



Association of
the Churches
of God
in Oregon and
Southwest
Washington

*Camp White Branch
volunteers make
progress in time for
Campers (see pages 8-9)*

Woodburn Church hosts District's 125th Anniversary Celebration

Hoodview Church of God in Woodburn, Oregon, invites the district to join them for a special celebration the weekend of September 8 and 9 as they mark the 125th anniversary of the work of the Church of God in our district.

In 1893, Pastor Johnny Green and his wife, Lydia, brought the message of the Church of God to the Pacific Northwest, establishing a church first in Woodburn before branching out to Salem and across the district.

Pastor Green was an evangelist at heart and was instrumental in the start of many vital, thriving congregations across the Pacific Northwest. He also was one of the founders of the Oregon Campmeeting of the Church of God that was held in



Woodburn for over 50 years, a meeting that was recognized nationally as one of the largest and well-known meetings of it kind.

The anniversary celebration will focus on the history of the district in three special events on Saturday, September 8. A celebration worship service highlighting our district's history and key leaders through the years will begin at 3:00 p.m. A "dinner on the grounds" will be held at 5:00 p.m. (donations will be accepted). The evening will end with a 6:00 p.m. gospel concert. The morning worship service on Sunday, September 9 will focus on the history of the Woodburn congregation.

Churches and individuals are encouraged to bring historic photos and memorabilia to display in the lobby of the church for the Saturday celebration. Contact the Hoodview Church office (503-981-1660) for more information.

Annual Meeting July 21

Per the bylaws of The Association of the Churches of God in Oregon and Southwest Washington, this is the official notice of the Annual Business Meeting provided to each congregation and voting member of The Association. This notice was also posted in early June on the Association website. For voting purposes, local churches need to be in contact with the District Office to provide names of delegates. Note times: registration is at 9:30 a.m., with the business meeting starting at 10:00 a.m. The Hoodview Church of God is located at 1530 Mt. Hood Avenue, Woodburn, OR 97071.

Save the Date!



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, July 21, 2018
Hoodview Church of God
Woodburn, Oregon

Registration: 9:30 a.m.
Business Meeting: 10:00 a.m.
Lunch: 12 Noon/\$5 suggested donation
Ministers Meeting: 1:00 p.m.

THE CONTACT

E-Contact

Volume 5 Issue 07

July 2018

Sunset Park enters float in Kiwanis Parade

by DeAnn Marble

Sunset Park Community Church participated in the annual Kiwanis day Parade on Saturday, June 16. This year's theme was "*Honor those who served.*" The truck pulling the float was decorated with paper stars with names of current and past military individuals who are related to or friends of members of Sunset Park. Youth and families who walked in the parade with the float passed out Otter Pops and candy to spectators and information about a big event coming up this fall to promote our children's and families' programs, including Snoopeeland Child Development Center, our Wednesday-night children's and youth programs. We will even have a professional singing group, called *Micah and Me* performing a concert at our Fall event on September 7, 2018. Sunset Park Community COG is located at 174 Sunset Blvd., St. Helens, OR 97051.



Hoodview Church of God Calls Pastor

The Hoodview Church of God in Woodburn last month called their Associate Pastor, Steve Kufeldt, to become their new Lead Pastor. Steve is no stranger to our district, having served on the staff of Hucrest Community Church in Roseburg for seven years before serving under former Hoodview Senior Pastor BJ Kuykendall for the past four and half years in Woodburn. Steve has served on the District Council, on the district's bylaws committee, as well as the former Church Extension Commission. He currently serves as the Secretary/Treasurer of WARM (Western Area Regional Ministerium). Steve is passionate to see his community come to Christ and loves serving his neighbors. He is active in the Woodburn Area



Rev. Steve Kufeldt

Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Chamber's Greeters Committee. He also is a member of the French Prairie Kiwanis Club, is a SMART (Start Making a Reader Today) volunteer at a local elementary school, serves as an officer of the local ministerial association, and also served as the president of the board of the local Love In the Name of Christ (Love INC) affiliate.

