

**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**

- Jul. 26-Aug. 1 Middle School Camp and Training Doug
- Jul. 26-Aug. 1 High School Camp and Training Cathy
- August 3 Murray Hills Worship Doug
- August 3 Portland First Christian Worship Cathy
- August 6-8 Chicago, North American Pacific Asian Disciples Gathering Doug
- August 6-7 Springfield, Regional Community Garden Cathy
- August 9 Salem, Western Side Regional Picnic Doug/Cathy
- August 10-15 Junior Camp and Training for Camp Cathy
- August 16 Salem First Women's Tea Cathy
- August 17 Portland FCC Billie Watkins Memorial Cathy/Doug
- August 19-23 Indianapolis, College of Regional Ministers Doug
- August 18 Salem First Long Range Planning Cte. Cathy
- August 19 Lebanon, Congregational Meeting Cathy
- August 21 Hood River Bylaws Revision Team Cathy
- August 22 Springfield hospital and Community Garden Cathy
- August 23 Lynchwood Search Team Cathy
- August 24 Preaching Escudo y Fortaleza Doug
- August 24 Lebanon, Worship and Elders Meeting Cathy

**News from our Congregations**

**Red Rock, Boise:** Remodeling project started.

**The View:** Establishing a fund to support regional ministries with the Oregon Disciple Foundation.

**Murray Hills:** Exploring the possibility of a new church ministry outreach.

**Parkview:** Dedicating new sanctuary and installing Pastor Gene Hill on 10/5.

**Corvallis:** Presentation by Ecuador travelers on 9/7.

**La Grande:** Dale DeLong honored by with Oregon Mayors Assn. award for his 24 years as mayor of Island City!

**Northwood:** Dinners for eight, (called D48) bringing people together for fellowship.

**Keizer:** Final phase of capital campaign updating facilities.

**Ione:** Hosted BBQ to benefit Nazarene church that burned down in Arlington last year.

**Escudo y Fortaleza:** Doug Wirt guest preacher on 8/24.

**Salem:** Thank you to Rick Ikeda for leading the Ecuador mission trip once again.

**Nampa/Portland FCC:** Thank you for hosting the regional stewardship events!

**Lynchwood:** Search team meeting with Cathy Wirt.

**Save these dates!**

**September 19-20 Portland FCC Stewardship Event (see front)**

**September 21 Nampa FCC Stewardship Event (see front)**

**October 5 Parkview, Boise Installation of Pastor Gene Hill**

**October 17-18 Beaverton West Side Women's Retreat Hosted by Murray Hills Christian (see page 3)**

**November 1 Portland Regional Board Meeting**

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



www.oidisciples.org 503.226.7648 0245 SW Bancroft Suite F, Portland 97239

**Regional Stewardship Events**

**September 19-20, Fri 7-9 p.m. Sat. 10-4, Portland FCC**  
**September 21, 3:30-7:30 p.m. Nampa First Christian**  
**“Creating a Culture of Generosity”**

**Learning, Teaching and Practicing Christian Stewardship**

The stewardship workshops are coming up soon. Who is coming from your congregation? Bruce Barkhauer of the Center for Faith and Giving of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Jerry Lang of Christian Church Foundation will be with us to help your ministries of giving. Through Bible study, practical resources, and shared story, our leaders will help us to create stewardship action plans for congregations with multiple take home resources and ideas.

This event is for everyone, and it will be especially useful for Trustees, Elders, Congregational Board Chairs/Moderators, Pastors and Teachers, Mission Committees, and Finance and Stewardship folks. Register with the group from your congregation or individually through the regional office. A free will offering will cover cost of our meal. Information at <http://www.oidisciples.org/#!/news/c1h8s>.

**Ecuador Travelers Available for Visits**

You can now invite to your congregation any of the eleven persons from eight congregations who returned from their trip to Ecuador on July 22. They worked on a community center in the town of Cachaviro, attending worship there and in Romerillos, where we have helped support microloans for families raising onions and livestock animals (about \$5000 is still needed for this project).

Bethany Waggoner, Global Ministries volunteer with FEDICE in Ecuador, will visit Oregon in late October. Watch for an announcement of an opportunity to hear her speak.



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**Suttle Lake Camp Dates 2015**

**CYF/Chi Rho July 26-31**

**Juniors August 10-14**



## My Turn

This summer I have seen a great variety of Disciples of Christ ministries near and far. I've visited churches in eastern Oregon, Idaho, the Willamette Valley, in Portland and at the southern Oregon coast. I had the blessing of visiting the FEDICE ministry in the Ecuadoran Andes and our youth camps in the Cascades.

