

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



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SEPT/OCT
2021



— CONNECTIONS —

Connecting our Churches, Ministries & Events



Greetings Friends.

At the end of June I finished a month of Grand Jury service. As part of my civic duty, I was required to be at the Courthouse in Downtown Portland from 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. To avoid traffic and the high cost of parking in Downtown, I drove to the nearest MAX Light Rail station and took a 45-minute commute and 5-minute walk to the Courthouse. In the evenings and weekends, I tried to keep up with my duties as District Pastor, preaching two weekends in June and attending meetings several Saturdays. Needless to say, it was an exhausting month. (I want to say a big Thank You to Paula Wilson for covering some of my duties during the month, as well as keeping up with her demanding schedule. I appreciate her diligence.) If you

have ever served on a Jury, you know the demands of hearing evidence and the weight of having to decide the outcome. During the month I served, our Grand Jury heard over 100 cases, all of them felony cases. At times the process was overwhelming and I will be changed forever by what I heard and saw, both in court and on my commute. I am still processing it all.

One of the things I learned early on was how much of a bubble I live in—ignorant of the hurt and pain as well as the poverty and addiction all around me. Maybe ignorant is the wrong word, because I know these things exist in my community, but I often choose to ignore the hurt and pain of others. It is not that I don't care, I care deeply. When I see the hurt, I feel helpless to do anything about it. It is uncomfortable and scary to encounter such pain. However, as I look at the life of Jesus, the one I am seeking to follow, I see him confronted by the hurt of humanity often. Jesus didn't shy away from the hurt and pain of others, he reached out and offered hope and healing. Jesus chose to embrace, both physically and relationally, those who the religious leaders would have nothing to do with. This got Jesus a reputation as one who "welcomes sinners and eats with them" (Luke 15:2b). I want that kind of reputation. Or do I?

The distress of June is still fresh, and I have many kairos' to process. One thing I know for sure, I don't want to retreat into my bubble and continue to ignore the hurt around me. I am still seeking God for ways I can take what I have experienced and translate it into action. Stay tuned.

Don't forget, the third of our four-part **Gravity Leadership Boot Camp** is coming up on October 2nd, at Hoodview Church of God in Woodburn. Look for more details in this issue of the Connections.

Grace and peace,

Jerry

The Association of the Churches of God in Oregon & SW Washington | 715 S. River Street | Newberg, OR | 97132

www.orwacog.org | (503) 393-3510 | (800) 873-7729 | districtoffice@orwacog.org | Editor, Paula Wilson

District Office, Church & National Events



September

Sept 6: Labor Day
Sept 17-19: CWC Fall Prayer Retreat
Sept 12: Grandparent's Day
Sept 22: See You At The Pole



October

Oct 2: Discipleship Bootcamp #3
Oct 10: Pastor Appreciation Day
Oct 23: Make a Difference Day

*Remember to make
Jesus the Subject of Every Day*

YOUR CONNECTION TO THE CHURCH OF GOD

CHOG NEWS

CONVENTION 2021—DENVER

HUNGER & THIRST

FOR JUSTICE. FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. FOR JESUS.

Weren't able to make it to Denver? Call the District Office @ 503-393-3510 to learn how you can login to view sessions.



ONE MOVEMENT
ONE DAY of PRAYER
NOVEMBER ONE

2ND
CHRONICLES
7:14

From Noon on November 1 to Noon on November 2, let us join together as ONE Movement for ONE day of prayer. As we collectively lift our voice to heaven and humble ourselves, we can trust that God will hear and He will restore. (You can find resources to guide you through this time of prayer on the National Church of God website, www.jesusthesubject.org.)

