



# CG Catholic church says goodbye to its priest



By Cindy Weeldreyer  
For The Sentinel

His unique sense of humor is what members of Our Lady of Perpetual Catholic Church will remember most about their departing priest, Roy Antunez, as he enters a new chapter of his life. He began his appointment in July 2011 and for the nearly six years he served this parish he was well-liked and will be missed. “I’m so sad!” Parishioner Penny Bierly said. “He and I came to OLPH about the same time and I will really miss his unique sermons. As a Jesuit-trained priest, he educates and doesn’t preach, so we get great little lessons in the service each week. He also includes humor in the mass. I’ll always remember how he announced to us he was going to have surgery. He said, ‘You people make me sick.’ and we all laughed.” She also praised his culinary skills and recalled the time she was invited to the monthly dinner he hosts in his home as a way to get to know his parishioners better. “I was lucky to have one dinner in his home. The table was beautifully set and the food was heavenly,” Bierly recalled. Betty Krumlauf worked closely with Antunez as the coordinator of the church education program and parish hall. She also will remember him for his sense of humor and his humbleness. “He’s a private person who doesn’t like to be the center of attention, Krumlauf said. “He dresses simply in black clothes but never wears a priest’s collar. He always introduces himself by simply saying, ‘Hi, I’m Roy.’ We worked closely together and laughed together and I will miss him dearly.” Cottage Grove City Councilor K. Michael Roberts is a lifelong Catholic and a cancer survivor. For many years he was a “Dead-head” who followed the Grateful Dead band around the country.

## Couple preaches in Cottage Grove

By Kyle McGowen  
For The Sentinel

In the last 15 years there hasn’t been very many moments in the life of Aaron and Heidi Earlywine’s when they weren’t on the move in the Cottage Grove community. The Earlywine’s have had involvement with ‘ACE charter school’, the ‘Grove Christian Camp’, ‘Safe Families’, and Aaron is the lead pastor of 6th and Gibbs church. They also have six children, so it’s safe to say they remain busy. They say it’s all worth it. “I want to be as authentically close to the self-sacrificing that needs done in this world as I can be,” said Heidi. “How many times have I gotten a coffee or a pair of shoes that I didn’t need when there are people starving on this planet?” Before landing a youth ministry position at 6th and Gibbs church in 2002, the Earlywine’s bounced between ministry jobs and working at a grocery store in Boise, ID and Ontario, OR. Not very long after being youth pastor at 6th and Gibbs, offers began rolling in for Aaron from other church’s. “After we had been at this church for a while we started getting job offers. Once, in five days we received four job offers, not so much offers, but where they called us and asked us to apply. We said, ‘Lord what is it you are saying to us?’ This was unexpected and unsolicited. So we went golfing on May 21st (the couple’s anniversary). We both fasted and golfed and felt like, ‘two years, we were going to stay here for two years.’ So we were golfing that day and then on May 21st two years later he (Aaron) was officially congratulated for being senior pastor at 6th and Gibbs. That was supernatural we felt,” Heidi said. Now Aaron and Heidi will be taking their six children to India, starting in September, for four months. The Earlywine’s have recently been exploring several different locations for the family to have a cultural, impactful, and educational experience. “The school (from India) came to our church to share what their school was like. We talked to them and we were kind of excited about it. That was a couple of years ago, Aaron said. “We wanted it to be a place where we were helpful to the people, encouraging to those that were there, and helpful to the students. So we figured out that India would provide that opportunity to us. We also wanted a place that our education would benefit not just the students, but also the teachers.” Aaron will be teaching at a local bible college near the school where Heidi will be teaching special education classes. The property where they will be staying includes a church, an orphanage, and the school that has 2,400 kids and 140 staff

members, roughly. The family will be staying in a boy’s dormitory. “At first we weren’t sure if we would be that helpful to them, but it’s been great getting their response,” Aaron added. “It’s a big deal for a school to have American teachers come, and it’s an even bigger deal to have Americans stay for an entire term.” “We wanted to be more than just a flash in the pan so that we could learn about it and also be a benefit to the school and to the students.” However, it’s not just Aaron and Heidi that will be involved. “we looked for a place where all of our kids could be involved. Our own kids will be teaching ballet, English slang, and even our little kids will be helping out in classrooms. That’s one of the things that drove us to India, was that all of our kids could be involved. It wasn’t the same with all of the other missions we were looking into,” Aaron said. For many, leaving the country for four months would be challenging enough, convincing six children for some would be an even bigger of a challenge. But the family is excited. “We want them to be minorities. I want them so badly to try to make people understand them after the person has already judged them,” Heidi said. “I had a lot of privilege growing up and I’ve always been assertive. If I need medical care, I go get medical care. Nobody treats me badly. But in Ministry we have been able to go with people to their medical appointments and be treated terribly. Because for some reason there is a prejudice against that person, either that be because of their class, race, or whatever. I’m shocked when that happens. I definitely have a heart for that and I just want my kids to care for equity.” Heidi has had a lot of involvement in the past at “ACE charter school” but stepped down from an official role last spring to pursue a one-year licensing program through Northwest Christian University. The Charter school continues to rent a building from 6th and Gibbs church. In the meantime, Aaron (who previously attended Boise Bible college) is also back in school, looking to earn a degree from Liberty University. “So because of us not knowing exactly what we are going to be doing next, we asked to take a leave of absents from the church for four months and go teach abroad with our entire family. The kids will be enrolled for an entire term in India.” 6th and Gibbs church currently has roughly 160 weekly attenders and meets Sundays at 9:00 am and 10:30 am until Father’s Day when they will begin having one service at 10:00 am through the summer. While Aaron is gone in India his associate will take over for him.

