



Christensen accepts Interim Position

In a November letter to area churches, Association Chair Jackie Scott announced the appointment of Pastor Robert Christensen to the Interim District Pastor position, effective mid-January 2017.

Current District Pastor David Shrout, who officially retires as of December 31, 2016, is taking his accrued vacation time, but is still on duty and available until the end of the year.

Chairman Scott writes, "The search committee has been conducting a thoughtful and thorough process to identify and recommend a candidate for the District Pastor position. When they have completed their work, they will make a recommendation to the District Council and the Association will be asked to ratify the nominee."

"In the meantime, the District Council has sought and identified a respected leader who will be serving as *Interim* District Pastor, effective mid-January. We are pleased to announce that we have called on Pastor Bob Christensen to fill this role, and he has accepted our call. Again, the tenure of this appointment is unknown, but Bob is willing to serve until such time as the search committee completes its work and our new permanent District Pastor is in place."



Pastor Bob and Barbara Christensen

Robert Christensen, often called Bob, grew up in a Christian home and gave his life to Jesus Christ when he was 12 years old while attending the Church of God in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. After graduating from Warner Pacific College and attending the School of Theology in Anderson, Indiana, he pastored Church of God congregations in Missouri, Washington, and Oregon from 1970 to 2012. He and his wife, Barbara, also served for two years in Brazil as missionaries at the Church of God Bible institute in the mid-1980s.

After retiring from their last pastorate at the Mt. Scott Church of God in Portland, they have served various interim positions:

- Aina Haina Church, Honolulu, Hawaii
- Interim directors of the Double K Christian Retreat and Adventure Center, Easton, Washington
- Fairview Church, Seattle, Washington
- Sunset Park Church of God, St. Helens, Oregon
- North Modesto Church of God, Modesto, California.

Bob and Barbara live in Southeast Portland near the Mt. Scott Church of God and are long-time supporters of the church in the northwest. They both enjoy helping churches re-think their leadership structure and ways of doing ministry, and have promoted servant-leadership concepts which have brought renewed health to churches.

Bob serves as a member of the board of the Double K Retreat and Adventure Center. He also serves on the board of Co-Serve International, which trains students in several countries of the world to understand and implement servant-leadership concepts.

Pastor David Shroust Retires

By Rev. Gale Hency, retired COG Pastor

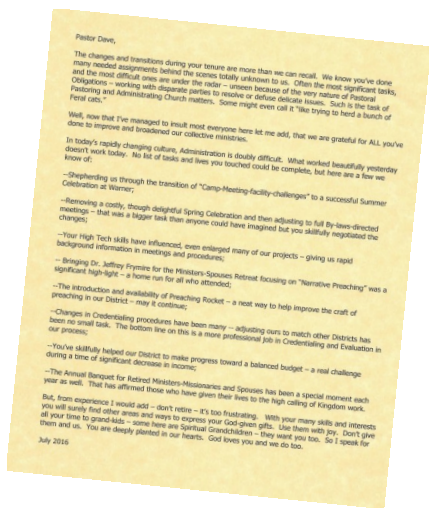
The following letter to Pastor David Shroust was presented in his honor during Summer Celebration, July 2016. Rev. Shroust has served the Association of the Churches of God in Oregon and Southwest Washington since January 1, 2001. Thank you, Dave, for your service to the District over the past 16 years.

Pastor Dave,

The changes and transitions during your tenure are more than we can recall. We know you've done many needed assignments behind the scenes totally unknown to us. Often the most significant tasks, and the most difficult ones are under the radar—unseen because of the very nature of Pastoral Obligations—working with disparate parties to resolve or defuse delicate issues. Such is the task of Pastoring and Administrating Church matters. Some might even call it “like trying to herd a bunch of Feral cats.”

Well, now that I've managed to insult most everyone here, let me add that we are grateful for ALL you've done to improve and broaden our collective ministries.

