



Association of
the Churches
of God
in Oregon and
Southwest
Washington

Christmas Activities at Local Association Churches...

(See page 7)



THE CONTACT

November 2014

Vol. 2 Issue 11

E-Contact

Hamiltons honored at Camp White Branch Dinner

A team from the Lynchwood Church of God cooked and served dinner to 92 attendees at Mt. Scott Church of God in Portland, OR, Thursday, October 23rd, as a fund-raising event for Camp White Branch.



Mel Neu presents plaque to Hamiltons

CWB Chair Mel Neu, of Longview, WA, presented a plaque to volunteers Chuck and Freda Hamilton, who have served the camp for about sixteen years. "There are a lot of people more deserving than we," said Freda, humbly. "There's a lot I can't do, but I can clean cupboards," she said, speaking of some recent efforts in preparation for the new Caretakers, Leonard and Stacey Meyer. (Leonard was in attendance at the event, while Stacey stayed at the camp to cook and serve.)

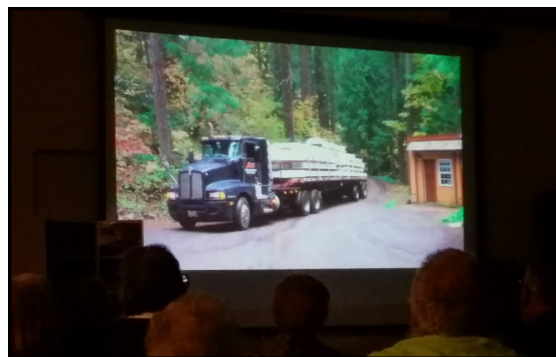
Freda and Chuck Hamilton, who hosted three tables at the dinner, are "a couple always working," said Neu, expressing appreciation on behalf of the Board and the Association.

Attendees enjoyed photo displays of current and past events at CWB during the evening, and viewed a video presentation (with background saxophone music by Rod Martin), featuring preparations for construction of the long-awaited multipurpose building. Footings, platform and retaining wall progression was displayed, along with a truck with a 53' trailer load of steel beams maneuvering its way onto the grounds. Pastor David Shrout spoke of the value of the building as it opens opportunities for extending the length of the scheduled camp season, providing a dry place for kids and adults, and making it a premiere place for the area. "It's an investment with eternal outcomes," said Shrout.



Neu and Meyer plugged some upcoming volunteer opportunities for winter projects, like installing fiberglass board in cabin restrooms to eliminate a mold issue.

Pledge cards are available for 3-year, monthly, quarterly or annual gifts, said Shrout, noting "Ruth Bissett was our first on-line donor". For more information and for giving opportunities, go to www.orwacog.org. See additional photos on page seven. -kt



Extended Community Touched by Pastor Stecker's Life

Pastor Steve Stecker, 53, of Rainier Community Church of God in Rainier, Oregon, went to his eternal home Thursday, October 16, 2014, following a battle with brain cancer.

Stecker's journey became public with articles in *The Daily News* touting his influence in the community over his 11 years of ministry in Rainier.

Diagnosed in April, Steve suffered from swelling of the brain due to chemotherapy treatments, and experienced series of small strokes that left him unresponsive his last several days. He passed away with his family by his side. He leaves behind his wife, Rhonda, and their three children, Abigail, Nathan and Christian.

A humble man, well known in our Association, Steve served faithfully and cheerfully. His influence spread far, and his love and positive attitude are common knowledge.

"Keep looking up!" was Steve's mantra, attested to by the local football team, congregants, his community and anyone who knew him. It was the theme of his memorial service Sunday, October 19, at the Rainier Junior/Senior High School, where even the overflow area was filled.

Flags were half-staff in Rainier, honoring Steve's life, "because Steve was a big part of our community," according to Rainier Mayor Jerry Cole.

A caring, compassionate listener, Stecker was unassuming and ordinary, yet powerful in his influence. He frequently led the football team in prayer before home games, was a leader in taking a stand for right in his community, and was fervent in prayer with area pastors.

While we grieve our loss of a wonderful pastor and friend, we take joy in knowing that Steve lived his life honoring the Lord, and that we who know Jesus will see Steve again.