As the son of a longtime Church of God pastor, Steve grew up in Florida and attended Anderson University and the School of Theology in Anderson before beginning his pastoral ministry. He has served churches in California, Florida, Colorado and Oregon. He is married to Cindy, his wife of 28 years, and they have two adult children. Seth, their oldest, lives in Portland and is employed by DHS as a Teen Permanency Caseworker. Their daughter, Abby, lives in Salem and is an accountant for a senior housing corporation.

Hoodview Church of God invites the district to celebrate with them when they host a special installation service for Pastor Steve on Sunday, July 15 at 3:00 p.m. A reception will be held afterwards.

Living out the message of Jesus

by Pastor Jerry Davisson



Rev. Jerry Davisson, District Pastor

A recent article on the Barna.com website showed that the attitude of many Christians reflects a shift in their personal responsibility to share their faith.

The article states, “A growing number of Christians don’t see sharing the good news as a personal responsibility. Just ten percent of Christians in 1993 who had shared about their faith agreed with the statement ‘converting people to Christianity is the job of the local church’—as opposed to the job of an individual (i.e., themselves). Twenty-five years later, three in ten Christians who have had a conversation about faith say evangelism is the local church’s responsibility (29%), a nearly threefold increase. This jump could be the result of many factors, including poor ecclesiology (believing ‘the local church’ is somehow separate from the people who are a part of it) or personal and cultural barriers to sharing faith. Yet the most dramatic divergence over time is on the statement, ‘Every Christian has a responsibility to share their faith.’ In 1993, nine out of ten Christians who had shared their faith agreed (89%). Today, just two-thirds say so (64%)—a 25-point drop.” (<https://www.barna.com/research/sharing-faith-increasingly-optional-christians>.)

I enjoy watching sports from the comfort of my living room as teams battle it out on the field. I heard a joke that said football is 22 men on the field who desperately need rest and 22,000 people in the stands who desperately need exercise criticizing those on the field. Sadly, Christianity in America is often seen as a spectator sport. We attend church on Sunday to watch the

professionals perform, after all that is why we pay them, right?

The final words recorded by Matthew in his Gospel have come to be known as the Great Commission. Our District has this passage as part of our vision statement, that “every believer [is] to fulfill the mandate of the Great Commission, the Great Commandments, and the teachings of Jesus Christ.” Jesus is recorded as saying, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20)

There is a lot going on in these verses, but I want to key in on one word in this article and that word is “GO”. As a young person growing up in the church, I remember hearing this passage used on many occasions. Often I was left with the impression these verses were for those who were called or gifted in the area of missions or evangelism. I always seemed to feel a sense of relief that I was not part of the group that Jesus was talking to, until I felt a call to ministry. It was at that time I started to feel a sense of ownership to the mission of this passage. I must confess that I still had it wrong. I thought that Jesus was only commissioning a special class of individuals who were called to the “professional” ministry of making disciples. I still believe we need those who are called to organize, teach and provide leadership for the church. However, I have come to understand that if we are going to transform the “nations,” then it is going to take every believer taking ownership of these verses and realizing that we are all called to GO! Going implies movement and, sadly, we have little of that in our churches today.

I recently re-read Alan Hirsch and Lance Ford’s book, *Right Here Right Now*, where they explain how a missional movement grows. They state,

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Living out the message of Jesus

“missional movements grow-through a group of people who have been changed by Jesus and are willing to put themselves on the line for his cause. And the cause cannot be limited to evangelism, as if simply telling someone about the saving events of Jesus’ life and death fulfills our missional obligations. Rather it is about living the gospel in such a way that people are drawn into the direct influence (lordship) of Jesus through our lives.”

I believe that if we are truly to become God’s people on the move, it will require us to first take seriously the call to BE disciples so that we can GO and make disciples.

