

**Mission Statement
of the Regional Church**

Our mission is

- To nurture members and congregations
- To establish and receive new congregations

While working together with the whole Church to do Christ's ministry in the world.

Doug and Cathy Myers Wirt
Regional Ministers

Audre Bratcher,
Administrative Assistant

On the Way with Doug and Cathy

- Feb. 25 Hood River Valley Christian, Trustees Doug
- Feb. 25 EMO Board Meeting, Chairing Doug
- Feb. 24 Camp Directors' Meeting Cathy
- Feb. 24 Eugene, Olive Plaza Board Meeting Doug
- Feb. 24 Santiam Ministers' Breakfast Salem Doug/Cathy
- Feb. 21-22 Midwinter Middle School Retreat Cathy/Doug
- Feb. 18 Springfield, Northwood, Visit Doug/Cathy
- Feb. 18 Eugene Area Ministers' Lunch Cathy/Doug
- Feb. 17 Junction City, Board Meeting Doug
- Feb. 17 Albany, Transition Committee Cathy
- Feb. 15 Lynchwood Pastoral Installation Doug/Cathy
- Feb. 15 Murray Hills Worship Doug
- Feb. 12 EMO Bishops and Execs Luncheon Doug
- Feb. 11 Silverton community meal Cathy/Doug
- Feb. 11 EMO Interfaith Advocacy Day, Salem Doug
- Feb. 10 Grants Pass prayer group and food bank tour Cathy
- Feb. 9 Springfield Regional Garden and Medford Come Unity Garden with NBA Staff visiting Cathy
- Feb. 8 Lebanon Worship, Week of Compassion Cathy
- Feb. 8 McMinnville, Worship Doug
- Feb. 7 Regional Board Meeting, Midway Cathy/Doug

News from our Congregations

Northwood: Every member canvas and capital campaign
Dallas: Celebration of Gary Ivey's ministry and retirement to be held on March 22.
The View: Neil Allen has left for Colorado to begin an interim ministry in Denver. Pastor Shari Eggleston continues serving as Pastor at The View.
Midway: Thank you for hosting the regional board meeting 2/7.
Ione: Both the congregational and regional boards have agreed for Ione Community Church to be a fully recognized Disciples congregation, maintaining dual affiliation with the United Church of Christ.

Parkview: Received special offering for Ecuador mission.
Silverton: Pastor Steve Knox leading a trip to the Holy Land.
Lynchwood: Thank you for hosting middle school retreat, February 21-22.
Murray Hills: Chris McFarling has announced her retirement after 32 years of service in the church office.
Nampa: Held Ash Wednesday Taize service
La Viña: A new church ministry meeting in Troutdale.
Keizer: Valentine's Dinner to raise funds for women going to Quadrennial in 2018. That's thinking ahead!

Save these dates!

- March 14 Ontario**
Women's Pray and Play Day
- March 28 Portland First**
Women's Pray and Play Day
- April 17-18 Spokane**
Stewardship Event
- April 18 Silverton**
Women's Pray and Play Day
- April 18 Burley**
Women's Pray and Play Day
- April 25 Pendleton**
Women's Pray and Play Day
- May 16 5 Locations**
Regional Visioning Day
(See front page article of this newsletter!)



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May 16 Regional Vision Gatherings

- Red Rock Boise
- Pendleton First Christian
- Lynchwood Christian Portland
- Dallas First Christian
- Eugene First Christian

Plan to go to the site nearest you and bring 2-3 people with you!!

We will gather in five locations from **12:30—4:30 p.m.** and become connected by simulcast between sites at beginning and end of the time.

Worship in all five locations simultaneously will be followed by some time talking in small groups without the technology switched on. Three to four conversation questions will be raised and the information from these conversations captured to feed into the long range visioning of our regional church.

The five groups will connect for the last 45 minutes for summing up what has been learned. Each group will be facilitated on site by a member of the vision team. The discussion questions will be publicized ahead of time.

.....stay turned!!

Stewardship Event Spokane April 17-18

Over 100 Disciples attended the stewardship workshops last fall in Portland and Nampa. If you didn't, you have one more chance. Bruce Barkhauer and Jerry Lang will lead a two-day event April 17-18 at Country Homes Christian Church in Spokane. Go to <http://www.disciplesnw.org/event/stewardship-retreat> for information.