In today's rapidly changing culture, Administration is doubly difficult. What worked beautifully yesterday doesn't work today. No list of tasks and lives you touched could be complete, but here are a few we know of:



- Shepherding us through the transition of “Camp-Meeting-facility-challenges” to a successful Summer Celebration at Warner;
- Removing a costly, though delightful, Spring Celebration and then adjusting to full bylaws-directed meetings—that was a bigger task than anyone could have imagined, but you skillfully negotiated the changes;
- Your high-tech skills have influenced, even enlarged many of our projects—giving us rapid background information in meetings and procedures;

- Bringing Dr. Jeffrey Frymire for the Minister-Spouse Retreat focusing on “Narrative Preaching” was a significant highlight—a home run for all who attended;
- The introduction and availability of *Preaching Rocket*—a neat way to help improve the craft of preaching in our District—may it continue;
- Changes in Credentialing procedures have been many—adjusting ours to match other Districts has been no small task. The bottom line on this is a more professional job in Credentialing and Evaluation in our process;
- You've skillfully helped our District to make progress toward a balanced budget—a real challenge during a time of significant decrease in income;
- The Annual Banquet for Retired Ministers/Missionaries and Spouses has been a special moment each year as well. That has affirmed those who have given their lives to the high calling of Kingdom work.



Pastor David I. Shroust

But from experience, I would add—don't retire—it's too frustrating. With your many skills and interests you will surely find other areas and ways to express your God-given gifts. Use them with joy. Don't give all your time to grandkids—some here are Spiritual Grandchildren—they want you too. So I speak for them and us. You are deeply planted in our hearts. God loves you, and we do too.

Thank you, Pastor David, for your investment in the Association of the Churches of God in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Church of God at Front Lines of Societal Transformation

By Carl Stagner (posted 11/14/2016 by chogministries)

The world is hungry. Starving, in fact. Decades of devolution into trite programs and a focus on religious rituals have often offered only gristle in lieu of hearty spiritual meat. Regardless of cultural background, people today are craving convictions that lead to meaningful action. They're searching for answers amid a smorgasbord of platitudes and pretense.

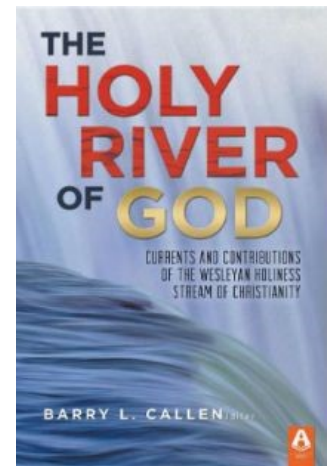


But at the forefront of change is the Church of God movement, revitalized by a bright new day of reclaiming what hell has stolen and changing the world by making Jesus the subject. Such theology really isn't new; it's New Testament, and it's leading Church of God ministers and ministries to lock arms with like-minded brothers and sisters in spite of what name may be over the door of the church they attend. A new book edited by Barry Callen celebrates the multitude of faith groups connected by their Wesleyan roots which, through their distinct voices united under Christ, are living out common-held truths and transforming society.

Take for instance, CHOG TraffickLight. Before the fight against human trafficking was ever on the radar of most faith groups, the Church of God was on the scene. Since then, numerous denominations and agencies have followed suit. The Declaration of Freedom, drafted in December 2013, is the Wesleyan Holiness Connection's treatise on this great issue of our time. Faith groups which trace their roots back to Wesley are now some of the greatest champions of freedom from modern slavery the world has ever seen. Such groups include the Church of God, the Assemblies of God, the Brethren in Christ, the Christian and Missionary Alliance, the Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee), the Church of the Nazarene, the Free Methodist Church, Grace Communion International, the International Pentecostal Holiness Church, the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, the Salvation Army, the United Methodist Church, and the Wesleyan Church. In addition to the Declaration of Freedom, Callen's new book, titled *The Holy River of God*, includes valuable resources for engaging a post-Christian culture, such as the Holiness

Manifesto, a call to full acceptance of women in ministry, and a conversation on gracefully engaging the LGBT debate.

Churches coming out of the Wesleyan holiness tradition are confronting the hot-button issues of our time because of the values they hold. From the beginning, the Church of God has carried the banner of unity and holiness, and as we live out such values, we recognize the power of working together. To the holiness movement, we have contributed the inextricable link between unity and holiness. Other churches of Wesleyan descent have made unique contributions, as well, and *The Holy River of God* chronicles those contributions from the perspective of leaders in each tribe. The book also offers a history of the Wesleyan Holiness Connection and tells the stories of associated ministry partners, such as the Junia Project and the Wesleyan Holiness Women Clergy—a group led by MaryAnn Hawkins, who now serves as the dean of Anderson School of Theology and Christian Ministry.