Hirsch and Ford go on to say, “A missional movement must apply the gospel to all spheres of life (business, family, art, education, science, politics, etc.) - it cannot be limited simply to ‘coming to church’ or participating in building-based programs.” Discipleship is about more than going to church or participating in religious activities. It involves living my life as Jesus would if

he were me. It involves how I work, what I buy, how I treat my neighbor and a whole host of decisions I make every day. Discipleship is about living out the message of Jesus before a watching world and this requires us to GO and be part of the world.

This can be very scary! I would much rather hang out with people like me, who believe the same things I do and enjoy the same things I enjoy. I’m sure that the players on the football field would rather hang out in the huddle. It’s safer there. No one wants to take off your head in the huddle, usually. But the huddle is just for taking a breath and getting your assignment for the next play. Church is a great place to huddle, but it is not the game. It’s a great place to catch our breath, but it is not the purpose. We are ALL called to GO and get in the game of making disciples. Are you a part of what is going happening on the field? Or are you simply a spectator in the stands?

IYC 2018 (International Youth Convention) is underway at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, IN, with Zealand leading in worship and Samuel Rodriguez speaking. *See Facebook #IYCIndy*



Fred Douglas with former Warner Pacific classmate Dr. Chris Cottrell (right), guest mediator and facilitator at a recent Sexual Ethics round table

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Check the web-site for information about future communications.

Willamette Valley Campmeeting

We are just a month away from the Third Annual Willamette Valley Campmeeting, August 5-9, to convene on the grounds of the Oregon Christian Convention in Turner, Oregon.

Have you registered?

This will be a week of great worship, dynamic preaching and lots of fellowship.

Michael Thigpen, Lead Pastor of Celebration Church at Arrow Heights in Anderson, IN, is our guest speaker. We also will be joined by the youth from our District churches.

If you plan to stay overnight at the Oregon Christian Convention site, be sure to reserve your place on the district website (www.orwacog.org).



Columbus Convention Opening Day “Spirit-filled,” “Tremendous,” “Great”

by Carl Stagner, Church of God Ministries

The first day of the Church of God Regional Convention in Columbus, Ohio, is now history, and the second day is now underway. Nearly five hundred people have enjoyed the numerous teaching sessions, electives, and meetings, as well as the incredible hospitality of First Church of God. Under the leadership of the praise team at First Church, convention-goers have experienced the presence of God in powerful ways—and neither the event, nor the Spirit’s active role, is over yet. As Day Two of the Regional Convention continues, many are still reflecting on the blessings of Day One.

“God isn’t waiting for us to get better; he’s waiting for us to get real,” Ben Harman’s Gravity Leadership team insisted, in the opening session of #LifeColumbus on Tuesday. Like the first two Regionals, they led a group discussion on discipleship and the soul-care of the *disciple*. The credentials training was yet again a “packed house” with credentials teams and regional pastors from the United States and Canada. The CARE seminar, led by Joe Cookston, also informed and equipped pastors and church board members. In the afternoon, First Church of God leadership offered a variety of electives based on their experience doing life-giving ministry in the Columbus area. The Town Hall meeting with Jim Lyon concluded the afternoon, before Jim returned to deliver the evening message.



Spirit-filled worship at the Columbus Regional on Tuesday

“Spirit-filled” was a common description of the Tuesday evening experience. Voices and hands were raised across the First Church sanctuary while the words of the classic hymn “It is Well with My Soul” resonated from soul to soul. Jim Lyon’s message not only inspired listeners to fully embrace the life Jesus offers in abundance, but also to give life. An extended time of prayer followed, with both hearts and altars full. Kimberly Majeski (of the Anderson University School of Theology and Christian Ministry) described it beautifully: “So

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Columbus Convention Opening Day “Spirit-filled,” “Tremendous,” “Great”

(Continued from page 5)

grateful for the sweet, fresh baptism of worship, for the gift of gathering together with my tribe, in these turbulent times, to pray and sing, to dream and lament. Thanks to Church of God Ministries and Jim Lyon for a great conference, and to our gracious hosts Timothy Clarke and First Church of God.”

