



Association of  
the Churches  
of God  
in Oregon and  
Southwest  
Washington



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# THE CONTACT

January 2017

Volume 4 Issue 01

E-Contact

## Holladay Park to Host How-To Convention

Holladay Park Church of God will host the annual "How-To" Convention Saturday, January 28, 2017, from 8:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m., featuring keynote speaker, **Dr. Lou Foltz** and missionaries **Bobby and Jenny (Dunbar) Mihsill**, of Côte d'Ivoire.



**Dr. Lou Foltz**

Group Rate is \$150 per church group (up to ten participants) if postmarked on or before January 19. After that date, the fee is increased to \$200 per church group (up to ten). Please add \$5 per person for additional group participants.

Brochures will be available through your local church office, according to Pastor Julie Jackson, Chair of the District Christian Education.

With a Faith-based theme, about 20 options for workshops and sessions

include some of the following:

- An Inconvenient Faith
- Great Faith Comes from Great Faithfulness: Participation not Consumption
- Pastoral Financial Strategies
- Practice of Faithful Presence and Hospitality in Your Community
- A Practical Exploration of How Everyone Can Do Something
- Event Planning: Turning a Chore to a Joyful Ministry
- How the Church Can Help with those affected by Death, Divorce and Grief
- How to Stop Worrying About Numbers
- How to Live and Love after Life-Changing Diagnosis



**Jenny, Moore and Bobby Mihsill**

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## Christensen accepts District Interim Position

Effective mid-January 2017, Pastor Robert Christensen will serve as Interim District Pastor of the Association of the Churches of God in Oregon and SW Washington, until such time as a new permanent District Pastor is in place. Pastor Bob Christensen follows Pastor David Shrout, who retired in December.

Bob and his wife, Barbara, are well known and loved throughout the District, and have served in many leadership capacities within the Church of God locally, nationally and internationally. They both enjoy helping churches rethink their leadership structure and ways of doing ministry, and have promoted servant-leadership concepts which have brought renewed health to churches.

We warmly welcome the Christensens and encourage your prayerful, committed support in this transition period.



**Pastor Bob and Barbara Christensen**

## Former WPC President Sworn in as Mayor of Seaside, Oregon

Building on a life dedicated to serving others, Rev. Dr. Jay Barber '64, President Emeritus of Warner Pacific College, is taking on another leadership role as the newly appointed mayor of the coastal town of Seaside, Oregon.



On Monday, December 5, Barber was sworn in as mayor, filling the unexpired term of former mayor Don Larson, who recently passed away. Barber and his wife Jan moved to the north coastal town in 2006 and three years later he became involved in the Seaside City Council. Barber's previous political experience includes serving as a city councilor and two-term mayor in Red Bluff, California. In 1996, Barber became Warner Pacific's sixth president. When interviewed by the search committee, he said one of the first things he wanted to do as the College President was reinstate intercollegiate athletics, which had been discontinued in 1993. "It's such an important part of the fabric of the campus," he claimed. Three years later, Barber saw Warner Pacific Knights in action on the field and court. The continued growth and development of Knights Athletics is just one example of Barber's rich legacy at the College.

During his 12 years of leadership, Warner Pacific became debt free for the first time in its history, enrollment increased dramatically, and the College's reputation was solidified. On May 30, 2008, Barber retired; however, he didn't slow down. Sharing his strong leadership, fundraising, and strategic planning skills, Barber was appointed the

first Senior Fellow with the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust in 2008. He also served as a director and two years as chair of the Board of Directors of Mercy Corps, a relief and disaster organization based in Portland. And recently served as the interim Teaching Pastor for the 3,000 member Sunset Presbyterian Church in Beaverton.

"Jay Barber lives a life that truly exemplifies the motto of Warner Pacific College, 'Where faith and scholarship lead to service,'" said President Andrea Cook. "We are honored to be part of his story and we are grateful for his continued friendship. We wish him all the best and we are confident that the City of Seaside will be blessed by his strategic leadership."

Warner Pacific congratulates Jay Barber on his appointment as Mayor.

