

PACIFIC CHURCH NEWS

FALL 1995

New Music Ministry
Launched on
the West Coast

— See Cover Story
on page 2



A NEWS JOURNAL FOR CHURCHES OF CHRIST ON THE WEST COAST



Pepperdine University Launches New Choral Group

Pepperdine University's new singing group directed by Dr. Randy Gill has started its first semester with a full schedule and enthusiastic audiences. "The response has been great," Gill reported, "the group opened a recent concert for Acappella, sang at a youth rally at Daybreak Camp, and for an AWP dinner in Bakersfield." Since Christian acappella music is in great demand, the group's calendar is filling quickly. They are scheduled to sing for Mission Viejo, San Luis Obispo, the Thanksgiving Youthfest, the Christian College Dean's Conference, and a Pepperdine convocation.

Calling themselves "Won by One," this group of six students has a distinct sound. After auditioning 30 students for the six spots, Gill chose two freshmen: Amber Foster from Coarsegold, California, and Shaunte Gipson from Vacaville, California; three sophomores: Cory King, Vince Mudd, and Randy Grau, all from Edmond, Oklahoma; and one senior: Kennie Jackson, from Petaluma, California.

"These kids are enthusiastic about sharing the joy they have found in Christ—their music is a part of that," Gill said. Paul Long, Dean of Admission, has hoped for a group such as this to reach more Christian students and interest them in Pepperdine. Long said, "I am excited to have Won by One as our newest musical

performance group at Pepperdine University. The group members are outstanding examples of Christian students who are studying at the University. It is my hope that this group will inspire other students to seek Christian education, and that they will be a blessing to the Christian community of our heritage—Churches of Christ."

If you are interested in scheduling this group to sing for your congregation call Randy Gill at (310) 456-4270.



Pepperdine Church News welcomes Dr. Randy Gill to his new position as Associate Director of Church Relations. Dr. Gill has served as an associate professor in the Fine Arts division at Pepperdine for seven years, and he will continue a part-time teaching role on the Seaver Campus. His wife, LaJuana, is a campus minister and their son Chris is a sophomore in high school. As part of Gill's role in Church Relations, he will direct the Thanksgiving Youthfest which celebrates its 25th year this November 24-26 (see page 15). Dr. Gill is also directing the new music ministry, "Won by One" (see story above).

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COVER PHOTO

Pepperdine choral group, Won by One, pauses to enjoy the Pacific shoreline near the Malibu campus. Clockwise from left: Cory King, Randy Grau, Kennie Jackson, Amber Foster, Vince Mudd and Shaunte Gipson.

Photo by Ron Hall.

Bennetts Begin Ministry in Palo Alto

Les and Patsy Bennett, who are known for their mission work in Brazil and for training missionaries at ACU, have committed to a ministry with the Palo Alto Church of Christ. "We believe that this is where God wanted us," reported Les. The congregation is renewing efforts to serve Stanford students, and they are growing "in faith and in numbers," Bennett said. Les received his B.A. in religious studies from Pepperdine and earned his Master's degree in missiology from ACU. He and Patsy worked with congregations in California and Oregon before the church in Fresno committed to be their sole financial support for their eight years of ministry in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. When they returned to the United States, the Bennetts trained mission students at ACU for 15 years. They attended the Minter Lane Church of Christ where Les served as a deacon and then an elder. The Bennetts have four grown children, Susan, Sherry, Eric, and Darla and one granddaughter.



Les Bennett

1978. He graduated from Columbia Christian with a B.A. in business and Bible and worked as a summer student recruiter with his future wife, Nancy Reid, from Sacramento. He continued on at Columbia for five more years working as soccer coach, dorm parent, publications director, and bookstore manager. He and Nancy worked with the Newburg Oregon Church of Christ from 1986 to 1991. During this time Shawn drove to Seattle where he earned

his master's degree in ministry from the Pepperdine program. In 1991, he became the associate minister of education and involvement at the Metro Church of Christ in Gresham, Oregon. Shawn and Nancy have three children, Brittany, 11, Chelsea, 9, and Cameron, 1. He is working on his dissertation for a Ph.D. in ministry at the Northwest Graduate School of the Ministry, and Nancy is a licensed tax consultant.



Shawn Jones

Shawn Jones Accepts Biblical Studies Position at Cascade

Shawn Jones has begun teaching full time in the Biblical Studies department at Cascade College in Portland, Oregon. Jones attended Columbia Christian College, which is now Cascade, and says that "my experience with Christian education was so formative, that I could see the value for others." Shawn was converted at the Bible Chair at Boise State University where the campus minister, John Moreland, baptized him in

Neilson Heads Children's Education Ministry at East County

The East County Church of Christ in Gresham, Oregon, has appointed Shellie Neilson as their education and family minister. This position will expand what Neilson has been doing for several years as she has directed junior worship and Vacation Bible School. "The congregation has always been dedicated to children from its beginning 25 years ago, and my work is a result of their determination to make a



Shellie Neilson

real investment in the future of our children," Neilson reported. In addition to continuing the children's programs already in place, Neilson hopes to focus on the "marker events" in children's lives from birth to baptism. "We want to say to children, 'You are a part of us and we're glad,'" she said. Neilson grew up in Vancouver, Canada and attended Western Christian School in Saskatchewan, British Columbia. She then went on to Columbia Christian College where she earned a B.A. in counselor education and continued working for the college's publicity and development departments. Neilson met her husband, Paul, who is a professional woodworker, at the East County Church of Christ. They have three children: Hillary,

6, Sage, 4, and Meredith, who was born in September. Neilson completed her Master's in Ministry in 1992 from the Pepperdine program offered in Gresham. "I have always loved working for the church, and my prayer has been 'Lord, you open the door.' I am looking forward to working more closely with my husband who is the educational liaison for

the deacons at East County—now we will be working together for the children in our church family," Neilson concluded.