But Church of God Ministries is also blessed to coordinate the convention, and First Church is thankful for the chance to host it. On behalf of the church, Bishop Timothy Clarke reflects, “This week it is our honor to host the Regional Convention. While it has been busy, it has also been a blast and a blessing...First, it has given us a chance to see that we are part of something larger than ourselves. Sometimes, if we are not careful, we can get wrapped up in ourselves...Second, this week has given us the opportunity to partner in something that will outlast and outlive us...Finally, this week has given us an opportunity to engage in something that will lift us. All of us need to be encouraged, inspired, emboldened, and to fellowship with others often helps to make that happen.”

Those unable to attend were invited to along with **#LifeColumbus** on social media. Learn more at <http://www.jesusisthesubject.org/regional-convention-columbus-2018/>.



Clarke, Lyon welcome attendees on Tuesday



Fellowship at First Church on Tuesday was sweet

Attend one of Two Remaining Regional Conventions 2018



Sept. 18–19, 2018



Sept. 25–26, 2018

See www.jesusisthesubject.org

Scoot over, VBS! It's a Concert!

by Kay Tira

"I've just experienced two days of 'awesome,'" posts Ruth Ann Yerden.

And for part of that time, she wasn't alone! Those attending the piano duet concert featuring Ruth Yerden and her sister, Jean Shackleton, at the Rainier, Oregon, Community Church of God enjoyed a lot of awesomeness Wednesday evening, June 13. Though it wasn't their typical grand piano and pipe organ, the duo made due with an old upright and a keyboard, working their skilled fingers to the delight of the crowd.

Not to be upstaged by Vacation Bible School décor, the duo performed fantastically, with over a dozen selections, Rondo Capriccioso, op. 14, Sonata, op. 6, Malaguena, hymns and medleys. Sister, Janet Wilson joined in for a couple of vocal trios (*Heirlooms* and *Born to Serve the Lord*).



Ruth Yerden and Jean Shackleton in concert



Sisters' Trio is photobombed by VBS character (from left, Jean Shackleton, Janet Wilson and at piano, Ruth Yerden)

The three sisters represent just half of the six children of the late Rev. Paul and Ardeth Helbling, who pastored the Rainier congregation in the 1980's.

Several friends from years' past surprised the performers, including Linda Upshaw Marsee, Teresa Kent, and Tom Akery, among others. "It was great to see them," says Yerden. "We were treated royally by our 'sister' Pamela Coldwell Burnett."

Thursday the ladies traveled to Eugene to visit with the Sheldon clan and were able to see all cousins except for Terry. "Sandy Ravan fed us a great lunch and we experienced great fellowship all afternoon."

Recently ordained in Music Evangelism, Jean Shackleton also released her book entitled, *"Moments and Memories: Living in Concert Together"* covering a lifetime of music and ministry.

Incidentally, *Rolling River Rampage* Vacation Bible School kicked off at Rainier Community Church the following week.

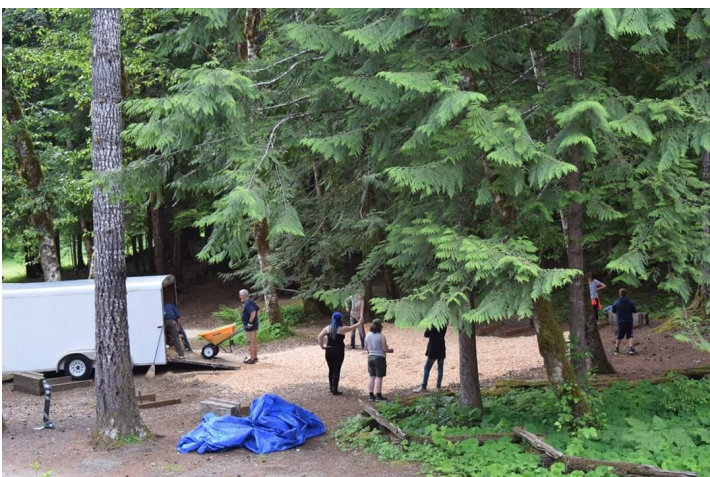
Pastor Roy Sprunger pictured, right.