Purchase a copy of *The Holy River of God* on Amazon.com or through Aldersgate Press. Available in soft-cover or e-book format.



Save the Dates
June 20-23, 2017
Tuesday-Friday
Church of God Convention
Semi-annual gathering
and General Assembly
Wichita, Kansas

Camp White Branch

Fundraising Dinner Results



The October Annual Fundraising Dinner held at Mt. Scott Church of God in Portland brought in \$15,220.00 for Camp White Branch, according to Board Chairman Mel Neu, who reports, "The window guard and frames are done, and the firewall is taped, textured and painted. We hope to put up the ceiling joists next week, depending on weather." See photos.



Revised Policy and Waiver Available

An updated **Policy for Preventing Abuse of Children and Youth** as well as an updated **Waiver and Release** have been posted on the District website (orwacog.org) under the "Resources" tab. The forms, replacing previous ones, have been reviewed and revised with the assistance of our attorney, for use with Camp White Branch camps, Summer Celebration and other events.

2017 CAMP SCHEDULE
Intro Camp, entering 2nd or 3rd grade & parent
Friday, July 7, 2017 - Sunday, July 9, 2017
Senior High camp, entering 9th-12th grade
Monday, July 10, 2017 - Friday, July 14, 2017
Junior camp, entering 5th-6th grade
Monday, July 17, 2017 - Friday, July 21, 2017
Middle School camp, entering 7th-8th grade
Monday, July 31, 2017 - Friday, August 4, 2017
Primary camp, entering 3rd-4th grade
Monday, August 7, 2017 - Thursday, August 10, 2017
Camp White Branch
61500 Old McKenzie Hwy, McKenzie Bridge, OR



THE PURPOSE of The Association of the Churches of God in Oregon and SW Washington is to:

- Conduct business as the legally-incorporated body of the Association of the Churches of God in Oregon, Inc.
- Provide assistance to Oregon and Southwest Washington congregations and be a channel through which local congregations shall be mobilized to fulfill our united vision and mission.

THE VISION of The Association is for every believer to fulfill the mandate of the Great Commission, the Great Commandments, and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

THE MISSION of The Association is to:

- Create and maintain ministries that will strengthen, encourage, supplement, and promote local congregations of The Association;
- Inspire commitment to the teachings, mission, and theological perspectives of the Church of God, Anderson, Indiana;
- Provide support for the development of healthy Church of God congregations.

Seeking Innovative Ideas

Warner Pacific is committed to growth and innovation, and we are confident that our mission provides huge opportunity. With the same conviction, the Board of Trustees issued a charge to the President, Executive Cabinet, and staff and faculty to enter into a new season of growth. Dr. Cook wants you to know that we are entering into a season where we are listening to ideas for innovation from all sources. Maybe you have ideas of how Warner Pacific can better engage with a need in the city? Perhaps you work in an industry where you and your colleagues have been saying, *"I would love it if a college provided a program like _____!"* If you have an idea of how Warner Pacific can utilize our institutional resources to better serve diverse students and the city we call home, Dr. Cook would love to hear from you! Please submit your idea to the President's Office by emailing us directly at president@warnerpacific.edu. It's an exciting time to be at Warner Pacific. It is time to grow!

Two Knights Voted All-Conference

After leading the Knights (volleyball) to the playoffs for the first time since 2012, Warner Pacific volleyball players Janessa White and Janessa Mast have been named CCC All-Conference. <http://www.wpcknights.com/news/2016/11/11/womens-volleyball-janessa-squared-white-mast-voted-all-conference.aspx?path=wvball>

WP Students and Alumni positively impact community

We invite you to join us online and learn more about how God is moving through the good work of our students and alumni. Every week in the College's Facebook feed, you will find inspiring stories of how they are making a difference near and far. <https://www.facebook.com/WarnerPacific/>

Upcoming Events:

