

DECEMBER-2017  
JANUARY 2018



NEWSLETTER

**DIVINE SCIENCE CHURCH**  
**OF THE HEALING CHRIST**  
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### LESSON TOPICS FOR DECEMBER

**Dec 3 JOY TO THE WORLD**  
Rev. Donna Gatewood

Today the world is in desperate need of Joy. We need only look at the faces of people all around us to realize how few people have discovered the real meaning of joy or where to find it.

**Dec 10 COME UNTO ME**  
Rev. Janet Friedline

The command is "turn to me, and I will turn to you." The weary soul eagerly accepts the invitation, for the promise is "I will give you rest."

**Dec 17 A CHRISTMAS STORY**  
(Christmas Service)  
Rev. Janet Friedline

Let us gather together for the retelling of the Christmas story. The angels heralded news of the holy birth. Christ is born in the soul of man, and this is our story. It is our Christmas Day.

**Dec 24 NO MORNING SERVICE**

**Dec 24 THE TRUE LIGHT**  
*Christmas Eve*  
Rev. Dr. Miriam Comer Johnson

The Light which enables us to see beyond the capability of our physical eyes, to hear beyond the capability of our physical ears, and to know more than our human minds

can decipher is provided by the Christ within us.

**Dec 31 TRANSFORMING ADVERSITY**  
Rev. Donna Gatewood

Success in whatever lies before us often means breaking the spell of our sense of failure. Come see how to break the spell.

### LESSON TOPICS FOR JANUARY

**Jan 7 A TIME TO REMEMBER**  
Rev. Janet Friedline

As we enter a new time of experience, we pause to consider the time that is past. But let us not stay there too long in our remembrance; the new time has arrived, and it demands our attention.

**Jan 14 LIFE ANNOUNCES ITSELF**  
Rev. Janet Friedline

It has been said that every day dawns anew. Each day, life presents itself to us in a variety of ways. It is of God. Let us welcome it and embrace it.

**Jan 21 CHRIST IN YOU**  
Rev. Donna Gatewood

The realization of the Presence of God within as our sustaining strength is the stronghold in our consciousness that fortifies us against all adverse conditions.

**Jan 28 WHILE YOU REST, PRAY**  
Rev. Donna Gatewood

We have talked often about how to pray. We have said that when to pray is all the time. It is this praying without ceasing which changes our lives and our conditions from what they are to what we want them to be.

**REMEMBERING WHOLENESS**  
Rev. Pat Beach

We imagined that darkness was the natural state -- just how it had to be. We accepted it as normal. In the dark, mysterious shadows of the stable, in the dark grief of the tomb, it seemed that was all there was. Looking amiss, we had no memory of a prior experience, no way of relating to the Light. We didn't grasp that when God said, "Let there be light" how completely it was so.

But in catching glimpses of this radiance, something deep within us responds instinctively. Something within us understands, actually remembers, that this is our path. Following where the Light beckons, we are lifted above the doubts and fears of the shadows. Outlasting a myriad of distractions, the dawn has come. Morning has broken.

Even as we are increasingly drawn to the Light, we give thanks for that misperception of darkness. For that is where we learned to look beyond physical sight to the union of mind, heart, soul and strength. That is where we became still and realized that this world is but an entryway into the Infinite.

Most Gracious God we give thanks for Your Outstreaming Good Will that guides us home.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Greetings All:

Please find listed below, activities that have taken place at the church in the last month.

**ITEM #1** On Sunday, November 19, church family members and friends celebrated the Thanksgiving season with our annual Pot Luck dinner. As usual, it was an occasion of fellowship and delicious food. The Board of Trustees set up the Grace Faus Hall with real china, glass stemware and cloth napkins belonging to the church. Something that had not been done for several years. With the acquisition of two new stainless steel gas ranges with sizeable ovens, it was easy for the Board members who were manning the kitchen to keep everything warm until the dining hour, which was right after the Sunday service. Food was in abundance and many were able to take a treat or two home. To all who brought their favorite dishes, family and guests, we thank you and look forward to another successful undertaking next year.

**ITEM#2** As was reported last month, the Board and ministers, teachers and practitioners are still reflecting on the Mission Statement that was drafted recently. It is an item of importance, but requires careful editing and discussion before a final document will be presented. We will let you know as soon as a final version has been voted on.

**ITEM #3** Thank you to everyone who contributed to the drive for toiletries, to be distributed to a local charity before Christmas. The receptacles in the 35<sup>th</sup> Street entrances overflow with the many items donated by members.

Shirley Taylor Moore  
President, Board of Trustees

## **WINTER CLASSES**

Starting Sunday, January 7, at 9:00 am, three Divine Science Classes will be offered. The classes will run for 10 weeks at a cost of \$65 (audit fee is \$35 if repeating the class).

### **Basic Principle of Divine Science**

Rev. Janet Friedline, *Instructor*

*There is no prerequisite for this class. It is open to all.*

The Basic Principle of Divine Science class is the foundation on which all the other classes are built. It is during this class that the student's faith in an ever-present Presence is awakened.

