

A PUBLICATION OF
The Association of the
Churches of God in Oregon &
SW Washington



— CONNECTIONS —

Connecting our Churches, Ministries & Events



Greetings Friends!

February 14, 2024, kicks off the season of Lent. (I know that has already passed, but hang with me). Lent is the 40 days beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Easter (excluding Sundays). Growing up in the Protestant tradition I thought that Lent was a Catholic thing. However, I have discovered the benefit of observing the season and have been practicing Lent for several years.

Lent is a season of fasting and reflection where Christians replicate Jesus' sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert. The story can be found in Luke 4. It is a time of preparation for the upcoming Holy Week. Fasting in this context is abstaining from food for a specified period. Fasting in its purest form is from food. However, there is spiritual benefit from abstaining from other things for a spiritual purpose.

With every soul training exercise, our motives matter. We don't fast to lose weight or to lower our cholesterol. We don't fast to impress others or to get a pat on the back from God. So, what is fasting all about? Fasting at its very core is centered on God. According to Richard Foster in his book, *Celebration of Discipline*, "More than any other single discipline, fasting reveals the things that control us. This is a wonderful benefit to the true disciple who longs to be transformed into the image of Jesus. We cover up what is inside us with food and other good things, but in fasting these things surface."

There are so many things in our lives that we use to mask our pain or to escape reality. Occasionally we need to avoid these things to remind ourselves that God is the only one who truly satisfies. Foster goes on to say, "Fasting helps us keep our balance in life. How easily we begin to allow nonessentials to take precedence in our lives. How quickly we crave things we do not need until we are enslaved by them." Paul said in 1 Corinthians 6:12, "'Everything is permissible for me' -but not everything is beneficial. 'Everything is permissible for me' - but I will not be mastered by anything." The things we enjoy in our lives are not necessarily bad. However, often we can use good things like ice cream, Netflix, or Facebook/Instagram to mask our hurt or escape from reality.

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2024 Calendar and Prayer Needs



- Mar 10: Daylight Saving Time Begins
- Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 19: First Day of Spring
- Mar 24: Palm Sunday
- Mar 29: Good Friday
- Mar 31: Easter



- Apr 22-25: Young and 1st Time Pastors Retreat at Aldersgate
- Apr 22: Earth Day

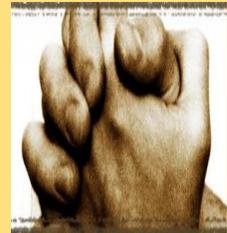
*"The JOY of the Lord is my strength."
Nehemiah 8:10*

Prayer Needs & 2024 District Calendar Dates

Please continue to **PRAY** for our churches in transition with pastoral leadership. We greatly appreciate your prayers.

Maranatha—Leadership
Redmond—Pastoral Search
Valley Hope, Hillsboro—New Pastor, Erin Taylor, coming this summer. Pray for transition and a teaching job for her husband.

Remember we are stronger together!!



- CWC Spring Conference @ Newberg** May 4
- Regional Conference @ Los Angeles, CA** May 15-18
- Regional Conference @ Oklahoma City, OK** June 18-20
- International Youth Convention @ Orlando, FL** June 27-30
- Annual Business Meeting @ Oak Park, Salem** July 20
- 2024 Summer Camps @ CWB** see pg 4
- Willamette Valley Campmeeting @ Turner** July 28th-August 1
- Men's Retreat @ CWB** August 23-25
- CWC Fall Retreat @ CWB** September 20-22
- Regional Conference @ Columbus, Ohio** October 3-5
- Minister & Spouse Retreat @ Newport** October 13-15

Pastor Jerry—A Lent Challenge

(continued from page 1)

I often need to be reminded that Jesus is all I need. The practice of fasting during Lent offers us the opportunity to do just that. Fasting is most often associated with food. However, you can give up anything that is important to you. It could be ice cream, Netflix, video games or social media. The idea is to use the time you would be spending on the thing you are giving up focusing on God in prayer or study or some other exercise that helps you direct your attention on Jesus.

Foster concludes with the idea that fasting can produce in us spiritual breakthroughs that could not be gained by any other means. When your forty day fast is over, we often realize we really didn't need the thing we gave up like we thought we did. God truly is enough to satisfy. Even though you will receive this publication after Lent begins, it is not too late to jump in. I want to challenge you to research and celebrate the season of Lent this year. You will be blessed if you do.

FYI—Don't miss Michael Guzman's article describing the Association's new DBA! Exciting stuff is around the corner.

