

Mission Statement of the Regional Church	On the Way with Doug and Cathy	
Our mission is	• July 15	Junction City
• To nurture members and congregations	• July 14	Vision Team Meeting
• To establish and receive new congregations	• July 13	Lebanon
While working together with the whole Church to do Christ's ministry in the world.	• July 12	Hood River, Worship
Doug and Cathy Myers Wirt Regional Ministers	• July 12	Eugene, Allison Park, Preaching
Audre Bratcher, Administrative Assistant	• July 8	Portland, Women's Prayer Circle
	• July 8	Boise, Red Rock Transition Committee
	• July 7	NBA Board Orientation
	• July 5	Keizer, Worship
	• July 5	Portland, Christ Church meeting
	• July 5	Portland, St. Johns Covenant Worship
	• June 30	Lebanon, Santiam Area Ministers
	• June 30	Springfield, Northwood, Staff Meeting
	• June 30	Junction City, Committee Meeting
	• June 29	Portland, Midway, Meeting
	• June 28	Springfield, Northwood, 3 services
	• June 28	Eugene First, Worship
	• June 28	Portland, The View, Worship
	• June 27	Salem, Specialized Ministries Picnic
	• June 24	Portland, Commission on Ministry
	• June 23	Albany, Verne Catt McDowell Board

News from our Congregations

Albany: Interim Minister, Eric Dale, begins his ministry in September.

Eugene First: held church in the Park first Sunday of July.

Hood River: Youth went on a service trip to Santa Paula, CA where the congregation's Pastor is a former member of the Hood River congregation and a City Councilwoman.

Lynchwood: An Evangelism Group read together Martha Reese book, *Unbinding the Gospel*.

Medford: has called the Revs. Bill and Mary Jacobs as their Interim Pastors, beginning September 15, 2015.

Northwood: Held garage sales for four weekends in July to raise funds for outreach and global ministries.

Pendleton: Congregation made a video to outline their vision: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=42&v=rsAE3t9mm5A>.

Red Rock: Shared a night at the Boise Hawks Baseball game.

Salem: 90 people formed prayer triads that met through the spring as part of a long range visioning time.

Silverton: Had an all church camp out at South Beach Park near Newport.

Save these dates!

- August 10-14** Suttle Lake Camp Junior Camp
- August 14-16** Cascade, Idaho Summer Women's Retreat Ashley Inn, Cascade
- September 12** Hood River Installation, Rev. Alicia Speidel
- September 25** Keizer Boundary Training
- September 26** Nampa Boundary Training
- October 16-17** Beaverton Fall Women's Retreat Hosted by Murray Hills
- October 18** Portland Book Signing with Sandhya Jha Hosted by Portland First
- October 19** Portland Meet Sandhya Jha, Lynchwood



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Boundary Training -- Keizer & Nampa

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) requires active ministers to take regular and recurring training in how to keep appropriate personal boundaries within ministry. Insurance companies also frequently want to know that ministers of insured congregations have had this kind of training.

Boundary training includes strategies for reducing the risk of improper contact between ministers and their parishioners or constituents. Such training can further include strategies for reducing the risk of improper kinds of contact between volunteers and other participants in a ministry, as well as learning to recognize and stop incidents of sexual harassment or intimidation.

The Commission on Ministry has established a boundary training event for 2015. Dr. Ruth Fletcher, Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Montana, will lead two identical workshops in September scheduled in Keizer, Oregon and in Nampa, Idaho. The first training will be on Friday, September 25 and held at Keizer Christian Church, near Salem. The second training will be on the next day, Saturday, September 26 at First Christian Church in Nampa. Both events will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude by 4 p.m. Matt Rosine of the Pension Fund will also be with us to share about the services and resources of this ministry.

Attendance at one of the two events is required for all active ordained and commissioned ministers in the Oregon-Southwest Idaho region. This includes those retired ministers who will want to be considered as candidates for interim ministries.

Registration materials will be available soon by email as well as on our regional website at www.oidisciples.org.



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**Regional Assembly
May 20-21, 2016**

*Hosted by
Northwood Christian
in
Springfield, Oregon*

One of the most interesting and engaging parts of my work as one of your regional pastors is meeting with congregations while they are in the process of ministerial change. In the past few years, transitions have happened in a variety of ways. In our region, we have had pastoral changes in La Grande and Parkview for example, after several months of a pastoral search committee working with a Regional Minister. This occurs during a time of interim ministry, as is currently happening in Junction City and Lebanon. Some of the transitions occur because the pastors have retired, as in the Lynchwood and Dallas congregations, for example. Several of our congregations have entered a time of discernment and planning for six to twelve months before a pastor retires, as at Red Rock and Albany. By giving to Disciples Mission Fund, Disciples congregations help each other through times of pastoral transition.

