

**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**

- March 22 Dallas, Retirement, Gary Ivey Doug/Cathy
- March 21 Sacramento, Regional Minister Installation Cathy
- March 19 Albany Transition Committee Cathy
- March 19 Women's Prayer Circle Cathy
- March 19 EMO Staff Meeting Doug
- March 18 Eugene Area Ministers' Lunch Doug
- March 16-17 Boise, Commission on Ministry Doug
- March 16 Boise, Snake River District Clergy Cathy/Doug
- March 15 Burley, Preaching Doug/Cathy
- March 14 Ontario, Women's Pray and Play Cathy/Doug
- March 12 Bishops and Executives Lunch Doug
- March 12 Interchurch Center Board Doug
- March 12 Columbia Gorge District Clergy Cathy
- March 10 Albany, Transition Meeting Cathy
- March 8 Eugene, First Christian, Worship Cathy
- March 8 Eugene, Glenwood, Preaching Doug
- March 4-6 Seattle, Western Regional Ministers Cathy/Doug
- March 3 Oregon Disciples Foundation Doug
- March 1 Portland, Terwilliger Plaza, Preaching Doug
- March 1 Portland First, worship Doug
- Feb. 25 Hood River Valley Trustees Doug



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**Volume 2 Issue 3**

**May 16 Regional Vision Gatherings**

Since late 2013 your Vision Team has been meeting, praying, and listening to you speak about your hopes and dreams for our new regional church. As our shape and geography have changed, so too our opportunities and mission/worship/program life are changing.

Our next opportunity to listen with you is on May 16, 12:30-4:30. The conversation will happen in five places at the same time.

- ◆ Eugene First Christian Church
- ◆ Dallas First Christian Church
- ◆ Lynchwood Christian Church, Portland
- ◆ Pendleton First Christian Church
- ◆ Red Rock Christian Church, Boise



Schedule for the conversation is being finalized this week. Details, including schedule and topics to be discussed, will be sent to the congregations and posted on our web page middle of April. For now, save the time, invite others, pray for our conversations.



**Easter Offering 2015**

Annual special offerings in congregations support the ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Easter offering goes to general church ministries, including Global Ministries, Homeland Missions, Church Extension, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, National Benevolent Association, Council on Christian Unity and the Office of the General Minister and President. Most congregations will receive this offering on April 5 and 12. You can also give online at [www.disciplesmissionfund.org](http://www.disciplesmissionfund.org).

**Women's Spring Pray and Play Events** 2

**Global Mission Update** 3

**Calendar of Regional Events** 4

**News from Congregations** 4

**News from our Congregations**

**Peniel Hillsboro: April 4,** Mexican dinner to raise funds for new sound system, 8 p.m., \$10 per plate.

**Junction City/Medford FCC:** Hosted guest speaker David Eggleston on FEDICE ministry in Ecuador.

**Ontario:** Thank you for hosting women's Pray and Play.

**Burley:** Newly renovated rooms for children's Sunday School.

**Hood River:** Myrna Phillips will complete her time as the interim minister on June 7.

**Allison Park:** "Living Last Supper" presented on Maundy Thursday with actors portraying Jesus and the disciples.

**Corvallis:** Solar panels are installed and generating power.

**Portland FCC:** Hosting a new church ministry, Christ Church —Portland, on Sundays.

**Albany:** Youth mission trip for spring break to the Yakama Christian Mission.

**Nampa:** Commissioned three people to begin a Stephen's Ministry.

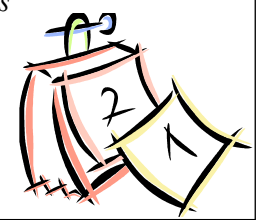
**Trees of Righteousness:** Will celebrate 8th anniversary in April 2015!

**The View:** Visit by Simon of Cyrene (alias Wallace Prowell) for Palm Sunday worship.

**Silverton:** Pastor Steve Knox & group back from Holy Land

**Save these dates!**

- 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!)*



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

*Hosted by  
Northwood Christian  
in  
Springfield, Oregon*



## My Turn

<sup>1</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the Scriptures to us?" Luke 24:31-32

Somewhere between places they meant to be, between their past and their future, a few disciples had a stunning revelation on the Emmaus Road. In the breaking of the bread, they had a vision of Christ being with them in a new way and a new day. Their vision became clear for a moment and this vision changed their future. And ours.

I love this section of Luke 24. This passage shows us people trying to make sense of grim reality, and yet they can welcome a stranger, recognize a new movement of God's spirit and then hurry on to enliven the church.