Look to the Hills: Camp White Branch

Stacey Meyer reports that the Albany Church of God held a work weekend at Camp White Branch over Father's Day. Some of the work accomplished included:

- the replacement of amphitheater benches
- new wood chips for amphitheater and horseshoe pit.
- new air conditioners for the kitchen
- cleaned up area wood milled and made into kindling



A big thank you to Albany for their work at CWB!



- cleaned up around new building
- primed downstairs bathrooms and hallway in new building
- baked cookies for the freezer for upcoming camps
- worked on the mower

Mel Neu reports that he and Marvin are finishing up the plywood walls in the gym. Rainier Church was up on Memorial Day and did a big portion. We are now putting up the section above the beams to keep the balls from catching on them. Duane has only a few more rooms and everything will be taped and textured. He may be up next week to finish. The back deck has concrete on it. It really looks nice.

Leonard has the cabinets in the two upper rooms and Mark from Reedsport Church will be up on Monday to help him put the floor down upstairs.

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Look to the Hills: Camp White Branch, Continued

(Continued from page 8)

Home Comfort Heating was up and has most of the pipes to the floor heat hooked up.

Bill the Electrician came up and has the electrical finished except for the exit lights.

"Things are looking great up here," says Mel.

Thank You!

Every volunteer and every bit of work and effort has helped bring Camp White Branch closer to seeing the long-awaited dream of the multipurpose building fulfilled.

Camps are gearing up, and soon campers and sponsors will enjoy the benefits of all the hard work.

Continue to pray for Camp White Branch, and specifically during camps this season. for the Lord to touch hearts and lives for eternity.



Summer Camps

- July 6-8, Intro camp, Jackson, \$165
- July 9-13, Senior High (9th-12th grades), Effingham; \$250, includes rafting
- July 16-20, Junior (5th & 6th grades), Kuykendall, \$180 (Deadline July 2)
- July 30-August 3, Middle School (7th & 8th grades), Beisley, \$205
- August 13-16, Primary (3rd & 4th grades), Graham, \$170

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

Because of the Joy

by Pastor Steve Chiles, Shartel COG, Moore, OK

“Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.” (Hebrews 12:2 NLT)

“I’ll be happy to!” Ever say that to anybody? You probably have. It’s something we say to people who ask us for a favor. Sometimes they think the favor they’re asking is a bit of an inconvenience. And sometimes it is. But our love for those people is greater than the sacrifice they’re asking us for. So we do it. The greater the ask, the greater that love has to be. “Can you run an errand for me?” Not a big ask. “Can you watch the kids for a few hours?” A little bigger ask. “Can you help me move?” Okay, now you’re pushing the boundaries of friendship. “Can you loan me a thousand dollars?” I’m sorry, do I know you? My “happy to” just ran out.

That’s why I’m always amazed when I read this verse. ***“Because of the JOY awaiting him, he endured the cross.”*** We needed a Savior. We had no way of saving ourselves or being forgiven of the sin we are born into. We had no way of knocking on the door of Heaven. So God came to earth. Jesus lived a perfect life. He taught, He healed, and He loved. Then He was betrayed, beaten, and crucified. He lived a sinless life, but died a criminal’s death. He didn’t have to. He wasn’t forced to. He **CHOSE** to. Are you ready for this? He was **HAPPY** to. Because He knew that His life, His death, and His resurrection would open up forgiveness, transformation, and Heaven for us. Jesus wasn’t dragged to Calvary. He walked of His own free will. In fact, it was why He came. So

when it came time to die, He did it with **JOY**.

