



Association of
the Churches
of God
in Oregon and
Southwest
Washington

Ken Long to Speak at Ministers' Retreat

(See Page 2)

THE CONTACT

February 2018

Volume 5 Issue 02

E-Contact

Melanie Thigpen to Address CWC Convention

Rev. Melanie M. Thigpen will be the guest speaker March 9-10, 2018, at the Christian Women Connection Spring Convention to be held at Maranatha Church of God, 4222 NE 12th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97211.

Melanie currently lives in Anderson, Indiana with her family. She and Michael have four daughters and one grandson. Melanie loves spending quality time with her family and in quiet time in reflection. She loves cooking, the Word, laughing and learning new things. Her favorite snacks are chocolate and popcorn.



An ordained pastor in the Church of God, Melanie not only has extensive church and administrative experience, but also creativity and a passion for those seeking God's presence, goodness and truth. She has considerable expertise in women's ministry through her work with CWC, her local congregation, and national efforts.

She has taught Bible studies, conferences and retreats for all ages. Although she is a speaker, she loves teaching, creative arts, designing, writing and worship.

Marva Adams will lead worship for the convention. Marva is a familiar face in the district. She lives in Hillsboro with her



husband Rick. Their three married children have given her 8 grand children who are the joy of her life. Three of them have recently moved with their parents to Kenya on a short term mission assignment. Marva

has used her musical talents to lead worship at Aloha Church of God for over 25 years and still counts it a great pleasure to serve. In addition to leading at church she has led worship for many retreats.

A silent auction funding a Warner Pacific University Scholarship, given each year to a female student preparing for Christian Service, will take place during the day on Saturday. Please bring a basket to be placed in the auction, and then come prepared to bid on baskets provided by the other churches. Some ideas might include Easter, gardening, chocolate, reading, fun in the sun, etc.

The registration fee of \$30 is due by February 26, and includes programming, dessert, morning break and lunch

Checks payable to Christian Women Connection and registrations should be mailed to:

Sherrill Goodeill
3229 SE 116th Ave.
Portland, OR 97266



(Continued on page 5)

Newport Agate Beach Ministers' Retreat

Pastor Ken Long will serve as guest speaker at the annual Minister and Spouse Retreat, at the Best Western Agate Beach Inn in Newport, Oregon, February 19-21..

This year's theme is
"Discipleshift: Becoming a Disciple Who Makes Disciples"

Ken is currently the Senior Pastor of North Shore Christian Church in Everett, Washington. Ken has stated that his life's mission is to "prepare people within his influence for the coming of Christ." Ken's personal goal is taken from John 15:8 in that he is committed to glorifying God by bearing much fruit for the Kingdom. Ken is quick to say that it is the life of God in him (not just the work of God through him) that remains the passion of his heart. Ken and his wife, Annette, have four children and three grandchildren.



Ken Long
Guest Speaker



Doug Beisley
Worship Leader

Pastor Doug Beisley will lead worship at the three-day event. Doug serves as Associate Pastor of Youth and Worship at the Oak Park Church of God in Salem, Oregon.

A retreat brochure including registration form is available online at <https://orwacog.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2018-Ministers-Spouse-Retreat-Brochure.pdf>.

Retreat Schedule

MONDAY, Feb. 19

3:00 PM Registration begins
4:00 PM Check into hotel room
5:30 PM Dinner & fellowship
7:00 PM Session 1

TUESDAY, Feb. 20

8:30 AM Breakfast
9:30 AM Session 2
12:00 PM Lunch on your own
Free Time
5:30 PM Dinner & fellowship
7:00 PM Session 3

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 21

8:30 AM Breakfast
10:00 AM Devotions/Communion
12:00 PM Check out of hotel room

Five Regional Conventions 2018



April 17-18, 2018



April 24-25, 2018



June 19-20, 2018



Sept. 18-19, 2018



Sept. 25-26, 2018

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.