John Free Appointed Principal of Sonrise Christian School

John Free has been appointed the new principal for the Ruddock campus of Sonrise Christian Schools. Located in Covina, California, Sonrise serves 900 students, offering kindergarten through eighth grade. Sonrise rents two public school campuses which are less than a mile apart. Jo Brodnax serves as principal of the Banna campus, which houses the kindergarten through second grade, and Free oversees the Ruddock campus—home

—Continued on page 12

"Sweet" Alice Harris Builds Christian Retreat Center

by Billie Silvey

Thirteen young people from Aurora, Colorado, were the first to stay in the \$4.5 million Children's Retreat, a Christian conference center in Altadena built by Watts activist Sweet Alice Harris for use by church groups.

Accompanied by minister Larry Wishard and elder John Petrie, the teenagers had come from the Southeast Church of Christ to explore inner-city ministry—working with young people from the Mona Boulevard Church and discovering the importance of a daily devotional life.

While in Los Angeles, they discovered a "richness of inner spirit absent in suburban churches—a generosity that comes from not having high expectations of wealth," Wishard said.

The teens were impressed with the 14-bedroom facility, located on Wapello just off Lake Avenue. "It's much more than I expected; a very, very nice facility," said Nate Gilmore, one of the teens in the group. Another teen, Mary Gingerich, noted how "very well put together and very organized" the facility is. The conference center was the ten-year dream of Alice Harris, the founder of "Parents of Watts" and wife of Allen Harris, an elder at Mona Boulevard.

Sweet Alice's life savings, together with help from her nine grown children, allowed the center to be constructed with only \$100,000 in outside donations. Except for a fee to pay the housekeeper and upkeep, there is no charge to stay at the facility. Food is donated by local markets.

Those who stay are treated to the wisdom and generosity of their hostess. "I think this is going to be a very loving place for people to visit. Sweet Alice is wonderful," said Aurora teen Candy Davis.

"The people love what they're doing," Gingerich said.

"They've taught us to respect ourselves, to find out what our gifts are," Davis added.

The three-story structure, completed in December, was luxuriously decorated and furnished in time for the Denver group's arrival in June. The ground floor includes two formal sitting rooms, a formal dining room, a den, a large kitchen and breakfast room, and several beautifully furnished bedrooms with tile baths. The upper floor has dormitory-like rooms with bunkbeds, each with a private bath with distinctive tile work. The lower level includes a large recreation room and a spa.

Sweet Alice hasn't always been able to be so generous. She was born in Gadsden, Alabama in 1933, one of eleven children of a mother who taught school and a father who worked in steel mills. She had a baby at age 13, and by 15 had run away from home and was living on the streets.

A Jewish family took her in. "What I needed was somebody who trusted me," Sweet Alice explains. "When I had the baby, I was seen as bad. Mrs. Cohen trusted me and gave me a job when everyone else said I was bad. In the back of my head, I always knew I owed something back."

She worked for the Cohens until she was 19, then they helped her go to beauty college. With her cosmetology license, she ran a beauty shop in Detroit.

In 1960, she moved to the Watts area of Los Angeles and went back to school, but life had given her a more personal education. "From my own experience, I understood the pregnant girl, the homeless person on the streets. Were they there because they wanted to be? I could ask the right questions," she explains.

She got a job with the school district



Sweet Alice Harris is a modern-day legend.

and "moved from thinking 'somebody's got to do something' to 'I've got to do something.' And I began to see what I needed to do—to set up a place where people could come in and I could help them."

During the Watts Riots in 1965, she ran among the looters, dragging children home and saving many lives. Soon after, she began using her own house as a community center and founded the "Parents of Watts" (POW).

POW tries to break through economic walls by training disadvantaged young adults in the inner city, helping them get jobs and transforming them into constructive members of society.

The organization currently operates a 24-hour crisis center; four facilities, with a total of 40 beds, offer emergency food and shelter to families, battered men and women and the mentally ill; The Diane Feinstein Home for Young Mothers, a transitional home; and the Jordan Locke



Entrance to the large retreat center donated by the Harris family.



Aurora, Colorado, teens were the first to enjoy the Harris' "Children's Retreat."

Adult School, an accredited school offering classes in reading, writing, parenting skills, money management, Spanish, English as a Second Language, computer literacy and typing. Students are prepared for the GED or high school equivalency test, and a social worker headquartered in the school office provides counseling.

"I gave away one house," Sweet Alice explains, "and now I've been blessed with nine. If you give back what God gave you, God will turn around and give it back to you again. It's like a flow of energy, the more you give, the more you receive."

No one is turned away from any of Sweet Alice's programs so long as they're willing to cooperate and help themselves. Those sheltered in POW houses help with laundry, cleaning and gardening. "We aren't running a motel here. Everybody has to do his share," Sweet Alice explains.

Described as a "miracle worker" by friends and colleagues, Sweet Alice has helped nearly 90,000 young adults with educations, food, clothing and life and job skills training, including photography, auto mechanics and body repair, graphic arts, upholstery and cabinet making.

She says of these young people, "They expect to hear 'no,' because that's all they've ever heard. To wake up one day and have somebody say 'yes' to you, . . . Something just comes alive in you, and you put a smile on your face, and you want to live. The hope is alive, and when your

hope is alive, you act and see differently."

In a single week, Sweet Alice found 50 jobs for young people which, after a short training period, paid over \$2 an hour.

She started the Adopt-a-Bus program which employs young black men, many with records, as security guards on inner city buses.

One hundred twenty potential dropouts have gone to college and dozens have earned degrees with her help.

She takes special interest in teen mothers—building their self confidence and helping them find child care and financial support so they can return to school.

Referring to the old adage, "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink," Sweet Alice says, "I'd like for people to say that 'Sweet Alice created a thirst, and the young people wanted to drink.'"

But her efforts aren't confined to helping young people. She has registered over 4,000 adults to vote, fought redlining, discussed community development strategies with Secretary of Urban Development, Henry Cisneros, and promoted better roads, emergency health care, improved housing and rapid transit.

After the earthquake in 1994, POW sent five building inspector trainees from Watts to Santa Clarita to help inspect residences to determine if they were safe for occupancy. Free food, clothing and diapers were sent as well.

"I was very impressed," Santa Clarita Mayor George Pederson remarked. "From all I saw of Sweet Alice, she's a breath of fresh air."

Sweet Alice's efforts have led to the baptism of 38 people in less than a year. She's already set up a Bible class at the chicken and waffle restaurant down the street from the new retreat center.

