



Association of
the Churches
of God
in Oregon and
Southwest
Washington

**Churches to register pastors and
delegates for General Assembly;
Deadline: May 15**

See Page 3

THE CONNECTION

April 2017

Volume 4 Issue 04

E-Contact

Interim Term of Service Comes to Conclusion



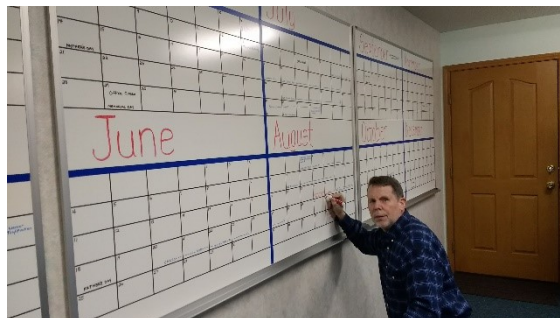
While the assignment given to me as interim district pastor has only lasted for two months, it has been my joyful privilege to serve in this role and learn more about how our district work moves forward. I have

seen two very dedicated and capable people serving in the Salem office – Sally Ranton and Valerie Borst. Each of these women gives their heart as well as their talent to their duties.

I have participated in both district council meetings and a Camp White Branch board meeting. Each member of these groups believes in the mission of our district and offers their service with creativity and trust that the Lord leads as they make decisions and strive to improve their areas of responsibility.

In two quick months, we have moved ahead in helping to re-rent the church property in Washougal, Washington. The current church group worshipping in the facility is intent on purchasing the property and the council is taking the necessary steps to realize that goal.

To improve the clarity and coordination of the many activities of our association, we have installed large white boards in the district office building to make the calendar for the whole year easier to see and manage.



In addition, we have just begun to move archived records from paper copies to digital format in order to reduce the volume of space such papers have required. Since the district office is the keeper of records on ministers, congregations, and finances, after many years such records consume many file drawers.

One of the major responsibilities of the district at this time of year is to prepare for the summer gathering which has been known as Summer Celebration. Plans are well underway for this year and the name of the gathering is being changed to *Summer IMPACT!* If it is not already on your calendar, mark July 23-26 as the days you will want to be in Portland for an outstanding meeting. Watch for other details.

No doubt, the most significant achievement of these two months has been to finalize the selection of Pastor Jerry Davisson as the new district pastor. I have had the privilege of spending several hours with him already, and he will be a huge blessing to this area as he assumes this new role. Pastor Jerry's heart for the work of the church is quickly evident.

Even though my position as interim district pastor ends in a few days, my participation in the work of our district will continue. Barbara and I love the people of this district and always look forward to being with you because of your love, joy, and desire to serve the Lord. God bless you as we make every day count for the kingdom of God. As each day shows us, there are still people all around us who need to see the love of Jesus Christ in the hearts and activities of His followers.

God bless you. Until we meet again,

Robert Christensen
Member of the family of God

Jerry Davisson Incoming District Pastor



Rev. Jerry Davisson, District Pastor

Monday at 5 p.m., March 20, 2017, was the deadline for votes from pastors and lay delegates, determining the calling of the next District Pastor of the Association of the Churches of God in Oregon and SW Washington. The Association is pleased to welcome Rev. Jerry Davisson, effective April 1, 2017.

“I am humbled and honored to be the next District Pastor for Oregon and Southwest Washington. We have been truly blessed to have such outstanding leadership, I hope to follow in their footsteps. I am thrilled to be back in Oregon, and look forward to serving the leaders and churches of our district. These are challenging days for the Western church

but I believe that the best days for our district can be ahead. It is going to take a great deal of work as we continue to keep our vision before us. Our vision can be found in Jesus’ words to his disciples after his resurrection. “Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20, Message). Jesus promised to be with us as we practice and teach what he commanded which he summed up in these words, “Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence. This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: Love others as well as you love yourself.” (Matthew 22:37-39, Message). This will continue to be our highest priority as we seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance in the days and years ahead. I look forward to building strong relationships as we work to build God’s Kingdom together.”