Later in life, after being diagnosed with bladder cancer, he made a holy vow to return to the faith of his youth if God would heal him. “After God healed me, I went to OLPH once and then stopped,” Roberts recalled. “When I went back it was on Father Roy’s first day and we hit it off right away. I spent many years on the road with the Grateful Dead. I believe, as a Jesuit, Father Roy would make a good Deadhead because the band strongly believes love conquers all and the core of his preaching is to love one another.” As head acolyte (priest assistant), Roberts developed a close friendship with Antunez. In addition to his duties as a priest, Roberts appreciates Antunez’s skills as a gardener, reader, and gourmet cook. “I believe Father Roy’s most significant contribution has been with the local Hispanic community,” Roberts said. “He has provided a great deal of support by offering bilingual services and services conducted in all in Spanish both here and in Creswell.” Parishioners praised Antunez for the compassion and attention he provides to others. He quickly learned their names, stays closely connected to them so he can highlight the milestones in their lives in his services. Krumlauf illustrated an example of his commitment to serve others in a parish that stretches across two counties, from Creswell to Yoncalla and Elkton. “One time he had to drive to Yoncalla twice because he got down there and the gate was locked,” she recalled. “He didn’t have their phone number so he had to drive back to Cottage Grove and call them and then drive back down there again for the visit. That’s almost 100 miles of driving and it shows how much he cares about serving people.” The 82-year-old priest came to OLPH after serving a decade at St. Alice Catholic Church in Springfield. The Santa Maria, Calif. native graduated from Santa Maria High School and attended one year of junior college before serving three-and-a-half years in the U.S. Air Force. He then entered the Jesuit Order in Sheridan, Ore. in 1958. When asked why he chose to become a priest he replied, “I grew up Catholic. The years I served as an altar boy created in me the desire to become a priest. I love helping people and working with them in ministry.” In 1971, he graduated from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkley, Calif. and pursued graduate studies at UCLA,

where he spent his final year studying French Literature in Paris. He’s also bilingual and speaks three languages: English, French and Spanish. After earning his master’s degree he studied three years of Philosophy at Mount St. Michaels in Spokane. He then taught French, Latin and English at Spokane’s Gonzaga Prep School for another three years. In the last three decades, he has enjoyed his appointments to a variety of churches in Oregon, Washington, Montana and Hawaii. Antunez was on vacation and unable to be interviewed for this story. In a Sentinel story in 2011, he said, “After serving ten years at St. Alice, I requested a smaller church for my next assignment.” Rev. Antunez said. “I’m happy to be assigned to OLPH and to St. Philip Benizi in Creswell. It’s a good fit for me at this time in my life.” Rev. Lawrence Crumb of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church enjoyed a friendship with Antunez and the pair occasionally met for lunch. “He is a pleasant person to spend time with,” Crumb said. “We had a lot in common being close in age. We were in seminary at the same time and we talk about how it was then and how it is now.” For years the two churches have worked well together to raise funds for Community Sharing by organizing the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on the night before Lent begins. Crumb said he appreciates Antunez continued support of using the parish hall for a wide variety of community events. “He is a humble and kindly man,” Crumb said. “I was glad I had the opportunity to attend one of his last services. I wish him well as he relocates to Los Angeles to work with the poor there.” Krumluf said she understands why he is moving on. “He took this parish because it was smaller but he didn’t realize how much work there is to do here. People expect him to be on-call around the clock.” “I don’t think I’d be the person I am today,” Roberts admitted, “without the positive influence Father Roy has had on my life. We all wish him well as he begins a new chapter in his life.” Antunez will preach one more service at OLPH on Sunday, June 25 at 10:30 a.m.