She's been widely recognized for her efforts. In an article naming her Woman of the Year in *Ms.* magazine, Julianne Malveaux wrote, "How does Sweet Alice do it all? She pushes. She doesn't take no for an answer. She sees potential in each person and in every situation. She radiates goodwill and love that can crumble the most formidable wall."

When Mayor Tom Bradley nominated her for the Caring Award from *Caring People* magazine, he said, "I know of no person more deserving than Mrs. Harris, by virtue of the impact she has had in enriching and enhancing the lives of young people."

President Bush named her his 703rd Daily Point of Light.

When she won *Essence* magazine's Essence Award, an article stated, "It is women like Alice Harris who have always made the difference between hope and disaster in our communities and in our lives."

But perhaps one of the teens from Colorado put it best: "Now we know why people call her Sweet Alice."

CONGREGATION

Faith Beyond Puget Sound

by Bill Henegar

The children of the American Restoration Movement were, on the whole, a hardy bunch. They often left the refined life of the city to others. As for themselves, wherever there was a challenge—a distant village, a tiny settlement, a frontier camp—there the heirs of Stone and Campbell were apt to be found. Often, they were the advanced guard, the first arriving settlers, as was the case beyond Puget Sound in the Washington Territory of the 1880s...

William and Minerva Jane Cline left their home in Kansas and set out for the Great Northwest, a fabled region of jagged mountains, lush valleys, and emerald forests. They reached the Seattle-Tacoma corridor of population and the edge of Puget Sound, that huge thumb of the Pacific that juts into the western part of Washington. Most settlers stopped there to seek their fortune, but the Clines moved on—across the water to the eastern shore of the Olympic Peninsula. Their destination was a village called Sidney. It was January 1884, five years before the territory would achieve statehood.

When the Clines arrived in Sidney, they found that they were the only non-Indians among the village's few residents. But the place suited them well, so they wrote to all their relatives, telling of the beautiful bay, the great Puget Sound, the teeming rain-forests, and the seemingly endless opportunities.

Among those relatives enticed to Washington Territory were Jasper and Ellen Scott. They arrived beyond the Sound in 1886. And after only one year in the village, Jasper built the Sidney Hotel, the "Grand Dame" of the peninsula wilderness. The hotel was eventually owned by several different people and had a long and colorful history. Also in that year, Ellen gave birth to a daughter, Phebe, the first white female born in the village. But Jasper Scott didn't live to see his children grow up or see the fruit of his

vision and entrepreneurship. An accident in 1888 left him blind and in poor health. After only two years in Sidney, he was dead at the age of 36.

The extended family of the Clines were all "back-to-the-Bible" people. They began worshipping in homes from their very arrival on the peninsula. The little congregation finally incorporated just six months after the death of Jasper Scott. His young widow, Ellen, was counted among the 17 charter members of the "Sidney Church of Christ." It was the first church in the village.

But trouble was brewing. Four years after incorporating, the controlling members of the church purchased an organ and introduced it into the corporate worship. They also renamed the congregation the "First Christian Church." Only Ellen Scott dissented. Her conscience would not allow her to worship with the instrument, and she felt compelled to withdraw from the group and worship with her family in her home. This happened just one year before the town of Sidney was renamed Port Orchard in 1893.

As the years passed, the lineage of the traditional Church of Christ—the original church established in the village—was carried on by an infirm little woman. The widow Ellen Scott contracted multiple sclerosis and was an invalid for much of her later life. Her eight children took turns caring for her in their homes. But where Ellen was, there was the church, meeting around her. Some say that a handful of people joined her dissent, but all we know for certain is that the Scott family remained loyal to the conservative branch

Matriarch Ellen Scott was the gentle force that held the Church of Christ in Port Orchard together at the turn of the century.



The congregation moved into its new meetinghouse in April 1941 as the storm clouds of World War II gathered.

of the Stone-Campbell movement.

After the death of Ellen Scott in the early 1930s, the tiny congregation began to regularly meet in the home of the Tuckers. Lalie Tucker was one of Ellen's daughters, and Lalie's husband, Percy, conducted most of the services. More people were now visiting or moving to Port Orchard, primarily drawn by the emerging industries, like the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard at Bremerton, across the bay. George Campbell and his brother became consistent visitors, traveling by ferry to Port Orchard every Sunday. They wanted to see the group build a permanent meeting place, so they gave the first contribution to the building fund. A few years later, the church purchased an old waterfront store from Mr. Goddard. It was a good location, near the ferry dock where sailors and others could easily find the church.

Eventually, the old store was leveled and a new building begun. The structure



Ellen Scott's husband, Jasper, built the first hotel in the village; members of the William Cline family posed in front of it in the 1880s.



In front of the current building, completed in 1981, are elders (l. to r.) Chuck Palmer, Melvin Byrd, Dewayne Gower, and Bob McDaniel. (Randy Knox is not pictured.)



Elder Willard Hoover (left) and evangelist J.C. Bunn were crucial to the advancement of the Port Orchard church in the '50s and '60s. They posed for this photo in 1950.



The modern Port Orchard church owes much of its success to the Melvin Byrd family. Pictured in 1986 are (l. to r.) Becky, Melvin, Barbara, Jonathan, (and front) Melia and Deiva.

was finished and occupied in April 1941, just seven months before the attack on Pearl Harbor. Christians from Seattle came to join in the dedication and to celebrate the milestone. Famed evangelist J.C. Bunn was on hand to preach on the joyous occasion.

Bunn stayed on for a two-week evangelistic meeting, which resulted in five conversions. Among those five was Arden Prather, who would one day serve as an elder of the congregation. It wasn't long before the church made arrangements for a full-time preacher, U.R. Beeson. However, Beeson served the congregation for only about a year. Through World War II and the post-war years, there was a succession of short-tenured ministers: Roy Gulley, Elmer Butler, Warren Whitelaw, and Clyde Moore. Each one preached for a period of between one and three years in Port Orchard.

This period in the church's history was unusual because, during the war years, the Naval Shipyard across the bay was running in high gear. This brought a great influx of Christians to Port Orchard, more than the little building could handle. The seven-day-a-week shift work also presented a problem in scheduling church services. Eventually, two large Sunday services evolved, one in the morning and one at night, to accommodate the shift-workers.

