

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

- Feb. 1 Corvallis, Worship Cathy
- Feb. 1 Beaverton, Murray Hills, Worship Doug
- Jan. 26 Boise, Snake River Dist, Clergy dinner Cathy/Doug
- Jan. 25 Boise, Red Rock, Preaching Doug
- Jan. 25 Nampa, Worship Cathy
- Jan. 25 Boise Red Rock, Building Dedication Doug/Cathy
- Jan. 25 Boise, Red Rock, Trinity Worship Cathy/Doug
- Jan. 22 Hood River, Committee Meeting Cathy
- Jan. 21 Eugene Area Ministers' Lunch Doug
- Jan. 20 Eugene, Olive Plaza Board Doug
- Jan. 20 Regional Visioning Team Cathy
- Jan. 18 Junction City, Preaching Doug
- Jan. 18 Albany, Worship Cathy
- Jan. 17 Junction City, Roy Helms Memorial Doug
- Jan. 17 Lynchwood, Dan Stults Memorial Cathy
- Jan. 17 Eugene, David Waggoner Retirement Doug/Cathy
- Jan 15-16 Regional Minister Orientation Leader Cathy
- Jan. 15 Bishops and Executive Lunch Doug
- Jan. 14 Portland, Commission on Ministry Doug
- Jan. 13 Albany, Committee Meeting Cathy

News from our Congregations

Lynchwood: Will install new Pastor, Andrew Shepherd, Feb. 15 at 2 p.m.

La Grande: Installed their new pastor Ray Smith on Jan. 11.

Parkview, Burley, Red Rock: Hosted Ecuador presentations by David Eggleston Jan. 30-Feb. 1.

Portland FCC: The new youth director is Sean Frederickson. Carol McHugh is new children's ministry director.

Junction City: Memorial for former Glenwood pastor Roy Helms on Jan. 17.

Grants Pass: New Sunday school class on spiritual life taught by Rev. Sandi Richard'.

Eugene FCC: Congratulations to Stephanie Turner and Amy Metzger, winter graduates from NCU!

Dallas: Gary Ivey announced his retirement date for Jan. 31. Darren Anderson continues as pastor of FCC.

Springfield FCC: Close to the financial goal for new sign.

Trees of Righteousness: Dale Sawyer visited from California to officiate for pastors James and Milele Hobbs' renewal of vows on their tenth anniversary

Lebanon: Kerry Grogan called as Interim Pastor.

Albany: Patty Evans has set her retirement date for May 24.

Save these dates!

**February 7
Midway Christian
Portland**

Regional Board
Meeting



February 15 Lynchwood
Installation of Andrew Shepherd

February 21-22 Lynchwood
Middle School Mid-Winter
Retreat

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 18 Burley
Women's Pray and Play Day



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Week of Compassion

Vy Nguyen is the new Director of Week of Compassion, succeeding Amy Gopp. He comes to this position following his work with Church World Service. Vy Nguyen will visit the Oregon-SW Idaho region on February 7-8 to speak to the regional board and to preach at Murray Hills Christian Church.

Week of Compassion is the ongoing development and disaster relief fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Disciples of Christ congregations normally receive a special offering for the Week of Compassion fund on the last two Sundays of February. In some of our congregations, the outreach budget includes a percentage directed to Week of Compassion.



Recently, our mission partner in Ecuador, the FEDICE ministry, shared photos of the women of the community of Maca Atapulo. The photos showed the women paying back their microloans on time, after using the funds to begin raising livestock. Our 2013 regional gathering at Northwood Christian Church in Springfield

received an offering to get this project started. Week of Compassion soon added \$10,000 more.

Week of Compassion works with church partners around the world in times of disasters such as earthquakes, hurricane, volcanic eruptions and floods. Your gifts also help to begin long term economic development programs to provide a means of income to families in areas where unemployment is high and financial resources are low. Week of Compassion also responds to sudden needs in the United States. As our Director, Vy Nguyen is quick to see what help is needed when floods, fires and other disasters strike in the U.S.

Please support WOC.