Together in ministry,

Pastor Jerry

Ministers & Spouse Retreat

October 13-15, 2024

Agate Beach Inn, Newport, OR

"Walking with Jesus through the Dark"

Bill Lieselhorst—Speaker

Isaiah 50:10

"Who among you fears the Lord and obeys his servant? If you are walking in darkness, without a ray of light, trust in the Lord and rely on your God."

Detailed information will be out soon.

Pastors ... Come be refreshed as we connect with God and each other.

Church Families ... encourage your pastors to get away by giving them time off & if possible, finances to make it happen.

CWB—Summer Camps & More

Greetings from Camp White Branch!



2024 COG Summer Camp

Dates are set and Directors have been meeting to prepare for this summer's camps. They are coming up with awesome ideas for activities, crafts, guest speakers, and so much more. They are also actively recruiting for counselors and health staff. Details on these roles can be found at this link [Employment/Volunteer - Camp White Branch](#). If you are interested please reach out to Danette Beisley (danette.beisley@gmail.com or 503 396-2090) and she can direct you to the appropriate director for a camp. We are praying our camper numbers grow so we are able to impact more lives with God's word.

Camp Dates

July 8-12, 2024 High School Camp

July 15-19, 2024 Middle School Camp

July 22-26, 2024 Junior Camp

August 5-8, 2024 Primary Camp

August 9-11, 2024 Introductory Camp



Registration will open by the end of February/first of March. Additional information will be sent to churches so be sure to look for this. See you this summer at camp!

What's been going on at camp?

With the severe ice/snow storm in January the camp was out of power for two weeks. This meant a lot of time spent by Chris plowing snow, running generators, and checking on the facility to ensure no freezing of pipes or other things. We also had one group cancel due to weather and road conditions. They are blessing us with a support donation. We were able to host a large group the first weekend in February- always great to have groups on site.

Chris has started the work on the interior of the office since we had mold and water damage over the years impacting the building both inside and out. He has a couple volunteers recruited to help with sheet rocking and finish work. If you have skills related to electrical or general construction he would love to hear from you.

Faye is actively working on preparing for summer camps, assisting with registration, promotions, staffing, and recruiting volunteers. Look for information on our website and in churches.



Camp White Branch

Work Weekends Dates

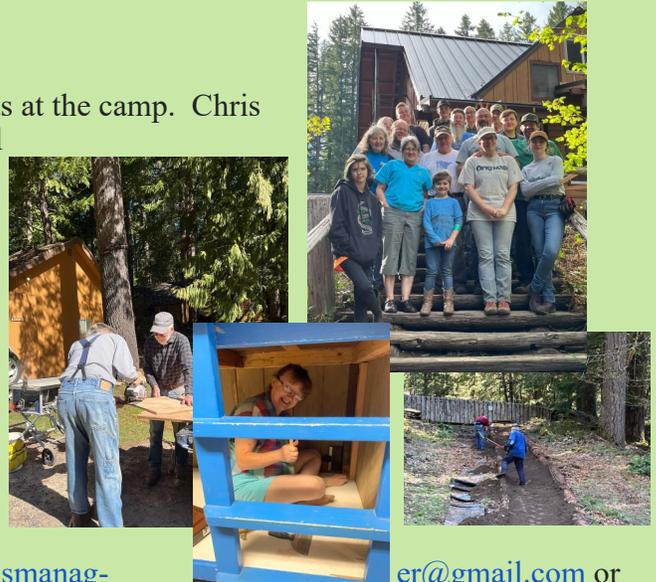
We have the dates set for two upcoming work weekends at the camp. Chris and Faye have lots of great projects planned for all skill levels. We would love to see as many churches or individuals as possible involved in this ministry. We see this as a local mission ministry as we prepare and improve our facility to share God's word and do His work. You can be part of this larger plan to change lives with a camp experience!

May 24-27, 2024

May 30-June 2, 2024

Register for the specific weekend you would like to attend at www.campwhitebranch.org/events.

If you have questions please contact us at cwboperationsmanager@gmail.com or call 541-822-3511.



Needs at the Camp

We are adding things to our needs list all the time so if anyone would like to donate that would be great. We have quite a few items on our needs list- both large and small. We keep this list updated on our website under the support tab and needs list. Shown are pictures of some of the items we need—new sports balls, cajun drum, water heaters, new outdoor grill/bbq, wood chipper, and gravel.

We ask that you donate funds so we can purchase what we need. Prices are on the website as well as a

way to donate. [Needs List - Camp White Branch](#)



CWB Online Store is Open!