Meanwhile, Steve's influence lives on, and even in his passing from this life, he pointed to Jesus and voiced his expectation that good will come of this, with the Rainier congregation growing stronger and serving together. Indeed, Steve's life reached far beyond his local church.

Pray for Rhonda and family, for the church and leadership team, and praise God for Steve's life and legacy.

Donations to the family's medical expense fund may be made to account no. 570521 at Fibre Federal in Rainier or at <https://www.youcaring.com/SteveStecker>. -kt



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.orwacog.org;
 Rev. David Shrout, District Pastor—dshrout@orwacog.org; Kay Tira, Editor—contacteditor@orwacog.org



Warner Pacific President Honored by the Oregon Latino Action Agenda

On Saturday, October 11, the Oregon Latino Agenda for Action (OLAA) hosted their annual Summit at Warner Pacific.

We are proud to announce that Dr. Andrea Cook, President of Warner Pacific College, was presented with the OLAA Líderes Award –

Ally for Excellence Award.

This award is given by the OLAA to exemplary individuals who have contributed to the growth, innovation, impact, and results of our Latino community.

Of Dr. Cook, OLAA says: “We believe it is important to acknowledge community members who value Latinos and promote their abilities and contributions in government, education and health. Our board at OLAA believes that you exemplify these traits and would like to extend this award to you.”



Warner Pacific College Ranked 48th Nationally in Washington Monthly’s Annual College Guide

Washington Monthly’s annual college guide gives us a unique perspective when it comes to college rankings. They look at what colleges are doing for the country. Washington Monthly ranks “every four-year college and university in America based on three criteria: social mobility, research, and public service.” By giving equal weight to public service, this ranking identifies colleges, such as Warner Pacific, that embrace an ethos of service to their communities. They also recognize schools that do the best job of enrolling and graduating low-income students.

We are pleased that Warner Pacific ranked 48th in the nation on the 2014 Baccalaureate Colleges list. As one of only four Oregon colleges to be included on this list, we outshone larger schools in community service participation of our students and cumulative hours served (38th) and jumped to the head of the list with regard to service staff, courses, and financial aid support (15th).

Warner Pacific Named to the 2015 Military Friendly Schools List for the 5th Year

Warner Pacific College’s commitment to providing a supportive educational environment for military students was confirmed this week as the College was named to the prestigious **Military Friendly Schools®** list for a 5th year.

The 2015 Military Friendly Schools® list (Victory Media) honors the **top 15 percent** of colleges, universities, and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans, and spouses as students, ensuring their success on campus.

As military personnel seek to expand their education after retirement, or while still on active duty, the convenience presented through the Warner Pacific Adult Degree Program’s once-a-week class schedule and online courses is the best path to completing a degree that will be beneficial in civilian life or in furtherance of an Armed Forces career.

Upcoming WPC Events

Student Directed One-Act Plays

November 6-9 and November 13-16

McGuire Theatre

The Warner Pacific Drama Department is exploring violence in American drama and featuring two poignant scenes from six plays each night: Bird Bath, Sweeney Todd, Boy Gets Girl, The Zoo Story, Oleanna, and Twilight: Los Angeles 1992.

Warner Pacific Jazz Concert

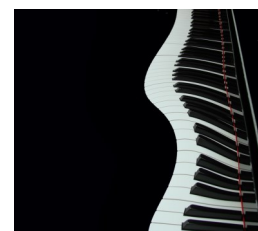
November 19, 7:30 – 9 pm

McGuire Auditorium

WPC Choir Concert

November 23, 3 – 5 pm

McGuire Auditorium



Campus Closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday

November 27 – 28

Advent Brunch

Ushering in the season of Advent

December 6, 10 am – 12 pm, McGuire Auditorium

Dr. Cook invites you to celebrate Advent. Featuring a gourmet brunch, a performance by Bridgetown (the College’s premiere vocal group, and donation book drive for the Children’s Book Bank. Tickets are just \$25.

Visit www.warnerpacific.edu/advent-brunch

Sound the Alarm: A Global Invitation to Ring Bells for Freedom and Peace

Posted October 21, 2014 by chogministries ; By Melissa Pratt

A grassroots effort in West Virginia is underway to involve people across the country and around the world in ringing bells for freedom and peace. One local Charleston resident from Southridge Church of God is asking that on November 21, 2014, at 12:30 PM in each respective time zone, church bells be rung worldwide to show support for the persecuted church and Christians around the world. Persons without church bells are encouraged to honk car horns, play loud music, and to make a loud noise in the name of freedom and peace.