Annual Advent Brunch

Saturday morning, December 3, 2016 (FREE)
10 am - 12 pm
McGuire Auditorium (2219 SE 68th Ave., Portland)
Featuring a gourmet brunch
RSVP: <http://www.warnerpacific.edu/advent-brunch/>

First-Year Learning Communities End of the Semester Showcase

Enjoy a formal evening of appetizers and desserts featuring short presentations lovingly created by the 2016 FYLCs.
Monday, December 5, 2016
6:00 - 8:00 pm in McGuire Auditorium
All are welcome, there is no cost to attend

Warner Pacific offices and campuses are closed for Christmas Break

December 23, 2016 - January 2, 2017

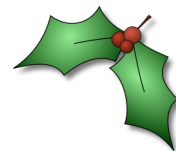
Aloha COG Helps Load Shoeboxes



Above: A cheery group that just loaded 64 cartons containing 949 shoeboxes to send to the collection center. Bravo, Aloha Church of God and its surrounding community. We are going to make a huge difference in many children's lives.

Courtesy Aloha COG Facebook page

Christmas Events at Association Churches



December 2, 2016

HANGING OF THE GREENS & ANNUAL SOUP, BREAD, DESSERT COMPETITION

Longview First Church of God
2335 46th Ave., Longview, WA 98632
6:00 pm
Questions? Call: 360-636-0370
Website: <http://www.lvchog.org/upcoming.html>

LIVE NATIVITY

Lynchwood Church of God
3818 SE 174th Avenue, Portland, OR
Sat. – Sun, 6:30 – 9:00 pm
Monday, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Presented by Lynchwood COG and Lynchwood Christian Church

December 3, 2016

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Longview First Church of God
2335 46th Ave., Longview, WA 98632
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Questions? Call: 360-636-0370



December 16-18, 2016

LIVE NATIVITY

Friendly Street Church of God
2290 Friendly St., Eugene, OR
7:00 – 9:00 pm each evening
Drive or walk by scenes of Jesus' life
Free event for the whole family!
Questions? Church office:
541-345-6553
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendlyStreetChurchOfGod>

December 9-10, 2016

44th ANNUAL SINGING CHRISTMAS TREE

Vancouver First Church of God
3300 NE 78th St., Vancouver, WA 98665
7:00 p.m. (First come, first serve; no reservations)
Bring fresh canned food item for The Giving Closet
Questions? Call 360-574-1611
www.vchurch.org

December 16-18, 2016

THE LIVING CHRISTMAS STORY

Hoodview Church of God
1530 Mt. Hood Avenue, Woodburn, OR
6:00 – 8:00 pm each evening
Walk-through or drive-through
(live animals, free refreshments)
Eleven outdoor scenes from the Life of Christ
Questions? Call 503-981-1660
www.hoodviewchurchofgod.com

December 10-12, 2016

44th ANNUAL SINGING CHRISTMAS TREE

Vancouver First Church of God
3300 NE 78th St., Vancouver, WA 98665
(First come, first serve; no reservations)
Dec. 10 Sat. 3 & 7 pm; Dec. 11 Sun. 3 p.m.
Bring fresh canned food item for The Giving Closet
Questions? Call 360-574-1611
www.vchurch.org

December 18, 2016

CANDLES, CAROLS AND KIDS

Dessert Contest

Holladay Park Church of God
2120 NE Tillamook Street, Portland, OR 97212
6:00 p.m.
Questions? Call 503-287-1238

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

“Stark Trek” Skit

Aloha Church of God
18380 SW Kinnaman Road, Aloha, OR 97078
Dec. 11, Sun., 6:00 p.m.
Questions? Call 503-649-5678
www.alohacog.org

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Longview First Church of God
2335 46th Ave., Longview, WA
6:00 pm
Questions? Call: 360-636-0370



(Continued on page 7)

Christmas Events at Association Churches

(Continued from page 6)

December 18, 2016

“WHAT A GLORIOUS NIGHT” An Evening of Christmas Music

Mt. Scott Church of God
10603 SE Henderson, Portland, OR
97266
6:00 p.m.
Questions? Call 503-771-1195
www.mtscottchog.org



VERY RICHMOND CHRISTMAS

Richmond Community Church
3941 SE Division St., Portland, OR
Family Traditions
6:00 p.m.