We have sweatshirts, hats, mugs and more available online. These are great gift ideas for family and those who love the camp. You can connect to our online store through our website, Facebook and Instagram.

Your item will be produced on demand when ordered for inventory reasons. Please allow at least 2 weeks for delivery. Check it out today!

Getting super excited about preparations for this summer's camps. Please be praying for this important Church of God ministry to youth!

Blessings,

Lisa Switzer, Camp White Branch, Chair

Danette Beisley, Church of God Camp Coordinator



New Name: New Chapter—Church of God Northwest



Change, when embraced collectively, becomes a powerful catalyst for growth and renewal. One of my tasks as the Media and Resource Pastor is to update our website. Before taking the step to migrate the site to a new platform, I asked Pastor Jerry if we could explore the possibility of using a new name for the association as a DBA (doing business as). This would allow us to keep the legal name of our organization, but to rebrand so that our website would be something other than www.ORWACOG.org.

I received the green light from Pastor Jerry and Pastor Glen, the Chair of the District, and began talking about the idea with pastors and leaders who took part in our first round of Encounter Groups, and with those gathered at our Pastors' Gathering calls. I posed several ideas, wrote a Connection article in the past on the matter, received a lot of feedback, and wrestled ideas and concepts to the ground in the process. These discussions were characterized by openness, respect, and a shared commitment to finding a name that accurately represents our collective identity and mission.

Every voice mattered in the process. From rural communities to urban centers, from seasoned pastors to emerging leaders, each participant brought a unique perspective. Through thoughtful deliberation and active listening, we gained a deeper understanding of our diverse community's hopes, concerns, and aspirations.

Jerry & Michael created an Awakening Series video that walks through the process. You can watch that video with this link - <https://youtu.be/WXBe3kHg4Ss>

One name rose to the surface over the months and the District Staff team recently presented it to the District Council at a Council Retreat. There was much discussion on the matter, but we have arrived at a unanimous decision: **Church of God Northwest** is the clear winner. The collaborative process employed not only affirms our choice but also strengthens our sense of unity and purpose as we move forward together. Its simplicity, inclusivity, and regional relevance resonated strongly with participants across the board.

Our decision to adopt the name Church of God Northwest is not just a reflection of popular opinion; it is a testament to our shared values, aspirations, and sense of belonging. By coming together in unity, we have demonstrated our capacity to listen, learn, and grow as a community of faith.

In the upcoming month, I will begin the process of moving our website to www.chognorthwest.org. We will see a new facelift to the site, an online giving platform, and many other updated features. Let me know if there is anything you'd like to see in our new web presence. While I may not be able to accommodate every request, your ideas may be able to help shape the finished product. Send me an email with your ideas to jmichaelguzman@gmail.com.

Jerry and I have sat down in the last three weeks to produce a series of videos for the Awakening Series. We discuss:

- [A New Name for the District](#)
- [New Vision for the District](#)
- [New Values for the District](#)

Look for more information on the **Awakening Series** on page 8.

Michael Guzman
Multi-Media/Resource District Pastor

Lents-Gilbert Shares ...

Embracing the Easter Season and Beyond!

As we eagerly anticipate the arrival of the Easter season, we are excited to share with you the upcoming activities and events that will deepen our faith, foster community, and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

1. The Trouble with Ananias - A Short Play on Obedience

Join us for a thought-provoking short play, "The Trouble with Ananias," which explores the challenges of believing and obeying God. As we witness Ananias' struggles, let us reflect on our own journey of faith and obedience. The play serves as a poignant reminder to align our lives with God's will.

2. Easter Hymn Sing-Along

Prepare your hearts for Easter through a soul-stirring hymn sing-along. Come together as the family of God to lift your voices in praise and worship, setting the tone for the celebration of Easter Sunday.

3. Special Easter Sunday - Breakfast and Service

Start Easter Sunday with a heartwarming breakfast at the church at 9 am, followed by a special service at 11 am. The service will feature a captivating choir performance that promises to uplift your spirit. Invite friends, family, and neighbors to share in the joy of Easter with us.

4. Men's Breakfast Bible Study with Pastor Harry

Gentlemen, mark your calendars for the first Saturday of each month from 9-11 am at the Denny's by Mall 205. Join in for a fulfilling time of fellowship, Bible study, and breakfast. All men are welcome!

5. Living Out Loud - Adult Group Activities:

Experience the joy of fellowship with our new adult group, Living Out Loud. Join us every 3rd Thursday from 2-4 pm in the fellowship hall for game day and outings each month. All adults welcome.

