16, 2022, in Roseville, California.

After a childhood spent picking cotton and farming, Bob set out on his own at the age of 17. Having never gone farther than 25 miles from the farm, he entered the Air Force in 1950, serving three years—one in Iceland—and was promoted to staff sergeant.

After the service, he entered the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, completing a bachelor's degree in business administration and a two-year master's program in industrial management. While a student, 23-year-old Bob married 18-year-old Lois. Over the next 66 years together, they celebrated family, served their

church congregation and traveled the world.

Bob was a university auditor in Alabama, a regional manager and plant manager for a large tire company in Louisiana and Mississippi, a real estate broker in California (owning his own brokerages), and a property maintenance company owner until he retired at the age of 84.

In the 1960s, while they were in their 30s and parents to two small children, Bob and Lois began listening to the Church's radio broadcast and studying the *Bible Correspondence Course*. They were baptized days before Passover in 1972.

Bob was ordained a deacon in 1976 and an elder in 1995. Sabbath was the highlight of every week. He loved being with the brethren. He was always one of the first to arrive at church, excited to be there, and one of the last to leave.

He died while in his 50th year as a baptized member. Although he had been weakened by health challenges in his last year, his voice always returned to its former strength when he prayed. As was his custom, he finished his last prayers, reciting Matthew 6:13 with a tender heart: "For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

He is survived by his wife, Lois Jean Hobson Mitchell; daughter, Theresa Yutzy, and son-in-law Craig; son, Bobby Lee Mitchell II; granddaughter, Victoria Kovanis, and grandson-in-law Evan; great-grandson, George Mitchell Kovanis; and great-granddaughter, Vivian Lois Kovanis.

Theresa Yutzy

YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

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