



GULF COAST JURISDICTION
November 2017

GCJ Meeting: “Fitly joined together”

Saints encouraged to unify and stand strong in the Lord



In the photo: Saints praising the Lord during the Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Meeting.

FORT WALTON BEACH, FLA. – The Gulf Coast Jurisdiction held its annual meeting Nov. 17-19 at Promise, which is the headquarter church for the jurisdiction. The GC jurisdiction includes churches in Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

The theme, “Fitly joined together (Eph. 4:16 and 1 Cor. 12:12-29)” was the message throughout the weekend. “We must be one in unity in order to do God’s work,” said Bishop Charles D. Smith, the Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop.

Over the three-day convention, several preachers poured out their souls concerning being in unity, standing strong in the Lord and being ready when Jesus comes.

“Hold on to Jesus and let the Lord fight your battles,” said Elder Deborah Sewell, Tampa District Superintendent, as she spoke on Friday night.

“We have to stay tight and compacted together to pray the devil out,” said Elder Carlos Thompson, Mississippi and Louisiana District Superintendent, who wrapped up the preaching on Friday night.

Saturday morning’s schedule included a dedication service for Emmanuel Church of the Living God International in Parker, Fla., seminars, and a Veteran’s benefit briefing.

Elder Augustus Russell, Tallahassee District Superintendent, spoke on Saturday night, which included a baptismal service. “When we come together, we allow the Lord to let us become fitly joined together,” said Elder Russell.

Bishop Smith culminated the preaching on Sunday morning by saying, “We could do everything God would have us do, if we would just unite.” “God found me and put me into the ministry. I am not here because God needed me, but because he wanted me,” he added.

Additionally on Sunday morning, Ms. Trulesta Pauling, Program Specialist, Outreach and Communications for the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Office of the Secretary, Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships recognized all Veterans at the conference. A Holy Communion service wrapped up the events and a number of people received ministerial certificates, licenses and appointments.

More photos: (Photos taken by Elder Debbie Calix)



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The Bishop's Corner

Holiday Greeting

Praise the Lord Saints,

I hope and pray all of you have a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy Holiday Season.

Some pastors in the Gulf Coast will have New Year's Eve services in their local churches. Those I am aware of are Christ the Redeemer in Gulfport, Miss., Lily of the Valley in the Tampa, Fla., area and Holy of Holies in Holiday, Fla. If you do not plan to have a local New Year's Eve service in your church, please attend one of these if they are near you.

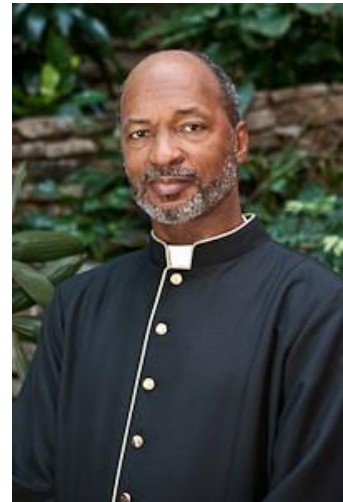
However, if any pastors and their congregations want to bring in the New Year at the Gulf Coast Jurisdictional headquarters church, they are welcome to join us at Promise. The service will start at 9:30 pm and will include a Holy Communion. I believe the Lord will be with us at Promise as well as the other churches and will meet our needs.

Please find yourself in church on New Year's Eve, so you can be in unity with us as we thank God for bringing us through 2017 and ask His blessings for a prosperous year in 2018.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

God bless you all,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction



More November stories

Category: Events

Churches honored top students, held a pastoral anniversary and had birthday celebrations.

- **From Lily of the Valley:**
For the month of November, Lily of the valley celebrated the honor roll students. They went out to eat, and were awarded certificates for making honor roll. Pastor D. Sewell is proud of the children at LOV, because they are



faithful to the church and still made honor roll. She said, "Church never stopped my children from doing well in school, and these young people come to church on Tuesday, Friday, and twice on Sunday and still maintain good grades. I am so proud of them!"

Sister Sereese Davis: "We were happy to celebrate with them for their accomplishments!"

In the Photo: (L to R) Pastor D. Sewell, Brother De'Onte Burrows, Brother X'Zavion Burrows, Sister Perrion Franklin, Brother Derek Dutton, Sister Nina Galarza, Pastor T. Sewell, Sister Abigail, Brother Isaiah Sewell, and Sister Toriana Sewell. Also, on the list but not in the picture is Sister Alanna Walker.



- **From Spirit of Christ:** Spirit of Christ wants to wish Pastor Tom Calix a very Happy Birthday! The Saints got together and celebrated with their Pastor at Peppers Mexican Restaurant in traditional Latin style. Feliz Cumpleanos Pastor!

Elder Debbie Calix: "We all had a great time, especially Pastor Calix!"

Photo Collage by Elder Debbie Calix

- **From Way of Holiness:** The saints at Way of Holiness honored their pastor Elder Tamela Grandberry on Nov. 4-5. The theme was, "Walking by faith and not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7).

On Saturday morning, Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop, taught a seminar and said, "We must call to remembrance the former days when we were first illuminated." "We can't forget how the Lord pulled us out of darkness and adopted us into the family of God."

Saturday night was a blessing as well. Elder Paula Smith, Assistant Pastor of Promise and GCJ Elect Ladies Coordinator and Elder Deborah Sewell, Co-Pastor of Lily of the Valley and Tampa District Superintendent both encouraged the saints to stand strong in the Lord and keep the faith until Jesus comes.



The weekend events culminated on Sunday morning with Bishop Smith, who encouraged the saints to have faith in God. “By praying your way through, you learn how to trust in God.” “Sometimes God will remove all my earthly help, so I can pray myself through and get God’s help,” he added. Bishop Smith gave examples of those in the bible who prayed their way through and out of situations: David, Jonah, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.



• **From New Covenant:** On Sunday, Nov. 12, the New Covenant saints had their monthly birthday celebration. The November birthday babies were Minister Andrea Spriggs, Minister Crystal Derico, Elder Charles Latham and Exhorter Dominique Spriggs. We also used this time to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs: “Thanks to Elder Ruth Latham and Exhorter Dominique Spriggs for the yummy food!”

Category: Upcoming Events

- **From the Editorial Staff:** Saints please be mindful of the below upcoming events for the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction.

The 2017 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Dec. 2-3	Elder Thompson Pastoral Anniversary	Gulfport, Miss.
Jan. 13-15, 2018	Gulf Coast Youth & Young Adult Conf.	Melbourne, Fla.

HOTEL

Hilton-Melbourne Beach Oceanfront
3003 N A1A, Melbourne, FL, 32903
(321) 777-5000
\$129 (plus tax) January 12 & 13
\$109 (plus tax) January 14

Group Code: COLGC or CLGI

Parking: \$5 per day

Deadline for reservations:
December 16, 2017

For more information contact:
Min. Curtis Bell brotherbellclgi@gmail.com (850) 339-1458

*"Youth
Wholly
Holy"*
Hebrews 12:14-17

SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 13

10:00am - GCJYYAD Business Meeting
11:30am & 3:00pm - Seminars
6:30pm - Prayer
7:30pm - Service

Sunday, January 14

10:00am - Christian Education
11:15am - Morning Service
6:30pm - Prayer
7:00pm - Concert & Exhortations

Monday, January 15

Theme Parks

2018 *Gulf Coast Jurisdictional*
YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT
Conference