## Graduates honored at December Graduation Ceremony

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" Jeremiah 29:11*

The smiles of our graduates radiated brightly on the rainy Saturday morning (Saturday, December 10, 2016) when 174 Warner Pacific students became new Alumni.

Adult Degree Program graduate Annette Hunt spoke during Commencement: "To my graduating class, I not only congratulate you on the amazing journey that you have just completed but encourage you to keep God first in your life." She adds encouragement to continue achieving dreams, "Don't ever quit and don't allow fears to hold you back. In this increasingly changing society, our knowledge, wisdom, and courage begs for us to be the voice for those who cannot be heard. There will always be room for growth not only within yourself, but in someone else who needs inspiration."

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



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## Several WPC graduates were honored with awards of distinction:

Wilma I. Perry Award: **Leslie Catabay**

Dr. Wilma I. Perry embodied many wonderful qualities that Warner Pacific College considers of high value for its graduates of the Adult Degree Program. In her lifetime, Dr. Perry served as pastor of the Friendly Street Church of God in Eugene, OR, following years of service as an itinerant preacher and evangelist. Furthermore, she earned a doctorate in psychology from the University of Oregon as an adult student and joined the faculty at Warner Pacific College, where she also directed the College's Center for Human Services. She was known for her speaking and

teaching abilities, and as a gifted, published scholar. Dr. Perry's life was one of service, academic excellence, integrity, and transformation

Adult Degree Program Outstanding Student Award for Excellence in Christ-Centered Leadership and Service: **Jeff L. Scott**

Adult Degree Program Outstanding Student Award for Excellence in Urban Leadership and Service: **Nena A. Herbst**

Adult Degree Program Outstanding Student Award for Excellence in Liberal Arts Leadership and Service: **Craig M. Coleman**

Adult Degree Program Outstanding Student Award for Excellence in Diversity Leadership and Service: **Francoise A. Moisan**

## Look to the Hills: Camp White Branch Sees Snowfall

The first 15" of snow looks great at Camp White Branch, near McKenzie Bridge, OR, where Leonard Meyer will be plowing, keeping pipes from freezing, and staying safe this winter.

"It is not easy living in the snow that deep," Mel Neu says, noting that Leonard had to go to town for more 2x4's and 2x6's; with seven ceiling joists yet to put in place, then the bracing and the framing for light openings.

Now the light fixtures are hung in the upper rooms and ready for the electrician to finish the roughed-in wiring. The ceiling joists are up on the wall plates. Half of them are in place and screwed down.

"We hired a couple high school boys to help us bring them into the building and set in place," says Neu. The joists weigh about 100 pounds and are 24 feet long. They were bulky and hard to manage with just two people. "Sure glad Leonard and Stacey are liked in this community and can get help," says Neu. "We would have had a much harder time in getting them up. Next week we will get them all fastened down and braced and light fixtures hung. Thank you for the financial help to buy them. One more thing soon done."

"I hope to be done for the winter up here," Mel adds on a personal note. "My car just does not like this much snow, nor do I."

"Seems [Leonard] was always plowing the roads open," says Mel, with appreciation, "I realize now what the caretakers have had to do up there in the winter."

Thank you for your continued prayer, encouragement, and financial support.



# Congratulations to Newly Credentialed Ministers in 2016

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## New Commissions:

1. Ruth Ann Broman, Pastor at Albany Community Church of God in Albany, Oregon.
2. Kristen Zetsche, Youth Director/Associate Pastor at Reedsport Church of God in Reedsport, Oregon.

## Commission Renewals:

1. Roberto Juarez, Senior Pastor at Primera Iglesia De Dios, in Vancouver, Washington.
2. Timothy Townley, Senior Pastor at Gales Creek Community Church of God in Gales Creek, Oregon.

## New Licensures:

Jim Minkler, Senior Pastor at Seabird Chapel Church of God in Bandon, Oregon.

## Newly Ordained:

1. Jessica Taylor, Director of Youth Ministry at Rockwood Church of God in Portland, Oregon.
2. David Thompson, Senior Pastor at First Church of God in Redmond, Oregon.

