

## On the Way with Doug and Cathy

### 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

Nov. 1	Regional Board Meeting, Portland	Cathy/Doug
Nov. 2	Portland First, Preaching	Cathy
Nov. 2	Lynchwood, Barbara Gifford Memorial	Cathy
Nov. 5	College of Regional Ministers Ex Cte	Cathy
Nov. 6	Columbia Gorge Clergy Gathering	Cathy
Nov. 8	La Grande Visit	Doug
Nov. 9	Ontario First, Preaching	Doug
Nov. 9	Hood River Valley CC, Preaching	Cathy
Nov. 12	Commission on Ministry	Doug
Nov. 12	Women's Prayer Circle	Cathy
Nov. 14	Ecumenical Ministries Finance Cte.	Doug
Nov. 16	Hood River Valley CC, Preaching	Doug
Nov. 16	Hood River Valley CC, Committee Mtg.	Cathy
Nov. 19	Ecumenical Ministries Board, Presiding	Doug
Nov. 19	Eugene Ministers' Lunch	Cathy
Nov. 21-22	Regional Youth Council	Cathy
Nov. 22	Aloha Celebration of Ministry	Cathy/Doug
Nov. 23	Lynchwood, Interim Appreciation	Cathy
Nov. 23	Salem First, Worship	Doug

## News from our Congregations

**Murray Hills:** Hosting Neil Allen Nativity Display December 11-14.

**Aloha:** Celebrates its 40th Anniversary Nov. 21, 2-4 pm.. Completion of ministry, Dec. 28

**Northwood:** Presented a dramatic presentation of the Book of Revelation in November.

**Ontario:** Youth provided pizza and a film about bullying for viewing by the congregation.

**Dallas:** Already collecting things for next year's rummage sale.

**Allison Park:** Members hosted a speaker helping them to understand disaster preparedness.

**Albany:** Installed new Associate Pastor, Douglass Anne Cartwright in November.

**Medford and Red Rock Boise:** Involved in renovation construction projects.

**Parkview:** Member of the congregation in Liberia working with Ebola response.

**LaGrande:** New Pastor, Ray Smith, has started. Installation scheduled for January 11.

**Lynchwood:** New Pastor, Andrew Shepherd begins his ministry November 24.

Andrew comes from Phoenix.

**Peniel Hillsboro:** Relocating to worship in a new location next year.

## Save these dates!

**January 16-18  
Hood River  
High School  
Snow Rally**

**February 7  
Location TBA  
Regional Board Meeting**

**February 28 Junction City  
Women's Pray and Play Day**

**March 14 Ontario  
Women's Pray and Play Day**

**March 28 Portland First  
Women's Pray and Play Day**

**April 18 Silverton  
Women's Pray and Play Day**

**April 25 Pendleton  
Women's Pray and Play Day**



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# Advent Blessings.....

From  
your  
Regional  
Staff



Audre Bratcher

Liz Cronin

Cathy Myers Wirt

Douglas A. Wirt

December  
2014

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Regional Assembly  
May 20-21, 2016  
Hosted by  
Northwood Christian  
in  
Springfield, Oregon

## My Turn

This past month has been sacred and sad for our family as we moved into a time of grief after the death of Doug's mother, Charlotte Wirt. As we sort through the boxes removed from her apartment, I am struck by the things that remain after someone dies—the pictures, the items from trips, the special cards given by family members, the well worn and familiar clothing, the odds and ends that fill up a desk.

What I experience as we sift through these items, repurposing, recycling, and retaining, is a strange kind of wonder about the value we place on items. My mother-in-law collected almost exclusively items that reminded her of family. As a member of a family with 11 children, her stories of the depression era, many that included some tough circumstances, were generally told with a touch of wistfulness. She did not miss the poverty, but she did miss and cherish the people that shared that time with her. The relationships remained in her heart, and the sense of want had blown away with time.