Lynchwood Church to host W.A.R.M.

“Revitalization can be messy; let’s wade through the mud together!”

The invitation comes to pastors and lay leaders of the Church of God in the Western Area Regional Ministerium or WARM.

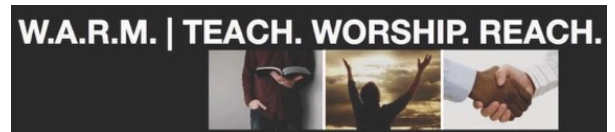
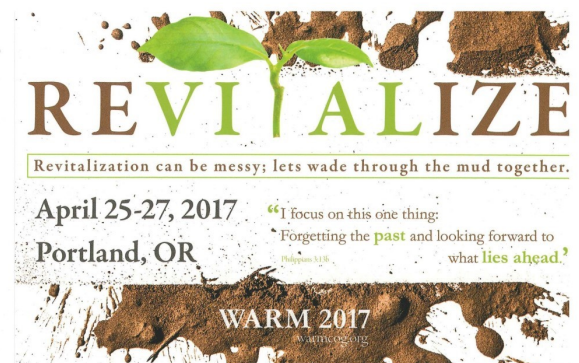
The event, a traditional and evolving opportunity for connection and renewal, is strong in the Pacific Northwest. With a focus of “Teach, Worship, Reach,” Lynchwood Church of God is hosting the gathering this month (April 25-27), with pastor, author and speaker Brian Wangler.



**Brian Wangler
Keynote Speaker**

Lead pastor of the Chicago First Church of the Nazarene in Lemont, IL, Brian is a sought-after coach and mentor and teaches principle-driven leadership. He is passionate about reaching the unchurched for Christ and establishing discipleship systems to guide their new faith. Learn more about Brian and his ministry at brianwangler.com.

To register and for more information on WARM, see warmcog.org. The Lynchwood Church of God is located at 3818 SE 174th in Portland, Oregon.



Churches to Register for General Assembly Vote

This year marks a centennial meeting of the Church of God. A recent post by General Director Jim Lyon notes: "In this 100th year of the General Assembly (meeting as part of the Church of God Convention in Wichita, Kansas, June 20–23, 2017), we stand at another historic pivot. The Movement's trajectory for a generation—and, perhaps, a century—is in play. There is no other forum, no other venue, no other side meeting or table, that can speak into the church's life like this one." (see <http://www.jesusisthesubject.org/pivotal>).



Old Tabernacle Camp Meeting

The article reminds congregations of a May 15 deadline: "Every licensed or ordained minister of the Church of God is eligible to vote in the Assembly. Every congregation can also send lay delegates (one delegate per church if you have 99 or fewer people each weekend in worship, one delegate for every 100 people who worship in your local church after that). It is important that pastors and ministers register, lay delegates, too. But note: a letter or e-mail from the church authenticating lay delegates is required for participation (and must be received in our office by May 15). Churches can appoint their lay delegates in any way they wish, but they must alert us who they are. We have had some pretend to be lay delegates who were not authorized by their local church to represent them; no, I am not making this up; yes, it can be awkward."

Of course, everyone is welcome to register for the Convention, too. It's easy, quick, simple, online: www.JesusIsTheSubject.org or www.ChoGConvention.org. Either webpage will get you on your way.

June 20-23,
2017



Church of God Convention
Semi-annual gathering and General Assembly
Wichita, Kansas

Summer Celebration Gets a Facelift

By Jackie Scott, Association Chair

The annual summer gathering of the Association is coming up July 23-26, 2017, and it's shaping up to be an exciting opportunity to come together as the Church of God in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

In addition to welcoming our new District Pastor, Jerry Davisson, we will have the privilege of hearing from Jim Lyon, General Director of Church of God Ministries, who will serve as our guest speaker. Missionary speakers will be Bobby and Jenny Mihsill who serve in Cote d'Ivoire. Worship and conference leadership will be provided by several local leaders.



