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SW Washington



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## — CONNECTIONS —

*Connecting our Churches, Ministries & Events*



### **From the Desk of Pastor Jerry Davisson**

*District Pastor*

In a world of instant communication and social media you would think it would be easy to get information to people in a timely way and everyone would stay informed. However, that is simply not the case. Here at the Church of God District Office, our desire is to keep the lines of communication open and flowing in all directions.

With the decision to no longer produce the E-CONTACT, we have been trying to figure out the best way to do that. What you are reading is our first attempt at creating an information piece which is both informative and easy to use and distribute. This is a work in progress and we hope future issues of CONNECTIONS will help to keep the lines of communication flowing. We will also be increasing our social media presence in the future as well. We will let you know how you can easily follow us. Please let us know if you have any suggestions as we move into this new era of communication.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING & MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE CHURCH OF GOD STAFF!**

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# Church & National Events



- **Nov. 3:** Lents-Gilbert COG, 9 a.m.—3 p.m. Holiday Bazaar & Café, lots of vendors, shop early & have lunch
- **Nov. 4:** Daylight Savings Time ends
- **Nov. 4:** Lynchwood COG, "The Arimathean" performed by Pastor Martin Shrout, 2 p.m.
- **Nov. 11: VETERANS DAY**, honoring & remembering those who have served
- **Nov. 17:** Lents-Gilbert COG, 12:00 p.m., YAHA (Young-At-Heart Adults) Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon
- **Nov. 22: THANKSGIVING DAY**  
District Office closed Nov. 22 & 23

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2019

- **January 1**, New Year's Day, District Office closed
- **January 29**, Registration deadline for Ministers & Spouse Retreat
- **February 18**, District Office closed
- **March 1-3**, Ministers & Spouse Retreat
- **March 19-21**, Adult Retreat sponsored by Vancouver Church. Registration starts Jan. 6 through March 10, 2019. Contact Marla Riley, marlariley@comcast.net to register.
- **April 2-4**, W.A.R.M., Western Area Regional Ministerium
- **April 21**, Easter Sunday
- **June 27-30**, Church of God Convention & General Assembly, Orlando, Florida
- **Aug. 4-8**, Willamette Valley Campmeeting



- **Dec. 2:** Lents-Gilbert COG, Special Presentation by Marcia Whitehead during the service. "Wrappings", a retelling of the Nativity Story. 10:30 a.m.
- **Dec. 14-16:** Hoodview COG, Living Christmas Story @ 6 - 8 p.m.
- **Dec. 15-16:** Lynchwood COG, Live Nativity @ 5 - 8 p.m.
- **Dec. 16:** Lents-Gilbert COG, Nicodemus Play during 10:30 a.m. service. Pastor Harry Hermansen plays Nicodemus.
- **Dec. 16:** Longview COG, Comedy Play "Christmas in Cricket County" @ 6 p.m.
- **Dec. 23:** Longview COG, Christmas Eve "EVE" Candlelight Service @ 6 p.m.
- **Dec. 24:** Redmond COG, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 6 p.m.
- **Dec. 24:** Hoodview COG, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 7 p.m.
- **Dec. 24:** Lents-Gilbert COG, Candlelight Service, 7 p.m.
- **Dec. 25: CHRISTMAS DAY**, District Office closed Dec. 24 & 25.

## 2018 ADVENT SUNDAYS

- Dec. 2, 1st Sunday of Advent**, Candle of Hope
- Dec. 9, 2nd Sunday of Advent**, Candle of Response
- Dec. 16, 3rd Sunday of Advent**, Candle of Miracles
- Dec. 23, 4th Sunday of Advent**, Candle of Peace

*Check our website, [www.orwacog.org](http://www.orwacog.org) for up-to-date information*

**A Celebration of  
God's Faithfulness  
to Holladay Park Church of God  
Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 3 PM**

**God's Faithfulness in  
ministry for 122 years.  
1896 to 2018!**



CHAPEL AND MISSIONARY HOME OF THE CHURCH OF GOD, 361 FAILING STREET, PORTLAND, OREGON

Join Holladay Park Church of God for a service of special memories and music to help us celebrate the faithfulness of God through the years at Holladay Park Church. There will be sharing from former Pastors and staff, a special choir, a video of the history of the church, and a catered dinner to follow.