### **Spiritual Psychology**

Rev. Donna Gatewood, *Instructor*

*Prerequisite: Basic Principle of Divine Science*

The class in Spiritual Psychology teaches the student to reason about life from the basis of the omnipresence of God. In our quest for Truth we learn to look beyond the appearance to that which is real and absolute. Spiritual Psychology presents the physical, mental and spiritual aspects of life as an unfolding process leading to the realization of Oneness.

### **Bible Mystery and Bible Meaning/New Testament**

Mr. Wayne Gatewood, *Instructor*

*Prerequisites: Basic Principle of Divine Science, Spiritual Psychology, Meditation, Bible Mystery and Bible Meaning/Old Testament*

This class moves the metaphysical study of the Bible into the New Testament. The class emphasizes the awakening of the Spiritual nature in man as told through the birth of the Christ. This one revelation in the

consciousness of an individual transforms ordinary man and woman into children of God.

## **CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE**

Our Christmas Boutique is winding down but there are still many items remaining for sale. Come take one last look around and see if there is anything that you have been thinking about buying and have just waited to the last minute to purchase.

Remember all proceeds from the sale of these items goes to the Church's General Fund so we encourage you to shop 'til you drop. The boutique will be closed by the end of the year.

## **JOSHUA RICH IN CONCERT**

You are invited to come see Joshua Rich in concert on **Sunday, December 10, 2017, at 1:00 in the afternoon.**

Joshua is a self-taught piano virtuoso, composer, singer and multi-faceted entertainer. He has invited us to debut his new album "Come on Over" and to raise funds for the church's building fund.

Please plan to come and enjoy his engaging, uplifting, and soul affirming music and donate to the building fund.

Suggested donation for this special event is \$10.00 per person with larger amounts graciously accepted and appreciated.

## **DARK NIGHT, BRIGHT MORNING**

Rev. Dr. Miriam Comer Johnson is a Divine Science Minister and Lecturer who is the author of three books: A Lecture series on Genesis, The Open Book of Revelation, and her latest, Dark Night, Bright Morning. She recently returned to the Washington, D.C.,

Divine Science Church of the Healing Christ, for a one-day seminar on her latest book, in which she shares her experience of awakening.

In her new book, Dr. Comer Johnson gives a firsthand account of her spiritual awakening. Written in the style of a memoir, her account paints a vivid depiction of her personal experience of conscious awareness of her true Self. Through this process of coming into deep realization of her true identity, she experiences the self-made image she identifies with, and the Self that has always been present, awaiting her recognition. Through a chronology of revelations during the dream state, she undergoes a total transformation of consciousness. When she arrives at the conscious recognition of who she really is, the poignant question that arises in her is: “What kept you so long?” All of this takes place as an experience of an object/subject split of two Miriams: the Miriam standing on a hill, the personality, and the Miriam, standing on the top of a mountain, the Truth. There is urgency for her to get to the Miriam on the mountain top. When her mental construct of Miriam finally collapses, she rediscovers the Self she had always known. She describes what follows this illuminating experience as the Dark Night of the soul.

According to Rev. Dr. Comer Johnson, the Dark Night experience is common after every spiritual illumination. Jesus experienced the Dark Night as a test in the wilderness, after his baptism. Dr. Comer Johnson gave inspired assurance that no matter what we are going through – everything will turn out all right. She said, “We have the capacity to overcome because the seed is within itself. Everything is already in Consciousness – the desire, the courage, and the drive is already in us to do what we are here to do.” As we move more deeply into Consciousness, a transformation takes place. To come through the Dark

Night into the Bright Morning, Dr. Comer Johnson said that it requires a change in the way we live. The Dark Night rearranges consciousness to accept the transformation. The focus of the transformation is not on the mind, but on the heart. She said that we have to experience the “No” then the “Yes” to discover what does not work before we will accept the Truth that is within us. And once we have come to know the Truth, the prayer of the illumined Consciousness is: “Thy will be done.”

The Church Family extends deepest gratitude to Rev. Dr. Comer Johnson for delivering an inspiring and uplifting message. The Seminar and the Question and Answer segment were of great benefit to all who were in attendance. Miriam, we miss you and look forward to your next visit.

Love,  
Jacqueline Scotland

### **ELECTRONIC DONATIONS**

The Church website now has a Donation Button that allows people to donate to the Church either through Paypal or with credit cards. When using this feature, donors shall be provided Donation receipts for income tax purposes. Please go on line and donate now! Go ahead...Just Do It!

