

OneAccord

May/June 2022



Sharpening Iron
The Gift That Changes Everything

Feast of Tabernacles
Choral Voices and Musical
Talents Needed!

Journeys and Reflections
Paul and Jane Suckling

Tribute
Flavious Adkins

personal from the president

Counting to 50

Pentecost is the third festival out of seven each year. In God's plan of salvation, it tells the amazing story of the birth of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is also called the harvest of firstfruits and pictures the sealing of God's spiritual firstfruits. It is truly a time to celebrate. But Pentecost is the only festival that isn't assigned a fixed date. Passover is in the evening of the 14th day of the first month (Abib or Nisan). The Days of Unleavened Bread begin on the 15th day of the first month and continue until the end of the 21st day of the first month. The Feast of Trumpets is on the first day of the seventh month and Atonement is on the 10th day. The Feast of Tabernacles begins on the 15th and ends on the 21st; and the Last Great Day (the Eighth Day) falls on the 22nd day of the seventh month.

But Pentecost is quite different. The instructions are to "count 50 days" from the day after the Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread until the day after the seventh Sabbath (Leviticus 23:15-16), for a total of 50 days. These few verses in Leviticus have produced more debate than just about any other section of Scripture. The Jews see Pentecost (or the Feast of Weeks) as being a set date—Sivan 6 on the Hebrew calendar. But that really doesn't coincide with the need for counting. This special and unique command to "count" creates the controversy.

For several years the Church observed Pentecost on Monday, believing that the count to 50 meant that the day celebrated as Pentecost would be 50 days "from" the day after the Sabbath, which would be a Sunday. Normally when someone says one week from today, he isn't including "today." It was only after months of study that it was decided that the proper interpretation of the Hebrew instruction to *count from* was to *count beginning with*. This was confirmed by scholars to be the actual intent of the Hebrew words used in Leviticus.

It was in 1974 that the Church made the change and began observing Pentecost on the 50th day—"beginning with" the day after

the Sabbath and arriving at a Sunday (not a Monday) for the date of the holy day. "The day after the Sabbath" (Leviticus 23:15) was determined to be the Sunday that falls after Passover each year and during the Days of Unleavened Bread and is also the date for the wave-sheaf offering in ancient Israel. Of course, the decision made in 1974 hasn't put to rest all the debate surrounding Pentecost.

This year we began the 50-day countdown with Sunday, April 17, as day one. Passover was the previous Thursday night, which on the Hebrew calendar, was the evening of the 14th day of the first month. That made Sunday, April 17, the day after the Sabbath during Unleavened Bread and day one for our count. Seven full weeks from April 17 will bring you to Saturday, June 4, and the next day, the 50th day brings us to Sunday, June 5, as the date for Pentecost this year.

There is something important about actually counting the 50 days, but one thing we must not forget is the meaning of this very special holy day—the birth of the New Testament Church, the coming of the Holy Spirit and the sealing of the firstfruits.

I wish all of you a most wonderful Feast of Pentecost—celebrated 50 days from the day after the Sabbath, the Sunday during Unleavened Bread, the day on which the wave sheaf was offered many years ago in ancient Israel.



Jim Franks

President
Church of God, a Worldwide Association



CHURCH of GOD

A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION, INC.

© 2022 Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc. All rights reserved.

Ministerial Board of Directors: David Baker, Arnold Hampton, Joel Meeker, Larry Salyer, Richard Thompson, Leon Walker and Lyle Welty

President: Jim Franks; **Media operation manager:** Clyde Kilough; **Managing editor:** David Hicks; **Copy editor:** Becky Bennett; **Social media:** Hailey Willoughby

Doctrinal reviewers: Neil Hart, Jack Hendren, Steve Moody, Frank Pierce

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

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the New King James Version (© 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.). Used by permission. All rights reserved.

By submitting photographs or articles to the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc. ("Church") or to *One Accord*, a contributor gives the Church permission and a nonexclusive license to use or publish any such submissions without any compensation to the contributor. The contributor further agrees that any such submission will be construed in the broadest possible terms, including, but not limited to, the right to edit, crop or otherwise manipulate the submission.

This publication is not to be sold. Free educational material.

- 4 | **Sharpening Iron**
The Gift That Changes Everything
- 5 | **Feast of Tabernacles**
Choral Voices and Musical Talents Needed!
- 6 | **Journeys and Reflections**
Paul and Jane Suckling
- 8 | **Church Potluck**
- 12 | **Announcements**
- 15 | **Tribute**
Flavious Adkins



SHARPENING IRON

THE GIFT THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

God's Holy Spirit is a help and comfort in the lives of His people. But more miraculous still is how God uses the Holy Spirit to work out His plan of salvation.