One of the turning points for the Port Orchard church came in 1950. In that year, the beloved J.C. Bunn and his wife returned across Puget Sound, this time to be the permanent preacher. The following 12 years were filled with spiritual and numerical growth, as the church flourished under Bunn's ministry. In 1955, five years after his arrival, the church appointed elders for the first time. Those pioneering elders were Willard Hoover, P.E. Tucker,

and J.C. Bunn himself. Deacons were also installed: Berry Leftwich, Arden Prather, and Flavil Robins.

From its earliest days, the church was known for its interest in overseas missions. By the 1950s, the church was sending support to several missionaries in Africa, to several more in the Philippines, to Japanese and Korean mission programs, and to U.S. mission fields in Montana and Ellensburg, Washington.

In 1962 when J.C. Bunn resigned, the church asked T.R. Atkinson to serve as its minister. Atkinson preached for four years, but he was followed by three men who stayed with the church for no more than 18 months each. Atkinson then returned to Port Orchard for one additional year. His efforts, however, apparently were fruitless. The shipyard had scaled back, and

— Continued on page 13

Creating Environments of Praise

by Bill Henegar

Some build model airplanes. Others build houses. Then there are people who build skyscrapers. But Don Foster builds places where God's people meet to worship and study the Word.

It all began in 1977 when Foster decided to resign his position as director of development for Columbia Christian College in Portland, Oregon. The extensive traveling was keeping him away from his family, so he and his wife, Cheryl, prayed that God would open a new opportunity for them. When Columbia Christian board chairman Gerald Bristol, a well-known Portland general contractor, realized that Foster was serious about a new career, he offered him a limited partnership in a new business.

After a year's trial period in Oregon, Foster and his family moved back to California's central valley, where Don and Cheryl's families reside. Fresno has remained their home for the past 17 years. And from 1978 to 1982, the Bristol-Foster Church Construction Company built many structures in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Then in 1982, Don started his own Foster Church Construction Company, focusing more on California churches.

Foster comments on church buildings he has constructed over the years, which remain his favorites: Rancho Cordova Church of Christ ("Excellent planned facility with a floor plan that works well"), Petaluma Church of Christ ("Exceptional building for a smaller church with an auditorium that has a feeling of awesomeness about it for worship"), Culver Palms Church of Christ in Los Angeles ("Auditorium designed with the worshipper in mind, excellent acoustics, maybe the best planned facility in the state"), Victor Valley Church of Christ in Victorville ("Nice multipurpose Family Life Center, used for fellowship and athletic events as well as for worship"), Alvin Drive Church of Christ in Salinas

("Built in the early '80s, but nice feeling of fellowship and unity in worship, with good acoustics"). Others are too numerous to mention.

Having been in the business of constructing church buildings for nearly 20 years, Foster has gained some insights into the direction church facilities are moving. Asked what we might expect in church construction in the next century, he said, "I believe churches will move away from the storefront- or warehouse-type facility that is now popular. People will want to get back to the feelings of worship rather than entertainment."

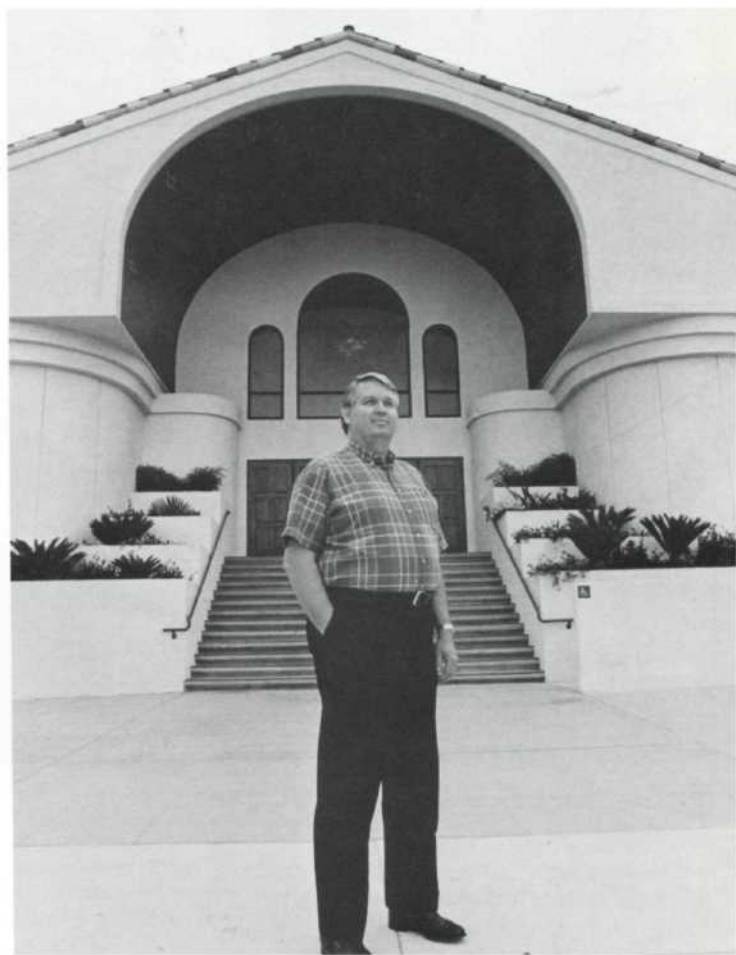
He continued, "I think a return to traditional facilities will become extremely important in the next few years. However, single congregations will be unable to afford large facilities. The answer is likely to be that more than one congregation will use the same facility, which perhaps may be jointly owned—or else one group will rent from another."

Foster thinks that buildings in the future also will be more multipurpose and practical. "The aspect of fellowship will become increasingly important in churches, and friendships will be formed in these future facilities that will last a lifetime," he said.

Changing attitudes are already altering the design of church buildings. "We find that people often want to worship together while facing one another somewhat, in a semi-circle with the central focal point

being a stage or baptistry," Foster said. "Auditoriums frequently accommodate moveable seating now, so that the assembly may be reconfigured for various purposes or styles of worship."