## Welcome to Oregon and SW Washington (2016):

1. Stephen Robertson, Interim Associate Pastor at Mt. Scott Church of God in Portland, Oregon (Ordained 2000, from California to Oregon).
2. Roy Sprunger, Senior Pastor at Rainier Community Church of God in Rainier, Oregon (Ordained 1989, from Kansas to Oregon).

## Welcome Back to Oregon and SW Washington (2016):

1. Doug Beisley, Pastor of Youth & Worship at Oak Park Church of God in Salem, Oregon (Ordained 2008, from Indiana to Oregon).
2. Danette Beisley, Pastor of Family & Outreach at Oak Park Church of God in Salem, Oregon (District Commissioned 2016, from Indiana to Oregon).
3. Calvin Bontrager, Albany, Oregon (Ordained 1995, from Michigan to Oregon).

4. Jerry Davisson, Gresham, Oregon (Ordained 1992, from California to Oregon).

## Pastors Transferring Out (2016):

Bruce Hazel, Vancouver, Washington (Ordained 1991, to The Church at the Crossing in Indianapolis, Indiana, Associate Pastor).

## Recognition for Years of Ordained Service (2016):

1. Jay Barber, Seaside, OR, 50 Years
2. Thomas Miller, Lake Oswego, OR, 50 Years
3. Ed Richards, North Bend, OR, 50 Years
4. Doug Dougherty, Springfield, OR, 40 Years
5. John Kuykendall, Gresham, OR, 40 Years
6. Larry Ortman, Happy Valley, OR, 40 Years
7. Bruce Steffensen, McMinnville, OR, 25 Years
8. Martin Shrout, Portland, OR, 25 Years (2014)
9. Rick Shrout, Keizer, OR, 25 Years (2014)

## Deceased (2016):

Samuel Hooker, 8/27/16  
Arthur Eikamp, 11/5/16  
Peter Howland, 12/25/16



*"Oh may all who come behind us  
find us faithful  
May the fire of our devotion  
light their way  
May the footprints that we leave  
Lead them to believe  
And the lives we live  
inspire them to obey  
Oh may all who come behind us  
find us faithful."*

*-Steve Green, Find Us Faithful (1988)*

# How-To Convention January 28

(Continued from page 1)

- How to Find your Next Pastor
- How to Make your Vision Stick
- Preschool Crafts
- Storytelling
- How to make the Gospel Approachable for Young Nonbelievers

All these and more represent opportunities available to attendees. Everyone is welcome.

Among the presenters are Matt Ingalls, Buffy Rivas, Servant Solutions' Jim O'Bold and Ryan Harter; Ken and Deborah Lloyd, Gale Hency, Bob Field, Kelly and Dave Whipps, Steve and Cindy Pollard, David New, Albert Kaufman, Mike Mugford, Jeff Marble, David Shrout, Sandra Salisbury, Jenny Elliot, Charles Hunter.

Target that January 19 registration deadline, and encourage your lay leaders to attend.

Holladay Park Church of God is located at 2120 NE Tillamook Street, Portland, OR 97212.

## Longtime Missionary Turns 100

*By Carl Stagner, Chogministries*

1916. That was the year former missionary Ernest LaFont was born. Well-known across the movement throughout the 20th century, he and his wife Grace were regarded by both pastors and laypeople, at home and abroad, as exemplary pillars of the faith. Chances are pretty good that either you are someone who was blessed by the ministry of the LaFonts, or you know someone who was. From Panama to Egypt, to Lebanon and finally Washington State, the widespread reach of this Pacific Bible College (now Warner Pacific) graduate over the span of a lifetime has not ceased, but continues to this day. Family member and friend Bob Moss of Church of God Ministries knows firsthand the incredible impact of Ernest LaFont on the movement, and is honored to offer just a glimpse of the harrowing circumstances that shaped this man of God.



**Rev. Bob Moss and Ernest LaFont**

Two times Ernest and Grace LaFont lost everything. But they didn't lose *everything*. Before the days of mass transit by air, it wasn't uncommon for missionaries to reach their destination by sea. It was the era of the Skaggs and the Albrechts, the LaFonts were aboard

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**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.



