

ATLANTA WEST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
MESSENGER

NOVEMBER
2025

OUR TREASURED
Elders





BY: PASTOR DARRELL JOHNS

OUR TREASURED Elders



"The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, If it is found in the way of righteousness" (Proverbs 16:31).

Atlanta West Pentecostal Church had its humble beginnings in the basement of Myrl and Louise Harper's home in 1961. We are blessed that founding member Sis. Louise Harper, who turns 102 years old on November 20, 2025, is still an active part of the church. I marvel that, after so much history lived, Sis. Harper is more excited about the future than she is about the past. Perhaps that is one reason for her longevity.

Like Sis. Louise Harper, the elders of our church are treasures. A recent report showed that we have 165 members aged 65 years and older. While this represents only 15% of our total church (voting, member, and attendee list), you can see that we are blessed with many "crowns of glory" at Atlanta West.

Our elders are treasures—not just for their longevity but also for their dependability. They can be counted on to be faithful stewards, to keep their commitments, to be anchored in truth, and to use their relational and spiritual influence to reach for the next generation.

In Proverbs 16:31, the silver hair on a saint is equated to a splendid crown, a magnificent adornment to enhance the wearer's beauty and authority. This proverb gives a condition for gray hair being a crown of glory. The silver-haired person must be righteous to be revered. We should show deference to all elders, but it takes righteous living to earn the right for one's gray hair to be called a crown of glory.

How can we treasure our elders?

Remember

The prayer of many elders is that they are not forgotten. This sentiment is expressed in the Psalms: "O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this day I declare Your wondrous works. Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come" (Psalms 71:17-18).

Remember to talk to our treasured elders, to engage with them. Remember to include our elders in your plans, considering their potential physical limitations and needs.

Remembering is not an act of sympathy; it is an expression of honor. In the same way that we honor the sacrifices of those who gave their lives for our country, we honor our elders for the sacrifices they made in the past to bring us to the present and to position us for the future. As we prepare to move into a new Sanctuary, we recognize that 64 years ago, a small group of believers gathered to birth our church. In the years leading up to 1986, our members sacrificed to

build our current sanctuary. With renovations and remodels, including a major makeover in 2014, this wonderful house of worship has served us for nearly 40 years.

Let us remember our treasured elders.

Respect

"You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the LORD" (Leviticus 19:32).

Elders should be addressed with respect and given honor. The Lord said that rising in the presence of an older saint and honoring their presence are ways to show respect.

Although they may be viewed as "southern" expressions, saying "yes or no ma'am" and "yes or no sir" also shows respect. You might notice that men and women who have served in the armed forces always use those words of respect.

Respect the place of our elders and respect their pace. I once observed a young man verbally berating an older man over something trivial. The older gentleman did not act fast and took a tongue-lashing for it. The Bible teaches that we are to show radical respect for all people, especially elders.

Paul instructed Timothy: "Never speak harshly to an older man, but appeal to him respectfully as you would to your own father" (1 Timothy 5:1). Then Paul wrote: "Treat older women as you would your mother" (1 Timothy 5:2). We should respect our treasured elders.

Replicate

At Atlanta West, we continually encourage older generations to reach for the next generation. There is another side to this relationship. Younger generations should see the need to replicate the godly and noble traits of our treasured elders.

Elders are faithful and loyal. They are stable and reliable. Elders are generous with their time and money. Elders have borne the burden and the heat of the day, sacrificially serving the Lord and our church. These are traits that must be replicated in the next generation.

Younger generations must replicate the love of the truth that typifies our treasured elders. The Bible is replete with warnings that we must not forget the Lord or His works. I once read that truth is always only one generation away from extinction. While this may be true, the Bible says that God's truth endures to all generations (Psalm 100:5).

If we will remember, respect, and replicate the godly attributes of our treasured elders, we will both preserve and propagate the truth to the next generation and perpetuate it to all generations. Thank God for the example and eternal influence of our treasured elders.

November Birthdays

1 Jimmy Brothers Shelby Foster	13 Elizabeth Duncan Anthony Dudley Molly Infinger Marco Woods Brody Swart	23 Mary Carnes Noah Landry Stefan Marsh
2 Kathryn Folger Ursula German	14 Andre Cole Brooklyn Crabtree Reed Crabtree Joseph Dixon	24 Bethany Jones Kimberly Marsh
3 Joey Grant	15 Ninda Rosser	25 Sinclair Beckles Tanner Brock Logan Cude Tim Stubelt
4 Folashade Adebola Denver Nelson	16 Ryan Johns Jaelyn Njenga	26 Ronan Jones ZaKyriah Davis
5 Anthony Douglas	17 Kaeden Canate Heidy Whitener Connie Newman-Brown	27 Ishimae Barnett Stanley Hollingshed Judie Moore
6 Sis. Alonda Johns Greg Puckett Ini Adebola	18 Rosa Walden Temi Adebola	28 Kierstan Canate Joel Harrylal Stacy Dixon
7 Judith Schooling Nolan Spry Edwin Rodriguez	19 Mike Minnick Callie Derickson	29 Gloria Moreno LaTina Gardner
8 Jeff White Maggie Little	20 Billy Barnett Louise Harper Diana Alvarez Nhyira Badoe	
9 Lionell King	21 Brinky Lopez Karson Franzen Zoi Island Sefunmi Adebawo	
10 Desiree Massey Anna Sanders Nicola Rodriguez	22 Royal Nickens Lilly Michalove	
11 Jonathan Szecsey Elijah Nunn Jason Austin Tawany Perez Marcelle Bien-Aime		
12 William Jones, Jr. Beth Evans		

November Anniversaries

4	Khyri & Natalie Jones
5	Chevar & Deborah Reid
6	Michael & Tamara Taylor
8	Shannon & Heidi Crabtree
8	Mark & Lynn Horn
10	Dalton & Brooke Thorne
11	Mike & Teresa Minnick
16	Rick & Pam Nixon
17	Donald & Mira Douglas
17	Shawn & Heidy Whitener
20	Glen & Natalie Campbell
25	Mike & Janie Craft
25	Mike & Myra Gornick
25	Brent & Sandra Gay
25	Ronald & Megan Taylor
28	Marty & Vickie Grayson

What's With the Party?
September 22 - October 19

Baptized in Jesus' Name

Eric Acorlor	Elver Lopez
Ramon Alvarez	Jordan Sellers
Shaniqua Anderson	Madison Small
Chandler Dean	Makenzy Small
William Graves	Wanya Smith
Douglas Hedrix	Marcia Washington
Starling Henry	Briana Willis

Filled with the Holy Ghost

Ramon Alvarez	Douglas Hedrix
Breonne Brown	Lane Johnson
Marvell Dean	Elver Lopez
Melriyah Dean	Diego Rodriguez
Melvin Dean	Jordan Sellers
William Graves	Wanya Smith





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