6. Spring Craft and Plant Fair - Vendors Wanted:

Save the date for our Spring Craft and Plant Fair on May 4th. We are still looking for vendors and crafters to make this event a success. For more information or to reserve your space, please contact Jill MacCartney at 503-349-8684 or cog.lentsgilbert@gmail.com.

7. Visit Our Website for More Details:

Stay updated on all our upcoming events by visiting our website: lentsgilbertchurchofgod.org. Discover more about our church community, ministries, and find details on the latest activities. And you can always call Jill MacCartney with questions 503-349-8684.

As we journey through this Easter season together, let us embrace the message of resurrection and renewal, knowing that through faith and obedience, we are transformed. May God's blessings abound in our community, and may we continue to grow in grace and love.

Lents-Gilbert Church of God

Jill MacCartney
Lents Gilbert Church of God
12230 SE Harold St, Portland, OR



Awakening Series



The goal of the Awakening Series is to infuse voices and inspiration into the Movement of the Church of God here in our District and beyond. Pastor Michael Guzman has been interviewing leaders inside and outside our Movement and believes there is something important we carry in our historical roots that the worlds needs today.

We encourage you to take a look at these videos found on Youtube at www.bit.ly/orwacog-awakening. There are currently 17 Episodes available.

[A New Vision for the District with Michael Guzman 2/21/24—Season 2 - Episode 16](#)

Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/nnz1t1N5OR4>

Jerry interviews Pastor Michael Guzman, Media & Resource Pastor for Church of God Northwest. They continue the conversation from episode 15 where they presented the new name for the District. In this episode, they launch into the process employed to come to the new language for the vision of the District. This presentation was shared at a recent District Council meeting where the new name, new vision, and new values were discussed and affirmed by the District Council

[New Values for the District with Michael Guzman 2/29/24—Season 2 - Episode 17](#)

Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/h1YZmsrs0y8>

Jerry sits down with Michael Guzman, Media & Resource Pastor for Church of God Northwest for a third installment. They talk about Michael's background, when he gave his life to Jesus, when he discovered his calling to ministry and who mentored him along the way. Michael also addresses the new values for the District and provides further context for them.

Piano & Organ Concert Coming

You are invited ... to a Piano and Organ Concert

**Sunday, May 19th at 6pm
Vancouver Church
3300 NE 78th Street, Vancouver**

**Jean Shackleton and
Ruth Yerden**



A freewill offering will be taken.

CWC Spring Connection

Ladies, plan now to attend our . . .

Spring Connection



CHRISTIAN
WOMEN
CONNECTION

May 4, 2024 @ Newberg Church of God

Cost is \$30 & registration forms are now available.



Hope Expectantly

Romans 15:13

As we look at our theme “Hope Expectantly,” our speaker, Lynn Sprunger, will share from her own experience as a reluctant student in resiliency, total reliant on the grace of God. “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Our Speaker and Worship Leader



Lynn Sprunger has been a pastor's kid her whole life, a pastor's wife for over 36 years, and a mother for nearly 27 years. She lives with her family in Rainier, OR, where her husband pastors the Rainier Community Church of God. She has recently partnered with the global non-profit James Trail, walking alongside and supporting pastor's wives & families who have experienced trauma.



Rev. Ashleigh Carnley is the Associate Pastor at Albany First Church of God, where she focuses on empowering and guiding youth, young adults, and the worship ministries. Her commitment to fostering spiritual growth and creating impactful worship experiences has made her a valuable asset to the church community.

Schedule—Saturday, May 4th

9:30am	Registration Begins
9:30am	Coffee/Muffins
10am—3pm	Program & Lunch
3pm	Basket Winners Revealed

Silent Basket Auction



You are invited to bring a basket to be placed in our special **silent auction**. See brochure for more details. Proceeds will fund a WPU scholarship.

Willamette Valley Campmeeting

WILLAMETTE VALLEY CAMPMEETING 2024

July 28—August 1

Imago Dei/Made in His Image

Oregon Christian Convention Center, Turner, OR

Identity is a huge topic in today's world, but our identity is based on whose image we are created in—God's image. Join us at this year's Willamette Valley Campmeeting as Pastor Fred Douglas, our District's Associate Pastor, shares from God's Word on this timely subject of "Imago Dei/Made in His Image." This annual gathering in Turner, Oregon, is a time for our entire district to worship together, to fellowship together, and to hear from the Lord in a beautiful and restful setting. It is truly a family-friendly event for the whole district family!



