

**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

- May 26 Silverton, Santiam Ministers' Gathering Cathy/Doug
- May 24 Albany FCC, Retirement of Patty Evans Cathy
- May 24 Portland FCC, Commissioning Adam Phillips Doug
- May 21-22 Visit from Matt Rosine, Pension Fund Doug/Cathy
- May 21 Portland First, Prayer Ministry Discussion Cathy
- May 21 Columbia Gorge District Ministers' Meeting Cathy
- May 21 Lynchwood Women's FEDICE Presentation Doug
- May 20 Junction City Doug
- May 18 Regional Vision Team Cathy/Doug
- May 17 Portland, Christ Church Worship Doug/Cathy
- May 16 Regional Vision Event Dallas Doug
- May 16 Regional Vision Event Boise Cathy
- May 13 College of Regional Ministers Meeting Cathy
- May 12 Regional Vision Team Meeting Cathy
- May 7 Ecumenical Ministries Annual Dinner Doug/Cathy
- May 6 Commission on Ministry Doug
- May 3 Glenwood, Board Meeting Cathy/Doug
- May 3 Glenwood and Northwood, Worship Doug
- May 3 Springfield First, Worship Cathy
- May 1-2 Healthy Congregations Workshop Doug
- May 1 Medford Executive Committee Cathy

News from our Congregations

Albany: Has called Eric Dale to be an interim pastor beginning in September.

Lynchwood: Elders discussed the College of Regional Ministers pastoral letter about Racism.

Northwood/Parkview: Pastor Barry Lind, Northwood CC preached sermon at Parkview. These two congregations are affinity partners.

Red Rock Boise, Dallas, Lynchwood, Pendleton, Eugene FCC: Thank you for hosting the May 16 regional visioning event conversations.

Pendleton: Continuing to work with Dick Hamm as Consultant.

Hood River Valley: Pastor Alicia Speidel begins ministry in June with installation scheduled for Saturday, September 12. Save the date!

Ontario: Preparing to host kids' camp in their building in June for Snake River District.

Murray Hills: Offering hospitality for local police in their parking lot with snacks and drinks for break times.

Eugene FCC/Northwood: Three week outreach to houseless neighbors.

Medford and Albany: Bid farewell to pastors Alicia Speidel and Patty Evans after over a decade of service each.

Save these dates!

- June 6 Murray Hills CC**
Regional Board Meeting
- June 7 Hood River Valley CC**
Last Sunday Rev. Myrna Phillips
- June 12-14 Ontario FCC**
Kid's Camp
- June 15-19 Cascade Camp**
Junior Camp
- June 29-July 4 Cascade Camp**
Middle School Camp
- July 20-25 Cascade Camp**
High School Camp
- July 26-31 Suttle Lake Camp**
Middle School/High School Camps
- August 10-14 Suttle Lake Camp**
Junior Camp



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Church Camp Begins!



On June 12 the first of seven church camp experiences kicks off at First Christian Church in Ontario, Oregon. Kids camp invites graduates of kindergarten through second grade to a weekend camp experience in the Ontario First Christian Church facility. The staff for this camp comes from the Ontario congregation and Red Rock Christian church in Boise.

In June and July children and youth will gather for three separate week long camps at Camp Cascade in Cascade, Idaho. On Memorial Day weekend, a group of over 20 folks went up to the camp to clean up and get it ready for this year's events. Erin Donnell, Associate Minister at Red Rock Christian in Boise, is representing the regional church at all four of these camps and helping to organize the details on behalf of the regional church. THANK YOU ERIN!! Directors are from the Snake River and Blue Mountain Districts congregations.

In July and August three more camps will be sponsored by the regional church at Suttle Lake Camp outside of Sisters, Oregon. The middle school and high school camps will meet in the same week on opposite ends of the campground. Grade school camp will meet two weeks later on one side of the grounds. Regional Ministers Doug and Cathy Wirt will attend these camps. The Directors are from Blue Mountain, Santiam and Columbia Gorge District congregations.

Please pray for the staff of these camps and for the campers as the explore the theme "Say What?" examining the scripture from I Corinthians chapter 13. We hope you will encourage the children and youth from your congregation to attend and listen to their stories when they return home.