The Gospels tell us that from the cross Jesus forgave another criminal hanging next to Him. It also says that He asked the Father to forgive those killing Him because they didn’t know what they were doing. I think Jesus thought about seeing some of those individuals in Heaven and what that would be like. I think He thought about how His sacrifice was going to change the lives of His disciples and all of those who would believe through their preaching. I think Jesus thought about all of those throughout history whose lives would be forever different because of what He did. I think He thought about **YOU**. I think He thought about how you would need a savior, a guide, and a friend. I think He thought about that day when you would come to the end of your rope, and you looked up to Heaven and said, “God, please help me!” And for the joy of changing your life forever, Jesus endured the cross and said, “I’ll be happy to.” God’s Word for you today is ***“because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross.”***

OR & SW WA
Association Churches
Seeking Pastors:

Albany
Klamath Falls
LaGrande
Medford
Newberg
Portland, Lents-Gilbert
Portland, Rockwood

You are invited to the
installation service of
Rev Steve Kufeldt
as Senior Pastor of
the Hoodview
Church of God
Woodburn, OR
Sunday, July 15, 2018
3:00 p.m.
Refreshments will
follow the service.

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.

Longview transitions well

The addition of a patio to the back of the existing facility is just one of several visible changes happening at the Longview First Church of God on 46th Avenue in Longview, WA. The neighboring parsonage, once occupied by Pastor Joe and Kay Tira, then by Youth Pastor Peter Howland (deceased) and his wife Judi, has been gutted and is in the process of being remodeled in preparation for a new pastor.

A special "passing of the shepherd's staff" acknowledged the change in leadership Sunday afternoon, June 24, during a celebration service and farewell event honoring the Tiras, who are relocating to Nebraska, and welcoming Rev. John Jamieson.

Jamieson and his wife, Angi, from Vancouver, WA, will begin their ministry with the Longview congregation Sunday, August 5, 2018, with a time of fellowship during the Sunday school hour, followed by an installation service at 10:45 a.m. with District Pastor Jerry Davisson speaking.

Then, "Way Out West" VBS for kids entering Kindergarten through 5th grade is scheduled for Aug. 20-24, 6-8 p.m.



**Longview Church of God adds back patio.
Tira passes baton/staff to Jamieson.**



2018 District Calendar

- July 2 Mon. - Deadline, Junior Camp
- July 2-5, Mon.-Thurs. - International Youth Convention, Indianapolis, IN
- July 4, Wed. - District Office closed
- July 4, Wed. - INDEPENDENCE DAY
- July 5, Thurs. - REGION #2 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- July 6-8, Fri.-Sun. - Intro Camp, entering 2nd-3rd grade & Parent
- July 9-13, Mon.- Fri. - Senior High Camp, entering 9th-12th grade
- July 10, Tues. - REGION #1 - 10:00 a.m.
- July 15, Sun. - Installation Service, Pastor Steve Kufeldt, Hoodview Church of God, Woodburn - 3:00 p.m.
- July 16, Mon. - Deadline, Middle School camp
- July 16-20, Mon.- Fri. - Junior Camp, entering 5th-6th grade
- July 19, Thurs. - REGION #4 -10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- July 21, Sat. - Assoc. Annual Business Mtg, Hoodview COG, Woodburn, - 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- July 26, Thurs. - REGION #5 - 12:00 p.m.
- July 30, Mon. - Deadline, Primary Camp
- July 30-Aug. 3, Mon.-Fri. - Middle School Camp, entering 7th-8th grade

- Aug 5., Sun.- Installation Service, Pastor John Jamieson, Longview First COG, 10:45 a.m.
- Aug. 5-12, Sun.-Sun. - NACOG Annual Campmeeting
- Aug. 5-9, Sun.-Thurs. - Willamette Valley Campmeeting, Turner, OR
- Aug. 13-16, Mon.-Thurs. - Primary Camp, entering 3rd-4th grade
- Aug. 17-19, Fri.-Sun. - Men's Advance

- Sept. 3, Mon. - District Office closed
- Sept. 3, Mon. - LABOR DAY
- Sept. 6, Thurs. REGION #2 -10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Sept. 8-9, Sat.-Sun. - 125th Anniversary Celebration, Hoodview Church of God, Woodburn
- Sept. 14-16, Fri.-Sun. - Christian Women Connection Fall Retreat
- Sept. 20, Thurs. - REGION #4 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