# Longtime Missionary Turns 100

(Continued from page 5)

the *Andrea Doria* en route to the United States for home assignment from Egypt. But when their ship collided with a Swedish liner known as the *Stockholm*, they had to be rescued. Ernest, Grace, and son Leland lost all their earthly possessions except the clothes on their backs and, thankfully, the passport in Daddy's pocket. Remarkably, their faith and their peace were still intact.

That was 1956. While serving in Lebanon in 1975, it happened again. War broke out, forcing the LaFonts to flee during the night in an American embassy vehicle. Thankfully they escaped harm, but were only able to take one suitcase each. Based on conversation with Ernest over the years, Bob Moss beams when he thinks of the missionary couple's amazing resilience to difficult life circumstances.

"Ernie, and Grace [now deceased], had an amazing sense of humor," Bob explains. "They had the ability to laugh in the midst of where most of us would be in peril. During the war in Lebanon, a bomb went off nearby and cut the power to their home. They had agreed beforehand that, in case of emergency, they would meet in a certain safe place in the house. In the dark, the two of them got on their hands and knees and crawled from different places to meet. They couldn't see and, in the dark, banged their heads into each other, but fell over on the floor, laughing the whole time! I can easily see them doing that because that's just the kind of people they were."

Ernest could appropriately be described as a legacy missionary. Though he has accomplished much by the grace and power of God, he doesn't feel he's *arrived* by any means. Following his years as a missionary, he served Washington State as area administrator for several years. He then became the pastoral care pastor at First Church of God in Walla Walla, Washington (following his brother, Frank LaFont, a 28-year missionary to Africa, who preceded him in that role). *Retirement* is not in Ernest's vocabulary, as even today he continues a ministry of prayer and sending cards to those in his home congregation of First Church, now known as Blue Mountain Community Church. To this day, he continues to impart wisdom and raise the bar of Christ-like

excellence to everyone with whom he has contact. Bob Moss is one of those persons. When asked about one thing about Ernest's life and witness that has made a lasting impression, he cites two.

"First, he taught me the perspective of being a citizen of heaven on earthly assignment. Material things weren't the focus of their lives. That's how they were able to take their material losses in stride. Second, they truly lived as international people and had a wide group of loyal friends from Egypt and Lebanon and, as a result, they helped me begin thinking more globally as a pastor. When you're truly international, you begin to see the world in a larger scope than just your American lens. In my own travels to the Middle East, the older saints still speak in reverential tones about Ernest and Grace. He is the embodiment of what Paul said in Philippians 4 about being content in all circumstances. Even now, in assisted living, he is content. 'I have everything I need,' he says."

To send a note of congratulations to Ernest LaFont, please send in care of Quail Run Retirement Center, 1701 Plaza Way, Walla Walla, WA 99362. Thank you!

Have you not known?  
Have you not heard?  
The everlasting God,  
the LORD,  
The Creator of the ends  
of the earth,  
Neither faints

nor is weary.

His understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the weak,

And to those who have no might

He increases strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary,

And the young men shall utterly fall,

But those who wait on the LORD

Shall renew their strength;

They shall mount up with wings like eagles,

They shall run and not be weary,

They shall walk and not faint.

(Isaiah 40:28-31 NKJV)



# Church of God Convention 2017 Host Church a Hub for the Community

By Carl Stagner (posted by chogministries)

"I have never been more excited than I am now about how God is moving the Church of God into a bright future!" Sounds like something the general director of Church of God Ministries might say. Or a member of the Ministries Council. Maybe even someone applying for a leadership position in the General Assembly. But these words come from the pastor of one of our most influential churches in the movement: Bob Beckler, of Central Community Church in Wichita, Kansas. The Wichita congregation will host what is shaping up to be a must-attend Church of God Convention in June 2017. Before you go, get to know this 110-year-old church whose vitality and drive for ministry is nothing short of contagious.

These are motivated saints. And they have good reason to be. While many churches find themselves in the declining stage of their life cycle a century later, the Spirit is continually pouring new life into Central Community. "We are a church on the move," Pastor Bob explains. "We feel very clearly that God



Photo: Flowers bloom outside of Central Community Church

has visited us and has said it's time to move forward. Over the last eight or nine months, based on the book of Habakkuk, we've been in what we call the "Right the Vision"

campaign—like the watchman on the wall, clearly communicating what God is doing. We've formed multiple teams, we've come up with a new vision and mission statement. We're planning what we're going to do with the forty acres we have. God is moving and it's powerful."