During this season of change in Association leadership, the event planning group has renamed our gathering to *Summer IMPACT!* and we are revamping the schedule to better serve attendees. Be watching for details in the coming weeks - but for now, be sure the dates are on your calendar!

Salem Oak Park to Host CWC Retreat

Pearls Strung Together

Christian Women Connection (CWC) invites all ladies to attend the annual spring retreat and, for the event, to accessorize with a string of pearls. The one-day retreat, scheduled for Saturday, May 6, will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Oak Park Church of God, 2990 Lancaster Drive NE, Salem, Oregon 97305.



With the theme “Pearls Strung Together,” sessions will focus on some of life’s irritants and how to turn them into pearls.

Guest speaker **Lynda Taylor** has a passion to motivate women to be all they can be in Christ.

With a heart for missions, Lynda and her late husband, Don, and their three sons traveled the northwest building churches and congregations. Upon their arrival in a new area



Lynda enjoyed volunteering at community events and established Ladies’ Bible Studies in surrounding areas. She volunteered in state committee programs, and occasionally spoke at various denominational retreats and conferences.

Her dear husband, Don, a minister/contractor, went to be with the Lord in 1999, after a battle with brain cancer. Lynda then returned to college, and entered the work force as an activity professional in the health and rehab field. Currently Lynda works part-time and enjoys being close to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

On Saturday, the CWC spring retreat will include the traditional Silent Auction, in support of the Warner Pacific Scholarship awarded each year

to a female student preparing for Christian Service. Please bring a theme basket to be placed in the auction, and also come prepared to bid on baskets provided by the other churches. Suggested themes include gardening, chocolate, reading, fun in the sun, etc..

Registration for the retreat is \$25 and includes programming, morning break and lunch. It is helpful if attendees coming from the same church could register together, with name, home church, any dietary restrictions, and one payment. Checks are payable to Christian Women Connection. Mail to Sherrill Goodeill, 3229 SE 116th Avenue, Portland, OR 97266.

Driving Directions

From Interstate 5:
Take Exit 256 (OR-213) toward Lancaster Mall East on Market St NE
Left on Lancaster Dr NE
Oak Park Church of God is on the right.
(503) 364-3626

CWC Retreat Schedule Saturday, May 6, 2017

9:00 - 9:30	Registration
9:30	Greetings/Announcements
9:40	Worship/ Speaker
10:45 - 11:00	Break/Silent Auction
11:00 - 11:50	Irritants in Our Lives
Noon	Lunch
12:50	View silent auction
1:00	Worship/Speaker
1:50	Last chance bids
2:00	What is your Women’s Ministry doing? Share ideas!
2:30	Basket Winners Announced
3:00	Closing

The E-CONTACT is a publication of the Church of God in Oregon and SW Washington
PO Box 18000, Salem, OR 97305 503-393-3510 or 800-873-7729 www.orwacog.org
Rev. Jerry Davisson, Newly appointed District Pastor Kay Tira, Editor—contacteditor@orwacog.org
Submissions and news items for publication consideration are encouraged by the 15th of each month.

Two WP Wrestlers Named "All-American"

Cooper, Crager Earn All-American Status, Knights place 17th Overall



<http://www.wpcknights.com/news/2017/3/6/mens-wrestling-two-all-americans-for-wpc-at-naia-wrestling-championship.aspx>

President's Scholarship Auction

Saturday morning, April 8
10:30 am - 1:30 pm at Warner Pacific College
\$40 per person; \$280 per table of seven

Dr. Andrea Cook, President of Warner Pacific College, invites you to support Portland's next generation of urban and diverse leaders at a contemporary tea and live auction. Purchase tickets by April 3, 2017, online: <https://warnerpacific.regfox.com/17-presidents-scholarship-auction>. For more information, contact the Office of Advancement at 503.517.1114 or email.

