

Mission Statement of the Region	On the Oregon Disciples Trail with Doug and Cathy	
Our mission is	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 25-27 Hood River Snow Rally (Cathy) January 27 Dallas First Christian (Doug) January 28 NW Assn. Theological Discussion (Doug) January 29-31 Western Regional Ministers (Doug & Cathy) February 2 Regional Board (Cathy & Doug) February 3 Junction City two services (Cathy) February 3 Midway Christian worship (Doug) February 3 Nueva Vida (Doug) February 5 Springfield FCC Budget and Bylaws ctes. (Doug & Cathy) February 6 Columbia Gorge Area Ministers (Cathy & Doug) February 6 Women's Pray and Play Planning (Cathy) February 8-10 Midwinter Middle School, Lebanon (Doug) February 9 Midwinter Middle School, Lebanon (Cathy) February 10 Salem FCC Preaching three services (Cathy) February 10 New members lunch and Elders meeting February 13 Ash Wednesday service Salem (Cathy) February 13 Ecumenical Ministries Board (Doug) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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		



Oregon Disciple

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Why Reinvent the Wheel 2013



New ideas don't necessarily grow on trees, but new ideas often come from conversations that spark new thoughts and build new relationships.

April 13, 9:30-4:00 Oregon Disciples will convene for a series of conversation groups at **Northwood Christian Church in Springfield** to explore ministry ideas and resources for Oregon congregations. Groups will explore topics including: using social media, ministry with homeless neighbors, mission projects in Mexico, spiritual formation groups, new models for congregational governance, increasing stewardship, attracting and integrating new people in congregations, global mission partnerships, investments and bequest opportunities.

The event is free to all, and lunch will be provided for a free will offering. More information on our web site!

We will launch our new Ecuador Project at this event as well.

Called Regional Assembly April 13, 2013, 1:00 p.m.

A specially called Regional Assembly will convene at the Northwood Christian Church in Springfield to vote on changes to the governing documents of the Regional Church to allow for congregations outside of the boundaries of the state of Oregon to join the current Oregon Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). A question/answer session about these changes will be available at 11:00 a.m. that same day led by Todd Adams, Deputy General Minister and President.

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News from the Congregations

Albany: Community Meal now serves between 225 -275 weekly.

Grants Pass: Canine Angels program presented at Disciple Women's Fellowship meeting

Hood River: Tim Graves has accepted a call as pastor of the Condon United Church of Christ.

Junction City: FCC received a bequest and tithed off the gift toward outreach, including a generous amount for Disciples Mission Fund. THANK YOU!!

La Grande: New after school program on Wednesdays.

North Bend: CWF watched video on MLKing, Jr.

Northwood: Concert and dessert for annual Mission to Mexico, March 3, 5:30 p.m.

Pendleton: Family Snow Day outing in February

Salem FCC: Lunch after the worship service for prospective and new members

Trees of Righteousness: Congratulations to Pastor James Hobbs, named by Meals and Wheels as their Employee of the Year!

Save these dates!

March 16
Garden Build Portland FCC

April 12
Clergy Boundary Training at Northwood Christian in Springfield

April 13
Why Reinvent the Wheel Regional Gathering and Leadership Training

April 13
Special Called Regional Assembly (see article in this newsletter)

October 4-5
Fall Women's Retreat

Summer Camp 2013

High School & Middle School

July 28-August 2

Grade School

August 12-16

Suttle Lake Camp near Sisters, OR

Like certain foods and aromas, some Bible verses can bring up particular memories. When I hear 2 Corinthians 4:7 about a “treasure in earthen vessels,” I remember the day of my ordination when Cathy preached on this passage. I think of someone in our Arizona congregation when I hear Psalm 91, because she loved to quote from it. Hebrews 5:14-16 reminds me of the first congregation we served and a Bible Study group there.