According to Foster, although many congregations would like to have a commercial kitchen in their building, they find the cost for such low usage to be prohibitive. So, many churches opt for a "warming kitchen," with residential appliances and enough refrigerator space to hold pre-cooked food. Today, most churches are looking for ways to maximize the use of their facilities, with athletic areas, conference and seminar rooms, libraries, and other expanded use spaces. Many groups are becoming more conscious of the role of patios, amphitheaters, and other outdoor meeting places. And



Don Foster stands in front of the Culver Palms church building in L.A.



The Petaluma building is modern yet friendly.



Rancho Cordova's auditorium is warm and conducive to worship.



The Victor Valley building is practical and adaptable.



Alvin Drive in Salinas departs from traditional design.

churches are finally realizing the importance of nice landscaping, both as a matter of stewardship over God's earth and as an added way of attracting visitors.

Don Foster's final advice to those thinking of church construction? "You need to budget for repairs. You could take care of all your future repair needs if you annually set aside about 50 cents per square foot of building space. At first you will have a surplus, but then as the building gets older, the money will be available for those inevitable repairs." Good advice from an expert on church facilities!

If you have questions about church facility planning, Don Foster is ready to help. He may be reached in Fresno at (209) 297-1468 or (209) 971-8222.



Early California accents distinguish the Rancho Cordova building.

"Our Faithful Brother Bailes"

by Jerry Rushford

His name was forgotten a long time ago, but for more than fifty years, from 1861 to 1915, Keathley Bailes was a tireless circuit riding preacher in the Great Northwest. His contribution to the nurturing of small and out-of-the-way Churches of Christ in Oregon and Washington was substantial.

Willis Keathley Bailes was born in Indiana on October 14, 1829, and he was baptized into Christ at an early age. He was only 17 years old when he married Sarah Marshall on January 30, 1847. They were married in Greene County in southwest Missouri, and they evidently made their home there for the next 14 years. Keathley began preaching when he was 19 years old. Although he sometimes received contributions for his preaching, he always worked at secular jobs to support himself and his growing family (which eventually included eleven children).

In the spring of 1861, just as the Civil War was beginning to threaten the fragile peace in the border state of Missouri, Keathley and Sarah and their children began the arduous trek across the plains on the Oregon Trail. They traveled by ox team with other families, and one account says the trip was "a slow, long and weary one." True to his calling, Keathley Bailes "preached every Sunday" to the circled wagon train during the six-month journey.

The Bailes family spent their first winter in Oregon on Wildhorse Creek in Umatilla County, near where Athena is now located. The winter was so severe they lost all of their livestock. In the spring of 1862 they pushed on to a new home near Silverton in Marion County, where Keathley began to preach for the Bethany Church of Christ.

The oldest congregation among the Churches of Christ in Oregon still in existence is thought to be the one in Molalla in neighboring Clackamas County. An old record book indicates that this congregation began as the Upper Rock

Creek Church of Christ in 1863, one year after the Bailes family arrived in the area. This congregation met on Rock Creek south of Molalla, a site about ten miles from where the Bailes were living near Silverton/Bethany. The record book confirms that Keathley Bailes was one of the early preachers for this church, and it also mentions that on May 12, 1867, he ordained Charles Bisbee Dart and Levi Davis as elders, and Elijah Weddle and Thomas Ganet as deacons.

In the 1870's the Bailes family lived near Scio in Linn County. Throughout these years, Keathley frequently preached in gospel meetings for isolated churches in Oregon and Washington. He also promoted the *Pacific Christian Messenger*, a weekly periodical published by Thomas F. Campbell and others in Monmouth, Oregon. Bailes is occasionally mentioned in this journal. Typical of the entries is one from a correspondent in Damascus, Oregon, who wrote, "We have been treated to four discourses from our faithful Brother Bailes the past month." Another writer in Washington added, "Brother Bailes is an earnest worker and deserves a more hearty support from the brotherhood."

The Bailes family left Oregon in 1878 and settled in the northeastern part of the Kittitas Valley near Ellensburg in Washington Territory. Keathley was the first preacher from the Restoration Movement to preach in this valley when he began holding weekly services in a log schoolhouse. Besides preaching, he worked his farm and did carpentry work. One account says: "As a circuit rider he moved frequently from one place to another, often going on horseback to his preaching places in Oregon and California, as well as in Washington. He usually carried his books and hymnals in large leather saddlebags."



Keathley and Sarah Bailes

Bailes was an occasional correspondent for the *Pacific Christian Messenger* during the Ellensburg years. In one letter dated March 24, 1883, he wrote:

"We have the pleasure of informing you that, although our beautiful valley is but sparsely populated, and we are compelled to labor under the many inconveniences of pioneer life, still, through the mercies of God, we are not destitute of that religious instruction so essential to the peace and prosperity of any people. We have an organized society of our church in this neighborhood, to which we preach weekly. We held a meeting on the west side of the Yakima River a few weeks since and received four accessions to the church, and have flattering prospects for the future."

In the summer of 1883, Keathley and Sarah traveled to northern California to fulfill a request that he preach in a meeting for the Forestville Church of Christ. The historic meetinghouse where he preached those 13 lessons is still used by the Forestville church today, 112 years later. During that meeting he was reunited with his old friend, Levi Davis from Molalla,

Oregon, who was then living in Forestville and serving as an elder in that church.

Sometime between 1883 and 1893, Keathley and Sarah moved to the community of Jackson near Castle Rock, Washington. He was living at Jackson in 1893 when he preached in a meeting with the Boistfort church in nearby Lewis County. A report in the *Octographic Review* said, "The result was ten accessions, nine from the world and one reclaimed. The baptismal service in the beautiful Chehalis River was impressive, and the rejoicing in the church great."

Another report in the *Review*, this time from Chitwood, Oregon, in 1894, reported, "Bro. K. Bailes, of Jackson, Wash., was with us in a meeting . . . preaching 11 sermons to well interested hearers, who seemed anxious to hear him present the truth as presented to us in the Book of God, without any human speculations or traditions . . . He is an uncompromising enemy of every thing taught for doctrine that is not found in the Scriptures." The controversy over missionary societies was raging at that time, and this correspondent

was moved to observe, "Bro. Bailes has done more scriptural missionary work on this coast, than all the missionary societies ever organized here. He goes wherever he has a call, if possible, and never asks what his pay shall be."