In September, two congregations will begin interim ministries. Albany First will welcome Eric Dale who comes to them following an interim pastorate in Washington. Eric will join Associate Pastor Douglass Anne Cartwright in working with this congregation. The Medford First congregation will welcome Bill and Mary Jacobs to share the work of interim ministry. Bill and Mary come to Oregon from Arizona where Bill has served for over a decade as the pastor of Mesa First Christian. Mary has done interim ministry in Arizona congregations and the Northern California regional ministry as well working for Week of Compassion.

In the last three weeks I visited in congregations in different stages of pastoral relationship: Eugene First where pastor Dan Bryant has served for over 20 years, Keizer Christian where pastor Bob Arnold is well into his first decade as their pastor, and Hood River Valley Christian where pastor Alicia Speidel is in her second month as pastor. Each one has a good and strong bond with their pastors and the sermons I heard in each place were Biblically based, spoke to the particular moment in the life of the congregation and culture, and offered a solid word of hope. We are blessed by the quality and dedication of the pastors that serve our congregations in this regional church. In gratitude, *Cathy*



Two Women's Retreats in Idaho & Oregon

In the midst of summer, it may seem early to think about fall women's retreats, but now is the time to secure your registrations and to put these events on your calendar so you can look forward to them.

August 14-16 in Cascade, Idaho, women will gather with keynote speaker, Rev. Patty Evans, recently retired pastor from Albany First Christian, for a three day retreat held in the Ashley Inn Hotel. This expanded format gives women time to relax and meet other Disciples Women in a beautiful location.

October 16-17 is a shorter model of retreat without arranged hotel and held at the **Murray Hills Christian Church**. Women stay in their own homes if they live in the area or share local hotel rooms near the church from a list provided. Some limited homestay options are available with advance notice. This year's keynote speaker is Rev. Sandhya Jha, Director of the Oakland Peace Center in California. Women are welcome to come for the whole event or Saturday only (at a reduced price).

You can find details for both retreats on our regional web site:

<http://www.oidisciples.org/#!/womens-fall-retreat-2014/c16t0>



News from Ecuador , FEDICE Partners

FEDICE, Ecuador, our long term partner for ministry, does some of its work in the community of Pusir. Since this community is not one that has been the focus of our regional projects, many of us have not been aware of the good work done in that location. In late 2014, the finishing touches were put on the Computer Center in Pusir. This facility houses 50 computers and provides the only available Internet service in the entire community. Kids come daily to do their homework and adults come to connect with the world.

The Savings & Credit Union of Peace, Development & Equality in Pusir is building a culture of savings among the women who have invested in the project. Saving \$5 a month, to date they have accumulated \$1,040 as a group. This is a huge benefit for the women of Pusir, as moving forward they will have resources at hand for emergencies, business opportunities or supporting their children's' education.

The Savings & Credit Union is also providing much needed seed funding for its members to raise crops, animals and buy products to sell at the markets. With cash in hand, the women can purchase the raw materials (seeds, stock, produce, etc.) needed to bring in income to support their families.

The women have eagerly participated in life and work skills trainings — including accounting, perfume making and aerobics class. They have also taken on maintenance projects as a group at the church, the park and the school.

The women report a newfound sense of unity and the ability to tackle challenges together as a community that was previously missing in Pusir. As Rosa Espinoza told us, *“Before we weren't in contact — everyone went her own way. But now, we talk. We talk about what we need to do, when we need to do it and why we need to do it. We have united women who were divided. Today we are partners and we work together.”*



Seven Church Camps this Summer

Our church camp season is now almost half completed. At this writing three camps have been done: Kids Camp in Ontario (grades K-2), Junior Camp (grades 3-5) and Chi Rho Camps (grades 6-8) at Camp Cascade in Idaho. High School camp in Idaho and three more camps for all ages are planned for Suttle Lake Camp.

We are deeply grateful for Rev. Erin Donnell, Associate Minister at Red Rock Christian Church in Boise, for attending all four of the Idaho camps to give leadership and consistency to the programs. Directors and staff for these camps came from members of the Red Rock, Ontario and Nampa congregations.

The Suttle Lake Camps are being directed this year by leaders from Albany, Ione, and Portland First Christian.

All seven camps share the theme: Say WHAT?!. This theme centers on I Corinthians 13, and explores the “love chapter,” applying its beautiful language and deep meaning to our lives. WHAT stands for: **W**ords matter, **H**olding on to what is important, **A**cting in love, and **T**aking love our into the world. All the camps share a common curriculum and tshirts that match. An evaluation of the camping program this fall will be open to anyone who has interest