# Worship Directory

- DRAIN:**  
**HOPE U.M.C.**  
131 W “A” St. Drain, OR  
541-315-1617  
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen  
Fellowship & Song: 11:30am  
Potluck Lunch: 12:00pm  
Worship: 12:30pm
- COTTAGE GROVE:**  
**6th & Gibbs Church of Christ**  
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822  
Pastor: Aaron Earlywine  
Youth & Families Pastor: Seth Bailey  
Services: 9am and 10:30am  
Christian Education  
Nursery for pre-k - 3rd Grade  
www.6thandgibbs.com
- Calvary Baptist Church**  
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290  
Pastor: Riley Hendricks  
Sunday School: 9:45am  
Worship: 11:00am  
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm  
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm
- Calvary Chapel Cottage Grove**  
1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza)  
541-942-6842  
Pastor: Jeff Smith  
Two Services on Sun: 9am & 10:45am  
Youth Group Bible Study  
Child Care 10:45am Service Only  
www.cgcalvary.org
- Center for Spiritual Living**  
Cottage Grove  
700 Gibbs Ave. (Community Center)  
Rev. Bobby Lee  
Meets Sunday 3:00 p.m.  
cslcottagegrove@gmail.com
- Church of Christ**  
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565  
Sunday Service: 10:30am
- Cottage Grove Bible Church**  
1200 East Quincy Avenue  
541-942-4771  
Pastor: Bob Singer  
Worship 11am  
Sunday School: 9:45am  
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,  
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm  
www.cgbible.org
- Cottage Grove Faith Center**  
33761 Row River Rd. • 541-942-4851  
Lead Pastor: Kevin Pruett  
www.cg4.tv  
Full Children’s Ministry available  
Two Services 9am & 11am
- Delight Valley**  
Church of Christ  
33087 Saginaw Rd. East  
541-942-7711  
Pastor: Bob Friend  
Two Services:  
9am - Classic in the Chapel  
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium
- First Presbyterian Church**  
3rd and Adams St • 541-942-4479  
Pastor: Karen Hill  
Worship: 10:00am  
Sunday School: 10:00am  
www.cgpresbynews.com
- Hope Fellowship**  
United Pentecostal Church  
100 S. Gateway Blvd. • 541-942-2061  
Pastor: Dave Bragg  
Worship: 11:00am Sunday  
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday  
www.hopefellowshipupc.com  
“FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE”
- Living Faith Assembly**  
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612  
Pastor Rulon Combs  
Worship & Children’s Church 10:00 am  
Youth 180 Mondays 5:30-8pm
- Non-Denominational Church of Christ**  
1041 Pennoyer Ave • 541-942-8928  
Preacher: Tony Martin  
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am  
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm  
www.pennoyerveccoc.com
- Old Time Gospel Fellowship**  
103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999  
Pastor: Jim Edwards  
Sunday Service: 10:00am  
Join us in Traditional Christian Worship
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi**  
Catholic Churches  
1025 N. 19th St.  
541-942-3420 / 541-942-4712  
Pastor: Roy L. Antunez, S.J.  
Euch. Liturgies; Sat. 5:30pm  
Sun. 10:30am  
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell:  
552 Holbrock Lane • 541-895-8686  
Sunday: 8:30am
- St. Andrews Episcopal Church**  
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050  
Rev. Lawrence Crumb  
“Church with the flags.”  
Worship: Sunday 10:30am  
All Welcome
- Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
820 South 10th Street  
541-942-5213  
Pastor: Kevin Miller  
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am  
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40 am  
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00 pm
- Trinity Lutheran Church**  
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373  
Pastor: James L. Markus  
Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am  
Sunday Worship 10:30 am  
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups  
tlccg.com
- United Methodist Church**  
334 Washington • 541-942-3033  
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen  
Worship: 10:30am  
Comm. Dinner (Adults \$5, Kids Free)  
2nd & 3rd Monday 5-6:00pm  
cottagegroveumc.org
- “VICTORY” Country Church**  
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913  
Pastor: Barbara Dockery  
Worship Service: 10:00am  
Message: 11:00am  
“WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES”

## Worship With Us!

**Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature in the newspaper. If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, please contact the**  
**Cottage Grove Sentinel**  
**@ 541-942-3325**

## Forgiveness: Forgiving Yourself and Others with God’s Help

Do you find it challenging to forgive yourself or other people? A class on forgiveness will be offered from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, June 20 through August 8 (no class on July 4). The class is at the Cottage Grove United Methodist Church at 334 Washington St. For the first three sessions, we will watch a video by Pastor Rob Bell, followed by group discussion facilitated by Pastor Lura Kidner-Miesen. The final four weeks will involve group discussion of Pastor Adam Hamilton’s book Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go. All are welcome. For more information, or to order the \$10 book, call the church office at 541-942-3033.