The ringing of the bells is an effort to instill hope in those who have lost loved ones and in those who are in hiding or are in refugee camps. The creator of the campaign said, "If we can work together and get bells to ring overseas, and they can hear the church bells ringing, what kind of renewed hope will be given to them?" She adds, "We want our brothers and sisters to know that God does hear, love, and care for them."

By ringing the bells or making noise together across the world, the project will make a statement that there are many Christians in the world today. "The media has done an excellent job of making us aware that ISIS is growing in number. We need to encourage one another that there are still many of us who believe in Jesus Christ and that we can have courage to stand in our faith and not back down."

"Some Christians may be afraid of what will happen to us if we continue to believe," she continued. "Hopefully, in hearing the bells ringing we will have a renewed sense of courage. Picture the Israelites marching around the city of Jericho seven times, and when they were through marching, they blew their horns and the walls of the city came tumbling down. This was a simple act with extravagant implications. What types of walls will fall down if we all participate? May God be glorified, may people come to know Christ for the first time or maybe again, and may this spark another idea in someone else."

For more information about this worldwide effort, find the movement on Facebook at "[Ring Bells](#)" and on Twitter [@ringbells1121](#).



Senior Moments

by Ruth Bissett, Salem, OR

How is it going with you? Are you facing new challenges? Are you praising the Lord for victories won? We are all on this journey called life, and life has bumps and challenges along the way. Life also has joys, victories and celebrations.

We will continue on our subject of *God Will See You Through* from the session at Summer Celebration with Ellie Pierson-Sutter. What image of Christ is this suffering conforming me into? His perseverance in **prayer**. "Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them." Hebrews 7:25 I am also being conformed in to Christ's **patience**. "Do not forget this one thing (put your name in here), with the Lord a day is like a thousand years; and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness.

He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:8-9. In Habakkuk 2:3-4 God says "The vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal, and it will not fail. Though it tarries wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay"

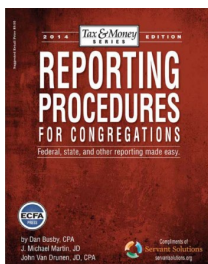
Ellie closed with these words: "My hope in sharing with you is that you will take time to reflect on your own sorrows and sufferings, and see if you've responded in ways and over time that have allowed God to conform you into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. And that you know without a doubt, that 'God Will See You Through!'"

The message that I received is that things that happen in our lives are used by God to "conform us into His image."

Contact me at ruthbissett1@gmail.com or 503-798-1706 with comments or suggestions.

Narrative Preaching Workshop

During the February 2-4, 2015, Ministers' Retreat at Newport's Best Western Agate Beach Inn, **Rev. Dr. Jeff Frymire** will lead a conference dealing with Narrative preaching—one of the most powerful ways of speaking to the hearts of all ages of people. This style is especially powerful with our 20- and 30-year-olds. Registration deadline is January 2, 2015. *Online registration available now!*



Financial Symposium

Guest speaker **Dan Busby**, CPA, will present a Financial Symposium March 21, 2015 at the Holladay Park Church of God. All Pastors, Church Treasurers and key Lay Leaders are encouraged to attend this power-packed symposium—a gift from Servant Solutions—to discover the best practices in handling the financial gifts that are given to the Church. Don't miss this opportunity. *Online registration available now!*

AU Presidential Search Committee Nominates Dr. John S. Pistole

The Anderson University Presidential Search Committee, chaired by AU board member Patricia Seabor Bailey, will bring the name of Dr. John S. Pistole before the Board of Trustees for election as the president of the university on Oct. 27. Dr. Pistole most recently announced his retirement as Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Prior to his appointment to the TSA by President Barack Obama and confirmation by the U.S. Senate, Dr. Pistole served as Deputy Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation during the Bush and Obama administrations.