Register Now for Bootcamp #3 and #4

Discipleship Boot Camp



GRAVITY
LEADERSHIP

**LEAD LIKE JESUS.
MAKE DISCIPLES.
CHANGE YOUR
WORLD.**



Boot Camp 1: Paradigms—Nov. 9, 2019 **Completed**

Boot Camp 2: Posture—Feb. 29, 2020 **Completed**

Boot Camp 3: Practices—Oct. 2, 2021

Boot Camp 4: Presence—Jan. 29, 2022



Cost: \$50 Each Speaker: Ben Hardman

From 9am-4pm @ Hoodview Church of God—Woodburn, OR

Register today by calling the District Office @ 503-393-3510

Even if you missed Boot Camp #1 and #2, you will find these Bootcamps valuable as you learn to live and lead like Jesus. For more information, login to www.orwacog.org or call for a brochure. *(Some scholarships are available.)*

Sponsored by the Assoc of the Churches of God in Oregon & SW Washington

CWC Fall Retreat—Sept 17-19

Ladies, the Fall Retreat is right around the corner! Registrations must be made right away.

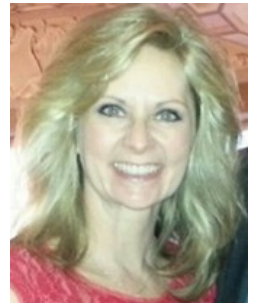
You can download a brochure from the church website orwacog.org or contact your church office to get registered today!

Cost is \$95 for the entire weekend or \$70 for Friday/Saturday only.

Please try to send registrations from your church together, and on one check, by September 3rd. If you have missed the deadline, call Nancy or Leslie to let them know your registration is on the way.

Ladies, **you don't want to miss this great opportunity** to connect with God and other women. Camp White Branch is a place to reconnect with the beautiful outdoors, to laugh and to grow.

Our speaker will be **Angi Jamison** from Longview, WA. Angi loves people and has a great passion to see people experience the presence of God through worship.



She will be sharing from Jeremiah 33:3 "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."



Carolyn Grice will be our worship leader. She is from the Rainier Church of God.

Have questions?? Call Nancy Kernutt @ 971-0570-1633 or Leslie Duclo @ 503-320-1369.



Association of the Churches of God in Oregon/SW Washington

Christian Women's Connection
Fall Prayer

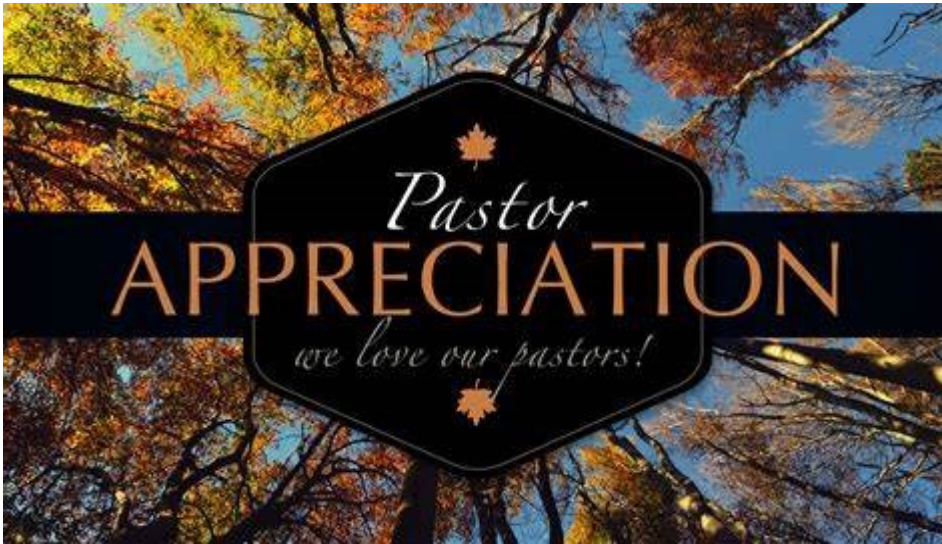
RETREAT

Sept 17-19, 2021

*"Don't Google
until you Hear from
God First"*

Camp White Branch
61500 Old McKenzie Hwy
McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413

Pastor Appreciation



There are many ways to let your pastor know that you care and that you appreciate them. Kind words, a card, a small gift, a dinner out . . . these are possible suggestions but if you need more, google it. There are amazing suggestions to help you be creative. October is Pastor Appreciation Month and October 10th is a special day on the calendar if you want to celebrate their calling and giftedness at that time.