College Preview Days

(for high school students and college transfer students)

Thursday, April 6 (for overnight)

Friday, April 7

RSVP: <https://warnerpacific.regfox.com/spring-17-preview-days>

Get a sneak peek at college life during Warner Pacific's Preview Days coming up Thursday, April 6, and continuing through Friday, April 7

Valentine Inducted into WP Hall of Honor

Former Warner Pacific Athletic Director, Head Coach, and faculty member Bart Valentine was the 10th individual inducted into the Warner Pacific Athletic Hall of Honor during 2017 Homecoming festivities in February.

Previous:

- Coach for Molalla Middle School
- Coach for Colton High School
- Coach for West Linn High School

"Following my graduation from Warner Pacific with my biology degree and teacher's licenses in hand, my goal was to be a head boys' basketball coach at the high school level," recalls Valentine.



Bart Valentine, WP Hall of Honor

After many years coaching at several schools, he was presented with an opportunity that would bring him back to his college alma mater. "In the spring of 1997, I received a call from then President of Warner Pacific, Dr. Jay Barber. He asked if I would be interested in coming to work as the Director of Athletics and the Head Men's Basketball Coach." Warner Pacific was set to reinstate intercollegiate athletics after a seven year hiatus. Valentine continues, "Honestly, I had no plans to coach at the college level. I loved what I was doing and did not see Warner Pacific as a good professional opportunity. I didn't tell Dr. Barber this but in my mind I'd already said no to this opportunity. However, after time in prayer and counsel from a

(Continued on page 6)

few people, I decided to take on the challenge. And believe me, it was a real challenge! I realized that God was asking me to go back to Warner Pacific and be part of creating a great college experience for the athletes. God opened the door and I needed to be obedient and walk through.”



His career at Warner Pacific spanned 15 years and included ten years as the Director of Athletics, 12 years as the head Men’s Basketball Coach, and five years as a full-time math professor and chair of the Department of Natural Sciences and Health.

“The legacy of my life’s work resides in the lives of my players and students.”

Valentine was presented a plaque that read:

“With a career that spanned over 30 years at both the high school and college levels, the State of Oregon has seen few coaches who can match the success of Bart Valentine.”

After graduating from Warner Pacific in 1976, Valentine began coaching and teaching at Molalla Middle School. Just six years later, he achieved a professional milestone when he was named the boys varsity coach at Colton High School. The impact of his leadership was felt immediately, as he led his team to the state championship game and was named the OSAA 2A Coach of the Year. His next position was at West Linn High School

where his success as a coach continued. In his 12 years as head coach at West Linn, Valentine led his teams to a state championship title in 1997 and was named OSAA 4A Coach of the Year twice.

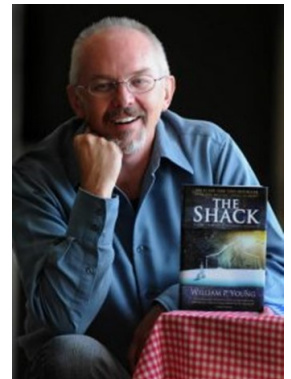
Valentine returned to his alma mater in 1999 to revive the athletic program as both the director and the men’s basketball coach. Under his leadership, the resurrected Knights grew from four sports to eleven and his basketball teams were perennial winners. He has two Cascade Conference titles to his credit, and with his guidance, the Knights qualified for the NAIA National Tournament six times. Valentine’s win-loss record as head coach at Warner Pacific is 233-157.

As a coach and administrator, he exemplified WPC’s Christ-centered mission. The Knights are proud to play their home contests at “Bart Valentine Court.”

WP Alum Shares Insights into Best Selling Novel and New Movie: The Shack

<http://www.warnerpacific.edu/paul-young/>

In theaters now, *The Shack* takes us on a father’s transformative journey that will show him the ultimate truth about love, loss, and forgiveness.



Paul Young ('78)

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.

**12 REASONS
YOU CAN'T MISS WICHITA!**

**EARLY-BIRD
REGISTRATION
ENDS MARCH 31**



BE BOLD
Reclaim

CHURCH OF GOD CONVENTION 2017

WICHITA, KANSAS • JUNE 20-23



1

GAITHER VOCAL BAND

The Gaither Vocal Band LIVE at Convention 2017



2

NICK VUJICIC

Nick was born in Melbourne, Australia, with no arms or legs, but refused to allow his physical condition to limit his lifestyle. His strength and passion for life can be credited to his faith in God.