It's not just about having the right information



Rev. Jerry Davisson, District Pastor

In last month's newsletter article, I shared about our need as an Association to recapture our calling to become disciples of Jesus. If we want to be

effective in our mission to make more disciples, we have to be prepared to go into our communities with the right agenda.

The first question we must ask is *what does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?* The word *disciple*, according to dictionary.com, simply means a follower or a student or apprentice of another. We are all disciples of someone, and we need to ask ourselves, whose *disciple* are we?

Dallas Willard, in his book *The Divine Conspiracy*, says, "One thing is sure: you are somebody's disciple. You learned how to live from somebody else. There are no exceptions to this rule, for human beings are just the kind of creatures that have to learn and keep learning from others how to live." He goes on to say, "this is hard for us to come to terms with especially in a Western culture that prides itself on thinking we are 'our own person' and we are the master of our own destiny."

The truth is, from birth to death we are learning to understand and navigate our way in the world by others. We are the disciple of many "somebodies" including our parents, teachers, coworkers, friends, the media, music, our church and, hopefully, somewhere on that list, Jesus. The problem is, Jesus doesn't want to be one of several influencers in your life. He wants to be our Lord! The call of Jesus to be his disciple is a simple one; He says, "follow me".

David Platt in his book, *Follow Me*, Says, "Four fishermen stood by a sea in the first century when Jesus approached them. 'Follow me,' He said, 'and I

will make you fishers of men.' (Matthew 4:19). With that, Jesus beckoned these men to leave behind their professions, possessions, dreams, ambitions, family, friends, safety, and security. He bid them to abandon everything."

"If anyone is going to follow me, he must deny himself," Jesus would say many times. That is still the call for us, to put aside all other influence and to follow Him. To be a disciple of Jesus according to Willard means, "that you have decided to be with another person, under appropriate conditions, in order to become capable of doing what that person does or to become what that person is..."

Another important way of putting this is to say that I am learning from Jesus to live my life as He would live my life if He were I. I am not necessarily learning to do everything He did, but I am learning how to do everything I do in the manner that He did all that He did.

At some point we have lost sight of the call to total abandonment to Jesus in favor of a casual association with Christ. According to Pratt, "Scores of men, women, and children have been told that becoming a follower of Jesus simply involves acknowledging certain facts or saying certain words, but this is not true."

Becoming a true disciple of Jesus is a call to get off the throne of our lives and to make Jesus our Lord. It's not just about having all the right information, because to truly believe that Jesus is Lord is to do what he says. I've seen too many "Christians" who acknowledge Jesus with their mouth but deny him with their life.

The first step in becoming a true disciple of Jesus is to do what Jesus said in Matthew 16:24: "Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must **deny** themselves and take up their cross and follow me'."

We must die to ourselves, our will and our ambition and make Jesus the subject of our life. Jesus says follow me and....

Are you following Him?

Warner Pacific College in southeast Portland announced a name change to Warner Pacific University, at an event held January 18. The new name more accurately reflects the growth and development that Warner Pacific has experienced in recent years. Additionally, they announced a drastic tuition reduction of 23%.

"The word *university* reflects a new era at Warner Pacific," says President Andrea P. Cook. "It better encompasses the scope of the programs we now offer and the scale of what our graduates are achieving. Our students, as well as our faculty and staff, have earned our place in this sphere and we know it's where we belong."

The change recognizes increased academic programs at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Becoming Warner Pacific University will also clarify the position of the institution to international students and those whose language of origin is not English, where the word *college* often refers to high school or secondary level education.

Established as Pacific Bible College in 1937 by the Church of God (Anderson, Indiana) in Spokane, Washington, this is not the first major identity change for the institution. The school moved to Portland in 1940 and became Warner Pacific College in 1959. For nearly a decade, Warner Pacific has been recognized for a commitment to diversity in higher education, with 63 percent of students coming from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds.



Warner Pacific is committed to diversity.

Warner Pacific University serves undergraduate and graduate students at campuses throughout Portland and southwest Washington, as well as online. The University offers over thirty career-focused majors that prepare students with the confidence and

skills they need to use their education to make a difference for their family and their community.