Need more information, call the District Office.

We have AMAZING pastors in our District. We thank you for following your calling to serve God in this capacity.



Welcome Home Outreach

We have had several churches who sent groups this summer to minister to the needs at **Welcome Home Outreach** in the San Quintin Valley region of the Baja peninsula in Mexico. Two young men who went from the New Hope Church in Portland were Joey and Eddie Tabet. Hope you enjoy their pictures and comments . . .



On behalf of my brother and I, we can both say that we collectively had a wonderful time. At first I had been looking forward to the food and the work that we would be doing that week, but looking back I was most grateful for the people I was able to experience this trip with. While working with Jose, he taught me how to mix concrete and lay blocks, as well as put up trusses and shingles, and I really enjoyed his sense of humor. Realizing what little they had, and all that we could give the family made all the work worth it. The family we helped spoke little to no English and I was the same for Spanish. By the end, the smiles we were able to give them closed the language barrier. I would be delighted to spend another week doing the same thing for another family next year. Joey

On the first day we went to Church and it was nice to be in a Church in Mexico. After that we went to the beach and we saw dolphins not too far from where we were in the water. On the second day we went over to start building the house, and we got some good work done. On the third day we got the brick up and started to stucco the outside of the house and put up some of the roofing material. On the fourth day we finished the roofing and put on shingles, the outside got painted purple, along with the shower and the outhouse. On the fifth day we put up the ceiling and a few walls inside the house. Then the door got put in and we gave the family the keys to the house. Overall this experience impacted me gratefully and I would love to do this again next year. Eddie



Update on Hannah Grace Family Ministry

Keyboard and Guitar Teachers Needed

Faith Rock Community Church and Hannah Grace is offering a New Free Music Program to underserved children in their community. **Do you know of someone who is available to teach keyboard or guitar classes?** If so, they would love to hear from you.



Check out their website for information and respond. Faith Rock Community Church is meeting a need in their community to give children something they can take pride in and that they will always have—MUSIC.

HANNAH GRACE FAMILY, 1678 S BEAVERCREEK RD SUITE # F,
OREGON CITY, OR, 97045, www.hannahgrace.org

Churches in Transition

Please **PRAY** for our churches that are currently in transition with pastoral leadership. We have some very capable interim pastors leading through the transitions and they appreciate your prayers as well.

Gales Creek—Trisa Kelly, interim

Maranatha—Fred Douglas, interim

Reedsport—Ancil Abney, interim

Rockwood—Ron Hoak, associate pastor

Roseburg—Hugh Heinrichsen, interim



If you know of pastors who may be seeking Senior Pastor positions, please call the District Office with their contact information or have them send their resumes.

Remember we are stronger together!!

Summer of 2021 @ Camp White Branch

Greetings from Camp,

What a blessing it was having camp this year, after not being able to operate last year. Even though we had to follow Organization Camp COVID 19 guidelines, we were able to offer campers a great time of fellowship within small groups or cohorts, while ensuring a safe and healthy environment for our campers, staff, and volunteers.



A huge 'thanks' goes out to our staff we had this summer. **Rob Wright** from Reedsport, was our interim caretaker, and **Sheila Wallin**, from Rainier, was our lead cook. Without these two we wouldn't have been able to offer camps or rentals this summer. We also had **many volunteers** from churches sign up as camp directors, counselors, lifeguards, health staff, assistant cooks, cleaning help, grocery shoppers, and registration support. We really appreciated everyone's willingness to help where needed and we look forward to continuing to offer these types of volunteer opportunities next year.

Our **Camp Coordinator, Danette Beisley** also spent most of her summer at camp since she was the director for 3 of our camps. We are so thankful for her dedication and love for the camp ministry. As a volunteer, she is challenged with ensuring we have directors to lead each camp, support staff for each camp, qualified counselors with training, oversight over all camp programming and many other duties. Each year we are in need of directors and counselors, so please reach out to Danette now if you desire to help with this ministry.