I had another high point with the North American Pacific Asian Disciples convocation in Chicago. Then on August 17, Cathy and I were moved in another way, when we celebrated the life of Billie Lee Watkins, an active Disciple in our region and the mother of our General Minister and President Dr. Sharon Watkins. Her life has greatly blessed us and so many more.

Just recently I returned from meetings of the regional ministers, regional moderators and the Team Leadership Council (or TLC, general, regional and educational ministries) in Indianapolis. One piece of news from there is that the regional ministers elected Cathy Myers Wirt as the new President-Elect of the College of Regional Ministers. Congratulations! Another item is that the general church is envisioning a new model of mission planning and governance for the future. You and our congregations will have options for giving input to this process.

At the "TLC," our General Minister reminded us that we Disciples have a brief but essential confession of faith in Jesus Christ. We believe Christ's love "is enough" to bring us together in unity. More than any statement of doctrine or interpretations, Christ "is our peace," able to break down the dividing walls we set up (Eph. 2:14). Dr. Watkins declared that "Jesus is enough" for us to overcome all that separates.

I am grateful for a summer that has shown me the love of Christ in so many ways and places.

Giving thanks for you as well,

**Doug**

## Regional Garden Harvest Beginning

The beans at the regional community garden are almost ready for harvest!! To be truthful, the first 1-2 rows were harvested this past week as we try to learn about harvest techniques. We are learning about how to tell when they are ready and dry enough to pick. Special thanks to Lisa Landers and Susan Latham for MANY hours tending the plants, weeding, watering and loving the garden. If you are able to come and help harvest some time during the month of September, give Lisa a call at 503.956.4720 and schedule a time to come to the farm to lend a hand.

The beans will be donated to the feeding programs in Disciples congregations of the regional church. Each bed was dedicated to a feeding ministry. Beds included The View, Corvallis Stone Soup, Medford Community Meal, Silverton Community Meal, Albany Community Meal, Murray Hills Food Pantry, Lebanon Soup Kitchen, Grants Pass Food Bank, Eugene First, Red Rock Community Meal, and Salem Culinary Program to name a few. Watch our Facebook page for pictures of the harvest season and come see the garden yourselves!!



## Parkview Christian Dedicating New Building, Installing Pastor

**October 4, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Parkview Christian in Meridian, Idaho will hold an open house to share their joy at moving into their new facility. Formerly known as University Christian in Boise, the church has moved to a new site on Ustick Road.



On **October 5 at 10:45 a.m.** the congregation will celebrate World Communion Sunday and dedicate their new church building. At **3:00 p.m.** they will install their new pastor, Rev. Gene Hill. If you are in the area, please come and share in the celebration.

## Fall Women's Retreat Hosted by Murray Hills

What do you do when you find yourself "Up the River" in your life with situations you find hard to bear alone? You lean into your sisters, and you lean into prayer. This fall, the Western Regional Women's Circle will explore how we live into life's changes together and in prayer.

Our keynote speaker is Susan McNeely, an Indiana Disciple, who, after retirement from the Eli Lilly Company, went to teach English with Global Ministries in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Her moving blog entries about her time in Congo tell first hand of the deep faithfulness of Congolese Disciples. You can read about her journey at [susanmcneely.wordpress.com/](http://susanmcneely.wordpress.com/).

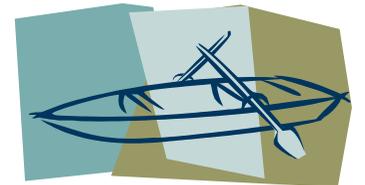
Besides time with Susan, we will be celebrating our Regional Community Garden harvest with a fun Friday evening bean shelling party and games after sharing a baked potato bar.

The usual free trade craft sale will be ready for you, an Italian Soda bar, a book sale as well as workshops, worship and times to hang out and see long time friends and meet new ones.

We will once again be collecting food for the Murray Hills Food Pantry — this year we are asking people to bring canned and dried beans — a great source of protein and easy to cook.

Women are invited to come for Friday and Saturday or one day only. Newcomers receive discounted prices, and if you bring a group, there are even more savings.

Participants stay in area hotels, and a list of close by options are on our web page at [www.oidisciples.org](http://www.oidisciples.org). Registration materials can also be found at the same link.



The gear is packed up, the thank you notes sent, and the group camp pictures are about ready to be sent! We

## Camps, Camps, Camps

had a great camp season at Suttle Lake Camp. Congregations also participated in camps at Cove Camp and Camp Cascade. We are grateful to all the people of who gave of their time and talents to make sure our children and youth had good experiences.

### Camp dates for 2015 at Suttle Lake are:

High School and Middle School, July 26-31

Juniors August 10-14

Dates for other Camps will be publicized when they are set.

