



Association of
the Churches
of God
in Oregon and
Southwest
Washington

1893



2018

THE CONTACT

September 2018

Volume 5 Issue 09

E-Contact

District's 125th Anniversary Celebration



125 years ago this Fall, Johnny Green and his wife, Lydia, moved from the Midwest to Woodburn in 1893 and planted not only the first Church of God congregation in Oregon, but in the Pacific Northwest as well. From that beginning point, a movement of establishing churches around Oregon and Washington was born. We today stand upon the shoulders of those who have gone

before us as we continue to share the Good News of Jesus in our communities and around the world.

To help mark this milestone, the Woodburn congregation is hosting a district-wide celebration that will focus on the history of the district and key leaders through the years. All are invited to celebrate the Lord's faithfulness and goodness.

⇒ **Historic photos and/or display.**

Churches and individuals are encouraged to bring historic photos and memorabilia to display in the lobby of the

District's 125th Anniversary Celebration

September 8, 2018

Hosted by Hoodview Church of God
1530 Mt. Hood Avenue, Woodburn

3:00P Celebration Service

5:00P Dinner (donations accepted)

6:00P Gospel Concert/Heritage Sing



church for the celebration. Contact the Hoodview Church office (503-981-1660) so adequate display space can be provided.

⇒ **Mission offering.** An offering will be received to support a special mission project to help rebuild a church in Egypt. As God has blessed us, let us bless others!

Willamette Valley Campmeeting Report

By Pastor Steve Kufeldt

"Thrive: Planted and Built Up in Jesus Christ" was the theme that evangelist Michael Thigpen (pictured to the right) expounded on at the third annual Willamette Valley Campmeeting held this past month on the grounds of the Oregon Christian Convention in Turner, Oregon. Blending humor and solid biblical preaching, Pastor Thigpen spoke at each of the evening services as well as serving as the speaker for the morning youth "Summer Impact" meetings, with many responding to God's Word. After the final



Willamette Valley Campmeeting Report *(continued from page 1)*



Doug Beisley
leading worship

evening service, an impromptu river baptism service was conducted with lighting provided by flashlights and cellphones, as ten persons publicly professed faith in Christ.

The meetings began with over 300 persons present on Sunday night as the District honored ministers who had passed away in the past year as well as recognizing ministers who have been ordained for 25, 40 and 50 years of ministry. In addition, three ministers were ordained into the Christian ministry: Danette Beisley, Jim Minkler and Sandra Salisbury.



Worshipping the Lord



Relaxing in the creek

What started as an outgrowth of Region 3 (primarily the Albany, Salem and Woodburn churches), this year's meeting expanded to include the entire district. The "Summer Impact" youth joined forces and had a great first-year in a new location and added a mission project, putting together packages for "Every Child," a faith-based movement that is aiding foster families.

Besides preaching by Michael Thigpen, two of the recently ordained ministers, Sandra Salisbury and



Brian Arnold
leading the river baptism

Danette Beisley, preached during the morning worship services, along with Roy Sprunger, Senior Pastor of the Rainier congregation. Doug Beisley led the worship for the main services and John & Sally Kuykendall led the worship for three of the morning services. Each day was started off with devotions led by retired State Pastor David Shrout. Meals were provided onsite, along with lodging for those who wished to stay overnight. The meetings are largely underwritten through gifts and donations by God's people, and this year was no exception, with income far exceeding expenses. Plan now to join us next year for a week of great fellowship, dynamic preaching and inspirational worship.

Save the Dates!
Willamette Valley Campmeeting
August 4-8, 2019



Photo credit: John Kuykendall

The E-CONTACT is a publication of the Church of God in Oregon and SW Washington
PO Box 18000, Salem, OR 97305 503-393-3510 or 800-873-7729 www.orwacoq.org
Rev. Jerry Davisson, District Pastor Check the web-site for information about future communications.

THRIVING IN UNCHARTED TERRITORY

by Pastor Jerry Davisson, District Pastor



I recently spoke in Albany and shared with them this story and observations about the church:

May 14, 1804 Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and their Corps of Discovery set out by orders of President Thomas Jefferson to discover a water

route that would connect the Pacific Ocean with the mighty Mississippi. The purpose was to establish this young nation as a financial power by finding a route for trade and commerce.

Their assumption was, once they reached the Lehi pass they would find a river they could gently navigate down that would lead them to the Pacific Ocean.

After 15 long and hard months, what they found was far from what they expected.

Listen to Lewis's journal entry from August 12, 1805

"The road took us to the most distant fountain of the waters of the mighty Missouri in search of which we have spent so many toilsome days and [restless] nights. Thus far I had accomplished one of those great objects on which my mind has been unalterably fixed for many years, judge then of the pleasure I felt in [allaying] my thirst with this pure and ice-cold water. . . . here I halted a few minutes and rested myself. Two miles below McNeal had exultingly stood with a foot on each side of this little

rivulet and thanked his god that he had lived to bestride the mighty and heretofore deemed endless Missouri. After refreshing ourselves we proceeded on to the top of the dividing ridge from which I discovered immense ranges of high mountains still to the West of us with their tops partially covered with snow."

Their reality was, the snow-covered Rocky Mountains stretching before them.

Tod Bolsinger in his book *Canoeing the Mountain*, states: "As he stepped off the map into uncharted territory, Meriwether Lewis discovered that what was in front of him was nothing like what was behind him, and what had brought him to this point in the journey would take him no farther. Lewis faced a daunting decision: what would he do now? There was no way they could canoe over mountains."