3



DANIELLE STRICKLAND

Danielle serves as an officer in the Salvation Army and is the author of multiple books, including *A Beautiful Mess: How God Recreates Our Lives* and *Boundless: Living Life in Overflow*. Danielle is also on the front-lines of the fight against human trafficking.



4

GEREMY DIXON

Lead pastor for Center of Hope (First Church of God) in Inglewood, California, Geremy's particular blend of humor, inspiration, and sound biblical grounding has opened doors for him to be a sought-after speaker nationally and internationally.



5

SARAH SCHARBROUGH MCLAUGHLIN

Sarah is a worship leader, singer-songwriter, and blogger. Her voice can be heard on hundreds of radio stations, and she has released five albums, including *Sit with Me*. Not only is she heard on the airwaves and home stereos, you will be inspired by the fresh, creative, and warm leadership she brings to worship.

8



PAUL SHEPPARD

Paul is founding pastor of the Church of God congregation in Fremont, California, Destiny Christian Fellowship. He has transformed two of our largest Church of God congregations and has a powerful story of reclamation. Paul is an author, as well as a speaker for the radio and online broadcast *Destined for Victory*. His testimony of reclamation of what hell had once stolen from his life and church is powerful and poignant.



6

ALLAN FULLER

Allan is senior pastor at Mountain Park Community Church in Phoenix, Arizona. After growing up in Edmonton, Alberta (Canada), and pursuing an engineering degree, Allan felt called to go into ministry and graduated from Anderson University School of Theology.

7

ANN SMITH

At the age of 92, Ann is on a "Journey of discovery", and firmly believes that the goal of life is to be full instead of complete. After living in Japan and South Korea for twenty-six years, Ann returned to the United States and served on the staff of the Missionary Board of the Church of God. Ann continues to be one of the dynamic and transformational voices of the Movement.



11

MIKE FACKLER

Mike Fackler is the senior pastor at Highland Park Community Church in Casper, Wyoming. As one of our leading congregations in the Church of God movement, Mike and Highland Park embody a storied history that continues to propel them forward in ministry today...a ministry deeply committed to being a continual voice of reclamation and restoration.

9

ANITA RENFROE

Anita provides a unique brand of musical comedy and has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Reader's Digest*, *Women's Day*, and the *Washington Post*. She has also been featured on morning and late-night entertainment and news programs, resulting in her becoming a comedy contributor for *Good Morning America*.



10

GEORGE SKRAMSTAD



George serves as worship and music arts pastor at Central Community Church in Wichita, Kansas. He also serves on the ministry board of the spiritual formation expression called *Renovaré*; over the past twenty-three years, he has led worship for over a hundred of their regional conferences. George grew up in a second-generation Church of God family, and began playing the piano at the age of 3, and the violin at 11. He has served congregations in New Jersey, Ohio, Arizona, Oklahoma, and Kansas.

12

JOINING THE MOVEMENT

A chance for us all to be together, united as ONE Movement, staking our claim as members of the family of God. Be equipped and inspired to speak life boldly into your neighborhoods and communities, so they may understand that **JESUS IS THE SUBJECT.**



Current Regional Areas and District Council Representatives

Chair: Jackie Scott (2015-2018) three-year term. Attends Lynchwood COG; serves on Board of Trustees