December 24, 2016

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION & CANDLE-LIGHT

Mt. Scott Church of God
10603 SE Henderson, Portland, OR 97266
5:30 p.m.
Questions? Call 503-771-1195
www.mtscottchog.org

CAROLING & CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

Longview First Church of God
2335 46th Ave., Longview, WA
6:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Questions? Call: 360-636-0370

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Redmond Church of God
818 NW Elm Ave., Redmond, OR
6:00 pm
Questions? Call: 541-548-4162
Website: www.redmondchurchofgod.com

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Holladay Park Church of God
2120 NE Tillamook Street, Portland, OR 97212
7:00 p.m.
Questions? Call 503-287-1238



December 25, 2016

EARLY CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Richmond Community Church
3941 SE Division St., Portland, OR
6:30 a.m.
Questions? Call 503-236-6069
www.richmondcog.com

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

Longview First Church of God
2335 46th Ave., Longview, WA
10:00 a.m.
Questions? Call: 360-636-0370

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

Holladay Park Church of God
2120 NE Tillamook Street, Portland, OR 97212
10:30 a.m.
Questions? Call 503-287-1238

FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Mt. Scott Church of God
10603 SE Henderson, Portland, OR 97266
Cinnamon Rolls & Cider in the Lobby, 10:00 a.m.
Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Kids welcome to come in their pj's!
Questions? Call 503-771-1195
www.mtscottchog.org



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Kay Tira, Editor—contacteditor@orwacog.org

Submissions and news items for publication consideration are due the 15th of each month.

How-To Convention January 28

Holladay Park Church of God will host the annual "How-To" Convention on the last Saturday of January, from 8:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Schedules are being finalized and brochures will be released soon. Be sure to save the date—January 28—and encourage local leaders and lay people to register together and participate in the all-day training opportunities. **Dr. Lou Foltz** will serve as keynote speaker.



Dr. Lou Foltz

Missionaries **Bobby and Jenny (Dunbar) Mihsill**, of Côte d'Ivoire, will also speak at the convention, and several workshops will be available.



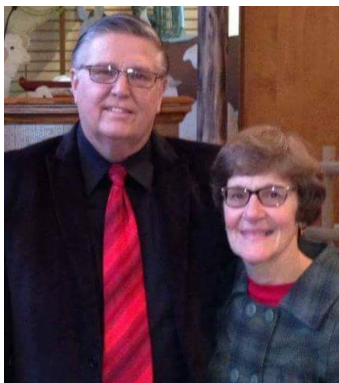
Jenny, Moore and Bobby Mihsill

Please be in prayer for the Christian Education Task Force and Holladay Park as they finalize preparations and details for the event.

Homeward Journeys

Rev. Dr. Arthur R. Eikamp, 98, passed away on Saturday, November 5, 2016, in Bandon, Oregon. Arthur and his wife, Norma, served as missionaries in Japan for 35 years and Arthur was a professor at Warner Pacific College for several years before his retirement. Plans are pending for a memorial service at a later date. Please pray for the Eikamp family and loved ones.

Celebrate Retirement with Pastor Doug and Shirley Dougherty



Pastor Doug & Shirley Dougherty

Sunday,
December 4, 2016
10:45 a.m.
Special Worship
Service

"Come and Go"
Social
2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Springfield Church of God
1369 D Street, Springfield, OR 97477

Upcoming Events

REGION #5 Mtg. - Thurs., Dec. 1, 10:00 a.m.

REGION #8 Mtg. - Thurs., Dec. 1, 4:00 p.m.

REGION #6 Mtg. - Thurs., Dec. 15, 10:00 a.m.

District Office closed - Fri., Dec. 23

CHRISTMAS EVE - Sat., Dec. 24

CHRISTMAS DAY - Sun., Dec. 25

District Office closed - Mon., Dec. 26

NEW YEAR'S DAY - Sun., Jan. 1, 2017

REGION #1 Mtg - Tues., Jan. 10, 2017

District Council Mtg - Tues., Jan. 24, 5:30 p.m.

How-To Convention - Sat., Jan. 28, 2017



For more events, see orwacog.org/calendar