By Larry Salyer

Have you ever received the perfect gift—just the right thing at exactly the right time? If you are a Christian, a member of the spiritual Body of Christ, then the answer is “Yes!” God’s Word tells us, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights” (James 1:17). God has given His chosen people many good gifts. He opened our eyes to the truth of His Word. He called us out of darkness into the light. He granted us repentance. He gave us His only Son as a sacrifice for sin. He forgave us our sins and removed the penalty of eternal death. But He knew that it wasn’t enough! He knew that as human beings, powerless to resist the constant influence of Satan the devil, we would put ourselves right back under the death penalty. We needed the power to live in submission to God.

Pentecost and the early harvest

The Day of Pentecost was given to ancient Israel as a celebration of the early harvest—coming in the early summer—the first of two annual harvest seasons in Palestine. God has used the harvest seasons to paint a picture of His master plan of salvation for mankind. He gave Israel seven annual festivals, each of them with a future spiritual fulfillment.

This early, smaller harvest season reveals a wonderful truth and gives us a unique perspective on human life in our time. It shows us that God is not seeking to convert all people in this age. Rather, He is calling out a “little flock” (Luke 12:32) and preparing them to serve in the greater harvest—of virtually the whole human race—during the millennial rule of Jesus Christ and the White Throne Judgment to follow (Hebrews 8:10; Revelation 20:4, 11-12). These time periods are represented successively by

the Feast of Tabernacles and the Eighth Day of the Feast, commonly called the Last Great Day. The Bible indicates that during these two time frames, the vast majority of all who have ever lived will be taught the truth of God and will be offered salvation. But God is carrying out His plan in a step-by-step manner. We are living in the age of the Church, founded on Pentecost in A.D. 31.

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come,” a few days after Jesus had ascended to heaven, God sent the Holy Spirit to Christ’s disciples in a startling display of His miraculous power. “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues [languages], as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:1-4). Though some of the patriarchs and prophets of old had previously received the Holy Spirit individually, the nation of Israel had never received it. But now a whole class of people was given this wonderful gift collectively, binding them together in unity (see Ephesians 4:1-6). Today we recognize that event as the founding of the New Testament Church of God.

Becoming children of God

This miracle began to fulfill the prophecy to Israel in which God says, “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them” (Ezekiel 36:27). The author of Hebrews paraphrases the prophecy of Jeremiah this way: “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (Hebrews 8:10).

It is not too difficult to believe that the Holy Spirit can change human behavior, giving us the power to withstand

the fiery darts of the wicked one and to love God's law. Much more profound is the discovery that by having the Holy Spirit in our minds we become the begotten children of God.

This truth is sprinkled throughout the New Testament, but a couple of statements by Paul in the book of Romans will summarize it: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God" (8:14). "The Spirit [it]self bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ" (8:16-17).

Yes, we are to become heirs with Christ of all that God will give Him in that day. God says He is "bringing many sons to glory" (Hebrews 2:10). But in this age He has called only a handful into His Church. The rest will be called in future ages. We are the early harvest, growing and preparing for the change into spirit children of God when Christ returns. For He says, "The trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (1 Corinthians 15:52).

Let us keep the Feast of Pentecost with great rejoicing and thanksgiving to God for His innumerable and unsearchable gifts. ©⁴

Choral Voices and Musical Talents Needed!

As you read this short article, Festival registration is now open, and the 2022 Feast of Tabernacles will soon be upon us!

Much preparation goes into helping the Feast to be uplifting, inspiring and enjoyable for God's people, as it has been for so many years.

Most of us understand that volunteers are requested and needed for everything that pertains to the Feast, but one of the areas that can be overlooked is *music*, specifically *choir music*. While some may not have the voice or musical capabilities to help out in this area, there are many who have been blessed by God and given a gift for music and singing. We usually have enough women who volunteer, but there is an important need for you men to help as well!



Throughout Scripture, musicians and singers are shown to be important in God's tabernacle, temple and His heavenly throne room. *God loves good music*, and He loves our efforts to please Him through music in our worship service. From the time of creation, we see

that even the angels of God testified of this fact:

"When the morning stars *sang together* and all the sons of God shouted for joy" (Job 38:7, emphasis added throughout).