When asked what has contributed to the church's health and vitality, Bob explains that Central Community Church has long been a leader in its community. It's not just a fixture in the community; it's a hub of activity for the community. He also insists that Central Community has long been a force for good in the Church of God movement and around the world. "Even though there may have been some 'classroom' seasons that God has taken us through, there has always been this fact that God is using this place to lead our community and world to reconcile

with those who do not know Jesus. Right now, more than 30 percent of the congregation has been here less than two years, and forty percent less than four years. We have begun the ministry of reconciliation, and that has led to unbelievable restoration. People keep coming to see what God is doing in a church that is actively being restored."



Photo: CCC, a Jesus-centered church!

The name of their church is so fitting for what they do. As a central gathering place, they now host extravagant Christmas and Easter productions attended by thousands of locals. Pastor George Skramstad is back at the church where he led so many years in worship, and now he's helping to revitalize the grand-scale choral, worship arts aspects of what they do.

As a hub for the community, they're keeping the facilities in tip-top shape. But before the new coat of paint, the congregation wrote more than 1,300 scriptures on the walls to symbolize the power of God in what they're doing there. But these believers don't just stay on the church property. Through an effort known as The Dollar Club, each month they're taking funds raised out to the needy to pay for gas or electric bills, offering financial assistance to families of prisoners, surprising police officers with gifts, and much more. The church video records the acts of kindness and shows the entire congregation what their dollars can do. This only motivates the church to give more, and the cycle of being Jesus to the community continues. "Know Christ and Make Him Known"—from providing family-friendly activities at the church, to local and international missions, everything Central Community Church does stems from that new Jesus-centered mission statement.

Pastor Bob and Central Community Church can't wait to see brothers and sisters in Christ from across the country and around the world gather in Wichita next June. As they roll out the welcome mat, they also recommend a few eateries: Freddy's, an old-fashioned hamburger establishment, as well as a variety of great barbecue places in Old Town

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# An Urgent Call For Help! Earthquake Damage, Ecuador

We have received word from Karen Lambert, Director of COP in Ecuador, regarding the recent earthquake damage on December 19 to children's homes in the Tonsupa/Atacames area on the Pacific coast of Ecuador.

Five sponsored children's homes were severely damaged or destroyed. \*The following children's families are unable to live in their homes. The estimated costs of replacing or repairing the homes is included:

- Alexander Bone - ECT-001 - home is a total loss \$300
- Bryon Zambrano - ECT-005 - Home is a total loss \$500
- Mercedes Guagua - ECT-007 - Pillars cracked and falling. 2 walls gone - \$150
- Dayana Bazurto - ECT-020 -Home is a total loss \$400
- Samuel Charoz - ECT-023 - Home is a total loss \$600

COP Ecuador has requested assistance in rebuilding homes for these children (or repairing existing structures). \$3,000 is needed as soon as possible. We are calling for donations to help build homes for these children. The families and church people will provide the labor. Please consider a generous gift to help these families have a place to live.

Donations may be made immediately on the COP website at <http://www.echildrenofpromise.org>.

Once on the website, click the DONATE NOW button and complete the donation form. Select "Emergency Fund" and designate your gift in the comment area for Ecuador Earthquake Relief.

You may also call our office with your credit card information in hand, and we will be happy to process your donation: 1-765-648-2190.

Or you can send a check to Children of Promise, P.O. Box 2316, Anderson, IN 46018. Designate\* Ecuador Earthquake Relief\* on the check. Please join us in praying for these families.

Dr. Paul L. Maxfield, Executive Director  
Children of Promise, Inc.. 1-765-648-2111  
[plm@echildrenofpromise.org](mailto:plm@echildrenofpromise.org)



## Congratulations, Newlyweds!



Congratulations to **Ardeth Helbling**, 90, and **Loyal Lee**, 93, on their marriage Thursday, December 29, 2016.

