

TheWill

December 2016

Monthly Newsletter of
God's Will Christian Church

Mark Your Calendar

12.18

Holiday Fellowship

12.25

Christmas Day Service

1.1

New Year's Day
Service

Please note we will not
have a New Year's Eve
service. Please enjoy this
time with your family.

All Month

Wednesday Dance
Rehearsal
7PM– 8:15PM

Member Spotlight

The word of God tells us that He places members in the body as He sees fit. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful group of believers that support the mission of the church. One such member is Jeania Anderson. Sis. Jeania has taken on increasing levels of responsibility since joining GWCC. She is always willing to assist in any way that is needed. Although she is quite busy in her roles as wife and mother of three, she is actively involved in three ministries. Most recently, she organized the Pastor's Appreciation Month activities for the church. The pastors were presented with letters and baskets to show how much they are appreciated. We appreciate you, Sis. Jeania.



Member Spotlight– Jeania Anderson

Who introduced you to Christ?

My Grandmother, at an early age, would take me to church with her. I was baptized in August 2003.

When did you join GWCC? I joined the church in 2011.

In what ministries do you participate? I currently serve in the Youth, Membership and Sew to Sow ministries. In addition, I fill in wherever help is needed.

What do you do for a living? ? I have a Bachelor's in Social Work and my passion is helping others. I am working on becoming a social worker in the geriatric field, my ideal profession.

What are your hobbies? Is watching TV a hobby? I'm really good at it. I enjoy arts and crafts, and DIY projects. I also like to play word games. A newly-developed hobby is going to the gym.

What have you found most rewarding about GWCC? ? I love the love at GWCC. Everyone is family, We can laugh and pray together and for one another. The atmosphere is always so inviting and caring. The love that GWCC shows my children, especially Cameron, I know it's heartfelt.

What advice would you give a new Christian? It's not easy. The devil is around every corner. You have to continue to pray and stay faithful. Don't get discouraged. Pray and talk to God daily. Start slow and find a way of praying that works for you. In the beginning you may feel like your not doing it right but He hears you and soon He will show you that He hears you.



GWCC Welcomes Our New Member!

We are growing! We are excited to welcome a new member to our family. We welcome our new member:

Kristina Harris

Please be sure to introduce yourself when you see her in service.

Weekly Activities

Morning Prayer Conference Call

Daily 7:00AM

Weekly Bible Study Conference Call

Wednesday 7:00-8:00p

Men's Bible Study Conference Call

Tuesday 7:00-8:00pm

Conference Number:

712-775-7031 Access Code: 443-268-839

Women's Bible Study Conference Call

Monday 7:30-8:30pm

857-232-0158 Access Code 262390



The Season of Advent

- An excerpt from What Is Advent by Justin Holcomb

For many Christians unfamiliar with the liturgical year, there may be some confusion surrounding the meaning of the Advent season. Some people may know that the Advent season focuses on expectation and think that it serves as an anticipation of Christ's birth in the season leading up to Christmas. This is part of the story, but there's more to Advent.

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:1), his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist (John 1:29), and his first miracle at Cana (John 2:1). During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas. By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the "coming" they had in mind was not Christ's first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ's first coming at Christmas.

Today, the Advent season lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. At that time, the new Christian year begins with the twelve-day celebration of Christmastide, which lasts from Christmas Eve until Epiphany on January 6. (Advent begins on the Sunday that falls between November 27th and December 3rd each year.)

Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church in these "last days" (Acts 2:17, Hebrews 1:2), as God's people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God's past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ's coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ's kingdom when he returns for his people.



**And we know that all
things work together for
good, to those that love
God and are called to His
purpose.**

– Romans 8:28

Pastoral Thought

As I sit here, I'm reminded of my youthful days and how blessed I am. These blessings are not because of any riches or human relationships. They come from the relationship I share with the author and finisher of our faith, the beginning and the end, the creator and sustainer of all life! To him, be the honor and glory for all eternity. Amen. May what I'm about to share with you be a blessing and be helpful to you.

It happened one beautiful summer afternoon. The sun, in all its splendor, was beaming down on God's creation. It was hot and very muggy. I was about 16 years old and as rebellious as I was feisty. I found myself sitting in the back seat of my stepfather's Buick Electric 225 (Duce and a quarter) heading home. I had a pack of Kool cigarettes in my shirt pocket and a nicotine addiction as long as 14th street. My mother noticed the pack of Kools in my pocket and asked, "Danny, you smoking now?" I replied respectfully, "Yes ma'am." Then I told her I was trying to stop but hadn't been successful. My mother then asked me if I had asked Jesus to take it away. I never shared this with her, but I had thought about asking the Lord. However, I didn't feel it was the manly thing to do since I knew better than to indulge in such harmful habit anyway. I started because it made me look cool. So my reply to her question was simply, "no ma'am." Then she gave me the "Holy" mother advice. I was instructed to go to my room when I got home, and kneel down by my bed. I was told to ask the Lord to take away the desire and the taste of that filthy little cancer stick. I did as I was instructed. You might be able to guess what happened. I stood up feeling no

difference whatsoever. After a few days passed, I realized I had not smoked a cigarette nor did I have a desire to do so. Wow! I wondered what in the world happened. God answered my pray. God not only answers prayer, He does so in a might way. I stuck my chest out because God heard my prayer!! Alleluia!

Fast forward about 20 years from that miraculous day, there I stood in praise and worship. My hands were raised and I was in the presence of the Almighty God, rejoicing in the Spirit. Out of nowhere, a vision was shown to me. There I was, in the vision, 16years old kneeling beside my bed praying for deliverance from cigarettes. Then, the vision was expanded to reveal the entire setting. I saw something that caused me to cry like a baby. My mother was kneeling by her bed praying the same prayer she instructed me to pray. Then, reality hit home. My prayer alone was not enough to be answered. It was the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous woman that made the power available. (James 5:16)

Let me explain, I did not have a relationship with the Lord but my mother did. Her relationship was the reason why my prayer was answered. Through this experience, I learned that the prayer of intercession is real and powerful. It can make crooked lives straight and set captives free. I don't want anyone to think that God doesn't hear your prayers and answer them; God is sovereign and does what He wants when He wants to do it. The lesson for me was that intercessors are needed to apply His power when needed. Can I get an amen?