Throughout the Bible, we see the importance of collective music and singing as a part of our reverence and worship of our Almighty God.

At the Feast of Tabernacles, we have the opportunity to be involved with this integral part of serving among the congregation as we take in a glimpse of the future:

"They *sing the song of Moses*, the servant of God, and *the song of the Lamb*, saying, 'Great and amazing are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested'" (Revelation 15:3-4).

If you have talent and capability in these areas, please know that your help and service is truly appreciated, and our Father and Jesus Christ are truly pleased.

Please don't wait! There is preparation, planning and practice that must go into the Festival musical presentations. There is work involved, but it is a wonderful and rewarding experience!

Go to your COGWA Portal account and sign up as soon as possible! And have a joyous Feast! ©⁴

Eric Evans and the Special Music Team

Paul and Jane Suckling



In December 2021 Paul Suckling, pastor of the COGWA New England congregations, and his wife, Jane, retired from the full-time ministry after more than 50 years of service. Theirs has been an interesting and productive journey.

It started when a friend gave him some copies of a religious magazine that piqued his curiosity. The more he read, the more he began learning the true teachings of the Bible—amazing things he had never known before. His quest for understanding eventually led him to Ambassador College and membership in the Church of God.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Suckling attended Ambassador College in Bricket Wood, England, in the 1960s, and following graduation in 1967, Paul and Jane (née Johnson) married. In 1968 he was ordained into the ministry of the Worldwide Church of God during the Feast of Tabernacles at Minehead, England.

In the decades that followed, the Sucklings served in both the United Kingdom and the United States. They have two children, Sarah and Andrew, and two grandchildren, Simone and Jensen. Recently, the Sucklings reflected on their years of dedication to the Church.

A world traveler with many hats

Early in Mr. Suckling's ministry, he not only attended to his regular church duties in England, but also traveled to diverse parts of the world (among them, Israel and Jordan, and Kenya, Ghana and other African countries) to support international Church membership and growth. At one point, he was responsible for supporting a monthly church service in Malta. He met scores of people and performed numerous baptisms, some of which occurred in the Nile River and the Mediterranean Sea.

From teens and summer camp . . .

For 25 years the Sucklings were involved with the Church's summer youth education program (SEP), which included a camp held on the shores of Loch Lomond in southern Scotland. Mr. Suckling began overseeing the SEP camp as camp director in 1969.

The program launched with only a handful of teen campers, but it quickly grew to become one of the largest and most popular camps in the area, hosting more than 300 teens from 34 countries each summer.

SEP Scotland attracted many visitors, including local officials and noteworthy speakers, Herbert Armstrong among them. During one of his visits, the Sucklings enjoyed a few laughs when Mr. Armstrong discovered a cache of personal items (i.e., shoes, clothes) that an enterprising young camper had hidden under some bunk blankets, rather than storing them in the preferred way, in a closet.

The location was ideal for water activities, as well as for archery, aerobics classes and horseback riding. The Sucklings' children attended camp and, at one point, participated in leading some of the camp activities themselves. Mr. and Mrs. Suckling got to know hundreds of campers, often inviting them to visit their home in London, England. They touched many lives.

. . . to buildings and grounds and beyond

In addition to his camp and ministerial duties, Mr. Suckling was also the director of buildings and grounds

for the Ambassador College Bricket Wood campus—a position he held from his graduation until the campus was shuttered in 1974.

Over the years, Mr. Suckling has been featured in many church publications and has authored and reviewed numerous Church booklets and articles (see LifeHopeandTruth.com).

Reflections

During a recent discussion, Mr. Suckling expressed gratitude for his wife and reflected on the considerable support and stability she brought to the family. They appreciate the many hundreds of people they have met and the opportunities they had to serve and support God’s work. Judging by the positive feedback from the brethren over the years, that appreciation has been mutual.