This year we also implemented our new camp registration system. We knew we would have issues as with any new system or process and we have received your feedback. We will endeavor to utilize your suggestions to make changes for next year. Thanks for your grace and understanding.

Prior to camp opening for the summer we had work groups from **Reedsport, Rainier, and Albany** come to camp. They were able to perform needed repairs and maintenance. A group from Rainier spent hours on repairing and painting our pool and started fixing the deck. This was all needed to open the pool for the summer. Our **many thanks** go to the work groups for making camp look great!! If you have been blessed with skills and would like to help with projects at camp, you can get a hold of us at volunteer@campwhitebranch.org.

This fall we will start reroofing some of our buildings. We were blessed with some funds from the estate of a regular donor and this has provided us with enough money to roof the dining hall, caretaker house and one cabin. We are hoping to raise additional funds to complete the remaining buildings that are also in need of reroofing.

We have a couple of events coming up soon. The **Women's Prayer Retreat, Sept 17-19**, and a **Camp Work Weekend** planned for October 15-17th, to start winterization of the camp. Please contact us at volunteer@campwhitebranch.org to sign up or get more details on the work camp.

Blessings,

Lisa Switzer, CWB Chairman

www.campwhitebranch.org.

CWB Summer of 2021—Pics of Junior Camp

Pictures are still coming in from our Summer Camps. Here are some from Primary Camp and some from Middle School and High School Camps are on the next page. If you have any you would like to have included in our next issue, please send them to Paula at @districtoffice@orwacog.org



CWB Pics of Middle School & High School Camps



Willamette Valley Campmeeting

If you didn't make it to Willamette Valley Campmeeting this year, you missed out. Pastor Steve Kufeldt and the Campmeeting Committee did a fantastic job of organizing and coordinating this five day event at the Christian Conference Center in Turner. To make this opportunity for connection affordable, the leadership for the week is done by volunteers. We are talking amazing food, worship, missions project, children's and youth ministry, recreation, setup, registration, cleanup . . . Volunteers!! We look forward to this event growing next year. It is open to ALL individuals and churches in our District. A Big Thank You to all who helped.



**Marshall Snider,
Speaker**

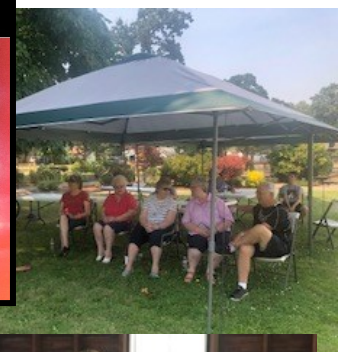
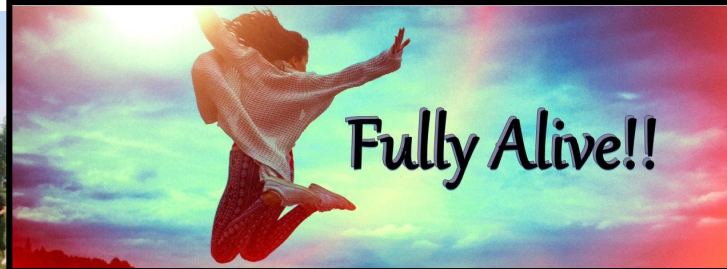
**Daniel Ryan,
Worship Leader**



Willamette Valley Campmeeting - August 1-5, 2021



Having Fun!



**Newly Ordained &
Pastor Recognition**



Missions Project



**WPU President,
Dr. Johnson shares**



Willamette Valley Campmeeting



Youth Program



Children's Program



Great Food



Many Thanks Volunteers!

Pastor's Ordination & Recognition

We celebrate with our Pastor's who have been licensed, newly ordained and/or recognized for their years of ordination. Its never to late to congratulate those celebrated this year with a call or a card. We congratulate you pastors!! Thank you for answering the call to ministry.