Upon election by the trustees and ratification by the General Assembly of the Church of God (Anderson, Ind.) in June, 2015, Dr. Pistole would be the fifth person in the nearly 100-year history of Anderson University to hold the position of president. Anderson University will celebrate its 100-year anniversary beginning in the fall of 2016. A native of Anderson, Ind., Dr. Pistole earned his bachelor's degree from Anderson University in 1978. He went on to earn a juris doctorate from Indiana



University Robert H. McKinney School of Law. Dr. Pistole's wife, Kathy Harp, earned a bachelor's degree from Anderson University in 1978 and a M.Ed. degree from the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis.

If elected, Dr. Pistole would follow the presidential leadership of Dr. James L. Edwards who announced plans in March, 2014, to conclude

his presidency by the end of the 2014-15 academic year. Dr. Edwards' last year of service marks 25 years of distinguished leadership as president of Anderson University. As he concludes his presidency, Edwards will be the longest serving president (in both public and private universities) in the State of Indiana. Edwards has served as president of Anderson University since 1990.

Anderson University is a private Christian university in central Indiana. Anderson University continues to be recognized as one of America's top colleges by U.S. News and World Report, The Princeton Review, and Forbes. Established in 1917 by the Church of God (Anderson, Ind.), Anderson University offers more than 65 undergraduate majors and graduate programs in business, music, nursing, and theology.

In August, Dr. Pistole was featured in a story about his Church of God roots.

Posted on October 16, 2014 by chogministries

District Churches Announce Christmas Activities

Association Churches are invited to post their announcements of Christmas on the District website. Contact the office (800-873-7729 or 503-393-3510) and be sure to check out the Christmas season opportunities online at <http://orwacog.org/christmas-events/>

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

November 15, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Gales Creek Community Church of God
9170 NW Sargent Dr., Gales Creek, OR
Bazaar is located at the school across the street from the church
Questions? Church office: 503-357-8873
Website: <http://galescreekchurch.weebly.com/>

BOOTHS, CRAFTS, BAKED GOODS

Saturday December 6, 9:00am - 4:00pm
River Street Church of God
715 S. River Street, Newberg, Oregon
Lunch available for purchase.
Tables available, \$20.
For information: 503-538-4117 or 503-407-0249

LIVE NATIVITY

December 13-15, 2014
Lynchwood Church of God
3818 SE 174th Avenue, Portland, OR
6:30-9:00 p.m. each evening
11 scenes, hospitality room with hot drinks, cookies & some live entertainment
Questions? Church office: 503-665-6638

DINNER THEATER, “The Christmas Movie”

December 14, 2014
Holladay Park Church of God
2120 NE Tillamook St., Portland, OR
6:00 p.m.
For reservations call **503-287-1238**



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: “Unfrozen”

December 14, 2014
Longview First Church of God
2335 46th Avenue, Longview, WA
6:00 p.m., Sunday evening service
Questions? Church office 360-636-0370

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Hoodview Church of God
1530 Mt. Hood Avenue, Woodburn, OR
6:00 p.m.
Questions? Church office: 503-981-1660

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

Aloha Church of God
18380 SW Kinnaman Rd., Aloha, OR
6:00 p.m.
Variety show
1st half is fun secular music & comedy including a video skit “When Christmas Smarts” (a take-off on the old “Get Smart” TV series)
Halfway through the show, children are invited to the stage to hear the Christmas Story, taken from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.
Last half of show: sacred music and a candle-light closing
Questions? Church office: 503-649-5678

LIVE NATIVITY

December 19, 20 & 21, 2014
Friendly Street Church of God
2290 Friendly St., Eugene, OR
7:00 – 9:00 pm each evening
Questions? Church office: 541-345-6553

LIVE NATIVITY, “Living Christmas Story”

Hoodview Church of God
1530 Mt. Hood Ave., Woodburn, OR
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. each evening
Free drive or walk-thru experience for the whole family
Experience the True Meaning of Christmas
Live Animals
Questions? Church office: 503-981-1660

CHRISTMAS CANTATA,

“What a Glorious Night”
December 21, 2014
Lynchwood Church of God
3818 SE 174th Avenue, Portland, OR
10:15 a.m., Sunday morning service
Questions? Church office: 503-665-6638

Look to the Hills

Camp White Branch Update

Faithful workers, Owen Hinkle, Leonard Meyer and Mel Neu have been hard at work at Camp White Branch, while building materials undergo manufacturing processes and arrive at the grounds.