- **Region 1** (Bandon, North Bend, Powers and Reedsport): **Rev. Jim Minkler** (2016-2017) one-year term; Senior Pastor at Seabird Chapel, Bandon
- **Region 2** (Cottage Grove, Eugene, Klamath Falls, Medford, Springfield and Roseburg): **Rev. Jon Nutter** (2016-2017) one-year term; Senior Pastor at Hucrest Community COG, Roseburg
- **Region 3** (Albany Community, Albany 1st, Albany Oak Hill, Lebanon, Salem and Woodburn): **Rev. Glen Hossler** (2016-2018) two-year term; Senior Pastor at Oak Park COG, Salem
- **Region 4** (Aloha, Gales Creek, Hillsboro, Newberg and Tigard): **Rev. Teresa Hellstrom**, Youth Pastor at Tigard Church of God (2016-2017) one-year term
- **Region 5** (Longview, Rainier, Scappoose, and St. Helens): **Rev. Mike Kernutt** (2015-2017) two-year term; retired pastor attending Rainier Community COG.
- **Region 6** (Husum, LaGrande, Pendleton, Prineville, Redmond, and The Dalles): **Rev. Tom Culp** (2015-2018) three-year term; Senior Pastor of Husum Community COG in WA
- **Region 7** (Community, Holladay Park, Iglesia de Dios, Maranatha, Neighborhood and Vancouver): TBD (one-year term)
- **Region 8** (International Fellowship, Lents-Gilbert, Lynchwood, Mt. Scott, Richmond, Rockwood, Winding Road, Faith Rock and Hilltop): **Rev. Randy Archer** (2015-2017) two-year term; Life Skills Lead at The Harbor Portland Rescue Mission

Regional Campmeeting Invitation from District 3

The invitation to the second annual Region 3 Campmeeting (Woodburn, Salem, Albany and Lebanon) is extended to all those interested throughout the District.

Wednesday evening through Saturday morning, August 16-19, 2017, are the dates when folks will gather at Oregon Christian Convention, across from Aldersgate.

Though not able to accommodate District-wide, Pastor Glen Hossler, Chair of Region 3, reports that last year 120-150 attended, making good use of the 60 RV sites, 100+ cabin bunks, and large tabernacle.

In an attempt to keep costs down (estimating \$12/person) and to meet the desire for an old-fashioned Campmeeting and reconnecting of congregations, the event will likely have a menu/meal coordinator and will call on churches to volunteer for set-up and clean-up, with simple meals like chili and hot dogs on a donation basis. The site has a creek/swimming hole and concrete basketball court.

Watch for more information as the August dates draw near.



MURRAY, Oleta Faye

March 8, 1922-March 19, 2017

(Oleta) Faye Murray passed away March 19, 2017. Her daughter, Karen Puller, announces that a memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, April 8, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. at Oak Park Church of God in Salem, Oregon, where Faye was active for 30 years. Please pray for the family and loved ones of Faye Murray.

Arrangements have been made through Howell-Edwards-Doerksen with Rigdon-Ransom Funeral Director.

Editor's Note:

Faye served as a faithful volunteer, folding the Oregon CONTACT at the District Office when the publication was mailed.

Look to the Hills: Camp White Branch

Leonard and Stacey Myers have had one long battle with snow, according to a recent email from CWB Chair, Mel Neu, and there is still a lot of snow at camp. Leonard is busy just keeping the camp warm and dry and the roads plowed so they can get in and out of camp safely.

“We have not been able to do anything on the building since December because of the snow,” says Neu. “Bill, the electrician, would like to get in and finish the rough electrical when it is safe for him to do that.”

Building permits have been renewed for another 180 days and will continue automatically as we call for inspections. Neu says, “I would hope we could raise enough funds to hire the plumbers to come in and get the rough plumbing done early this spring. We have around \$14,000 in the building fund, but to get the rough plumbing done we will need around \$12,000.”

We need just under \$50,000 before the Murdock Trust will release the last \$75,000 to help us complete the project. Lane County requires final inspections before building usage.