On Dec. 18, 2021, the combined New England congregations hosted a special celebration marking the Sucklings’ retirement, with Jim Franks and Doug Horchak, and their wives, in attendance. Presentations included words like *stability*, *truth*, *joy* and *human kindness*—fitting descriptors of a lifetime of faithful service. (For more on the retirement weekend, please see Doug Horchak’s *In Accord* from Dec. 23, 2021.) @@@



On the Road Again

Following are the positions of service held by the Sucklings between 1967 and 2021:

- 1967 Graduated from Ambassador College, Bricket Wood, England
- 1967 Managed Bricket Wood Estate office
- 1968 Ministerial assistant, Bristol and Birmingham, England
- 1968 Ordained into the ministry
- 1968-1971 Assistant pastor, Bristol and Birmingham, England
- 1969-1992 Directed SEP youth camp in United Kingdom
- 1971-1974 Director of buildings and grounds, Bricket Wood, England
- 1971-1975 Pastor, Newcastle, England
- 1976-1982 Pastor, Bricket Wood, England
- 1976-1993 Director of Ministerial Services for United Kingdom
- 1993 Moved to United States pastoral ministry
- 1993-1996 Pastor, Norfolk and Williamsburg, Virginia
- 1996-2008 Regional pastor of northeast region
- 1996-2021 Pastor, Boston and Leicester, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode Island

CHURCH POTLUCK

What's cooking in your congregation?

BIRMINGHAM-TRENTON WINTER SOCIAL

On Jan. 22 about 72 brethren of the Birmingham, Alabama, and Trenton, Georgia, congregations came together for services and their first social evening in nearly two years! Visitors from as far away as Texas joined to enjoy the togetherness and entertainment. Frosty temperatures outside could not chill the warm fellowship, laughter and love that flowed throughout the evening.

The evening began with a chili-themed potluck, with nine cooks entering a chili cook-off. A panel of five expert judges carefully sampled each entry and declared first-, second- and third-place winners. Prizes were then awarded to the winners.

One highlight of the evening was the arts and crafts display. Many members and youths brought a great variety of artistic exhibits that they had either painted, sketched, sewn, tailored, welded or otherwise created. The hidden talents of so many were a surprise to everyone.

Next came the variety show, in which participants of all ages presented comedy skits, musical performances, reading selections and other acts that brought smiles and laughter for over an hour.

Members expressed a deep spirit of appreciation for being able to spend time together as a spiritual family. We are already planning for our next Chili-Crafts-Variety Show social!

Karen Claunch



BUFFALO HOLDS WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION

Following sunset on Feb. 5, the Buffalo, New York, congregation held its annual white elephant auction, hosted by Anne Koenig and Kate Manning.

All ages were involved, including the younger members of the congregation, who enjoyed participating. This made for a very lively and fun time for all involved.

The member who gets the white elephant hidden in their winnings will help assist in next year's auction. This year Hope Henderson (7 years old) and Anna Messerly (8 years old) won the white elephants and will work with Anne Koenig for the next auction, to be held in the winter of 2023.

Despite having fewer auction items, the congregation was still able to raise \$500, which will be used to fund activities for the local congregation for the remainder of the year.

Stephan Koenig



ASHEVILLE HOT DOG ROAST

The Asheville, North Carolina, church had the first of what we hope will be many hot dog roasts on April 2. We had 28 people in attendance. We roasted beef hot dogs and homemade marshmallows (provided by Shea Dreaden) and served baked potatoes and all the fixings for those who do not eat hot dogs.

There was lots of food, fun and fellowship sitting around the firepit. The children had fun learning to roast the hot dogs and marshmallows. We hope to make this an annual event.

Judy Ferenchiak



BENTONVILLE FAMILY FUN SHOW

On Jan. 29, the combined western Arkansas congregations joined forces in Bentonville, Arkansas, for our (sometimes) biennial family fun show!

Since the event had been “on hold” for the past few years, this year’s event was especially wonderful! Skits ranged from stand-up comedy, piano, vocal solos and plenty of group comedy skits.

All in all, this was another family-bonding event where the audience was as much a part of the event as the performers!

Lyndi Fultz



BENTONVILLE SENIOR LUNCHEON

The Bentonville, Arkansas, congregation was treated to a senior luncheon before Sabbath services on Feb. 12. Teens and young adults from the combined western Arkansas congregations served the seniors and spent time getting to know them over a three-course meal.

The focus of Sabbath services was showing appreciation for the seniors. The teens and young adults also served in the following capacities: door greeting, song leading, sermonette and opening and closing prayers.

Lyndi Fultz

SHERMAN ENJOYS PIZZA AND GAMES

On March 5 the Sherman, Texas, congregation held its first potluck get-together in over two years. We held an afternoon Sabbath service, and at the conclusion of the sermon, given by Clyde Kilough, approximately 114 brethren stayed for pizza, salad and a dessert potluck.

The meal was followed by a game night, which started with a get-acquainted event. There were nine questions that had to be answered about individuals in the congregation, and those people had to sign off on the game sheet that they had been asked.

