

Mission Statement of the Region	On the Way with Doug and Cathy
<p><i>Our mission is</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To nurture members and congregations To establish and receive new congregations <p><i>While working together with the whole Church to do Christ's ministry in the world.</i></p> <p>Doug and Cathy Myers Wirt <i>Regional Ministers</i></p> <p>Audre Bratcher, <i>Administrative Assistant</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 23 Salem Women's Pray and Play Day (Cathy) February 24 Northwood Worship (Doug/Cathy) February 24 Glenwood Worship (Doug) February 24 Eugene First Worship (Cathy) February 24 New Church Potluck at Aloha (Cathy/Doug) February 26 Santiam Area Ministers (Doug) Feb. 26– Mar. 2 Pacific SW Region Women's Event (Cathy) March 3 Portland First Worship (Doug) March 3 Murray Hills Worship (Cathy) March 3 Peniel, Dedication Service for Cornelio Garcia March 6 Columbia Gorge Ministers (Doug) March 8-9 Regional Youth Council (Cathy) March 10 Glenwood Preaching (Doug) March 10 Salem First 2 Worship Services (Cathy) March 12 Lynchwood, Faithful Planning (Cathy) March 13 Commission on Ministry (Doug) March 14 Bishops and Execs Lunch EMO (Doug) March 16 Regional Garden Build Portland FCC (Cathy) March 17 Ontario First Christian Pastor Installation (Doug) March 17 Taize Service Portland First (Cathy)

News from the Congregations

Aloha: hosted a potluck dinner with the New Church team. Thank You!!!

Eugene FCC: new sinks, tile and counters donated for Sunday breakfast program

Glenwood, Eugene: Pastor Gil Knox announced his retirement from his nine year ministry.

Ontario — Installed Joe Culley as new Pastor.

John Day : celebrating additions of new people!

Medford: In the midst of their remodeling project

Keizer: added Gomer's House outreach of Trees of Righteousness to the 2013 mission giving

Allison Park: Hosted Eugene area memorial for Jack Naff

Peniel Hillsboro: meeting on Saturday nights at Aloha CC

Corvallis: holding a stations of the cross walk on Maundy Thursday

Trees of Righteousness: 6th Anniversary, April 7, 4 p.m.

Silverton: Kids Choir is in rehearsal for a May musical

Save these dates!

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)

April 14 — 4:00 p.m.
Memorial Service for Victor Vaca hosted by Salem First Christian Church



Oregon Disciple



www.ChristianChurchinOregon.org
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Why Reinvent the Wheel 2013

April 13 Oregon Disciples will gather in Springfield to tell each other about ministry ideas that are working in their congregations and encourage each other with new ideas with track records right here in Oregon. Here is why to come and join us...

- Learn from other *Oregon Disciples* how they
 - *Attract and retain new people in their congregations
 - *Grow spiritually in prayer groups
 - *Minister with homeless neighbors
 - *Increase personal and mission giving in the church
 - *Reach out in ministry in Mexico.
- Meet our Associate General Minister, *Dr. Todd Adams*, a gifted Disciple leader, and hear from him about;
 - *More effective church governance models for the 21st century
 - *Best financial practices for congregations
 - *A new shape for regional ministries in the Pacific NW.
- Visit with *Jerry Lang* of the Christian Church Foundation to see how major financial gifts can strengthen your church.
- Greet *Blanca Puma* of FEDICE, who will tell about our brand new mission project sponsored by Oregon Disciples at Maca Atapulo, Ecuador.

Memorial Service for Victor Vaca, April 14, Salem

First Christian Church in Salem will host a Celebration of Life service in honor of *Victor Vaca* on Sunday, April 14 at 4:00 p.m. In order for the church to prepare, we'd like to get an estimate of how many plan to come. Please respond to the invitation on the Facebook event linked to our website events section or notify us by phone or email.

**Summer Camp
2013**

**High School &
Middle School**

July 28-August 2

Grade School

August 12-16

**Suttle Lake Camp
near Sisters, OR**

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God.” Ephesians 2:19

At the 2012 Regional Assembly in Albany, Cathy and I shared our hope that Disciples in Oregon will know each other and learn from each other. As we told stories about the ministries we share, we enjoyed seeing and hearing your reactions. We really enjoyed seeing you together in one place. It doesn't happen often, just a few days out of every three hundred sixty-five.

This year, on April 12-13, Oregon Disciples can learn from each other again. Our special guest will be Dr. Todd Adams. He will speak on Friday, April 12, about financial ethics and practices in the church. This is a required course for our ministers, and a “must see” anyway. You don't have to be a minister to come on Friday. Todd will also speak on several topics on Saturday.

While Cathy and I love to tell the stories, we also love it when you tell each other about fruitful ministries in your congregations. For example, we'll be meeting at Northwood Christian Church in Springfield. Did you know that the most recent Disciples Yearbook lists Northwood as having the most (77) total additions of new people (baptisms and transfers) among all Disciples churches of between 251-500 members? True, one size doesn't fit all; but it might be good to know some of the things that have helped this congregation here in Oregon to reach new people.

Do you know what they do for spiritual formation groups at Eugene FCC? Would you like to learn from that example or share how people pray together and grow spiritually where you go to church?

First Christian in Pendleton has seen increased financial giving, even before the recession has fully lifted. There's another area for sharing ideas. Some of our churches have received major gifts from the will of a beloved member who died. Does that just happen, or can we encourage that to occur?

And if you've noticed, lots of Oregon Disciples are doing a wide variety kinds of mission — nearby with homeless neighbors, or in Mexico, and now continuing on to a new special project in Ecuador. Would you like to talk about use of social media in ministry, or how to protect the money given to God through the church, or what's a board president or moderator supposed to do, or what's the best way to organize our church boards for today? You don't need to “reinvent the wheel.” Or to use another image, our churches don't prosper as islands unto themselves. Don't be a stranger, come to Springfield, April 12 and 13.

Doug

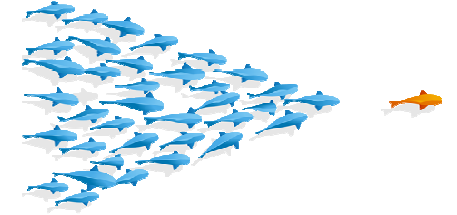


Special Regional Assembly Called for April 13, Springfield

This may be the shortest “Regional Assembly” ever. On Saturday afternoon, April 13, we will have a special “called” Regional Assembly to consider changes for the regional Covenant and Guidelines. The changes will expand the geographical boundaries of the Oregon region to include Disciples congregations in south Idaho. Come and hear which churches have requested membership in this region. Meet some south Idaho Disciples leaders. It will be from 1:15 to 1:45 pm at Northwood, during *Why Reinvent the Wheel?*

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



Regional Community Garden fun

On March 16, 22 people gathered at Portland First Christian Church to launch the Regional Community Garden. This event was funded by a grant from the Women's Endowment Fund of the Office of Disciples Women. People from six Oregon Congregations and two resource people from the Foods Resource Bank, spent the day learning how to do container gardening, planted two containers, enjoyed a scrumptious lunch, and learned how Week of Compassion Ministry is teamed with the Foods Resource Bank to partner food growers in North America with farmers around the globe in solidarity growing projects. The Oregon project includes 25 large planters scattered between congregations and church member homes. If you would like to grow food in your own container or a grow a row in your garden as part of this project....

- Contact the regional church office to get a laminated card like the one to the left to put in your garden.
- Take a picture of your garden every two weeks to share on the regional web site.
- Give all the food grown away to a food bank, community meal or shelter.