The couple is sure to make beautiful music together at the Village in Gresham, OR, as he loves to sing, and she loves to play the piano.

Ardeth is the mother of Ruth Ann Yerden, Jean Shackleton, and Janet Wilson.



"Let us therefore draw near with boldness unto the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help us in time of need."

Hebrews 4:16 ASV

## Convention Host Church a Hub for the Community

*(Continued from page 7)*

Wichita, and the classic chains McAllister's and Chick-Fil-A—both of which regularly partner with the church. Pastor Bob also reminds everyone that if you like Pizza Hut, you might like to know that it originated in Wichita! As for things to do, Pastor Bob recommends Old Town Wichita, the Riverwalk, the zoo, and the incredible Museum of World Treasures—founded by a friend to so many in the movement, Jon Kardatzke.

*Church of God Convention 2017 is June 20–23. For registration and more information, visit [www.JesusIsTheSubject.org](http://www.JesusIsTheSubject.org).*



# Homeward Journeys

## Mary Ann Rogers (9/9/1932-12/11/2016)



Mary Ann (Meyer) Rogers, 84 years old, of Sherwood, OR, passed away Sunday, December 11, 2016, with family surrounding her.

She was born in Caldwell, ID, on August 9, 1932. Mary Ann Meyer graduated from Caldwell High School in 1950 and she married Ward Leslie

Rogers on August 10, 1950. They were married for just a few days short of 65 years when Ward passed away in 2015.

Throughout her marriage, Mary supported Ward in ministry in over a dozen congregations, not only as his encouragement and support, but through her contributions in playing the accordion, organ, singing in the choir, and helping in children's ministries.

Mary worked outside the home in various jobs when needed, but for the majority of their married life she ran their household efficiently and made the budget stretch to provide for her family. Ward worked diligently at every congregation he served and as a result Mary did her very best to take care of their children and home in his absence. Their love for each other and devotion to the Lord gave them many good years in serving the Lord faithfully together.

Mary Ann Rogers is survived by her two children, Lloyd Rogers and Shirley Culver, their spouses, Kerrie Rogers and Pastor R. Milton Culver, five grandchildren, Melissa, Apryl, Roy, Justin and Greyson, their spouses, nine great-grandchildren, Luke, Rae Ann, Hannah, Kate, Jaxson, Miles, Owen, Jake and Paige, and numerous nieces and nephews.

## Ministers' & Spouses' Retreat

January 18 is the registration deadline for the Ministers' and Spouses' Retreat to be held at Best Western Agate Beach Inn in Newport, Oregon, Feb. 20-22. Guest speaker Dr. Lou Foltz and Worship Leader Pastor Tim Irwin will lead the retreat with the theme of *Mountains, Valleys and Deserts: The Precious Gift of Each Other*.

Brochures are available through your local church or the District Office.

## Pastor Peter Michael Howland (7/4/1985-12/25/2016)

Peter Howland passed from this life on Christmas Sunday morning, at the Hospice Care Center in Longview, Washington, at the age of 31, following an August diagnosis of stage IV cancer.



He and his wife, Judi Howland, have been part of the Church of God family in Longview for six and a half years, where Peter faithfully served as youth and children's minister.

Ordained at the ORWACOG Summer Celebration last year, Peter also earned his B.A. in Religion and Christian Ministries from Warner Pacific College in Portland, OR, and most recently

his Associate's degree in Child Development from Lower Columbia College in Longview, WA.

Peter is survived by his wife, Judi; his mom, Mary, and brothers, David, Stephen and Jonathan Howland. He was preceded in death by his father, Lawrence Howland.

Peter will be fondly remembered for his bold love for Jesus; his genuinely kind and gentle ways, great sense of humor, his love for people and super-heroes (especially Superman and Batman). He leaves a legacy of love and acceptance, reminding us that God looks at the heart.

His encouragement to children and youth comes from I Timothy 4:12: "Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young..." Peter's life touched the lives of many throughout the community, local and district churches, and his workplaces (Longview First Church of God, *Michael's* and Lower Columbia College Head Start).

Peter loved to be around people. His week in the Longview Hospice Care Center gave many the opportunity to visit and express their love and appreciation personally to Peter and Judi.