We then had a trivia game and brain teasers led by our pastor, Andy Burnett. At the end of that event groups broke off to play other games, and a movie was played for the children.

It was so very good to be together again as family and enjoy food, fun and fellowship!

Belinda McCloud



GREENSBORO WELCOMES FORMER INMATE

After 38 years of imprisonment, Nicholas Bolinger, age 79, was released on March 28 and was able to celebrate his first-ever opportunity to attend Sabbath services with the church brethren in Greensboro, North Carolina. A reception, complete with a special "welcome home" cake, was held for Nicholas after services.

Nicholas was called into God's Church around 1986 after selecting a book from the prison library that he thought was about history. The book was *Mystery of the Ages*, by Herbert W. Armstrong.

Ron Kelley, who started pastoring in North Carolina in 2007, began having regular visits with Nicholas and after overcoming some roadblocks put up by the prison officials, Nick was able to be baptized on Oct. 28, 2008. He has grown spiritually over the years despite his surroundings.

Nicholas was released via a compassionate release program because he is suffering from terminal cancer. All of the brethren are praying for his healing so that he might enjoy some years of freedom and his new Church family.

Ron Kelley

TEEN FORMAL AND BASKETBALL WEEKEND HELD IN DALLAS

Sixty-three teens from Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, California and Canada gathered in North Texas for the South Central Regional Teen Formal, "A Taste of Italy," Feb. 26.

Earlier that Sabbath, Joel Meeker presented the sermon ("10 of the Most Important Bible Passages for Teens") in Dallas with 278 in attendance. The evening's activities included a catered steak dinner, a slide show honoring the 15 graduating seniors present, and a dance.

On Sunday preteens, teens and adults took to the courts for a full day of basketball.

Andy Burnett



GREENSBORO HONORS SHUT-IN

After services on the Sabbath of Feb. 19, the Greensboro, North Carolina, congregation participated in a Zoom visit with Mildred Dowell, one of our shut-in members, on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

We were able to extend our greetings to her, as she was also able to see and hear us from a laptop operated by her daughter. This photo is of the congregation waving to her and wishing her a happy birthday.

Ron Kelley
Photo by Kristin Bettes



VAN BUREN HONORS SENIORS WITH LUNCHEON

After services on the Sabbath of Feb. 19, the seniors of the Van Buren, Arkansas, congregation were treated to an elegant luncheon served by an army of young volunteers.

The volunteers, who came from both the Van Buren and the Bentonville, Arkansas, congregations, descended on the scene to serve a delectable and appetizing meal. They made the seniors feel truly special with their attitude of honor, service and beautiful smiles.

Aurora Gossett





COLUMBIA COOKS CHILI AND NAMES THAT TUNE

Members of the Columbia, South Carolina, congregation gathered on Feb. 12, for a chili cook-off and “Name That Tune” social.

After services, we started out with a chili contest. Members brought their best chili recipes, and our panel of three expert chili judges tasted all the entries. Our grand prize winner was Kristin Leitzsey. She was awarded a new all-wood kitchen spoon!

While our judges were busy judging, everyone in the congregation enjoyed a wonderful meal of chili (of course), side items and many delicious desserts.

After the potluck, we divided into groups of four for a rousing game of “Name That Tune and Artist.” Our categories were music from the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and 2000s.

The master of ceremonies for our event was Ken Zenauskas. A song was played until someone recognized it and raised his or her hand. Points were given for knowing the song, and additional points for knowing the artist. We all had a lively and exciting time.

Nancy Lochner



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



Zayne Joseph Shannon

Tim and Nikki Shannon of the Van Buren, Arkansas, congregation are thrilled to announce the birth of their beautiful and healthy baby boy, Zayne Joseph Shannon, who was born on Sept. 3, 2021. He weighed 6.4 pounds at birth.

Zayne represents a third generation of the Shannon family attending

the Church of God. His parents and siblings (Logan, Bruce and Titus), as well as the congregation, are happy to have him as an addition to the family of God.

Aurora Gossett



Henry Hilgen

Aaron and Ashley Hilgen of the Kansas City, Kansas, congregation are pleased to announce the birth of their son. Henry Dean Hilgen was born on Feb. 9, 2022, at 5:15 p.m.

Hazel, Henry’s big sister, is especially overjoyed! Everyone is happy and healthy.