Volume 2 Issue 5

August and October Women's Retreats 2

Region meets \$15,000 goal for FEDICE project 3

Calendar of Regional Events 4

News from Congregations 4

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

*Hosted by
Northwood Christian
in
Springfield, Oregon*

One meeting in 5 Places What we learned on May 16

On May 16 we tried something new.....we met in five locations (one in each district) simultaneously to discuss the mission and vision of the Christian Church in Oregon and SW Idaho. In Eugene, the site from which our simulcast went out to the other four sites, Dick Hamm led the conversations in the sanctuary. Dallas participants met in the fellowship hall and experienced a power outage for part of the event time. Our smallest group, in Pendleton, met in a room together. The Boise event took place in the brand new worship chapel at Red Rock Christian Church, and the Lynchwood site met in the sanctuary and hallways. We believe we had over 125 people from 28 of our 42 congregations represented.

We worshiped together, heard from Dick Hamm about the horizon for the church today, disconnected the video feed and held discussions in small groups at each site, and then we came back together for closing led by Dick Hamm which included news and pictures from each site.

The Vision Team met on May 18 using the zoom technology that allowed us to meet from Portland, Ione, Burley, La Grande and Medford to review what we had learned from the event about technologically facilitated meetings and the topics of our conversations. We learned:

- ◆ This way of meeting helps us to include more people in important conversations.
- ◆ We can worship, sing, read scripture, and pray while geographically spread out.
- ◆ This way of meeting is worth paying the cost of having ad free platform next time.

The team will continue to evaluate and summarize the ideas received from the small group discussions and distribute a summary by posting it on our regional website and sending a summary to the congregations and participants in early June. In addition, the Vision Team is creating three task groups, for which they will recruit members from outside the Vision Team. These groups are: 1) Technology Committee to review and implement ideas from the May 16 gatherings; 2) Conversations Committee to initiate further targeted discussions on a variety of program areas in the regional church; and 3) Listening Committee to seek input from

congregations and membership that have yet to participate in the vision process. Thanks for your prayers and for your participation in this new way of being church together.



In hope, *Cathy*

Women's Retreats August in Idaho and October in Oregon



Women's retreats this summer and fall bring us two wonderful leaders.

In Cascade, Idaho, August 14-16, Rev. Patty Evans, recently retired pastor of Albany First Christian Church, will lead under the theme "God's Vision for Me". The Ashley Inn offers gracious hospitality in a beautiful place. This three day retreat in a hotel, offers a time of fun, rest and inspiration.

In Beaverton, Oregon, October 16-17, Rev. Sandhya Jha, Director of the Oakland Peace Center, will speak on the theme "Lift Every Voice". Thank you to Murray Hills Christian Church for hosting us again this year. This 24 hour retreat held in a church building, brings an oasis for renewal while participants stay in homes or local hotels.

By offering two styles of retreat ministry, in two locations, we hope that women of the regional church and their friends will find an event that will be a blessing to them. Information and registration materials for both retreats can be found at www.oidisciples.org or by calling 503.226.7648 for additional copies.



Goal Reached for FEDICE Project for Romerillos!!

Gifts for the FEDICE project at Romerillos, Ecuador have now reached the goal! The project provided loans and training for families in the Romerillos area to begin raising onions, chickens and guinea pigs. Disciples from the Oregon & SW Idaho region visited Romerillos in 2014. The project goal was \$11,000 with another \$4,000 added for FEDICE staff support.

In addition to many gifts given in the past year and a half by groups and individuals, women at the 2015 Pray and Play events gave offerings for Romerillos. Then a large gift from Parkview Christian Church in Meridian, Idaho put us over the top!

Thank you to all. And as FEDICE director Blanca Puma likes to say, "Thanks, God!"



Camp Fundraiser in Boise

2015 marks the 6th anniversary of the God Rocks! Festival, supporting the church camp programs of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Southwest Idaho!

The mission of the event is to provide a family-friendly festival of music and fun to promote the ministry of Jesus Christ through our youth camp programs, and to provide for the maintenance of the Camp Cascade church camp facility.

Come join the fun on June 20, 2:30-9:00 p.m.
at Red Rock Christian Church.

Check out the event website, complete with music video at www.godrocksfestival.org

Summer Reading Suggestion for Congregational Leaders

On October 18 Sandhya Jha, author of *Pre-Post-Racial America*, will be at Portland First Christian Church for a book signing and a question and answer session about her recently published book. Sandhya is an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a graduate of the University of Chicago Graduate School and Johns Hopkins University.

Her previous book, *Room at the Table*, explored the history of communities of color within the Disciples of Christ movement.

Rev. Jha currently lives in Oakland, California, where she works with the Oakland Peace Center, in the historic building which has housed First Christian Church, Oakland. She has written for *New Day Magazine* as well as for *Just Women Magazine*.

Over the summer, congregational leaders are encouraged to read Rev. Jha's new book.

A study guide with more information for offering the book as a wider congregational and regional study will be launched in the fall.