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My Turn

Last weekend Lynchwood Christian Church opened up their facility for 25 middle school youth and their adult leaders to hold a “lock-in” event. Youth came from 8 congregations and adults from 7 congregations — but here is the kicker — 2 of the adults came from congregations that sent no youth, and kids from 3 congregations came with no adults from their congregation. While juggling people into one of the 5 small groups that would be meeting for discussion twice during the event, I smiled as I thought of adults who would come out of a love for our regional youth ministry. I smiled when I realized there were kids that could come to the event from congregations that could not send adults that weekend, because they knew that their regional partners had their back with the kids.

This is not an invitation for congregations to send youth without adults, for we cannot do the program without a strong volunteer core; yet I thought we were acting like a region that shares youth ministry together. The youth sang, discussed and acted out the text from Micah 6:8 *God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

Keynoter, Pastor Andrew Shepherd from Lynchwood, taught the kids the quotation from Cornel West, “Justice is what love looks like in public.” The next day, when evaluating the event, 3 of the 5 groups mentioned learning that quotation as a highlight of the weekend. Another smile. However, what made me grin last weekend was watching the faces of the Lynchwood worshipping community as the event participants surrounded them in an arc around the sanctuary and sang the theme text to them in three part harmony clear, light, and bouncing around the room. Such a sweet moment of grace.

THANK YOU to Lynchwood volunteers for feeding and housing us, for the adults who slept on the floor and drove us to the water park for play, for Pastor Andrew for sharing his heart, and for the youth who came and were all in for the weekend. Special thanks go to Debbie Harry, from The View, who brought no kids to the event, but as camp craft lady the last few years loved all the kids as her own, and who worked hard the week before to get everything ready, slept on the floor, and then asked me at the end of the weekend, “What are we doing next week.”

In hope, *Cathy*

Women’s Pray and Play Days.....Get a Clue!!!

When was the last time you went on a scavenger hunt? Here’s your chance. Come go on the hunt with your sisters for the places and ways you can deepen your connection to Spirit and to your sisters around the world. This several hour event brings together searching scripture for clues, listening to stories and having time to learn some new ways to deepen spiritual experience.

Look for an event near you and bring a friend! Materials on Web Site.

- March 14 Ontario, Oregon, First Christian Church
- March 28 Portland, Oregon, First Christian Church
- April 18 Silverton, Oregon, First Christian Church
- April 18 Burley, Idaho, First Christian Church
- April 25 Pendleton, Oregon, First Christian Church
- May 30 Junction City, Oregon, First Christian Church



News from our Partners in Africa

Erik Free recently returned from a great visit to the Gogoi farm during which he and Kim were officially introduced to the local church community at an all night revival. Erik received a very warm welcome and spent the night singing and praising God. A house is ready and awaiting their arrival.

Kim Free had to stay home due to being sick with typhoid for the last few weeks. She has taken seven days of antibiotic injections to combat the infection. Thankfully, they were inoculated to typhoid prior to coming to Mozambique, so her case is not as bad as it could have been. She is doing better and hopes to recover fully in the next week or so. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. Kim and Erik have been part of the Portland First, Lebanon, Eugene, Albany, and Silverton congregations before going to Africa.

We have news from Wema, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where Global Ministries is helping to rebuild a hospital where Eugene First member Phyllis Weare formerly served as a mission worker. You can see pictures of the facility now being used to treat patients on our Facebook Page. The water system was partially funded by the Salem First Christian Disciples Women, and the construction has received large financial support through events held to raise funds through Eugene First Christian and Phyllis’ efforts.

2015 Personal Boundary Trainings, Sept. 25-26

Dr. Ruth Fletcher, Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Montana, will lead two identical sessions on personal boundaries on September 25-26. The training on Friday, September 25 will be at a location to be announced in the Willamette Valley. On the next day, Saturday September 26, the same workshop will be available in the Boise area. These trainings will cover the elements of personal and sexual boundaries for church leaders. One day of the training is required for all ordained and commissioned ministers within the Oregon and SW Idaho Region. *Details on locations will be announced soon.*



Board Approves Request on Cascade Camps

The Regional Board of the Christian Church in Oregon & SW Idaho has approved a request to offer summer youth camps in both Oregon and Idaho in 2015. The region will administer three camps at Suttle Lake, Oregon and three camps at Cascade Christian Camp in Idaho, plus the Kids’ Camp to be held at First Christian Church in Ontario, Oregon.

The board has named Rev. Erin Donnell, Associate Minister at Red Rock Christian Church in Boise, to serve in the role of Regional Camping Administrator. She will work in consultation with the Regional Ministers and the Directors of the different summer camp events. We are grateful to Red Rock Christian Church for making her time available to oversee the events at Cascade and Ontario.

