



Association of
the Churches
of God
in Oregon and
Southwest
Washington

*'Sketti Slurpin' in
Longview*

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THE CONTACT

June 2018

Volume 5 Issue 06

E-Contact

Annual Meeting in Lieu of *Summer Impact!*

For the past several years the Association has gathered at Warner Pacific University for Summer Celebration, then *Summer Impact!*

This year is different.

Youth will participate in the Willamette Valley Campmeeting in early August (see page 5), and the traditional Annual Association Meeting will move to the Hoodview Church of God in Woodburn, Oregon.

The change in plans this year is based on the Association's current financial situation.

Congregational delegates and pastors need to mark the date of Saturday, July 21, for the annual business meeting. Everyone is invited to attend, but voting is limited to official delegates and pastors.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the meeting beginning at 9:00, followed by a common meal. The Ministers' Fellowship will conduct their annual ministers' meeting after lunch.

The Hoodview Church of God is located at 1530 Mt. Hood Ave. Woodburn, OR 97071.

Rainier COG holds work camp at White Branch

Memorial Day Weekend has worked out well for the Rainier, Oregon, Community Church of God to pitch in to help with projects at Camp White Branch.

For several years, a team of folks from the congregation has set aside the weekend to travel to McKenzie Bridge and on to CWB, camping, working, and enjoying time together as they help prepare for summer camp activities.

About 65 people from Rainier traveled down to work on projects over the three-day weekend. This time their efforts included cutting firewood, cleaning up the camp for summer use, and work on the multipurpose building.

It is always a great blessing for the camp staff to have their help and encouragement. Thank you, Rainier Church family, for your gift to the camp. You are greatly appreciated.

Other work camps go on throughout the year. If your group is interested in participating in such efforts, contact Camp White Branch or one of the Board members for CWB. See orwacog.org.



Summer Schedule Update

by Pastor Jerry Davisson



Rev. Jerry Davisson, District Pastor

As summer approaches, many are looking forward to some much-needed time away to relax and refresh. I want to update you on the summer schedule for the District. On June 15 and 16 we will be

hosting a dialogue on Sexual Ethics at the Oak Park Church of God in Salem. This event is open to all pastors and staff who are part of our district. The dialogue will be hosted by Dr. Chris Cottrell and will be a time for open and honest discussion surrounding the topic of sexuality. In order for us to know how to plan and prepare for meals and materials please register on the District Website: <https://orwacog.org>. If you have any questions please feel free to call the office.

There will not be a *Summer Impact!* this year at Warner Pacific University. Due to the current financial situation of the Association, we will be having our Annual Meeting at the Hoodview Church of God in Woodburn, Oregon, on July 21. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the meeting beginning at 9:00. The business portion of the meeting will

conclude with a meal together. After lunch there will be a ministers' meeting hosted by the Ministers' Fellowship. The Annual Business meeting is open to anyone, but you must be an official delegate or pastor to be able to vote.

July will be a busy season for Camp White Branch, as they host several Church of God camps. Please see a list of camps on page 5, or go to the Camp White Branch website: <http://www.campwhitebranch.org>. The International Youth Convention will be held in Indianapolis, IN, July 2-5. This is always a great time for our youth. For more information check with your youth leader or visit: <http://www.jesusisthesubject.org/international-youth-convention-2018>.

For those who are looking for a multi-day Camp Meeting experience, Our Association is encouraging you to attend the Willamette Valley Camp Meeting in Turner, OR, August 5-9. The theme for the event is *Thrive* and will feature Evangelist Mike Thigpen. Don't miss the Sunday night service as we will be honoring ministers who have been ordained for 25, 40 and 50 years. We will also be honoring our newly ordained pastors.

It is still not too late to be part of one of the Regional Conventions, sponsored by Church of God Ministries. There is one in Columbus, Ohio, June 19-20; Fairfax, Virginia, September 18-19 and Safe Harbor, Florida, September 25-26.

My prayer for you this summer is that you will rest, relax and be blessed.

Scrambled Eggs

by Steve Borst

"If you train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old, he will not depart from it"
~Proverbs 26:22

I grew up in a typical large Catholic family. My parents made sure we were in church when we were supposed to be and received a good Catholic education, while my wife was raised in the Church of God. The priests and nuns, God bless them all, instilled in us a solid foundation of how to be not only a good Catholic, but a good Christian. My wife, as well, also received a solid foundation of faith through the Church of God.

You might say that I probably know my way around the kitchen. Probably. No doubt I got this gene from

my father who would spend a lot of time in the kitchen when I was growing up on his days off. I'll never forget the donuts he concocted. He made the dough, cut the donut shapes out and then deep fried and tossed them in cinnamon and sugar. He either didn't know or forgot the step of proofing (raising the donuts in a warm place) before deep frying them. Anyway, they were really, really chewy but tasted pretty good. Cinnamon and sugar make everything taste better, right?

Unlike my father, I was fortunate enough to have some formal training when I discovered that being a Forest Ranger was not going to happen. Something

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Scrambled Eggs

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to do with all the math and science I think. Now, even though I have not made my living in the industry for over a quarter century, I've been very blessed in being able to utilize many of the skills that I learned in school, doing things at church and at home. Occasionally I will make my latest fascination, as in cheesecakes or Bundt cakes, to work for a potluck or just because. There have been a few successes along the way, with a few failures sprinkled in. Two things I do to relieve stress are to work out and to cook.