Held on the historic grounds of the Oregon Christian Convention, this family-friendly event offers a variety of activities, onsite dining, overnight lodging options (cabins, dormitory rooms, RV and tent spaces) and daily commuters are also welcome. This annual week is volunteer led and donation supported. Costs are kept low to make it affordable for all. Plan now to join us. Registration opens on May 1.



SAVE the Date—Annual Business Mtg, July 20



Annual Business Meeting

Our Annual Business Meeting for our Association is scheduled for **Saturday, July 20th @ Oak Park Church of God in Salem.** *Pastors & Delegates please mark this date on your calendar. Your participation is important to us as we move forward as a District.*

Upcoming Men's Retreat



ANNUAL

Men of the CHOG

RETREAT

AUG 23-25, 2024

**Speaker –
Pastor Aaron Hiller**

**Worship Leader –
Pastor Martin Shrout**

Camp White Branch

61500 Old McKenzie Hwy, McKenzie Bridge, OR 97412

Registration Information & Brochures Available Soon

"The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust" (Psalm 18:2).

Regional Conferences—Register Now



By Carl Stagner

Since the 2015 General Assembly vote to make the Church of God Convention an every-other-year experience, smaller-scale (yet larger-than-life!) regional events have ushered in a new era of accessibility and innovation to the collective work of the Movement. During the “even” years, regional gatherings have dotted the map from coast to coast, granting attendees variety in venue and content. In 2024, Church of God people will again convene in three different locations, at three separate times of the year, with three distinct formats.

In three historic firsts, partnership with existing exemplary organizations and local Church of God congregations will make each Regional uniquely catalytic. Pastors and lay leaders checking the Church of God website for updates have already noted the dates of each event: May 15–18, June 18–20, and October 3–5, respectively. May’s event will coincide with the acclaimed Misfits Conference at General Assembly chair-elect Jeremy Dixon’s church in Inglewood, California—Center of Hope LA. The June Regional is scheduled at, and in partnership with, the largest Church of God in the country—Crossings Community in Oklahoma City. Rounding out the year of rebranded and refreshed Regionals, the October event is scheduled to take place at First Church of God in Columbus, Ohio, in conjunction with the beloved Berean Leadership Conference.

Through these partnerships, Church of God Ministries is able to provide pastors and church leaders with teaching, tips, and tools from experts representing a wide variety of ecclesial and marketplace settings to enhance effectiveness for the advancement of God’s kingdom. Consider Misfits, for instance—this annual event, relatively new to the scene, brings together

“entrepreneurs, market-disruptors, and influencers” to encourage and equip Christ-centered leaders. Whether providing “affirmation for all who have struggled with their ‘misfit’ nature”—that is, to fit in where God has designed and placed them—or by giving “actionable intel on how to mobilize their unique set of skills, insight, and strategies toward their intended destination,” the Misfit experience will take Church of God leaders to new heights in areas perhaps not previously explored by most pastors, all while “building an authentic community/network of these marketplace pioneers.”

Similarly, Crossings Community Church, a massive force for good in Oklahoma City and around the world, wields a wealth of resources, perspective, and practical knowledge just waiting to be explored. Combined with impeccable hospitality and programming prowess, the June Regional is expected to attract guests from near and far, leaving a certain indelible impact on all. As details are developed, CHOGnews will be here to inform and inspire.



May 15-18, 2024
Center of Hope LA
Inglewood, CA

This Regionals event will coincide with the Misfits Conference, which brings together market disruptors, change agents, and thinkers imagining the next iteration of



June 18-20, 2024
Crossings
Community Church
Oklahoma City, OK

In collaboration with Crossings Community Church, this Regionals event will empower leaders with innovative resources that will help equip the church for the future.

Reg Conf & IYC—Celebrating 100 Years



**October 3-5, 2024
Columbus, Ohio**

This Regionals event will be in conjunction with the acclaimed Berean Leadership Conference, where church leaders of any capacity are seen, strengthened, and

Those who have been blessed to follow in the footsteps or sit under the teaching of Bishop Timothy Clarke, former chair of the General Assembly of the Church of God, know nothing emanating from First Church of God “the City” is less-than or somehow subpar. In fact, it’s just the opposite. To go a step farther, if you’ve observed Clarke’s ministry for at least a short time, you’ve heard of—if not participated in—the Berean Leadership Conference. A real “fall classic,” the Berean Leadership Conference allows students of all ages to “learn and grow in [their] own leadership skills.” Berean Leadership asserts that “anyone who feels a weight of responsibility in their local church or ministry is a leader and should be seen, strengthened, and celebrated.”