Keathley Bailes invited George P. Rich to preach in a meeting with the Jackson, Washington, church in 1895. In a report sent to the *Review*, Bailes wrote, "Bro. G.P. Rich, of Kelso, Oregon, just closed a meeting of 17 days duration at the above named place with 14 added to the one body—9 by confession and baptism, 3 from the sects, one by relation, and one who had strayed from the father's house returned. It was a glorious meeting all things considered."

Sometime around the turn of the century, Keathley and Sarah moved to New Pine Creek, Oregon, near the California border, to assist the churches in that area. During these years Keathley preached often in Modoc and Shasta counties in California, as well as in southern Oregon. The late journalist Jimmie Lovell said that Bailes "remained

with the work in northern California for many years."

Finally, near the sunset of their lives, Keathley and Sarah made one final move. Two of their children were living in London, Oregon, and the Church of Christ in that small, isolated community was in need of a preacher. From 1909 to his death in 1915, Keathley Bailes was listed annually in the *Firm Foundation's* list of "Preachers in the Church of Christ" as living in London, Oregon. When he preached his last sermon at the London Church of Christ in November, 1914, he was 85 years old.

Keathley Bailes died on March 17, 1915, while visiting with his children in Ellensburg, Washington, and he was buried in the local cemetery. Sarah died four years later and was buried beside him.

More than 75 years have come and gone since they were laid to rest. But the memory of faithful Christian couples like Keathley and Sarah Bailes continues to challenge the commitment and vision of the Churches of Christ in the northwest who stand on the brink of a new century.



The Bailes spent their final years in London, Oregon, and it was here that Keathley preached his last sermon in November, 1914. The meetinghouse of the Church of Christ can be seen to the left of the center of the photo.

PEPPERDINE PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

by Tara Morrow

Dan Anders, minister at the Malibu Church of Christ, was the speaker at the dinner for Texas Medical Center Chaplaincy in Houston, Texas, October 19, 1995. He will also be speaking at the Men's Retreat for the Westside Bakersfield Church of Christ, November 4, 1995. December 1-2, Dan will speak at the Leadership Retreat in Campbell, California.

Randy Chesnutt, professor of religion, taught a class on the Michigan Christian Bible Lectures in Rochester, Michigan, October 2 on "Theological Themes in Acts."

President **David Davenport** will attend the Christian College and University Presidents conference November 5-7 at Harding University.

Associate Director of Church Relations **Randy Gill** was the main speaker at Pepperdine Campus Ministry's Fall Retreat, September 22-24. October 1 he preached at the Mission Viejo Church of Christ. He will also be the director of the Thanksgiving Youth Festival this year, November 24-26.

Steven Lemley, provost, and **Emily Y. Lemley**, associate director of Church Relations, spoke at the Livermore Church

of Christ Family Encampment at Daybreak Camp October 13-14. Emily will be the keynote speaker for a woman's seminar at the Palm Desert Church of Christ on October 28, and will teach a class at the Rancho Cordova area-wide women's weekend on November 11.

Dennis Lowe, Norvel and Helen Young Chair of Family Life and professor of psychology, and **Emily Scott-Lowe**, coordinator of the Counseling Center, are presenters at four different Family Life Conferences this fall. September 15, they presented "A Marriage Maintenance Check-up" at the Turnpike Road Church of Christ in Santa Barbara. The next day, September 16, they presented the topic "Improving Spiritual Intimacy in Marriage" at Turnpike for the Christian community. October 13-14, the Costa Mesa Church of Christ will host them for the discussion of "Making Marriage Work." They will also present "Honeymoon for Life" at the Lake Avenue Congregational Church of Pasadena, October 27-29.

Rick Marrs, professor of religion, will be speaking at the Northern California Preacher's Retreat in Campbell, October 23-25.

Thomas H. Olbricht, chair of the Religion Division, was a speaker for a

teacher's seminar at the Lake Tahoe Church of Christ, September 23-24. He was also a speaker for a Congregational Short Weekend at the Burlington Church of Christ in Vermont, September 30 - October 1. November 18-21, Tom will attend the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Philadelphia.

Jerry Rushford, associate professor of religion and director of Church Relations, taught in Pepperdine's off campus M.S. in ministry program in Seattle, Washington, in August and September and spoke at the annual Cascade College Lectureship in Portland, Oregon, on October 5. He preached for the Church of Christ in Hazel Park, Michigan, on October 15.

William Stivers, professor of communication, will be a board member speaker at the graduation ceremonies of the Instituto Baxter in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, November 17-19.

Tim Willis, associate professor of religion, preached at the Glendale Church of Christ, August 20. He also spoke at the Northwest Expositors Seminar at the Westside Church of Christ in Portland, Oregon, August 22.

M. Norvel Young, chancellor emeritus, and **Helen Young** were main speakers at the Annual Lakeview Lectures in Carlsbad, New Mexico, September 16-17.

John Free Appointed Principal of Sonrise Christian School

—Continued from page 3

to the third through eighth grades. Sonrise celebrated its 25th year last year at a dinner with Dan Quayle as the guest speaker. John Free has been interested in Sonrise for many years and began serving on the board in 1987. He received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Pepperdine and continued his studies at Fuller Theological Seminary. There he earned his Ph.D. in psychology in 1977, completing his requirements for the California counseling license in 1981. He has

had a counseling practice in Covina and has also taught for Pepperdine in the Religion and Social Science divisions at Seaver and for the Graduate School of Education and Psychology. Free served as the director of health and counseling at Pepperdine from 1984 to 1990. He is continuing his role as adjunct professor at Pepperdine, but he is giving up his private counseling practice to focus on his new