Their options were: Stay put, go back home, adapt and move on.

The church finds itself in a similar predicament. What lies ahead of us is uncharted territory. We face the same three options. I suggest the first two are not viable options if we want to see Kingdom expansion in our communities and will lead to the demise of the church. We must adapt and move on. But what does it look like for the church to adapt and move into this uncharted territory? In the next couple of articles I will make some suggestions on what it might take for the church to adapt and thrive.

On Monday night at the Campmeeting, as Michael prayed he asked if anyone had a need to raise their hands. I was asking God to remove all the cancer from my body. As he prayed my hip joints and my lower back started moving (rotating into position) and my back was totally healed. I hadn't been able to sleep at night because of back and leg pain, and now the pain is gone! My next blood tests will tell if the cancer is gone.

—Perry Beisley, St. Helens congregation



Ministerial Recognition & Ordination



Ministers' Recognition

Ministers who have been ordained for 25, 40 and 50 years were recognized on Sunday night of campmeeting:

- 25 Years of Ordained Ministry: John Fandel and Steven Holt
- 40 Years of Ordained Ministry: Ron Hoak, Glen Hossler, Charles Hunter, Richard Hunter and Dave Marble
- 50 Years of Ordained Ministry: James Coleman, Roy Dockter and Grant Fall



Ordination Photo Credit: Kevin Butz

Three Ministers Ordained

As part of the Sunday evening worship at Willamette Valley Campmeeting, three Church of God ministers were ordained:

- ⇒ Danette Beisley — Associate Pastor, Oak Park Church of God, Salem, OR
- ⇒ Jim Minkler, Senior Pastor, Seabird Chapel Church of God, Bandon, OR
- ⇒ Sandra Salisbury — Associate Pastor, Sunset Park Community Church of God, St. Helens, OR

The ordination ceremony included a pastoral challenge, footwashing, and a time of commissioning by the laying on of hands and prayer by other ministers. Congratulations to these newly ordained ministers!



(Above) Rev. Monica Monroe, Chair of the Credentials Advisory Board, introduces the ordination candidates and their spouses; (Left) Rev. Tim Irwin gives a charge to the candidates during the footwashing portion of the ceremony; (Upper Left) The candidates are prayed for by the ordained ministers present.

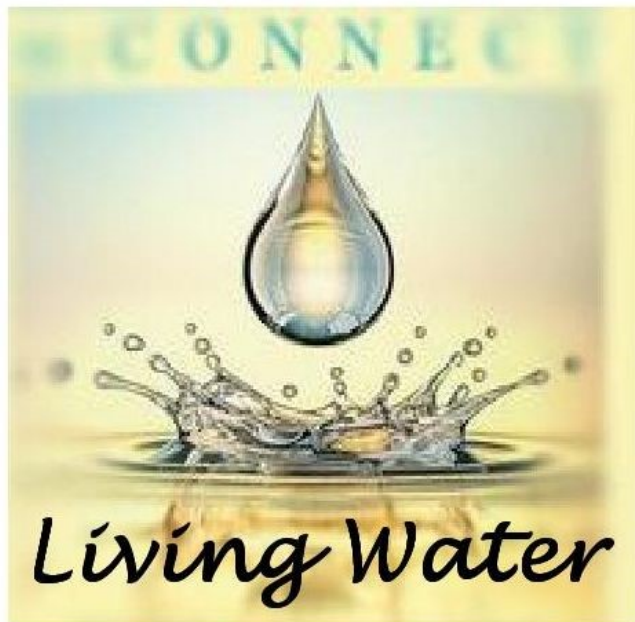
In Loving Memory ...

Ministers who went to their heavenly reward in the past year:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| • Sharon Besler | • Richard Lander |
| • Troy Eastwood | • John Parker |
| • Emmett Hofer | • Lori Spohn |
| • Orlo Kretlow | • Jerry Wilson |

Well done, good and faithful servant.

Matthew 25:21



Christian Women Connection

Fall Prayer Retreat

September 14-16, 2018

Camp White Branch

After being cancelled last year due to forest fires, the Christian Women Connection is excited to invite all ladies to return to Camp White Branch for this annual prayer retreat. Cost is \$95 for the weekend and \$65 for two days (download the registration form: orwacog.org/events/christian-women-connection-fall-retreat-3/).

Great expectations of:

- Enjoying God's beautiful creation
- Good food and fellowship
- Receiving teaching and instruction
- Wonderful worship in song

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

—John 4:10 (NIV)



(L-R) Leslie Dulco and Angellee Klopman
Retreat Leaders

Pastors and ministry leaders—don't miss out these great (and FREE) opportunities:

Thursday, October 18 at Warner Pacific University (2219 SE 68th, Portland)

- ⇒ WPU Chapel at 10:00 a.m. with Rev. Dr. Diana Swoope, Guest Speaker
- ⇒ Lunch at 11:30 a.m. hosted by Servant Solutions.



Servant Solutions
YOUR RETIREMENT & FINANCIAL PLANNING PARTNER

This is a great opportunity to learn more about Servant Solutions and how you can better steward your resources and plan for a fruitful retirement. To register, call the District Office (503-393-3510) or register online: www.orwacog.org/events/servant-solutions-lunch/.

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.