Licensed 2021

George Bailey, Redmond COG,
Ashleigh Carnley, First COG, Albany
Steven Guinett, in transition, Vancouver,
Andrew Loyd, Riverside COG, Cottage Grove,
Jason Mitchell, Springfield COG

Ordained 2021

Doug Balzer—River Street COG, Newberg,
Omar Cifuentes—New Hope Church, Portland,
Robbin Foster—Living Water COG, Prineville
John Jamieson—Westview Church, Longview,
Chris Kainu—Vancouver Church,
Kyle McGowan—Riverside COG, Cottage Grove

Honoring 25 Years of Ordained Ministry

Stephen Gartman, Lorena Marvel Hess, Rich LaMar

Honoring 40 Years of Ordained Ministry

Steve Dow, Frank Yerden

We have beautiful brochures from our celebration at the Willamette Valley Campmeeting available in the District Office. Let us know if you would like one.

Men's Retreat in Review



Awesome!! The highlights for the Men's Retreat included a great speaker, river rafting, renewed connection with God and other men, and . . . a beautiful setting in the mountains. Thanks goes to Bill Marble and his committee for their work in making this opportunity possible. Plans are already in the works for 2022!!

Jesusisthesubject.org—International News



2021 Church of God Women's Convention

September 30 - October 3

You can download a registration form
@ Jesusisthesubject.org (events)

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONVENTION

IYC2021 in Orlando, Florida has been rescheduled for
IYC2022 in San Antonio, Texas.

Registration for IYC2022 will open this fall. Logon to the
CHOG Website for more information.



In Memory of Bruce Kelly & Katie Kowalko

Michael Bruce Kelly, surrounded by his immediate family, at the St. Catharines Hospital on Monday, November 16, 2020 went to his heavenly home. Bruce was 83 years old and even though he spent his final years in St. Catharines, Ontario, his journey, accompanied by the love of his life, Judith Lenora (Mouser) Kelly, took him to multiple homes in the United States and Canada.

Guided by his ministry, his passion for education, and his steadfast commitment to strengthening communities, Bruce served his Lord and his church in Kansas, Maryland, California, Washington, Oregon, and Alberta. We take comfort in celebrating this kind and giving husband, father, grandfather, and brother. We persevere with the memory of his unwavering devotion to his family, including two sons and six grandchildren. We carry on with the challenge of sharing and growing his passion for a global community of inclusivity, integrity, and compassion.

Bruce was born and raised in Southern California. He attended Pacific Bible College (now Warner Pacific University) in Portland, Oregon. He served as pastor of four Church of God churches, was director of alumni and church relations for Warner Pacific, and was president of Gardner Bible College in Camrose, Alberta.

Bruce will be greatly missed by his wife, Judy; his sons and daughters-in-law, Michael and Joan Kelly, and Scott and Charlotte Kelly; his grandchildren, Stephanie, Katelynn, Ryan, Lauren, Harper, and Paige; his brothers and sisters-in-law, Douglas and Sandra (Ihle) Kelly, and Arthur and Judy Kelly; sisters-in-law Kathy Willis and Jackie Scott, and brother-in-law John Willis; and many nieces and nephews.

For those wishing to honour his journey and ministry through a gift, the family requests that gifts in memory of Michael Bruce Kelly be directed to the Cochran Memorial Fund at Warner Pacific University in Portland, Oregon (<https://warnerpacific.givingfuel.com/wp-giving>).



Michael Bruce Kelly

**August 10, 1937—
November 16, 2020**



Katie Kowalko

November 25, 1921—July 1, 2021

Katie loved the Lord all her life, and on July 1, 2021 she's now with Him forever. She was born in Saskatchewan, Canada to John and Mary Burkart on November 25, 1921. She was the sixth of seven children, and was preceded in death by her four sisters and two brothers.