“My hope is that each of you will talk to your churches and friends and see if they can find a way to help the camp to finish this project,” writes Neu. “Some have given much to this project and we have really appreciated their support.” -kt



2017 CAMP WHITE BRANCH SUMMER SCHEDULE

Intro Camp

entering 2nd or 3rd grade & parent
Friday, July 7- Sunday, July 9, 2017

Directors: Julie Jackson

Senior High Camp

entering 9th-12th grade
Monday, July 10,- Friday, July 14, 2017

Directors: Tyson Nunnally,
Billy Effingham, Aaron Hiller

Junior Camp

entering 5th-6th grade
Monday, July 17- Friday, July 21, 2017

Directors: John Kuykendall

Middle School Camp

entering 7th-8th grade
Monday, July 31-Friday, August 4, 2017

Directors: Doug & Danette Beisley

Primary Camp

entering 3rd-4th grade
Monday, Aug. 7-Thursdays, Aug. 10, 2017

Directors: Karen Graham

Camp White Branch
61500 Old McKenzie Hwy
McKenzie Bridge, OR

CAMP FORMS REQUIRED

All Children and Youth Campers (Introductory, Primary, Junior, Middle School, & Senior High) must return:

- Registration Form (with camper's, parent/legal guardian and Pastor's signatures)
- Association Waiver and Release form (please note there are two waivers—one for under 18 years of age & one for over 18)
- \$25 non-refundable deposit or payment in full. Checks should be made out to Camp White Branch OR you may make the payment in full online at www.orwacog.org Click on the Resources tab for Camp White Branch Camps. All Camp Staff & Counselors must complete and return it to the Church of God District Office no later than 1 week PRIOR to the start of camp.
- Application and Consent Form for Background Search This consent form includes the required reading material (Oregon Child Abuse Reporting Law and Policy for Preventing Abuse of Children & Youth). Please note: If any Youth Counselors are under the age of 18, they are still required to fill out the Background Search form.
- Association Waiver and Release form - Please use the appropriate under or over age 18 form. All directors, staff, counselors, helpers, and campers will need to have a completed waiver.

All documents are available online at www.orwacog.org. Under the Resource tab, click on Camp White Branch Camps for camp documents and counselor documents. Under the Calendar tab, either look for the summer month or scroll down to the list of events to find the specific camp you are interested in. That will take you to that camp's information as well as the opportunity to pay online, if desired.

In Memory of My Little Red Truck

By Steve Borst

The apostle Paul wrote these wise words in Philippians. *“ I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little.”*

I was traveling to my job one morning before Thanksgiving. Suddenly my little truck started losing power as I headed up a small hill on the freeway. Thinking at first that it was a minor thing and just needed to work itself out, I almost bypassed the exit that was coming up. At the last moment I turned sharply over to the exit and with the motor dying, was able to coast around a corner and into a park and ride lot. Thank God I made that decision. I was able to get it started momentarily but it sounded bad. Great. Just great.

A quick call to my wife for a ride to work and then our mechanic who would pick it up after work and take it to his shop for an evaluation. I hoped/prayed that it wouldn't be too bad/expensive. Whatever happened, happened suddenly.

I had owned this truck for almost 11 years. My hope, my goal was that it would last until the day I retired from my job, and then I would either trade it in, or drive it to the county dump just a few yards from my job. My wife's uncle had given it to me just a year or so before his passing. It had 97000 miles on it when I got it, and now it had over 266,000 miles on it.



I don't get attached to things much for I know what God's Word says, but for some reason I got attached to this truck. Really attached. Maybe it

was because of the generosity of my wife's uncle. The heater barely worked except in summer, the air conditioning stopped working long ago, the radio speakers were shot, and the driver's seat needed to be replaced. But, it towed my little boat just fine, got me to and from work each day without fail, and hauled bark dust or dirt once in a while just fine. I kept the oil changed, the tires in good shape and my mechanic kept it in good repair. It seemed like it was virtually bullet proof. I had a deep affection for this little truck that truly defies logic and our mechanic knew that. I pleaded/begged and prayed that the Lord would save it.



Days and then a couple weeks passed as he tried to figure out what happened. Then the fateful day came that the call came from Durwood, our mechanic, telling me that yes, he could replace the engine and stuff but unfortunately in his opinion the dollars and cents just did not add up. It took a while for his words to sink in. I was hoping that he was just joking. Those words would never come though, unfortunately. Something terribly wrong happened in the number one cylinder and I have the spark plug to show it. We had to put it down. In the end, a nearby Mission took it.

