

Christmas Season

It's that most Wonderful time of the year, The Christmas Season. Soon, if not already, you will hear Christmas carols being sung, there will be much shopping (hopefully not until you drop), presents being exchanged, Christmas plays at our churches, and Christmas parties to be planned and experienced. In other words, this is going to be a busy month to say the least. Christmas also falls on a Sunday this year and that creates a bit of a problem for Pastors preparing for that special day. Some may have a Christmas Eve service, some may have a short Sunday morning service, but whatever you decide to do, don't forget whose birthday we are celebrating and who should get some time carved out of our schedules to recognize the most phenomenal thing ever to be recorded throughout history...the Birth of the Christ Child.

The Gift

What are you doing with the Gift?

Romans 5:15—"But the free gift is not the offense. For if by one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ abounded to many."

WE all have been given a gift from the Lord, the one question to be asked is:

"What did we do with the gift He gave us?"

We have been given the **free** gift of Salvation.

We have been given the Gift of the **Holy Spirit**.

We have been given the gift of **grace**, His unmerited favor.

We have been given the gift of **peace** of mind.

We have been given **nine gifts** of the Spirit.

We have been endowed with **nine fruits** of the Spirit.

We have been given the very **Son of God** as our elder brother and **advocate** before the Father.

We have been given the gift of **unconditional love**.

We have been given a **full pardon** from all of our sinful past.

We have been given **Power** over the enemy of our soul.

We have been given a directive to **watch and be ready** for His imminent return.

We have been given a directive **to go** into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature and make disciples.

Churches have been given the **gift of a Pastor** according to Ephesians 4:7...what are you doing for them? Are you supporting them, encouraging them, inviting people to church, honoring the office of the Pastor, giving to help support the ministry?

The list could go on and on, but first we must answer the first 14 Questions of what have we done, or are doing, with the precious gifts given to us as Christians:

1 Peter 4:10 – "As each one has **received a gift**, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

1 Peter 4:10 AMP – "As each of you **has received a gift** (a particular spiritual talent, a gracious divine endowment), employ it for one another as [befits] good trustees of God's many-sided grace [faithful stewards of the extremely diverse powers and gifts granted to Christians by unmerited favor]."

James 1:17-18 - "**Every good gift and every perfect gift** is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. **(18)** Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures."

Merry Christmas!

Bishop Jayne

JANUARY, “STATE OF THE DISTRICT”

The SWTX District Board asked me to make a tour throughout the District and give a “State of the District” report. I will be coming to each section to share a short message and give information and instruction so as to take our District to the next level. We must change to be able to fulfill our calling and ministries in order to be prepared for what the Lord has in store for us to advance His Kingdom. Please invite your church leadership to be a part so they know who we are and what we are about.

The meetings and locations are as follows:

January 13- Gulf Coast Section, Friday 7:00 PM

Living Proof —1341 S Alameda, Corpus Christi

January 14- Prosperity Section, Saturday 10:00 AM

Trinity Christian Center — 1110 E Houston St, Beeville

January 14- Capitol Section, Saturday, 3:00PM

Austin Revival Center — 305 Deen Ave., Austin

January 20- Heart Of Texas Section, Friday 7:00 PM

Victory Chapel — 605 N 3rd St., McGregor

January 21- Gateway Section, Saturday 3:00 PM

Freedom Fellowship Church — 1040 Early Blvd., Early

If there are any questions please feel free to contact your respective sectional presbyter, or call the District office 512-353-8595.

EMPOWERED WOMEN’S MINISTRY

January 1- 31 is Empowered Women's Ministry registration month. The registration is \$5.00 for each lady, \$2.00 stays in the District Women's fund and \$3.00 goes to the National Women's Ministry in Bedford, TX, to help with the various ministries the women are involved in throughout the United States and around the world. You may request of your Pastor, a special Women's service and do your registration at the same time. Let’s stay connected and be a part of a great move.

FROM THE “OPS CENTER”

Merry Christmas Southwest Texas! I pray this holiday season with family, friends and neighbors is one of great joy and blessing. Take time to reflect on God’s grace and goodness this past year, and get ready to advance the Kingdom in 2017 with unconditional love, priceless grace, and relentless mercy in Jesus name.

DISTRICT SCHOOL OF MINISTRY [SoM]: We had 12 Ministers, 3 Interns, and 5 Church Leaders attend our SoM on November 19th. Pastors Aaron Jayne & Mylon Avery gave *“Best in Class”* training on *“Leading from the Middle”*, and *“Organic Diversity”*. It was a great time of learning and fellowship. Thank you to all who attended, and helped make it a success. We had some technical difficulty with recording the sessions, so sadly there isn’t any audio available. Be sure to mark your calendars on **January 28, 2017** for our next SoM. Topics and instructors will be announced in the January newsletter.

2017 MINISTER CREDENTIAL RENEWAL QUESTIONNAIRE: All renewal questionnaires were due in the District Office no later than **November 30th**. As of this writing, we still have over 40 ministers/interns who have not sent theirs in. I’ve included another hard copy with your newsletter. Also, you can download the questionnaire from the district website at <http://swtx-pcg.org/resources/>. Your current 2016 Pentecostal Church of God credential card expires on December, 31st, 2016. Therefore, your credential cannot be renewed for 2017 if we do not receive your questionnaire.