While Peter Howland will be greatly missed by all who knew him, we rejoice that he is free from pain and home with Jesus.

A memorial service and celebration of life was held at the Longview First Church of God (a full house!) on Friday, December 30, 2016, with Pastor Joe Tira officiating.

# Homeward Journeys

## Arthur Raymond Eikamp

(9/23/1918-11/8/2016)

A memorial service was held for Arthur Raymond Eikamp, 98, of Bandon, OR, Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Langlois Community Church.

Arthur was born Sept. 23, 1918, in a newly built chicken coop on a farm in Gary, S.D., the son of John and Anna (Beving) Eikamp. He was the fifth and last surviving of six children: four sisters and one brother.

Growing up in the dust bowl years, Arthur learned frugality, ingenuity, and self-sacrificing (if you couldn't make it, you did without it), and strong work and moral ethics from his devout Christian parents. After a life changing experience in his late teens he enrolled in Anderson College to study for the ministry. There he made life-lasting friendships, but it wasn't until he was a student at Yale Divinity School that he met and married Norma Helen Blewitt from New York City.

The first two years of married life they lived out of a Jeep station wagon traveling from Minnesota to the Rio Grande Valley ministering to agricultural migrants and their families. In 1949 they received the call to go to Japan to help the Japanese church rebuild after the devastation of World War II and embark on a 35-year missionary career in that country. They had the privilege of seeing Japan rise from the ashes and rubble of defeat and U.S. military occupation to become the advanced nation that it is today. In 1984, before retiring from serving in Japan, Arthur was honored by Emperor Hirohito with a medal for extended service to the Japanese people.

After returning to the U.S. Arthur taught at Warner Pacific College in Portland, Ore., for two years. He then embarked on the adventure of building his own home in Langlois. They moved into the still unfinished house in 1987 and enjoyed working on the house, cutting trees and chopping firewood. Most of all he enjoyed teaching adult Bible class in church. About that time he decided to write his memoir and published the book "Sensei" in 2000.

Serving God in any place and at any time was Arthur's purpose in life and his greatest joy. His closest ties to the community and friends came through the church.

Arthur is survived by Norma, his wife of 69 years; son, Daniel Eikamp, in Japan; five grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, including Roy Eikamp and his family of Bandon. He was preceded in death by his oldest son, Mark in 2009.

Contributions in Arthur's memory may be made to Church of God Ministries (for Mission work in Japan), c/o Benjamin Shular, Global Strategy, PO Box 2420, Anderson IN 46018.

## Upcoming Events



- Jan. 1, 2017, NEW YEAR'S DAY
- Jan. 2, District Office closed Monday
- Jan. 5, REGION #2 - Thurs., 10 am-12 pm
- Jan. 10, REGION #1 Mtg. - Tues., 10:00 am
- Jan. 18, Deadline for Ministers' & Spouses' Retreat registration, Wed.
- Jan. 18, REGION #7 Mtg. - Wed., 12:00 pm
- Jan. 19, REGION #4 Mtg. - Thurs., 10 am-12 pm
- Jan. 19, CWB Board Mtg. - Thurs. 5:30 pm
- Jan. 24, REGION #3 Mtg. - Tues. 10 am -12 pm
- Jan. 24, District Council Mtg. - Tues. 5:30 pm
- Jan. 26, REGION #5 Mtg. - Thurs. 9:00 am
- Jan. 28, How-To Convention - Sat.
- Feb. 17-18, Warner Pacific College Homecoming - Fri.- Sat.
- Feb. 20-22, Ministers' & Spouses' Retreat Mon.-Wed.
- March 2, REGION #2 - Thurs., 10 am - 12 pm
- March 9, Pastors' Day - Thurs.
- March 12, Daylight Savings begins - Sun.
- April 9, PALM SUNDAY
- April 11, REGION #1 Mtg. - Tues., 10:00 am
- April 14, GOOD FRIDAY
- April 16, EASTER SUNDAY
- April 25-27, W.A.R.M. - Tues.-Thurs.
- May 4, REGION #2 - Thurs., 10 am - 12 pm