“Church leaders,” they continue, “don’t just serve in traditional ministry roles like pastor, elder, or worship leader. The faithful servants in IT, operations, HR, media, communications, and administration are doing critical Kingdom work. That’s why all sessions and services [of the Berean Leadership Conference] are relevant to all church staff positions, church leaders, and church members. And because the church is not one-size-fits-all, this confer-

ence isn’t, either! God works in both large and small congregations in unique ways, and our goal is to be relevant and helpful to you whether your weekly attendance is 25, 250, or 25,000.”

**Mark your calendars and join us this year at one of our three outstanding collaborative events!
May 15-18—Los Angeles, CA; June 18-20—Oklahoma City, OK; October 3-5—Columbus, OH**

More information, including registration, is coming soon—so stay tuned to CHOGnews and the [Regional 2024](http://www.chogconvention.org) website (www.chogconvention.org) for updates

Regionals 2024—bringing the Kingdom to life...together!



International Youth Convention

**Celebrating 100 Years Nationally
Orlando, Florida—June 27-30**

Registration is open and our young people are excited! This years lineup includes . . .



Lori Maldonado



Sei Worship



Michael Thigpen

For more information go to www.jesusisthesubject and click on events ... IYC. Be sure to REGISTER!!!

Celebrating Marelyn Hency



Marelyn Hency

January 18, 1933—December 6, 2023

Marelyn Darlene (Riedlinger) Hency was born in Goodrich, North Dakota on January 18, 1933 to Albert and Clara (Jantz) Riedlinger. Because of a Dakota farm-country drought, her family oved to Wiley, Colorado, Marelyn was her Dad’s number one farm-hand In high school and church she kept busy with many activities, She was senior class president, attended one year at Anderson College, Anderson, IN and Pacific Bible College, Portland OR, then nursing school to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. Marelyn loved the patient-contact.

Marelyn and Gale met at Colorado church camp and were married on January 1, 1954 at the Holladay Park Church of God, Portland, OR. They worked and played hand-in-hand for the next 70 years.

In 1960 they adopted a newborn and named him Stanley Jay Hency. This blue-eyed, blond, dimpled boy with a killer smile was an indescribable joy in their lives, They moved to Coalinga, CA in 1962, where a baby girl joined the family in 1965. Five-year-old Stanley picked the name Tracey Dee for his new sister.

The family returned to Portland where Marelyn continued her nursing career which included working for Dr. Forrest Rieke, at the Industrial Clinic, and Dr. John Thompson, orthopedic surgeon for 17 years. She was involved in home care and became a medical assistant for Bess Kaiser Emergency Room and Urgent Care for 20 years, retiring at age seventy-five. Marelyn was also a partner in ministry, alongside Gale, as they were pastors at Colinga for 6 years and Tigard Church of God for 18+ years—hospitality being one of her many gifts.

Marelyn enjoyed the many benefits of the Pacific Northwest, including sampling and cooking unique foods, AND becoming addicted to ice cream. She loved attending Summer Parks Theater, concerts, beautiful scenery, hiking, Rogue River rafting and just plain discovering the magnificence of Oregon.

Gale and Marelyn’s trips to the Far East, the Holy Land, and Europe were special, but especially so when the group called “The Crazy Eight” traveled together. Marelyn testified, “I have had a full and happy life. God has had a plan for my life and it has been filled with great joy. Our lives have been blessed, fun and funny. I laughed at myself, I chose to enjoy the world and take others with me.”

Marelyn was preceded in death by son, Stan (age 59). She leaves behind beloved husband, Gale; sister, Delphene Haynes (husband Curt); daughter, Tracey (Hency) Stimmel (husband Matt); niece, Marcia (Hency) Smith; Alona Polecastro—mother of twin granddaughters, Ariel Polecastro and Sincerea (Polecastro) Gilbert (husband Jay); also Madisen Stimmel, Smith Stimmel, and great grandchildren: Ashiaha, Blaine, Odin, Walter, Emma and an immeasurable number of wonderful family and friends, near and far.

A Remembrance Gathering for Marelyn took place at New Hope Church (formerly Mt Scott) on February 3rd.

One life lived . . . Many lives touched!

Celebrating Betty Tarr



Betty Tarr

August 3, 1935—October 16, 2023

Betty L. Tarr passed on the morning of October 16, 2023, at 9:10 am, in the presence of her loving daughters in Bend, Oregon.