Caleb Froedge



Jack Finnegan

Kelly and Stacey Finnegan of the Birmingham, Alabama, congregation are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Jack Wade. Jack is the grandson of Andy and Lisa Burnett and great-grandson of Larry and Judy Salyer of the Dallas and Sherman, Texas, congregations.

Jack was born six weeks early, on Nov. 29, 2021, at 3:21 p.m. He weighed 5 pounds even and measured 19.5 inches long.

Jack is doing great despite his early arrival and is such a blessing to the whole family.

Paul Luecke

Baptisms



Kyle Ingram

We are happy to announce the baptism of Kyle Ingram of the DeFuniak Springs, Florida, congregation on Feb. 20, 2022, by his pastor, Wes Cohron.

His family and friends surrounded him, and a luncheon was enjoyed by all afterward. We have watched Kyle grow up through the years to become a fine young man. He is also a third-generation Christian. We are so excited to welcome Kyle as a brother in the family of God.

Debbie Daugherty



Heidi Vollbrecht

The Mobile, Alabama, congregation is excited to announce the baptism of Heidi Vollbrecht on March 20, 2022, by her pastor, Wes Cohron.

She was baptized at the home of Loree Rhodes on a beautiful spring day, but Heidi will tell you the pool was still cold.

She was surrounded by a few of her new brothers and sisters in Christ, who all enjoyed rejoicing with her. A small luncheon was enjoyed by all. Welcome to the family of God, Heidi.

Debbie Daugherty



John Klimek

John Klimek, a member of the Miami, Florida, congregation, was baptized by David Jackson, pastor of the Miami and West Palm Beach, Florida, congregations on April 8, 2022. The laying on of hands was performed by Mr. Jackson and Jim McTiernan, an elder in the St. Petersburg, Florida, congregation and a friend of John's for over 30 years.

After the ceremony, John's wife Susan, Rose McTiernan, and Faye Mongbeh welcomed John into the family of God with bear hugs!

John and Susan will be attending the Quakertown, Pennsylvania, congregation when they are not living in Southern Florida.

David Jackson



Brandyn Rochelle, Eric McLeod, Jonathan and Brianna Lillibridge, Brann and Brooke Mauldin, Darrion and Saivonne Borders

The Austin, Texas, church welcomed eight new members into the Body of Christ on Sabbath, April 9, 2022.

Pictured (from left to right) are David Treybig (pastor of the Austin congregation) and David Gatley (assistant pastor of the San Antonio congregation), who together performed the baptisms, and new members Brandyn Rochelle of Austin, Eric McLeod of Round Rock,

Jonathan and Brianna Lillibridge of Georgetown, Brann and Brooke Mauldin of Temple, and Darrion and Saivonne Borders of Austin. Assisting Mr. Treybig and Mr. Gatley in the laying on of hands were elders Clay Mills, Jack Hendren and Ben Mauldin, father of Brann Mauldin.

The congregation was excited to be part of this momentous occasion.

After the baptisms and laying on of hands, the new members were treated to a reception of cake and snacks. Welcome to the family!

Arduith Weiss

Anniversaries



Jimmy and Janette Thomas

Jimmy and Janette Thomas will celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary on May 12, 2022.

But their common roots in the Church of God go back 60 years. They were both baptized on Jan. 7, 1962—two of several baptized in Dallas that day.

Early in 1961 Jimmy Thomas had begun listening to *The World Tomorrow* broadcast, and he and his first wife began attending services on the Feast of Trumpets in 1961 with their children—ultimately seven.

Janette Steele was introduced to the Church by her parents. Janette brought her four young children to services in Dallas by herself. Her husband was, at that time, the pastor of a Sunday-keeping church.

Not only were Jimmy and Janette baptized on the same day, they lived in the same town. Janette gave piano lessons to one of Jimmy's daughters. Jimmy picked up raw milk from a dairy farm for several Church families—including Janette's.

But in a couple of years, Janette's husband had a job change, and the Steele family moved away.

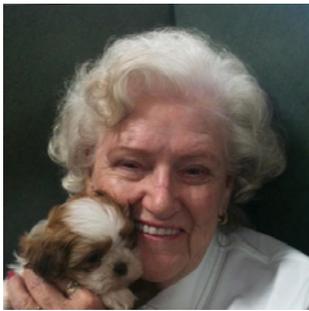
The years passed by. Jimmy and Janette only occasionally saw each other at Feasts. When they again saw each other at the 2011 Feast in Branson, they were both single. Janette had been widowed after Ralph's death in 2010; Jimmy had been divorced years earlier.