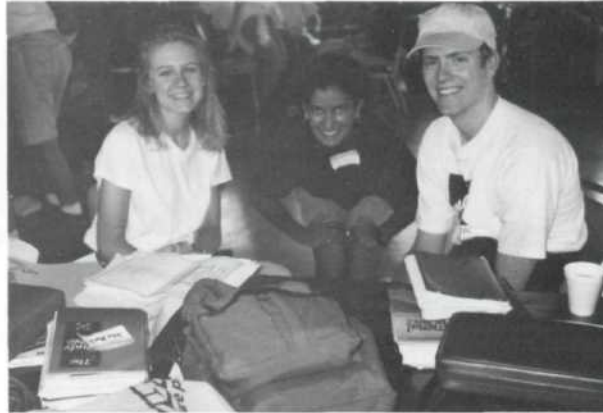
John Free

role at Sonrise. Free comments, "My training emphasized clinical child psychology, and the work with Sonrise gives me an opportunity to work with children, parents and teachers." John and his wife, Linda, have four children, Joan Giboney, Warren, Darren, and Doug, and three grandchildren. They have been pre-adoptive foster parents for 25 other infants and children.

by Rick Rowland

The University of Idaho and Washington State University have a new campus ministry entitled Campus Advance. It is led by former Boise State University students Mike and Cindy Wood. The Woods report that they have five student leaders that are actively involved and excited about the new school year. Besides a Sunday morning college class at Moscow, Idaho, Church of Christ, they host a Tuesday night "couples study" in their apartment, as well as Wednesday devotionals in the WSU Student Union.

Let's Start Talking Summer Missions Program had 14 Pepperdine students serve in several cities this summer: Beth Sowell, Ruth Dowdey, Grant Johnson, Troy Wooten, and Brandon Petrowsky in Moscow; Brian Brito and Jeremy Hopkins in Taipei; Greg Gillham, John Downing, Jill Johnson, and Cory King in Montevideo, Uruguay; and Elise Napier, Andy Hughes, and Jeremy Hoff in Bangkok.



Pepperdine's Fall Retreat '95 was attended by 200 students, including Kim Confal, Christy Fanous, and Ross Neading

These students were led and trained by Pepperdine faculty and staff members—Regan Harwell, David and Pat Dowdey, Craig Means, Mike and Linda Truschke, and Garry and Janet Bailey—under the oversight of Kim and Scott Lambert. Kim serves as the Western regional coordinator for Let's Start Talking.

A new attendance record was set at the 1995 National Campus Ministries Seminar in Memphis in August with 361 registered participants and over 800 in attendance

during the week. Pepperdine campus ministry interns Jeff Patin, Carl Flynn, Greg Gillham, Kelly Hall, Rod Bradley, Jessica Clegg, Beth Sowell, and campus ministers Scott Lambert and LaJuana Gill participated in the four day event at the Highland Church of Christ.

Five baptisms have resulted thus far in 1995 through the Metro Church of Christ's campus ministry at four colleges in Denver, Colorado, according to Steve Curtis, campus evangelist. Curtis is

spending a month this fall in Tomsk, Russia, working with Metro sponsored missionaries Randy and Sandra Green.

The Pepperdine campus ministry held its annual Fall Retreat in Frazier Park at Camp St. Nicholas with over 200 students attending. Randy Gill was the featured speaker. Campus ministry sponsors 16 weekly small group Bible studies on campus focusing on this year's theme, "Ecclesiam Dei," learning what it means to be a community of God's people at Pepperdine.

Faith Beyond Puget Sound

—Continued from page 7

the workers who remained began worshipping on the east side of the Sound. As Atkinson resigned his second term of ministry in 1973, he left a meager 26-member congregation behind.

In one of those crucial "moments of truth," elder Willard Hoover stood before the tiny congregation and issued the challenge: either they close the doors and begin meeting with churches on the other side of the Sound, or they recommit themselves to the Port Orchard work, buy property with adequate space for parking and expansion, and start afresh. The 26 Christians chose the latter.

A year later, with Hoover himself serving as preacher, the church bought its present property: seven acres situated on

Carr Lane about three miles from the original location. A new spirit emerged, and the church began to grow again—as did the county, with the revitalizing of the shipyard and the building of a new submarine base nearby.

The next three years were rocky for the determined group, but with the help of Lynn Browning and Paul Love, they survived until the arrival in 1977 of Melvin Byrd and his family. As 1979 began, the Byrds moved into a newly completed home on the Carr Lane property, and a year later, construction began on a new church building. By the time the structure was finished in April 1981, the congregation was back up to 125 members.

In 1983, Barney Renfro began preaching for the Port Orchard church when Melvin Byrd moved to Nebraska. But after three years, the Byrd family returned to work with the congregation

and have remained until the present time. In the productive years of Byrd's ministry, the church has steadily grown, added staff and ministries, and supported world missions. Today, Sunday attendance is near 300.

For more than 111 years, the heirs of Stone and Campbell have been part of the development of Washington's great Olympic Peninsula. Only eternity will reveal, however, the full extent of the good and lasting work that has been done by these faithful Christians beyond the Sound.

*Editor's Note: Most of the information in this article was gleaned from **Celebrating the Church: A History of the Port Orchard Church of Christ**, by Jonathan Byrd. If this brief story has piqued your interest, you may order the book by writing to the Port Orchard Church of Christ, P.O. Box 299, 2585 Carr Lane, S.E., Port Orchard, WA 98366.*

Practical Help for Your Congregation

An interview with Dennis Lowe



Editor's Note: Recently, the editors of *Pacific Church News* asked Dr. Dennis Lowe questions about how his work in the M. Norvel and Helen Young Chair in Family Life could help Churches of Christ that want to encourage their families. Here are some of his answers:

PCN: What has been the focus of your efforts so far as you reach out to families?

LOWE: Norvel and Helen Young's dream is to strengthen families and increase the stability of families through utilizing Christian principles. So, my wife, Emily Scott-Lowe, and I have conducted many workshops, seminars, and retreats for churches. Typically held on week-ends, these seminars cover God's plan for marriage, which includes resolving conflict, increasing companionship, and enhancing spiritual intimacy and effective parenting approaches. The sponsoring churches we

have gone to have been very receptive to these presentations.

PCN: Are these seminars primarily for church members or are they used as outreach to the community?

LOWE: Both. Most of the churches primarily attract their own members, but people come from the community as well. For example, recently a congregation determined to publicize our seminar outside the church, and 75% of those who came were not members of this congregation. This was very exciting for the church, and it gave the community a favorable impression of this fellowship.

PCN: Why do you think these seminars have such appeal?