Born to Wm. Franklin Dunaway and Mabel Hewey (Hamilton) Dunaway in 1935 in Vanceburg, Kentucky, she was the youngest of ten children. She was married for sixty-seven years to the love of her life, Charles R. Tarr. Sadly, Charles passed in 2018 in their residence with Betty and their daughters, in Washington State. Betty moved to Bend, Oregon in 2019.

Betty and Charles have four daughter: Barbara Nelson (Ron, spouse), Beverly Pahlisch (Dennis, spouse), Bethany Jackson (Allyn, spouse), and Bobi Swan (Todd, spouse). Betty and Charles have nine grandchildren: Joshua

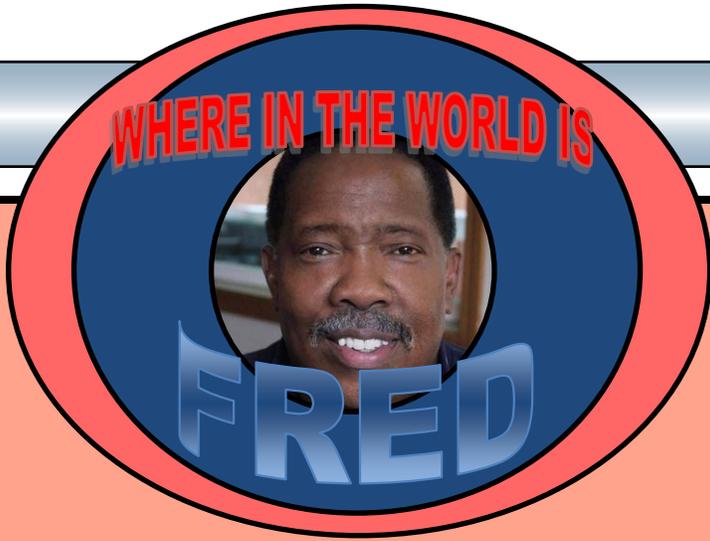
Shook (Rhiannon, spouse), Jeremy Shook (Julie, spouse), Joshua Pahlisch (Jonna, spouse), Daniel Pahlisch (Rebekah, spouse), Phillip Pahlisch, Nathaniel Brooks (Percillia, spouse), Rebekah Routson (Chris, spouse), David Swan (Nandita Kumar, fiancé) and Taylor Swan (Nicholas Hamner, fiancé). Betty and Charles have also been very blessed with seventeen great-grandchildren.

Betty frequently referred to her childhood as very happy and blessed although farm life was very hard. Being the youngest of ten and her parents having gone through the loss of two children, her parents were strong, centered, and loving. Betty had the utmost respect and admiration for them. She was raised on a farm along the Ohio River where they raised cattle, other farm animals and grew their own food. Her mother sewed and ran a bustling household where farm hands were well taken care of in addition to their own large family. Betty had fond memories helping with kitchen preparations and helping her mother run the home, which was very large.

Her upbringing prepared her for a life of service and the gift of hosting countless guests in her home. Betty was a preacher's wife and she had been well prepared in this. Shortly after her marriage to Charles, they moved to Hope, Kentucky after he accepted his first full-time Senior Pastor position. She often served her church by volunteering her time and effort in walking alongside her husband in whatever was needed. She played piano, sang in the choir, helped with kitchen centered church activities, women's ministry and counseling other women.

While her life centered on her family and church, Betty's sweet, kind and gentle personality attracted those outside the church walls. Although very shy, she would minister to others in whatever setting God would call her to. In the final hours of her life, a striking conversation took place with a nurse tending to her tragic injuries. This young man, seeing all her family come to her side, talking, laughing with her, praying, and, in quiet sorrow - crying, he asked if she would adopt him as her grandson. With all the love of a Christ centered life, she replied "Yes, I sure will". This, was her legacy, a life of Christ's love and a gospel centered yearning to see all who came to her in those final hours, in heaven, with her. Her conversations with others ultimately went to sharing the truth of the gospel that she knew has eternal consequences. Betty is now at perfect peace – with the ultimate love of her life, Jesus – and in His presence! A memorial service for Betty was held January 27th at Evergreen Memorial in Vancouver.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1



It was such a privilege to share from the Word this morning with the saints at Redmond Church of God. I must admit after being in Florida last week 23 degrees this morning was a challenge....



February 4th Redmond Church of God

February 5th Living Water Church of God



It was encouraging to visit Living Water Church of God in Prineville. Their outreach to the underserved is inspiring. Pastor Robbin & staff do amazing things with very little money and have high impact on the Prineville community...