Janette got sick that Feast, and Jimmy helped her out. And that was the beginning of their renewed friendship and ultimately led to their marriage.

Jimmy and Janette are members of the Dallas congregation, but are unable to attend in person because of their health.

Becky Bennett

Obituaries



Donna Sacoulas

Donna Paige Sacoulas was born Sept. 11, 1934, in Clarksburg, West Virginia. There she met her husband, John, who preceded her in death in 2010 after 50 years of marriage. Donna died on Jan. 24, 2022, after battling several illnesses over the years.

As newlyweds, John and Donna moved to Georgetown, Pennsylvania, where they raised goats on their farm and reared their three sons, Gregory, Jerry and John.

John and Donna began attending the Youngtown, Ohio, Worldwide Church of God congregation in 1970. After John retired, they spent their winters in Florida and summers in Pennsylvania.

When they became Floridians full time, they attended the West Palm Beach congregation and worked many years together in their family-owned swimming pool business. Donna and John were loved in the congregation and known for their generosity, hosting 77 baptisms in their Florida home.

After John's death, Donna continued to spread joy and smiles to all who knew her, always maintaining her cheerful personality. She seldom missed an opportunity to fellowship with the brethren whom she loved. Donna was also known for her fashion, her jewelry, her puppy Honey, and the flashy gold bibs she would wear when eating to protect her clothing.

Donna was surrounded by her family and brethren when she died on Jan. 24, 2022. She was a woman with a larger-than-life personality and a generous heart.

Donna is survived by her brother, Nelson Sandy; her sons, Gregory (Jan), Jerry (Deb) and John Sacoulas; six granddaughters; five grandsons; and seven great-grandchildren. Donna will be missed dearly by her family, brethren and friends.

Kathy Cochran



Marlene Snyman

Marlene (née Kriedemann) Snyman was the firstborn of seven children and was born in Cape Town, South Africa, on Jan. 1, 1943.

After graduating from high school (with a South African school grade called matric), she started to train to become a nurse. This training was, however, cut short by her marriage to Lionel Snyman at a young age.

The newlyweds' life was suddenly disrupted when Marlene's mother died, and all of Marlene's siblings and her father moved into their new home, to be cared for by Marlene and Lionel. These were tough times, as there was only one breadwinner in the household! But eventually those at school finished, and those pursuing various degrees graduated and left home to establish their own families.

Marlene and Lionel had three

children of their own—two sons, Brendan and Dion, and a daughter, Melledy. They later adopted a fourth child, a boy named Wesley. Life was hard for them as a family, due to Lionel having to work in various towns in South Africa over the years.

God started calling the Kriedemann family into His Church in the early 70s. Eventually all of them came in. Marlene stayed faithful to God throughout her many trials and hardships in life. She and Lionel both ended up in the Huis Ravenzicht retirement home in Kraaifontein, Cape Town. Lionel preceded her in death by three years. Marlene had a stroke and passed into a coma. She died a few days later, on the last day of 2020.

Marlene was a pillar of strength and a good example to all the brethren, who loved her dearly.

Rob Scott



Randy Isner

The Jefferson, Georgia, congregation is sad to announce the death of one of its members. Gary R. "Randy" Isner, of Dawsonville, Georgia, died at the age of 60 on Oct. 20, 2021, after a sudden illness.

He is dearly missed by his friends and Church family. Randy was known for his kindness, his happy and smiling nature, his strong work ethic and integrity, and his ability to work with people.

Randy was born in Cumberland, Maryland, but grew up in Central Florida. There he met and married Lori Dudley Isner. They were married 33 years. Randy's greatest joy was his family. He was a wonderful, caring husband to Lori and a loving dad to his son, Craig, and daughter, Paige. He was fully involved in his children's activities all through school.

Randy had been employed by Publix Super Markets for 22 years when he retired from the company in 1997. Then the family moved to Dawsonville, where he worked as an area sales manager for Northeast Sales Distributing until he passed away.

Randy loved working in his yard, gardening, watching college football and the Atlanta Braves and Steelers football.

Randy is survived by his wife Lori; children, Craig and Paige; and parents, Gary R. Isner Sr. and Nellie Isner. He is also survived by his brothers, Howard, Robert and Scott Isner, and their families.

A memorial service, officiated by Mark Winner, was held on Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021. Afterward, the family received guests at the home of John and Kristine Bennett.

Donna Quintana



Joyce Ann Dove

Joyce was born in Sherman County, Texas, on Dec. 10, 1939, the youngest of Ezra and Lennie Fisk's five children.