Having been married to Doug for 35 years this month, I am remembering many Christmas times spent with Charlotte. One of my favorite memories of her was the way she would carefully open packages and fold up the paper to be reused the next Christmas. One of the fun moments each year early in our marriage was when the packages would arrive and we saw old familiar wrapping paper. While this was a hold over habit from her childhood, it was also more than that.

Charlotte anticipated that life would hold more gifts and she was getting ready to receive them and give them. The gifts in front of her were things that would pass through her hands, and she trusted there would be more to give and more to receive in days ahead. She held her possessions loosely because she was not defined by them. Charlotte's usual response to a gift was, "You shouldn't have, but I'm glad you did!" She said this BEFORE opening the gifts. The gratitude was not dependent on what was in the box. This year as we gather around the manger I'm hearing a new angel's voice sing, and the song echoes in my heart, "hold on to what matters, shed the rest."

In hope, Cathy



## November Regional Board Report

Moderator Craig Johnson, from Salem First Christian, led the November Regional Board meeting with 27 persons representing 20 separate congregations in attendance. Highlights of the board meeting and the Regional Minister report can be found linked to the News and Events section of our website, [www.oidisciples.org](http://www.oidisciples.org). Highlights included:

- ◆ Received the 2013 Audit, passed the 2015 budget, and reviewed current financial reports.
- ◆ Prepared for the Regional Minister Performance Review process and received report of the Regional Ministers.
- ◆ Shared updates of two congregations in process of affiliation: Ione Community Church, Ione, Oregon and La Vina, Portland, Oregon.
- ◆ Received updated information on two properties in transition: Myrtle Creek property, currently rented and also for sale; Mallory Avenue Property, currently under a transition led by our Executive Committee and legal counsel.
- ◆ Heard a presentation by Greg Anderson, Red Rock Christian, Boise, about the history and current work of the camping program held at Camp Cascade, ID and in local congregations.



## Christmas Offering Materials available

The Christmas Offering is received annually with funds going to our regional church ministries. This is the only annual appeal to congregations for funding where resources go in total to the regional budget. The regional church is funded from the following sources:

- ◆ 58% from Disciples Mission Fund (66% of what is given to DMF comes to region)
- ◆ 11% from income generated by property owned by the region
- ◆ 8% from designated gifts from congregations to the regional church
- ◆ 7% from interest income from investments
- ◆ 6% from the annual Christmas offering
- ◆ 5% from an annual fund drive in the spring targeted to individual donors
- ◆ 5% from misc. sources

A set of four bulletin inserts that explain programs of the regional church, posters in two sizes, stickers and offering envelopes are available to your congregations to invite participation in the Christmas Offering. A mailing to congregations will be sent before the end of November with additional information. The materials for the Christmas offering can also be found at [www.oidisciples.org](http://www.oidisciples.org) — link on lower right of home page.



## Update on Romerillos, Ecuador Project

In November the region sent a check for \$2,500 to the FEDICE project in Romerillos. These funds came from the October fundraising event, individual contributions, and half of the offering from the recent fall women's retreat. This check moved us closer to our goal of \$15,000 for this agricultural development and FEDICE staff support project. In July 2014, 11 members of our regional church traveled to Romerillos and saw the project first hand. Approximately \$3,000 remains to be raised to complete this effort.



## High School Youth Event — Snow Rally in Hood River



The Hood River Valley Christian Church is planning a great weekend event for the high school youth of the regional church. This year's dates are January 16-18. Watch our website and your church mailboxes for information to be sent soon. Stay tuned for details!! For now **SAVE THE DATE!**

## Garden Proceeds to Mozambique

A check for \$1,500 was sent to Global Ministries in early November to be used for capital funds and help in accessing use of a tractor in Gogoi, Mozambique. These funds were the result of sales of the produce and profit of our 2014 Regional Garden. You can read about the Gogoi Farm project from links on the Global Mission page of our website or by going to the Mission Blog written by Kim and Erik Free at: <http://thefreesinmoz.wordpress.com/2014/08/26/gogoi/>