President Andrea P. Cook (Credit: Ben Sand)

A 23-percent tuition cut

Warner Pacific University is reducing tuition by nearly 24 percent starting in the fall of 2018, in an effort to provide equitable access to private higher education, the university announced on Thursday. Tuition and fees for the 2017-18 academic year were \$24,500. Beginning in fall semester, tuition and fees will be \$18,660, making Warner Pacific the most affordable private college or university in Oregon.

"We are committed to providing educational access to students from diverse backgrounds, especially those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds," said President Andrea P. Cook. "Many of our students need to balance their college experience with work, life, and family responsibilities. As a Christ-centered university, we believe in equal access to education for all. For us, this is more than a justice issue, it's a *Jesus* issue."

Known for a commitment to equitable access to higher education, Warner Pacific offers a unique learning environment in the state of Oregon, with 63 percent of students coming from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds. This year, 57 percent of the student body are the first in their families to attend college.

Simply put, this nearly \$6,000 reduction in tuition means more students will be able to enroll at Warner Pacific and finish their college education while accumulating less debt.

(Continued on page 5)

Warner Pacific College becomes Warner Pacific University

(Continued from page 4)

The tuition decrease is accompanied by a reconfiguration of financial aid, providing a savings for many new and continuing students, as there will be a reduced reliance of unsubsidized parent loans and private student loans.

“By itself, lowering our tuition price isn’t enough,” says Cook. “Our commitment to being a Christ-centered, urban, liberal arts institution—focused on giving students from diverse backgrounds an education that prepares them to engage in a changing world—demands we do all we can to serve as many as we can. We must provide adequate preparation for the careers that are in demand after they leave Warner Pacific.”

Reflecting their desire to be “...in the city, for the city,” Warner Pacific has been meeting with leaders throughout Portland in fields of healthcare, technology, criminal justice, and more, in an effort to better understand the workforce needs in this region.

In 2018, Warner Pacific is launching new programs that give practical focus to the liberal arts, including medical lab science, nursing, digital media and communications, criminal justice, sports medicine, population health, and gerontology. Master’s level programs in education and business administration will develop leaders in these key fields who will serve with passion and integrity.

Warner Pacific University Homecoming & Family Weekend February 9-10

Catch-up with old friends, make new professional connections, and celebrate your heritage as a Warner Pacific Knight!

Activities:

Special Chapel service, basketball games, the Distinguished Alumni Awards, the Athletic Hall of Honor Reception, a celebration of the Class of 1968, a service project, and a groove concert featuring Warner Pacific musicians from the past and present!

Registration questions?
Contact Diane Minor (503)517-1114

Thigpen: CWC Convention

(Continued from page 1)

CWC Spring Convention Schedule

Friday, March 9

Dinner on your own prior to arrival

6:30	Registration
7:00	Evening Service
	Dessert following service

Saturday, March 10

9:00	Registration
9:30	Greetings
9:40	Worship
10:45	Break/Visit Silent Auction
11:00	Connecting with Women ministry groups
Noon	Lunch
12:50	Visit silent auction
1:00	Worship
2:00	Last chance bids
2:10	Ideas for growth/change in CWC state level
2:30	Basket Winners Announced
3:00	Closing

Willamette Valley Campmeeting Coming August 5-9 Turner, Oregon

Michael Thigpen is scheduled to be the main speaker for the five-day event.

Save the dates!
Plan now to attend.





Look to the Hills: Camp White Branch

Camp White Branch Board will meet Tuesday February 6, at the District Office at 6 p.m.

Agenda items include an update on new financial procedures, camp projects, building project updates and preparation for the 2018 camping season.

2018 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
- 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



Church Work Weekends are already scheduled for Rainier, Albany and Reedsport. Summer Camps are scheduled. In addition, Men's Advance is Aug. 18-21, and Women's Retreat is Sept. 15-17.

The next CWB Board meeting will be April 10, 2018.

Pictured above, Leonard Meyer has been busy with the dish room floors—removing particle board swollen with water damage from years of leaky pipes.