All three were in attendance at an annual fundraising and celebration dinner at Mt. Scott Church of God in Portland, October 23 (see related front-page article).

Pictured here are display photos and the kitchen crew from Lynchwood Church of God preparing desserts for the dinner. Below, guests listen to the presentation before enjoying a wonderful meal of chicken, green beans, dressing and dinner rolls.

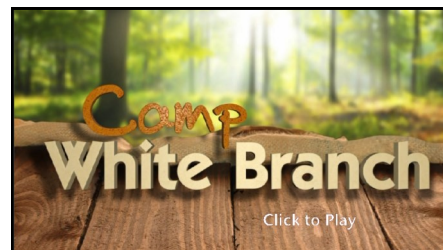
Mel Neu, Chairman of the CWB Board, gave a brief summary of the project which was begun "what seems like 50, but probably only six or eight years ago".

Neu explained that while they counted the cost early on, a series of setbacks along the journey with Lane County, the Forest Service, Highway, etc., resulted in increased costs.

Lane County code changes increased the snow load requirement from 40 to 150 pounds, which, in turn, increased metal and concrete expenses.

Pastor David Shrout, of the District Office, expressed appreciation for the generosity of Association folks, and encouraged dinner guests to keep Camp White Branch in mind with Will and Estate planning, as well as pledges and gifts, with the ongoing need for financial support.

For more information on Camp White Branch, see <http://www.campwhitebranch.org/>. -kt



Camp White Branch Fundraising Dinner



DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE

The September 21-22 retreat went well and the team is working diligently on the new bylaws, meeting monthly (again Oct. 28) according to Secretary Virginia Tackett.

The Committee has begun the formulation of suggestions for Policies and Procedures, needed for both the District Pastor and staff as well as the Regions (clusters). Qualifications have been formulated, though still in the working stages, for representatives and fields of expertise for the new Council, including: visioning, financial, legal, human resources, real estate, and counseling/conflict resolution. All eight representatives, plus Chair, Secretary and Treasurer must have spiritual depth.

Other Council action involved the approval of repair of the heating/cooling system in the District office, to bring it up to code, reduce utility costs and provide greater comfort for the staff. -kt

The Lynchwood Church of God invites you to their 27th Annual Live Nativity

**Saturday, Sunday,
and Monday,
December 13-15**

Celebrate the true meaning of
Christmas!
Eleven scenes will depict the Birth,
Life, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Brochures describing the 11 scenes,
printed in several different languages,
will be available to all visitors.
Live animals are also featured.

3818 SE 174th Ave, in Portland, Oregon
Viewing hours are: Saturday-Sunday,
6:30 pm till 9:00 pm
Monday's viewing hours will be
from 7:00pm – 9:00 pm
For additional information, please call
the church office, 503-665-6638.

Upcoming Events

Daylight Savings Ends - Sunday, November 2,
2014 - All Day

Church Planting Conferences - Sunday-
Tuesday, November 9-11, 2014

VETERANS DAY - Tuesday, November 11, 2014 -
All Day

District Office closed - Thursday, November 27,
2014 - All Day

THANKSGIVING DAY - Thursday, November 27,
2014 - All Day

District Office closed - Wednesday, December 24,
2014 - Thursday, December 25, 2014 - All Day

CHRISTMAS DAY - Thursday, December 25, 2014 -
All Day

How To Convention - Saturday, January 31, 2015,
8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Ministers & Spouses'

Retreat - Monday,
February 2, 2015 -
Wednesday, February
4, 2015 - Best West-
ern, Agate Beach,
Newport, OR
(Registration deadline:
January 2, 2015)



Pacific NW Financial Integrity Conference -
Saturday, March 28, 2015, Holladay Park COG

Check online for more events:
www.orwacog.org/calendar

MISSION STATEMENT: "This Association exists to serve and empower affiliated churches and ministries to fulfill the call of Christ."

VISION STATEMENT: "To serve and empower by: coordinating ministries, providing guidance, giving encouragement, supplying information, and offering training, in order to enable churches and ministries to mature in holiness, unity, services and growth."