



GTChurch Newsletter

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*The mission of GT Church
is to be a lighthouse
to the community
and to send beams of light
all over the world*

Service Times

Sunday - 9a traditional
Sunday - 10:45a contemporary



GT CHURCH

From the Pastor

I believe God wants us all to be servants like Jesus was when he walked on this earth.

Matthew 20:28 declares: “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Years ago, while in my Doctoral program at Regent University in Virginia, we were required to do a two week residency to start things off. There were over 100 Doctoral students there studying leadership. All of them were leaders in their respective fields. When I saw the instructions for our first assignment at residency, I thought to myself, “This will be trouble”.

Casting twelve or so doctoral leadership students who have never met into the crucible of expected productivity is a recipe for chaos...and chaos we had. Personalities clashed as these leaders rattled around the project. Egos collided. The real issue: who would lead and who would follow.

As time moved on, we became a productive team and achieved our goals with excellence. I see this as a portrait that can help us define what characterizes both a follower and a leader. One component is key to success in both the leader and the follower. It is servanthood. Calvin Miller in his book “The Empowered Leader” pointed out the value of servanthood by pointing to the teaching of Christ in Matt. 20:27. Here Jesus inserts servanthood as a requisite to leadership. There was conflict yet we became productive as a group as each one began to serve others in order to achieve our goal. By the tenth day, the conflict had evolved into laughter and friendship. My prayer for GT Church is that we all be a family of servants that will Glorify God and advance His Kingdom.

This will happen as we each lay down our own agendas, take up our cross, and follow Christ.



Spotlight

Phyllis Styrzo



Phyllis Styrzo is a wonderful blessing to GT Church!

She retired from the corporate world 7 years ago and the Lord led her to begin serving in our church office 2-3 days a week. If you call the church office, you are likely to hear Phyllis' cheerful voice and she is ready to help with anything you may need!

She also serves as our Greeter Coordinator and serves at the Yes desk every week.

Phyllis and her husband, Larry, have been attending GT Church over 15 years!



Larry serves as our maintenance man and is ready to help with any needs we have! He loves to serve our church family and he is a faithful servant of the Lord. Larry retired from the Army and is a proud veteran! Phyllis and Larry have been married for 48 years and are the parents of 4 children: Helen, Wyatt, Holly and Margaret and are the proud grandparents of 9 grandchildren. We are blessed to have Larry & Phyllis Styrzo as part of our GT Church family!

It's Easy to Get Involved

If you have a heart for service and want to serve our precious Lord with your time and talent, GT Church has a wealth of opportunities to get involved in Kingdom work. From working with our very youngest in nursery to the kitchen to the homebound - all that is missing is YOU! For the most part, the work is light, the environment is pleasant and the rewards are eternal. Why not take a minute to link to our online volunteer form and pick something that can use your time and talent. Or, just give the office a call to discuss possibilities for becoming a vital part of the GTChurch mission - being a lighthouse in the community and sending beams of light all over the world. (<https://form.jotform.com/213345527560050>)



GT Church supports Missionaries Nelson and Renee De Freitas

Currently the de Freitases are assigned to a four year term at SAGU as missionaries-in-residence. They are teaching intercultural studies and lead the activities of the missions department. Please note that the de Freitases do not receive a salary from the University, but rather they are still funded and sustained by individuals and churches that support our ministry through our missionary account.

The purpose of Southwestern Assemblies of God University is to prepare undergraduate and graduate students spiritually, academically, professionally, and cross culturally so as to successfully fill evangelistic, missionary and church ministry roles and to provide quality educational and professional Christian service wherever needed throughout the world.

Nelson & Rennae served several years as Missionary Advisors on the board for the National Missions Agency for the Assemblies of God in Dominican Republic. The missions agency is responsible to prepare and send Dominican missionaries to other nations to fulfill the Great Commission according to Matthew 28:19-20 and Mark 16:15-16. The de Freitases have taught missiology and helped to develop the process for candidate selection and preparation. In addition they were frequent speakers for missions congresses all over the Dominican Republic as they helped to prepare the Dominican church to send missionaries.

King's Castle Ministries is forming disciples with a missionary vision to bring children and youth to the Lord. The ministry was first founded in 1989 by missionaries Don & Terri Triplett in El Salvador. Since 1993, Nelson & Rennae have purposed to raise up an army of young, Spirit-filled warriors who would reach the world with the simple message that 'Jesus saves and is coming soon'; Over the years, they have trained hundreds of warriors from local churches doing outreach evangelism that especially targets children. Though they currently reside in Texas, Nelson continues as president of the Kings Castle board.