Camp White Branch is grateful for the many folks who support the Camp by participating in work camps, sending campers and leaders for events, provide finances, praying for staff, campers and volunteers, and who pitch in through a variety of ways throughout the year. Thank you!

Resources Available to Local Congregations

Our Association exists in large part to assist local congregations in carrying out their ministries. In that regard we want to make you aware of two available resources.

First, is *TechSoup.org* – an organization which receives donations of software from a number of the major companies (Microsoft, Intuit, Adobe, etc.) for the purpose of re-distributing to non-profits at greatly discounted prices. Three of their offerings you might be interested in are: Microsoft Office Pro (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Access which retails for over \$300) is only \$40. QuickBooks Pro (retail \$200) is \$50, and Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, and Adobe XD, 1 yr subscription at \$620) is \$5 plus \$20/month paid to Adobe.

To become eligible you simply complete documentation on TechSoup's site demonstrating your status as a non-profit and once approved, select the software you

desire and pay with a credit card, and download the software.

As a side note, should your budget be even more challenged... explore these two open-source (free) software packages. The first is OpenOffice which is a clone of the Microsoft Office suite (available at OpenOffice.org). It reads & writes all MS Office document formats. And secondly, GIMP (at gimp.org) is an image editor similar to PhotoShop or Illustrator. Both come with good documentation and community support.

Second, the Association Treasurer, Steve Robertson, has made himself available as a no-cost resource to congregations needing assistance in planning, design, training, and implementation in the areas of church accounting, website design and implementation, and email newsletter communication. Call or email the Association office to make use of this resource.

Hoodview Bids Farewell to the BJ Kuykendalls

The Hoodview Church of God congregation held a "going away" reception for Pastor BJ Kuykendall and his family on Sunday, January 28, Pastor Kuykendall's final Sunday as the Senior Pastor of the Woodburn church. Pastor Kuykendall served the congregation for seven and a half years. He is prayerfully seeking the Lord for the next chapter in his ministry. He was actively involved in the creation of the Willamette Valley Campmeeting and will continue to participate, as his future ministry permits.



Marriage Redeemed Conference

Tuff Stuff Ministries will present the annual "Marriage Redeemed" conference at Mountain Park Church in Lake Oswego, April 7, 2018.

The conference is geared for couples in recovery from betrayal in their marriages. Featured speakers and schedule details will be emailed to district churches in the next few weeks.

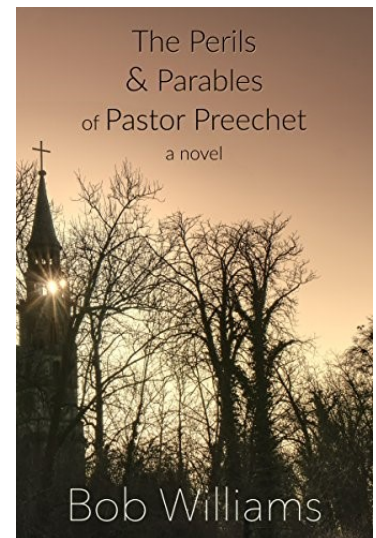
If you know of couples who would benefit from this conference please pass this information along, and watch for future announcements.

Point of contact: Dennis Miller, ICM Northwest
dmiller@icmusa.org (503)310-2754
www.tuffstuffministries.com; www.heartwords.org

New Book by Bob Williams

Bob Williams retired pastor, musician and writer has written his first novel entitled, *"The Perils and Parables of Pastor Preechet."*

Based loosely on some of his pastoral experiences and life lessons, it's a story of a pastor who moves from the West Coast to the Southern United States. It doesn't take long for his western ways to collide with southern culture.



A quote from the introduction sets the stage: After having driven with his family and U-Haul truck across the country: "No sign ever seemed more welcome than the one that read, 'Welcome to Pleasanttown, Where pleasant is a way of life.'"