**February
2015**

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**Regional Vision
Event**

May 16, 2015

In 4 Locations.

**Watch for more
information**

My Turn

It started a few years ago. We will notice it a lot more a few years from now. I'm talking about the retirement of the baby boom generation. You may have read about how this unusually large generation in the United States population has started to reach retirement age. As just one example, I visit at times with the senior housing residences started in Oregon and Idaho by our National Benevolent Association (there are seven just in Oregon and South Idaho). Such facilities know that the needs will only increase in the coming years.

Within the church, we can expect to see a lot of pastors retiring over the next decade. Some have served in churches for all their adult lives. Others accepted a call to ministry as a second career. What can we expect in the church as a large percentage of our ministers reach retirement age?

First, Disciples are blessed with an outstanding Pension Fund. For ministers and for those church employees who are Pension Fund members, the Pension Fund of the Christian Church offers extremely solid options for financial preparations looking toward retirement. You can learn about it at their website, www.pensionfund.org. If your minister and other church staff are not in the Pension Fund system, I urge you to look into this right away.

Second, many congregations will soon experience, if they haven't already, a significant gap in between the average age of the congregation and the age of their pastor. This can present some very creative opportunities. It also can present the possibility of cross-cultural, intergenerational confusion and misunderstandings. Different generations tend to think differently from each other; but remember, that's not the fault of the congregation or their pastor.

Third, I am grateful that so many retired pastors stay involved in the life of the church. The vast majority manage to avoid becoming a "second opinion" or worse, an open critic of the installed pastor. I can easily think of numerous examples where a retired pastor bring gifts, wisdom and encouragement, whether serving as an interim or as a "pastor in the pews." As Psalm 84 says, "they go from strength to strength."

Doug



Women's Pray and Play Events

The women of the regional church have six opportunities to gather this spring. The Eugene area event changed dates since our last information was published because the Just Women magazines that form the basis of some of the events are unavailable until after the original date.

The Junction City event is now scheduled for May 30.

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



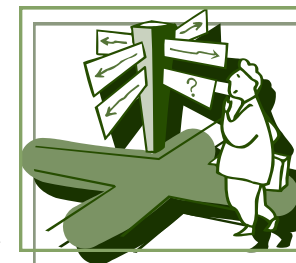
Visioning Process Update

Your vision team has been at prayer and in conversation. Keep your eyes open for information about an event on May 16 that will happen in four locations on the same day. This event will help to move our conversation forward about our ministry as a regional church together.

Dick Hamm convened the vision team by telephone in November, in January and will again in February to help craft the 2015 events.

In the meantime the team will:

- Distribute a Oregon/SW Idaho focused small group conversation guide to two chapters of Sharon Watkins' book, *Whole*, and encourage congregations to form triads for this conversation. The guide will ask questions to the triads and request that they share their thoughts with the vision team around their discernment.
- Invite congregations to partnerships with other congregations that do similar ministry or complementary ministries.
- Continue to work toward weaving the regional youth programming together through the new Regional Youth Council.
- Solicit feedback from pastors during their regular gatherings as the process unfolds.



Stay tuned.....

Middle School Youth Event in Portland!!

Middle School youth are invited to Lynchwood Christian Church in Portland **February 21-22** for a weekend of giant waterslide fun and hearing from the new pastor at Lynchwood, Andrew Shepherd. Andrew comes from Phoenix, Arizona where he served at Foothills Christian Church and, yes, he goes to camp and will be at Suttle Lake Camp this coming summer!



Camp Poster on Line, Registration Forms to be posted SOON

June 12-June 14, 2015

Kids Camp, hosted by Ontario First Christian, Ontario, Oregon

June 15-19, 2015

Junior Camp, Cascade Camp, Cascade, Idaho

June 29-July 4, 2015

Middle School Camp, Cascade Camp, Idaho

July 20-25, 2015

High School Camp, Cascade Camp, Idaho

July 26 - July 31, 2015

High School and Middle School
Suttle Lake, Oregon

August 10-14, 2015

Junior Camp, Suttle Lake, Oregon

*Camp Theme
2015*

Say What?