Some Scriptures acquire layers of memories. Micah 6:8 is like that for me. This well known verse says that God has shown us what is good; the verse asks what does God require of us, other than to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God. I remember a Bible study on this verse when I first went to Africa. In the small village of Ha Sekepe, Lesotho, we gathered just before dinner in an unlit, one room house furnished with only a few benches. A young believer held the Bible up to a window that had no glass, in order to get enough light. We then heard Micah 6:8 spoken in the Sesotho tongue. A few minutes later, people hurried out to get home before dark. A five year old with one leg hopped on her sister’s back for the ride home. *What does God require but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?*

The teaching from Micah 6:8 comes to mind when I think of two friends who died in the past week. Victor Vaca, for many years our mission partner in Ecuador, died this week. Victor had a distinguished career that took him around the world, for years in Geneva, Switzerland, then to Paraguay, on many trips to the U.S., even into a prison cell for his faith. After all of this, he wanted to return home to Ecuador, where he developed FEDICE, a ministry (Ecumenical Foundation for Holistic Training, Development and Education) based upon Matthew 9:35-37. We have been greatly blessed to know Victor and his vision for justice, in which we see the Christ’s love: “when He saw the crowds, he had compassion for them (Matt. 9:36).”

Like many Oregon Disciples, Cathy and I have also enjoyed the friendship and ministry of Jack Naff, who died recently in Keizer. Jack served as pastor and as interim minister in many Oregon congregations. Our own family is grateful for Jack’s pastoral kindness at an important time in our lives. Part of his legacy is weekend youth events, now hosted in several churches, such as the Hood River Snow Rally. Jack lived with Parkinson’s Disease for many years, a long and difficult experience to be sure. He once wrote that “it won’t get the best of me.” True enough — the best of himself he gave to loved ones, the church and to God over decades of faithful living.

What does God require? God has shown us what is good. Thanks be to God.

Doug



News About Disciples Ministry in the Pacific Northwest

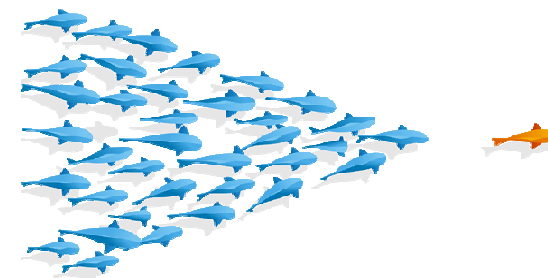
The regional board for Christian Church in Oregon met on February 2. On the same day, the regional board for the Christian Church in South Idaho met in Twin Falls. Both boards approved requests from South Idaho congregations to affiliate with neighboring Disciples of Christ regions. For the Oregon region, this would mean adding eight or nine congregations from the South Idaho region. Several congregations in southeast Idaho have voted to request affiliation with the Central Rocky Mountain region. If approved by General Board and General Assembly, the South Idaho region will release all of its congregations to join these two neighboring regions. Representatives from three regions will work on a transition team to address the necessary details.

To receive congregations outside the state lines of Oregon, the regional church must make minor changes to our governing documents, the Covenant and Guidelines. **Since these changes must be presented at one Regional Assembly and approved at the next, the Oregon regional board has voted to schedule a brief, special called Regional Assembly during our regional event at Northwood on April 13, 2013.**

Women’s Pray and Play Day 9:30—12:30 mini retreats

Oregon Disciple women and friends are invited to spend a 3 hour mini-retreat day together under the theme “*Who’s Following You?*” Event includes a craft, getting a glimpse of our partner Christians in China, learning new ways of prayer, and living inside the Biblical Story of Esther. Each participant receives a Bible Study book about Esther and several other gifts. Cost for the day is \$15.00 per person — *this is down \$5 from last year!* Dates include

- α May 4 at Murray Hills,
- α May 18 in Medford,
- α June 8 at Eugene FCC,
- α June 22 at Pendleton.



March 16 — Join Regional Community Garden!

Thanks to a generous Women’s Endowment Fund grant from the Office of Disciple Women, the Oregon Women’s Circle is sponsoring an event at Portland First Christian Church to explore how congregations can do container gardening on site and donate food to the local food pantries, community meals or food banks. Participants will receive materials to create container gardens at their own congregations with the promise to post progress on the regional Facebook page and web site. Think of this as a regional community garden we grow together!! Call/go to web for details.