LOWE: It's no secret that some of the greatest challenges people in our society face is at home with their own family. People are looking for hope, for answers. Nearly 40 percent of today's children will not pass their eighth birthday before they watch their parents divorce, and by the time they turn 18, 50 percent of those same children will see a second pair of parents divorce. Add to this the hectic lifestyle, financial strain, depression, grief, substance addiction, or physical and sexual abuse. We know that church families are not immune to these trials. We believe that

God's strength and scriptural wisdom can be applied to these daily challenges, and we try to present this perspective in our seminars.

PCN: Do you offer any consulting for churches interested in providing family ministry?

LOWE: I have recently begun to do more of this. Using a family needs analysis of the congregation, I can plot the needs of that particular church. When I meet with the church leaders, I can help them plan what their finances and personnel can do to meet specific needs. Because of the resources at Pepperdine, we can also recommend professional Christian counselors, as well as books and videotapes that can help an individual need or that can support a church's family ministry.

PCN: How can churches or individuals find out more about your work?

LOWE: I am interested in corresponding with individuals and churches on any aspect of ministry to families. I can be reached at (310) 456-4609. I am also looking for strong families to be part of a network of 100,000 families (See Lowe's article in the next issue of PCN, "The Search for Strong American Families"). I would be glad for people to call or write me concerning this as well.

Cascade College Lectureship October 4-6

Cascade College held its fall Bible Lectureship on the theme of "The Family of God." Speakers included: Dr. Lynn McMillon from Oklahoma Christian on "Families are Forever;" Dr. Jerry Rushford from Pepperdine University on "A People Under the Word: Churches of Christ in Washington and Oregon;" Dr. Paul Faulkner from Abilene Christian University on "Celebrating God's Family;" and Joy McMillon from Oklahoma Christian on "How to Understand Your Mate." Other sessions were taught by Stan Granberg, Stan Freitas, and Shawn Jones.

Larry Sullivan Joins Institute



Larry Sullivan

Larry Sullivan is the new Associate Director of the Institute for Dispute Resolution at the Pepperdine University School of Law. Sullivan provides training in mediation and negotiation skills in the Christian context. He has 25 years experience in ministry and has mediated conflicts in religious settings as well as working in group and individual counseling. He has consulted with churches and offers a preventive approach to conflict.

Silver Anniversary Celebration for Thanksgiving Youthfest

by Emily Y. Lemley

This November marks the 25th anniversary of the Pepperdine Thanksgiving Youthfest. The silver anniversary brings back memories of its historic beginnings and focuses on its future with a new director, Randy Gill. When the Pepperdine Malibu campus opened in September 1972, many were concerned that Pepperdine's founding connection to Churches of Christ would be lost. Those in the administration commissioned Silas Shotwell, then the director of Church Relations, to keep Pepperdine's ties to the Churches of Christ strong. Shotwell conceived plans to bolster church ties, one was to host gatherings of young people from the western states that would utilize the Pepperdine campus and that would focus on spiritual renewal for teens. He chose Don Williams, then associate director of Church Relations, to lead the youth weekend, beginning in November 1972. Williams vividly remembers the first "Thanksgiving Youthfest":

"The Malibu campus was not finished—everything was dirt and rocks—the boys stayed at the Westchester Church of Christ building and the girls stayed at the Inglewood building—sleeping on sleeping bags with no showers available—those kids will never forget that weekend. We rented a tent for the campus services and classes, we rented portable rest rooms, and arranged for all the food to be catered for that first group of 200; Gary Beachamp was one of the first speakers. After the morning sessions we loaded all of the teens on buses for an afternoon at Magic Mountain, then they ended the day with worship in the University's amphitheater overlooking the ocean. The spiritual was the primary thing."

As the Youthfest grew each year, teens looked forward to the "Crazy Olympics" on Saturday afternoon on the Pepperdine track or baseball field. They were divided into teams marked by different colored

visors; later, the teams were designated by T-shirts. Williams remembers one year when the "Olympics" were held on the Pepperdine baseball field:

"We had promised the coaches that we would cover the field with tarps and not do any damage to their carefully manicured grass. But that year we had a popcorn game and popcorn went everywhere—way beyond the tarps onto the outfield. I couldn't keep the kids there long enough to pick much of the popcorn up, so I worried all night that we would never be able to use the baseball field again because we had not kept our part of the bargain with the coaches. The next morning, I walked out to see what I could do to repair a baseball field full of popcorn—birds were covering the field eating every kernel!"

Each year 45-50 Pepperdine students give their weekend to work with teens at the Thanksgiving Youthfest. "The Pepperdine kids who helped were the greatest influence of the weekend—more important than the speakers and song leaders," Williams remembered. It was the "one on one" relationships that developed between teens and Pepperdine students in those three days that made a difference for God in many of the teen lives. During every Youthfest, several teens were baptized and many more returned to their commitment to God. Dan Anders, the minister for the Malibu Church of Christ, preached the Sunday morning sermon for many of the Youthfests. "Those Sunday mornings brought the weekend to a climax for all of us. Dan's lessons were powerful, and the teens left Pepperdine with a song in their hearts for God," Williams stated.

From the 1972 beginning with 200 teens, the Youthfest grew each year, eventually drawing 800-900 teens. "This is comparable to 7000 teens in Texas or Tennessee," Williams reported, "because



Don Williams

in the western states there are fewer Christian teens and youth ministers to draw from." There are very few youth rallies among Churches of Christ that are this large. The youth ministers in California have taken the responsibility of teaching for this event, and Rick White, who worked with Baldwin Park, ran the "Crazy Olympics" for several years.

After 21 years of leading the Thanksgiving Youthfest, Don Williams moved to Texas to a new work, and Wilson Parrish, now a campus minister in Oregon, successfully organized the Youthfest for two years. This next Youthfest will have a new face in leadership and some new ideas incorporated into the planning as Associate Director of Church Relations Randy Gill steps in as director. "We are looking forward to celebrating 25 years of the Thanksgiving Youthfest with a dynamic and challenging weekend," said Gill.

Dr. Jerry Rushford, Director of Church Relations, sums up the impact of 25 years of Thanksgiving Youthfest: "We know that this event has meant so much to the churches in the west and ultimately has drawn many wonderful Christian students to Pepperdine."

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