February 11th&25th Maranatha Church of God



Great time of worship during the service at Maranatha Church of God on Feb 11th. Special time of prayer over the couples in leadership...

And a wonderful presentation at Maranatha highlighting Black History Month on Feb 25th.

Great time of fellowship with pastor Milt Culver and Tigard Church of God today...



February 18th Tigard Church of God

Our Associate Pastor, Fred Douglas, is on the move. Have you seen him at your church recently? If not, keep an eye out because he will probably be there soon.

**To keep up with his adventures, connect on our Association Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/ORWACOG**

The Awakening Series

All of us at the District Office and those on our
District Council wish for you a

He is Risen

DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM.

Rejoice in the resurrection of

Jesus Christ.



WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND JOY FILLED EASTER!

A Wonderful Celebration of Jesus this Easter!

Jesus has given us TRUTH and GRACE. We have much to celebrate!!!

Please know that WE are here for you!
Please reach out to us if we can pray with you or answer any questions.

We are GOD's CHURCH and We are Better Together!

*Staff—District Pastor Jerry Davisson, Assoc Pastor Fred Douglas,
Media Pastor Michael Guzman, Office Admin Pastor Paula Wilson*

District Prayer List for 2024

Be sure to remember our Church of God congregations in prayer during the year. (Below you will find our District Prayer List for 2024.) There is power in prayer and we are stronger together.

*Rejoice always, pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances; for this is
God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Portland - Kingdom Nation	1/7/24	Albany - First Church of God	7/7/24
Powers - Powers Church of God	1/14/24	Aloha - Aloha Church of God	7/14/24
Prineville - Living Water Church of God	1/21/24	Bandon - Seabird Chapel Church of God	7/21/24
District Council Planning Retreat 2/2-3	1/28/24	Willamette Valley Campmeeting 7/28-8/1	7/28/24
Rainier - Rainier Community COG	2/4/24	Cottage Grove - Riverside Comm COG	8/4/24
Redmond - First Church of God	2/11/24	Eugene - Friendly Street Church of God	8/11/24
Reedsport - Reedsport Church of God	2/18/24	Gales Creek - Gales Creek Comm COG	8/18/24
Community Outreach in your Neighborhood	2/25/24	Hillsboro - Valley Hope Community Church	8/25/24
Salem - Oak Park Church of God	3/3/24	Husum, WA - Husum Community COG	9/1/24
Scappoose - Chapman Community COG	3/10/24	Klamath Falls - First Church of God	9/8/24
Springfield - Springfield Church of God	3/17/24	La Grande - Crossroads Comm Church	9/15/24
St. Helens - Sunset Park Comm Church	3/24/24	Longview, WA - Westview Church	9/22/24
District Committee Members	3/31/24	Medford - First Church of God	9/29/24
Tigard - Tigard Church of God	4/7/24	Newberg - River Street Church of God	10/6/24
Vancouver, WA - First Church of God	4/14/24	North Bend - College Park Comm Church	10/13/24
Vancouver, WA - Iglesia de Dios	4/21/24	Oregon City - Faith Rock Comm Church	10/20/24
Woodburn - Hoodview Church of God	4/28/24	Oregon City - Hilltop Community COG	10/27/24
Church of God Missionaries	5/5/24	Portland - Community Church of God	11/3/24
Camp White Branch Staff	5/12/24	Portland - Lents-Gilbert Church of God	11/10/24
Warner Pacific University (Portland, OR)	5/19/24	Portland - Lynchwood Church of God	11/17/24
COG Ministries Staff/Council (Anderson, IN)	5/26/24	Portland - Maranatha Church	11/24/24
Church of God District Council	6/2/24	Portland - Neighborhood Church of God	12/1/24
Summer Camp Directors & Counselors	6/9/24	Portland - Richmond Community Church	12/8/24
Summer Camp Children & Youth	6/16/24	Portland - Rockwood Church of God	12/15/24
Opportunities to share God's Good News	6/23/24	Our Pastors & Spouses—Active & Retired	12/22/24
Our Pastors/Church Staff & their Families	6/30/24	District Staff	12/29/24

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, IN;
- Provide support for the development of healthy Church of God congregations.

CONNECTIONS is a bi-monthly publication of

The Association of the Churches of God in Oregon & SW Washington

Rev. Jerry Davisson, District Pastor—Rev. Fred Douglas, Assoc District Pastor

Rev. Michael Guzman, Multi-Media/Resource District Pastor—Rev. Paula Wilson, Office Admin

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