Right now, we are engaged in a regional church visioning process. May 16 will be an important day along this path. On that day, Disciples will meet in Oregon and SW Idaho in five locations to share our hopes and dreams for future ministries together. The article on the front page of this newsletter gives more details.

Often congregations have heard about the need to try new things in local church ministries. Not all of what worked yesterday will still work today or tomorrow. The same can be true in regional church ministries. One big change is that people have less time to travel long distances for getting together. Another change is that fewer people, including our ministers, know many people in our other nearby Disciples congregations. A notable exception is our youth, who have no trouble at all keeping in touch across the miles. This shows us the third change — that we now have better communications technology than we've ever had before. While we have some challenges in being a unified regional church, we also have some great tools to use.

I'm looking forward to hearing people from across the region share their hopes for what we can do together as Disciples in Oregon and Idaho. I'm looking forward to hearing from you on May 16. May our eyes open anew as Christ's people in these days.

*Doug*



## Women's Pray and Play Days.....Get a Clue!!!

What do scavenger hunts, women in the Bible, prayer practices of Examen, Mindfulness, and Lectio Divina, poker chips, recycling plastic, origami, *Just Women* Magazine, and magnifying glasses that have LED lights on them have in common? All of these things are a part of the Pray and Play events.

Please register ahead so we have enough gifts for everyone, but if you need to register at the door, that is ok too. Please give us a call at 503.226.7648 to let us know you will be coming and how many friends you would like to bring. Registration materials can be found at [www.oidisciples.org](http://www.oidisciples.org). Cost of \$15 covers supplies and magazine for each woman attending.

April 18 **Silverton**, Oregon, First Christian Church AND **Burley**, Idaho, First Christian Church

April 25 **Pendleton**, Oregon, First Christian Church

May 30 **Junction City**, Oregon, First Christian Church

We meet from 9:30 to 12:30 at each site. BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!



## News from our Partners in Ecuador

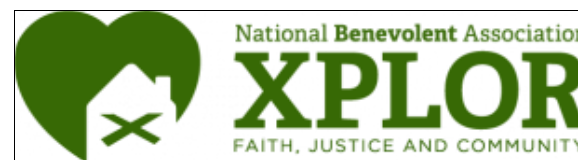
Disciples in Oregon and Southwest Idaho have a close friendship and partnership with the FEDICE ministry in Ecuador. Every two years, a group goes from our region to work, worship, and have fellowship in indigenous Christian communities of northern Ecuador. Here is some recent news about our FEDICE partnership:

- The fundraising goal for the Romerillos project is within \$3500 of completion. The project involves microloans for families to grow a crop and/or raise livestock, giving households a new and regular source of income. To help us reach the goal, you may send contributions to the regional office.
- David Eggleston has visited several congregations in the region now to share stories about the FEDICE ministry. David went on the most recent regional mission trip to Ecuador in July 2014. He has presented programs at Red Rock, Parkview, Burley, Pendleton, La Grande, Medford and Junction City.
- The newest FEDICE project provides scholarship support for people in the communities of Pusir and Pijal to advance their education.
- The next Ecuador mission trip is tentatively scheduled for July 2016!!!

## EMO Director Accepts New Position in Houston

David Leslie, Executive Director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO), has accepted a new position in Houston, Texas. He will serve as the new Executive Director of the Rothko Chapel, a unique interfaith, arts and human rights organization in Houston.

David Leslie has served as EMO Director for seventeen years, succeeding Dr. Rodney Page, a Disciples minister who subsequently led Church World Service. EMO is now one of the largest state ecumenical organizations in the U.S. with multiple community service programs. Regional Minister Doug Wirt currently serves as EMO President and Medford Pastor Alicia Speidel is on the Board of Directors. The EMO Annual Dinner is May 7 and a special event will honor David Leslie on May 28.



## 3 From Region Accepted!!!

CJ Dyer (Salem), Natalie Clark (Salem), and Lydia Dettwyler (Salem/Silverton) have all three been accepted into the Xplor program of the National Benevolent Association.

Xplor is a 10 month program bringing together young adults from around the Disciples of Christ church to live in small intentional communities of service and learning. Each small group member works 30 hours a week in the community and connects to a local Disciples of Christ congregation. Xplor interns live in groups of 3-5 people. Xplor sites are located in California, Ohio, Texas and Missouri. Stay tuned for wonderful stories in this newsletter and watch our regional Facebook page when we start posting pictures of the new adventures of our Oregon/SW Idaho young adults on the move! The program starts in late August.