"They drove north by way of the new mall, through the downtown area, and into a nice stately neighborhood with two-story colonial style homes to a church with a steeple that towered above the community as if God was watching over saint and sinner alike.

The church is in disarray as Pastor Preechet follows a pastor who has failed morally. It seems like trying to put Humpty Dumpty together again. But, although "all the king's horses and all the king's men" cannot do it, God can. When God's people get serious about prayer, He moves in.

Pastor Bob Williams currently serves as a teaching pastor at First Church of God in Albany, OR, preaches and performs musically in retirement centers, senior centers, soup kitchens and the new veteran's home in Lebanon.

The work is available from multiple sources, including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, iBooks, and Kobo. You can check out his website at <http://bobwilliamsbooks.com>.

Happy Valentine's Day!

"...I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."

Jeremiah 31:3b

Homeward Journeys

Johnson, John Mulzer

August 3, 1931-January 21, 2018

Beloved husband and father, John M. Johnson, passed away in Vancouver, Washington, on January 21, 2018, from complications of Alzheimer's disease. John was born in Mt. Shasta, California on August 3, 1931 to Fred W. Johnson and Marie (Mulzer) Johnson.



He served in the US Air Force during the Korean War, stationed in Alaska as a meteorologist and Russian communications interceptor. He then graduated from the University of Montana (1957, BS in Forestry), and in 1958 he married June (Patton) Johnson. They had four children together -- Bonnie, Jeff, Paul, and Matt. He spent his career in the US Forest Service in Montana, Idaho and Alaska, before retiring as a Land Use Planner with the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Vancouver, WA. He worshiped at the Vancouver First Church of God where he lead adult education, was an usher and served on the church board. After 40 years of marriage, his wife June died of cancer in 1999. In September of 2000, he married Joan M. Johnson, with whom he shared the remaining years of his life.

John loved the outdoors, and enjoyed fly fishing, canoeing, hiking and bow hunting in the great public lands of the West. If not for Alzheimer's, he might still be stomping around outside, pointing out interesting cloud formations, geological features, flora, and fauna, and bringing life to others through his big, easy smile. His humorous, mostly true stories are legend among his family and friends. He will be deeply missed.

He is survived by his wife Joan Johnson of Vancouver, WA, sister Ann O'Keefe of Powell Butte, OR, daughter Bonnie Rees of Gig Harbor, WA, sons Jeff Johnson of Austin, TX, Paul Johnson of Auburn, WA, and Matthew Johnson of McMinnville, OR, as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His life will be remembered and celebrated at Vancouver Church (3300 NE 78th St, Vancouver, WA) on Sunday, February 25, at 3:00 PM.

Spohn, Loretta Arlene

Pastor "Lori" Spohn, 64, of Eugene, Oregon, passed away January 24, 2018. She was taken to the hospital January 10 with a diagnosis of pneumonia. Soon after, she became septic and despite advanced medical treatment, could not be revived. Services are pending for a celebration of life, with arrangements by Sunset Hills Funeral Home in Eugene. Please pray for her husband, family and friends as they process this sudden loss.



District Calendar

- **February 9-10, 2018**, Fri.-Sat., Warner Pacific College Homecoming 
- **February 18, 2018**, Sun., Freedom Sunday
- **February 19-21, 2018**, Ministers' & Spouse Retreat
- **February 19, 2018**, Mon., President's Day (District Offices closed)
- **March 11, 2018**, Sunday, Daylight Savings begins
- **March 20-22, 2018**, Tues.-Thurs., Senior Adult Retreat
- **March 9-10, 2018**, Fri.-Sat., CWC Spring Connection
- **March 22, 2018**, Thurs., Region #5
- **March 27, 2018**, Tues., Region #3
- **April 1, 2018**, Resurrection Sunday
- **April 10, 2018**, Tues., Region #1
- **April 17-18, 2018**, Tues.-Wed., Regional Convention, Phoenix, AZ
- **May 3, 2018**, Thurs., Region #2
- **May 13, 2018**, Sun., Mother's Day
- **May 17, 2018**, Thurs., Region #4