### **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

The Alumni Association welcomed Judy Coleman-Kla, a June 2017 graduate, to speak on November 5, 2017. In keeping with the purpose of imparting the wisdom we have learned from the Divine Science classes, and the teachings of the church, Judy selected Romans 12:2 to reflect on. “And be not conformed to this world: but be yet transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good to God, and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Judy indicated that this particular verse served as a reminder for her to exercise discipline, saying “this verse serves as my guiding light, and speaks to the discipline we all need and must demonstrate daily.” She believes that when we start our Spiritual journey we may not realize it’s Spiritual, but just us in search of self. However, through the years we are influenced by our paths in “LIFE” and ultimately we are shaped by this journey.

She went on to talk about the various paths we have taken, and the ones we are currently on, pointing out that many are dead ends, some are crooked roads, and others meander around carrying us along, but let’s not forget that there is a straight and narrow path which leads right to the Father’s house.

Judy believes what shapes us are the people we meet, the places we go, and the progress and challenges we encounter. All of this leads us to our next pathway. Remember the Father is always traveling with us, and providing guidance. We must listen closely, or be silent enough to hear him, but most of all obey him.

Judy told us she grew up in Washington DC, a vibrant, energetic city, exposed to plenty of opportunities; and remembers having to make decisions daily, even minute to minute. She had friends who were “A” students making good decision, and others who were drop outs making not so good decisions, but she loved them both equally.

She referenced the book; The Alchemist, where a young Sheppard boy traveled a path far from home in search of Gold, only to return back home to his father and realized he had all he ever needed right there, but it took him leaving his father and going out before realizing this truth.

Next, she referenced the movie: Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, where several young people were tested in a tempting, chaotic environment, but they had to remember all the rules given to them before entering the environment. Doesn’t that sound familiar, we know the rules and the truth, but we just can’t remember, maybe it’s due to the chaos that surrounds us daily. This is why Meditation is necessary, it allows us to be quiet and listen. We all get tested along the way, again how will we know if we are “Conforming to the World or being Transformed by the Renewing of our Mind.”

So, what does transformation look like, well it starts with us taking that first disciplined step, if our thoughts are disciplined, our actions will follow. Remember it gets easier each time.

**FEATURED BOOK**  
**The Christmas Letters**  
Joel S. Goldsmith

By the mid 1950’s students around the world were receiving a monthly Letter which Joel considered a sacred bond between him and the many students drawn to his message. The Letters helped students understand the Infinite Way principles at a deeper level. This book presents ten December Letters, taken from a variety of his books, each of which leads to a fuller grasp of the nature of Christmas.

The author writes: “To understand Christmas Day, then let us understand clearly that God has planted the seed of himself in each of us, the seed that springs forth as the fully developed son of God whose mission it is that our lives may be fulfilled, that we may show forth the glory of God which the Master revealed.”

## **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

Please sign-up on the clipboard in the downstairs fellowship hall to reserve and purchase poinsettias which will decorate our sanctuary on Sunday, December 17. Following the service the gorgeous plants are yours to take with you. Cost: \$15.

## **STATEMENTS OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR 2017**

To help you prepare your taxes we are offering to provide statements of your tithes and offerings made to the church for 2017. If you would like to have a statement prepared for you, please sign up on the "Income Tax Statements for Tax Year 2017" form on the clip board on the table in the library.

## **SUNDAY FLOWERS**

We have posted the 2018 calendar on the bulletin board outside the bookstore. Several dates are still available.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Dec 3, Sunday, 12:15 pm, Alumni Association with Michael Adeniji.**

**Dec 10, Sunday, 12:15 Board Meeting. 1:00 pm Joshua Rich in Concert to debut his new album "Come On Over."**

**Dec 17, Sunday, 11:00 Christmas Service followed by board-sponsored luncheon reception.**

**Dec 24, Sunday – there will not be a morning service. However, at 7:00 pm we will have our Candlelight Service, followed by a dessert reception.**

**Jan 7, Sunday, 9:00 am: 3 classes begin: Basic Principle of Divine Science,**

**Spiritual Psychology and Bible Mystery and Bible Meaning/New Testament.**

**Jan 14, Sunday, 12:15 pm Board Meeting.**

**Church Office and Bookstore will be closed Dec 26, 27, and 28. Office will reopen Jan 2.**

## **Ongoing Prayer/Study Groups:**

**The Tuesday night prayer and study group will not meet on December 19 and 26. It will resume January 2.**

## **OFFICE COVERAGE:**

Tuesdays - Rev. Janet Friedline  
Wednesdays - Rev. Donna Gatewood  
Thursdays - Practitioner Wayne Gatewood

## **DIVINE SCIENCE MINISTERS**

Rev. Janet Friedline 202-362-5044  
Rev. Donna Gatewood 703-641-9141

## **DIVINE SCIENCE PRACTITIONERS**

Wayne Gatewood 703-641-9141  
Jacqueline Scotland 202-338-7538

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Shirley Taylor-Moore, *President*  
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Jacqueline Scotland  
Rev. Janet Friedline, Ex-Officio

## **WHETHER WEATHER?**

For information about weather-related church closings, please call the church number (202) 333-7630, listen to WTOP 103.5 FM, or check the WTOP website: WTOP.COM.