My mother didn't like to cook as much as my father, but to this day, I still cook a couple of her creations, one of which is scrambled eggs. Now, you would think that this is about the easiest thing in the world to make. Not really, if you want to do them well. She would make these in a cast iron skillet in the days before Teflon was invented. The black cast iron

skillet was a standard cooking appliance in those days. The eggs were so fluffy and not scorched at all. Just really nice.

This is one of her dishes that I took with me when I married this pretty gal from our church 36 years ago. One of my greatest joys in life is cooking for others, especially my family, and especially that pretty gal. I tweaked mom's recipe a little. It's a little like Julia Child's recipe but cooked just a tiny bit longer. If you top these with a little Tillamook cheddar, well you've hit the jack pot. If you were to ask Valerie, I would dare say that my scrambled eggs are one of her favorite dishes that I make for her.

Though I no longer attend the church of my youth, I am eternally grateful and appreciative to my parents and all of those who had a hand in laying that solid foundation of faith in my life. And man, those scrambled eggs of my mom's were good. Thanks Mom!

Five Markers of the Movement



Check out Pastor Jim Lyon's article about the Five Non-Negotiables—markers of the Movement:

Jim writes, "I realize that these five may not be comprehensive enough for some—and too restrictive for others. But, having traveled in sixty countries (so far) and in just about every one of these United States and throughout western and eastern Canada, I can safely say that these five are applauded and cheered in the Church of God across all boundaries; with these there is no quarrel. They unite us. There is not another branch of the Christian family that owns all of them. They are, then, unique to us, but not in a way that unnecessarily erects barriers excluding others who have also been born again in Christ. They are not sectarian; they are the stuff of the New Testament and Acts of the Apostles."

See www.jesusisthesubject.org/the-five/.

Summer Camps

- July 6-8, Intro camp, Jackson, \$165 (Deadline June 22)
Note: Praise God! We have a lifeguard!
- July 9-13, Senior High (9th-12th grades), Effingham; \$250, includes rafting (Deadline June 25)
- 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*

Sketti' Slurpin' at LvChoG

Pastor Joe and Kay Tira treated the Longview, Washington, First Church of God to a memorable "thank you dinner" Sunday evening, May 20, in appreciation for 13 years of ministry together.

At least 63 attended the event, surprised to be served without plates or utensils. Instead, after a cup of grape juice, they got to tear off a chunk of French bread, received a tablespoon-splat of butter, and a pair of non-latex gloves just as the salad was dumped onto the table where they served themselves by hand. The main course was tabletop spaghetti with sauce and meatballs. Table coverings along with contents were rolled up and discarded in time for dessert: bricks of vanilla ice cream with choice of chocolate or strawberry toppings, along with a fresh pair of gloves with which to maneuver the cold treat. Colorful bibs were available, and laughter filled the air.

All in good fun, it was indeed a memorable time of fellowship, food and laughter. LvChoG has been growing together, seeing God at work in their midst. The Tiras plan to return to Nebraska this summer, to live near their children and grandchildren. Thank you, Longview!



Longview folks enjoy their 'sketti'



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.



Willamette Valley Campmeeting

Enjoy a week of great worship, dynamic preaching and lots of fellowship at the Third Annual Willamette Valley Campmeeting, August 5-9, on the grounds of the Oregon Christian Convention in Turner, Oregon.

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

It is shaping up to be a great week. Don't miss it! Registration is open! If you plan on staying overnight at the Oregon Christian Convention site, be sure to reserve your place on the district website (www.orwacog.org).

International Youth Convention IYC2018 ON TRACK



Attend one of Three Remaining Regional Conventions 2018



June 19-20, 2018



Sept. 18-19, 2018



Sept. 25-26, 2018

District Pastors' Round Table

District pastors and ministry staff members are invited to attend a Round Table on Sexual Ethics, Friday and Saturday, June 15-16, 2018.

Dr. Chris Cottrell will be facilitating our dialogue, and has recommended that in preparation for the meeting each person spend time praying and meditating on James 1:19, Acts 15 and Philippians 4:2-9. In addition, if you would like a better understanding of the process we will be using, pick up a copy of the book, *Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High*, Second Edition, by Kerry Patterson and Joseph Grenny.

Please visit our website: <https://orwacog.org/events/sexual-ethics-mtg/> to register for the event and for more information. This is an important time in the life of our Association. Due to space limitations, this event is for district pastors and ministry staff.



2018 District Calendar

- **June 4**, Mon., District Council, Salem
- **June 7**, Thurs., Region #8
- **June 15-16, 2018**, Fri.-Sat., District Ministers' Round Table, Oak Park COG, Salem.
- **June 17**, Sun., Father's Day
- **Summer Camps** (See page 6)
- **July 2-5**, International Youth Convention (IYC), Indianapolis, IN
- **July 21**, Sat., Assoc. Annual Business Mtg
- **Aug 5-9**, Willamette Valley Campmeeting, Turner, OR



For more events, see orwacog.org/calendar