As a young woman, Katie worked with her father as a market gardener. Later, she went to work "under the glass" at a local nursery and helped to make the bouquet given to Queen Elizabeth on her 1939 visit to Canada. Following her father's calling to ministry, the family moved to California. There Katie taught Sunday School and led youth activities. While attending a Youth

Conference, she met several students from Pacific Bible College (now Warner Pacific College) who urged her to attend. So she moved to Portland, Oregon and there met Nick Kowalko who was attending to further his ministerial training. They married in Portland in 1947.

Katie and Nick pastored at The Church of God in Canada, Aberdeen, Washington, Rainier and Springfield, Oregon. They also served in Cottage Grove, Oregon, where they retired as pastors emeritus. Of all of her many church activities, being the choir director was her favorite. Katie also worked in Eugene as a secretary for SAIF (State Accident Insurance Fund) and later as a legal secretary for a private attorney.

Katie's most notable quality was her positive life view. She was quick to laugh and enjoyed making others smile, too. In retirement, she and Nick traveled annually to The Fountain of Youth Spa and RV Resort, where she regularly performed a "stand-up" comedy act. She was a resort celebrity!

Katie touched many lives during her 99 years on this earth. She had many life-long friends. She is survived by her sons Ken (Judy) and Dale (Ginger), grandchildren Katie and Kendal, step grandchildren Donna and Bobby, and six great

District Prayer List for 2021

Be sure to remember our Church of God congregations in prayer. (Below you will find our District Prayer List for 2021.) There is power in prayer and we are stronger together.

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.
With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.
Ephesians 6:18*

Portland - Kingdom Nation	1/3/21	Albany - First Church of God	7/4/21
Portland -Winding Road Church of God	1/10/21	Albany - Community Church of God	7/11/21
Powers - Powers Church of God	1/17/21	Aloha - Aloha Church of God	7/18/21
Prineville - Living Water Church of God	1/24/21	Bandon - Seabird Chapel Church of God	7/25/22
Rainier - Rainier Community COG	1/31/21	Cottage Grove - Riverside Comm COG	8/1/21
Redmond - First Church of God	2/7/21	Eugene - Friendly Street Church of God	8/8/21
Reedsport - Reedsport Church of God	2/14/21	Gales Creek - Gales Creek Comm COG	8/15/21
Roseburg - Hucrest Community COG	2/21/21	Hillsboro - Valley Hope Community Church	8/22/21
Salem - Oak Park Church of God	2/28/21	Husum, WA - Husum Community COG	8/29/21
Scappoose - Chapman Community COG	3/7/21	Klamath Falls - First Church of God	9/5/21
Springfield - Springfield Church of God	3/14/21	La Grande - Crossroads Comm Church	9/12/21
St. Helens - Sunset Park Comm Church	3/21/21	Lebanon - Turning Point Church	9/19/21
The Dalles - Solid Rock Comm COG	3/28/21	Longview, WA - Westview Church	9/26/21
Tigard - Tigard Church of God	4/4/21	Medford - First Church of God	10/3/21
Vancouver, WA - First Church of God	4/11/21	Newberg - River Street Church of God	10/10/21
Vancouver, WA - Iglesia de Dios	4/18/21	North Bend - College Park Comm Church	10/17/21
Woodburn - Hoodview Church of God	4/25/21	Oregon City - Faith Rock Comm Church	10/24/21
Association of the COG leadership	5/2/21	Oregon City - Hilltop Community COG	10/31/21
Camp White Branch	5/9/21	Portland - Community Church of God	11/7/21
Warner Pacific University (Portland, OR)	5/16/21	Portland - Lents-Gilbert Church of God	11/14/21
COG Ministries Council (Anderson, IN)	5/23/21	Portland - Lynchwood Church of God	11/21/21
Church of God District Council	5/30/21	Portland - Maranatha Church	11/28/21
Pray for the lost	6/6/21	Portland - Mt. Scott Church of God	12/5/21
Summer camp directors & counselors	6/13/21	Portland - Neighborhood Church of God	12/12/21
Summer camp children & youth	6/20/21	Portland - Richmond Community Church	12/19/21
Pray for our ministers & their families	6/27/21	Portland - Rockwood Church of God	12/26/21

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.