Joyce met Roy Dove in the sixth grade, and they were dating regularly by the ninth grade. They were married Feb. 26, 1958, and lived in Dalhart, Texas, for five years.

Joyce's mother had started attending the Radio Church of God when Joyce was about 15. Joyce's interest in the Church continued after she was married, and in 1960 she was baptized by Roger Foster in San Antonio, Texas. Roy resisted at first, but in the fall of 1961, he began reading the Church's literature and was baptized in March 1963.

Later that year Roy was hired as a custodian for Ambassador College and moved his family to Pasadena, California. Then in 1967 Roy was transferred to head up the custodial

department at the new campus in Big Sandy, Texas.

On the Day of Pentecost in 1976, Joyce was ordained a deaconess, and Roy was ordained an elder. He and Joyce served Church of God congregations in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado and Louisiana.

Joyce was a devoted wife, mother and homemaker. She was a talented cook, gardener and seamstress, even making look-alike dolls professionally.

Joyce died on April 2, 2022, after a short hospitalization for heart issues.

She is survived by her husband Roy; sons Jim (Debra), Dwayne (Shirley) and Richard (Teressa); daughters Cindy Sherrell and Jania Dove; daughter-in-law Freda Dove Williams; brother Ray (Nancy) Fisk; her husband's three sisters; 18 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Joyce was preceded in death by her son Kenny in 2010; her brothers, Lloyd and Robert Fisk; and her sister, Nina Rader.

Roy Dove

Tribute



Flavious Adkins

Flavious Adkins, 89, an elder serving the Columbia, Missouri, congregation, died at his home on March 12, 2022.

He was born on June 30, 1932, to Gladys and Garland Adkins and grew up in Joplin, Missouri. In the late 1950s he enlisted in the Army Reserve and served in the Reserves for six years.

He married Evelyn Ramey on Sept. 13, 1959, in Spring Hill, Kansas. They lived in San Jose, California; San Antonio, Texas; and Manitou Springs, Colorado, before settling down on a small farm outside Troy, Missouri, in 1967. There they raised cows, horses, raccoons, chickens, ducks and three kids. Flavious enjoyed working with animals and was an avid gardener.

Blessed with musical ability, Flavious played the guitar and wrote numerous songs. He was quick to entertain, and no family reunion was complete without a proper sing-along to end the evening. He was a quiet, thoughtful man of few words, yet was known by all for his quick wit, his sense of humor and his gentle nature.

He worked for McDonnell Douglas and later worked as a computer engineer (long before there were computer engineers!) for FlightSafety in its flight simulation division. His job required him to travel to many parts of the world. Always, though, he would come back to the farm. He retired from his job in 2004, at the age of 72.

In 2005 Flavious and Evelyn sold the farm and built a new home a few miles away. After retirement, he volunteered at Therapeutic Horsemanship for many years. He loved working with the handicapped children and the horses.

Flavious and Evelyn first began listening to the Radio Church of God when they lived in California. They were baptized in 1965 and began attending the San Antonio, Texas, church. Flavious was ordained as an elder in 1992 and served faithfully in that capacity for 30 years. He was dedicated to his religious beliefs and proved to be a solid rock during times of upheaval.

A memorial service, officiated by John Foster, pastor of the St. Louis and Columbia, Missouri, congregations, was held at the McCoy-Blossom Funeral Home in Troy, Missouri, on Sunday, March 20.

Flavious is survived by Evelyn, his wife of more than 62 years; his three children, Justin (Deba) Adkins, Flavia (Mark) Everman, and Marcus (Cecile) Adkins; as well as nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Justin Adkins

Graduating High School Seniors

WE NEED YOUR BIOS

Attention class of 2022! We would like to feature all of our high school graduates in the July/August *One Accord*. Please provide the following information for your bio (no more than 200 words), plus a quality, high-resolution photo by **June 1**.

1. Graduate's name.
2. Parents' or guardians' names.
3. Congregation and pastor's name.
4. High school accomplishments.
5. Church activities/hobbies/interests.
6. Plans after graduation.

Also include a phone number and email address we may use to contact you if need be. Please give your bio and photo (conforming to biblical standards of dress and hair length) to your congregation's reporter or pastor by June 1. Please keep all bios within a 200-word limit.

College graduates:

Please provide a bio—200-word maximum—plus a quality, high-resolution photo by June 1.

Thank you!