Ministers Christmas Fellowship



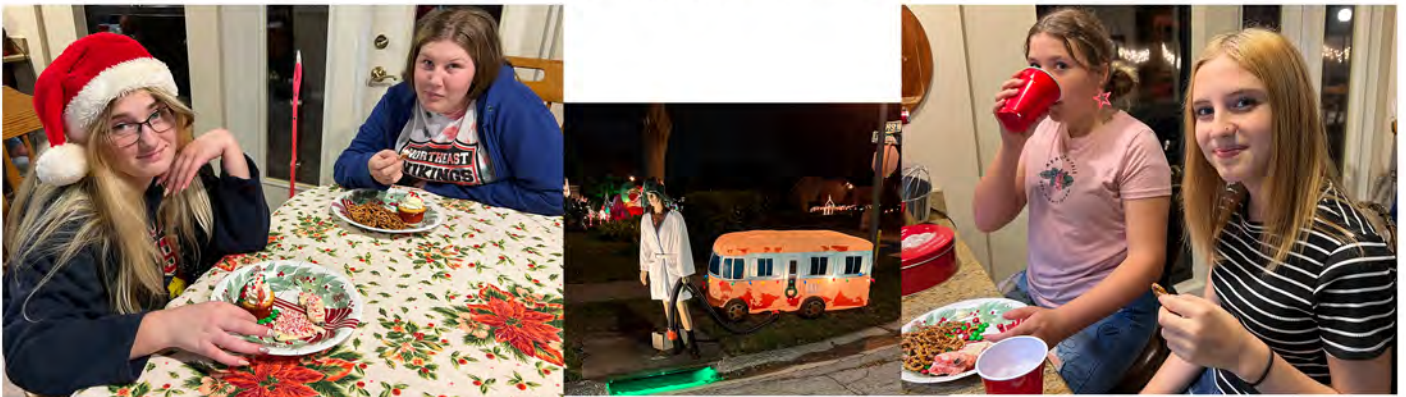
Pastor Helms serves as overseer for the Assembly of God Churches in Pinellas County. In December, GT Church hosted a Christmas Fellowship For all the Assembly of God ministers. They sang, played games, received gifts and enjoyed a delicious meal provided by Pastor George and Wanda Carlier. This was the 20th Christmas Fellowship for ministers hosted by GT Church.



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



The GT Youth rode the church van to a popular Christmas lights neighborhood on the evening of December 16. They enjoyed homemade sugar cookies and cupcakes while they fellowshiped together. The youth also had a powerful time of prayer and praise reports.



New Members Welcome



The GT Church family extended the right hand of fellowship to 18 new members during the December 5 worship service. Joining the family were: Wanda Carlier, John & Francis Guerriero, Ronald Weber, Jack & Evelyn Wise, Kelsey Williams, Eric Whittle, Norine Commisso, Cherry Lindsey, Sedrick Mobley, Randy Kittle, Angelica Jones, Jerry & Christina Bowers, Dylan Bowers, Louis Neal and Terry Nutt.

Women's Christmas Brunch



The GT Church women had a fabulous time with the ladies at our Christmas Brunch on December 4! We enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by Wanda Carlier & Norma Perkins. We loved the Charcuterie demo by Mikaela Abel, Martha Williams and Kelsey Williams with help from Eric Whittle. We were inspired by the worship ministry and message from Meredith James, accompanied by her husband Tim. Lots of fellowship, laughter & door prizes!



Sarasota Shopping Trip



GT Church ladies went shopping on December 7 in Bradenton and had lunch at Der Dutchman Amish Restaurant in Sarasota





The GT Church family gathered for the annual Christmas Banquet on Sunday, December 19 for a spectacular Mexican feast. Pastor Jon led off the festivities with a fun game of “left and right.” The children provided the entertainment with song and bells while Pastor and Miss Karen gave away a whole host of door prizes. Topping it all off, Pastor Dale prepared a candy-filled pinata in the courtyard for the kids



More Christmas Banquet



★
WE
wish
YOU A
Merry
CHRISTMAS
♣





Christmas Eve was a special day at GT Church (now known in the neighborhood as “the bounce house church”) as we hosted well over a hundred of our neighbors to an afternoon of games, bounce houses, a fire truck, crafts, Florida snow and good fellowship. The children each received a children’s bible and heard all about Jesus - the reason for the season.



More Christmas Outreach



Extended Christmas Service



First the panake breakfast!



Pastor Madi tells the Christmas story to the children



Silent Night



New Bible Study: Core Values

Each Wednesday Night Beginning January 19th at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall

The Bible teaching about Christian core values is pertinent and necessary for every believer.

Values are deeply held beliefs that help guide the follower of Christ in their behavior and decision making. It forms the culture of any family or organization. The United States had these Biblical values sown into its formation. These values are the foundation of all our laws. Today, the enemy would have us abandon these Biblical values and embrace more worldly values.

Worldly values include wealth, power, pleasure, revenge, fame, vanity and status. These are the most important things to people who perceive no power or purpose beyond themselves. Worldly values

promote jealousies, resentments and conflicts among people in accordance with the purposes of Satan. The values taught in the Bible are often the opposite of worldly values: Faithfulness, Honor, Integrity, Respect and the sanctity of life are values taught in the Word of God. Christian values promote peace and good will among people in accordance with the purposes of God. We will never achieve perfection in this life, but those people who strive to obey God often find a sense of joy and peace that no worldly rewards can match! Join us in this in depth study of Core Values that will help us fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives.



Join us for three days of fasting and prayer -

January 3-5, 2022. 7 PM in the Sanctuary

Start your new year off by drawing closer to God.

Fasting is a way to humble yourself in the sight of God (Psalm 35:13). King David said,

“I humbled my soul with fasting” (Psalm 69:10).



All Church Family Gathering. Wednesday Night January 12, 2022 at 7 PM.

This is a great opportunity for members of GT Church to participate in the election of church Elders, Deacons and Treasurer. Participants will hear a message from Pastor Helms about church business and direction moving forward, and will receive an “annual report” from each church department. Best of all - refreshments and fellowship in the community room.



Fellowship Dinner every Wednesday Night beginning February 5th, 2022.

There is just something wonderful about sharing a great dinner meal with your church family as you prepare for your Wednesday night church activities.

Where else can you get a home-cooked meal for \$5, or \$20 per family?

Where else can you enjoy a dinner prepared by our own Martha O'Dell and her kitchen crew?

Nowhere else but in the community room at GT Church. See you there. Bon appetit!



Jesus was here



Your mom before church **Your mom when you arrive at church**