2120 NE Tillamook St.  
Portland OR 97212

[www.holladayparkchog.org](http://www.holladayparkchog.org)



Join us as we celebrate 122 years of God's faithfulness through the ministry of:

***Holladay Park Church of God.***

**2 PM Celebration Choir  
Rehearsal**

**3 PM Celebration Service**

**5 PM Dinner**



# IN LOVING MEMORY

## Rev. Lester Bailey, Jr. (1942 - 2018)



After a long battle of kidney failure due to diabetes, "Pastor" Lester Bailey, 75, made the glorious transition from this earth to be with his Lord and Savior on Thursday, October 25, 2018.

He passed away peacefully with his family surrounding him and his precious pocket Bible echoing God's Word throughout the room. His devotion to His family and

strong belief in God supported him in his struggle with his sickness, but also gave him and his loved one's peace.

He was born to the late Lester E Bailey Sr. and the late Una Butcher in Richwood West Virginia. He grew up very poor and didn't get to complete high school because he needed to help support the family, but was always a hard worker. Over the years has worked for the Hillbilly Press in West Virginia, the Democrat Herald photographer, Albany Fire Department, Bailey Janitorial & Carpet Cleaning, Safeway, School bus driver, Manager at Hillhouse/Santiam Terrace & Walnut Court Apartments, Assistant Pastor First Church of God, Served as interim Pastor at many locations around the State, Pastor Oak Hill Community Church, Church of God Summer White Branch Youth Camp Director and Children's Church Director at State Camp meeting, Hospice & Hospital Chaplain and Founder/Director of Albany Helping Hands Homeless Shelter.

His family moved to Oregon in 1960 where he became a member of the first Church of God in Albany. At that time, he also began work at the Albany fire department where he soon developed his lifelong friendship with Lyle Vogt. In 1963, he returned to West Virginia for a short visit where he met his first wife Billie Joyce Colvin. They were married after a short 3- week courtship and then moved back to Oregon where he continued to work for the Albany fire department until 1969. He developed many friendships through the fire department and was very proud to be included in the firehouse Museum and the retired fireman's breakfast club.

After working at the Fire Department, he went to work for the family Janitorial business and also became an Ordained Minister. As a young boy in West Virginia he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord & Savior, and he has been a server of God ever since. In 1984, Lester got the opportunity to start Oakhill Community Church. They had many groups evolve out of that church

including the Oakhill Gospel Singers, led by his Sister Jean, in which Lester was part of the band playing his "Jaw Harp". Additionally, without realizing it at the time, the beginning of the church also marked the beginning of his "Homeless Ministry". Growing up poor, Lester's heart was always to help the poor and needy so he wanted to find a way to help those that needed it the most. In a joint effort with other local churches, they would make sack lunches at the church and then Lester and Arlene Casey, the Church Bus Driver at the time, would go distribute those to the people in need. Over the years things evolved, they began using the Church as the Homeless shelter. He had a great ability to generate support from many local churches and organizations who saw the vision while just trying to help the poor. Little did he know that 14 years later in 1998 that Albany Helping Hands would become a reality.

Lester not only ensured that a homeless shelter would exist in Albany but he led the shelter with the utmost love and respect for the shelter guests and personnel for 10 years. His love for all those who came in contact with him was evident. Never would you walk away from Lester without having smiled, for he always left people better than he found them. His Legacy will be forever remembered by the Community for this great organization he founded.

In 2009 after the death of his first wife, he married Arlene (Jones) Casey, where they continued the ministries of the church and Albany Helping Hands.

The family would like to thank the team of doctors and nurses at Good Samaritan medical Center in Corvallis, the North Albany dialysis center and Call A Ride for all of their hard work and care for Lester.

**There will be a memorial service held at 2pm Saturday November 10th at Hope Church (formerly Assembly of God) 2817 Santiam Hwy SE, Albany, OR 97322.** Fisher Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. We ask that in lieu of flowers please make a contribution to one of Lester's 3 favorite groups: Albany Helping Hands, Feed The Children or Gideon's in care of Fisher Funeral Home, 306 SW Washington St., Albany, OR 97321.

Lester had a passion and zeal for preaching God's word. He loved to share God's love not only in word but also in deed. His servant's heart and love for Jesus compelled him to connect with people in a meaningful way. He led countless people to know Jesus as their Savior and left a legacy of authentic love. Lester will be sorely missed by the community, his family & friends.

——— Excerpt from Fisher Funeral Home website  
[www.fisherfuneralhome.com/](http://www.fisherfuneralhome.com/)