This little truck was a tremendous blessing to me, and even my wife, I think, was a bit confounded by my affection for it. We were a lot alike, you see. Not much to look at, not flashy, kind of boring, very quiet, but pretty hard working and dependable. Just really simple.

You see, the Lord talks a lot about *things* in the Bible. About not chasing them or storing them up because in the end, they will own you, instead of the other way around. Be content with what you have been blessed with and spend your days working hard and doing things for others. I've tried to live like that. When I asked my wife if we could stop by our mechanic's so I could give it one last hug, she just smiled and chuckled at the silly old guy.

Thank you, Old Friend, for your service. Rest in Peace.

Marriage Redeemed, a Conference for Couples

Restoring Hope

April 8, 2017
Mountain Park Church
40 McNary Parkway
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97035

presented by Tuff Stuff Ministries
(co-directed by Pastor Dennis & Georgia Miller and
Earl & Sandy Wilson)
8:30 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

Early Registration by 3/29/17 \$70 payable to
Tuff Stuff Ministries, 14688 SE Carol Ave.,
Milwaukie, OR 97267
After 3/29, Registration Fee: \$80

www.tuffstuffministries.com
503-655-5534
gmillers@icmusa.org

Senior Adult Retreat

April 11-13, 2017
Cannon Beach Christian Conference Center

Speaker, Pastor Tom Dougherty, Boise, ID
Music Leader, Pastor Mark Kelly, Vancouver, WA

(Room keys not available before 1:00 p.m.)
Arrive before Dinner 5:30 p.m. Tuesday;
Concludes 12:30 p.m., Thursday

All registration forms and payments go to
Marla Riley c/o First Church of God
3300 NE 78th Street Vancouver, WA 98665

Open to all Church of God congregations in
Oregon and SW Washington
Questions? Call Marla, 360-909-8810

Lents Gilbert Calls Interim

Congratulations to Rev. Harry Hermansen, who is
serving as Interim Pastor for Lents Gilbert Church of
God in Portland, Oregon, as of March 12, 2017.

District Calendar



- April 9, PALM SUNDAY
- April 11, Tues., REGION #1 Mtg., 10:00 am
- April 11-13, Tues.-Thurs., Senior Adult Retreat
- April 14, GOOD FRIDAY
- April 16, EASTER: RESURRECTION SUNDAY
- April 25-27, Tues.-Thurs. W.A.R.M.
- May 4, Thurs., REGION #2, 10 am - 12 pm
- May 6, Sat., CWC Spring Connection, 9 am
- May 13, Sat., Ministers' Gathering (tentative)
- May 14, Sun., MOTHER'S DAY
- June 18, Sun., FATHER'S DAY
- June 20-23, Tues.-Fri., Church of God Convention 2017
- July 4, Tues., INDEPENDENCE DAY
- July 6, Thurs., REGION #2, 10 am - 12 pm
- July 7-9, Fri.-Sun., Intro Camp, entering 2nd or 3rd grades & parent
- July 10-14, Mon.-Fri., Senior High camp, entering 9th-12th grades
- July 11, Tues., REGION #1 Mtg., 10:00 am
- July 17-21, Mon.-Fri., Junior camp, entering 5th-6th grades
- July 31-Aug. 4, Mon.-Fri., Middle School camp, entering 7th-8th grades
- Aug. 7-10, Mon.-Thurs., Primary camp, entering 3rd-4th grades
- Aug. 18-20, Fri.-Sun., Men's Advance
- Sept. 4, Mon., LABOR DAY
- Sept. 7, Thurs., REGION #2, 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- Oct. 10, Tues., REGION #1 Mtg., 10:00 am-Noon
- Nov. 2, Thurs., REGION #2, 10:00 am –Noon
- Nov. 5, Sun., Daylight Savings Ends
- Nov. 11, Sat., VETERANS DAY
- Nov. 23, Thurs., THANKSGIVING DAY
- Dec. 25, Mon., CHRISTMAS DAY

For more events, see orwacog.org/calendar