As always, I am here to serve as your resource for all things related to the Southwest Texas District and the National PCG Office in Bedford; therefore, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,
James Miller Jr, COO

IN MEMORIAM

Ronald Dee Bowden

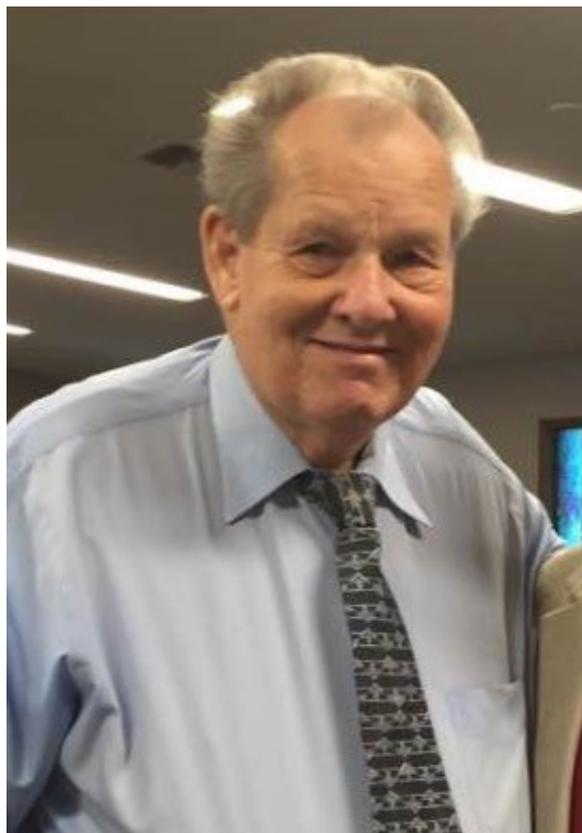
We said farewell to one of our faithful Pastors last week when Pastor Ronald Bowden received his eternal reward, an eternity with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He pastored Trinity Tabernacle in Cedar Park, TX since 2005, but was an Associate to his Father, the late O. M. Bowden, for close to 20 years. One of his favorite sayings was, “Jesus is coming, get ready.” Well Jesus came alright, He came last Sunday morning, November 20th, and ushered him into Glory. Bro. Bill Pierce & Pastor Gary Johnson did a splendid job officiating the service. Thanks so much to all of you Pastors and Ministers who went to the viewing, and/or the Celebration of Life to honor this man of God.

Ronald Dee Bowden

March 20, 1945 – November 20, 2016

Ruth Mills

We want to offer our condolences to Pastors Kenneth & Debbie Mills of Cuero, TX and Pastors Rick & Roberta Lasly of Belton TX who lost their mother Ruth Mills last Sunday November 27. Please be in prayer for the family at this time. Sis. Mills will have a graveside service at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 2:30 PM.

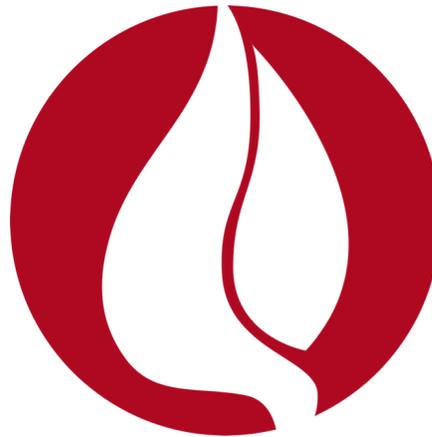


BIRTHDAYS

Jack Holderby	8
Robert Jayne	15
Leslie Crawford	23

Ray & Cricket Keasler	3
Debbie DiPippa	7
James & Towanda Martin	11
Don & Peggy Allen	18
Deborah & Harold Irvin	19
Joe & Shirley Cheesman	24
Aaron & Bobbie Jayne	31

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Southwest Texas District
Pentecostal Church of God



WE ARE PCG!
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD

DISTRICT OFFICE & CONFERENCE CENTER

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MARKED
Impact SWTX Service
7PM – All are welcome

12.01.16 GULF COAST SECTION – New Beginnings, Rockport
12.08.16 CAPITOL SECTION – Liberty Lighthouse, Johnson City
12.09.16 HOT SECTION – North Pointe Church, Copperas Cove
12.15.16 PROSPERITY SECTION – Trinity Christian, Beeville
12.16.16 GATEWAY SECTION – Freedom Fellowship, Early

MINISTERS ON CALL

Dr. Dan Chapman (Early).....(325) 646-3943

Rev. Jimmy Lee (Three Rivers).....(361) 449-0408

Eddie Yarbrough (Kerrville).....(830) 739-7664

2016-2017 DISTRICT CALENDAR

Dec 23 thru Jan 2 Christmas Holiday—DIST HQ CLOSED

Jan 28 School of Ministry-District HQ

Jan 17 District Board Meeting—District HQ