

Janice Jamison

The two handsome young men you see up front helping to lead us in worship and music each Sunday – Terrell on drums and Merrell on bass – belong to none other than Ms. Janice Jamison! The same Janice Jamison that seems to always be smiling, always offering a hug or a word of encouragement, and always sharing a testimony and asking us to pray for someone who is struggling.

Janice sees herself as “a people person, a loving person; I love to help out whenever I can, I love my kids and am a family person.” Besides her twins Merrell and Terrell who were born in 1986, Janice has two daughters, Kim (1974) and Peanut (1977), and three grandchildren.

Born in 1956 at Provident Hospital on Division Street, she was the second of 7 children (6 girls and one boy) and was raised by her parents in and near Sandtown. She attended Gilmor and Matthew Henson Elementary Schools and then Houston Woods Junior-Senior High School (Baker and Calhoun Streets) where she graduated in 1975. She says “I had a lot of fun as a child” and that “I was a tomboy.” Perhaps her favorite childhood activity was skating in the streets: “We had our Ballbearing #5 skates and we all wore our skate keys around our neck, and we used to skate in a chain from the top of Presstman Street all the way to McKean.” She also loved to play softball at Easterwood. “I played for several teams and especially liked playing for Bill Dotson Lounge.” And she remembers that “as a teenager we wore our hair in a bush, and I loved picking my bush out every day.”

Having taken data entry courses at Watterson Skills Center in Edmondson Village and computer programming at PSI downtown, she worked in the data entry field before beginning a job as the receptionist for Sandtown Habitat in 1994. (Interesting fact: Janice was the very first job placement by EDEN Jobs!) She has been working for Sprint since 1999. Oh, and she became a Habitat homeowner on Carey Street in 1993.

Janice says “back in the day I loved street skating/roller skating and softball, but now I love bowling and hand dance. I enjoy hanging out with my children/family, I love chicken and some seafood, and musically I like oldies but goodies.” She does not like sushi, trouble, or phony people.

What brought her to New Song Church? She needed a home church and visited New Song in 1994 “to see what it was all about, and I’ve been here ever since. I like New Song because you always feel welcome here and because you get the Word here.” One of her favorite verses of the Bible is Psalm 23:4 – *“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”*