

**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*

**News from our Congregations**

**Christ Church, St. Johns, and Pacific Islands Family Church:** Sent leaders to the Hope Partnership Leadership Academy in Indianapolis.

**Corvallis:** Held annual Craft Fair with profits going to relief effort in Nepal.

**Grants Pass:** Held a party to honor Wes Winn on his retirement after 23 years as their pastor.

**Keizer & Nampa:** Hosted Clergy/Leadership Boundary Training events Sept. 25-26.

THANK YOU!!!

**Trees of Righteousness:** Participated in NBA Incubate gathering in Scottsdale, AZ.

***On the Way with Doug and Cathy***

Oct. 27	Lebanon Committee Meeting	Doug
Oct. 27	Corvallis, Women's Group Planning	Cathy
Oct. 27	Keizer, Santiam Ministers Breakfast	Doug/Cathy
Oct. 25	Grants Pass Party for Wes/Debbie Winn	Cathy/Doug
Oct. 25	Medford Worship	Cathy
Oct. 25	Grants Pass, Preaching	Doug
Oct. 24	Yachats, Memorial for Marie Green	Doug/Cathy
Oct. 21	NBA Program Committee	Cathy
Oct. 21	Eugene, Glenwood Site Visit	Doug
Oct. 21	Eugene, Area Ministers' Lunch	Doug
Oct. 20	Eugene, Olive Plaza Board Meeting	Doug
Oct. 20	Portland, Ecumenical Ministries Cte. Mtg.	Doug
Oct. 19	Portland, Lynchwood Anti-Racism Mtg.	Cathy/Doug
Oct. 18	Hillsboro, The View, Speaker	Doug
Oct. 18	Portland, Christ Church, Worship	Cathy
Oct. 18	Beaverton, Murray Hills, Worship	Cathy
Oct. 16-17	Beaverton, Fall Women's Retreat	Doug/Cathy
Oct. 14	Beaverton, EMO Second Home breakfast	Doug
Oct. 11	Meridian Parkview, Preaching	Doug
Oct. 11	Boise, Red Rock transition cte	Doug
Oct. 11	Portland, St. Johns, Worship	Cathy

**Save these dates!**

November 7	Portland
	<i>Regional Board Meeting</i>
February 13	Salem
	<i>Pray and Play for Women</i>
February 20	Eugene
	<i>Pray and Play for Women</i>
February 26-28	TBA
	<i>Middle School Retreat</i>
March 19	LaGrande
	<i>Pray and Play for Women</i>



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# **Thanksgiving Offering**

The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These learning communities are an extension of the church, challenging students to understand and respond to God's call to serve. From the beginnings of the movement, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning, encouraging students in their intellectual pursuits. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps underwrite the education of students attending one of our 14 undergraduate institutions and our 7 seminaries or divinity houses.

Seminarians from Oregon and Idaho study at many different schools. Some attend classes on campus and others participate in new online programs. Currently, we have students from this region enrolled at Disciples of Christ related schools such as Brite Divinity School in Texas, University of Chicago Divinity School, Phillips Seminary in Oklahoma, and Claremont School of Theology in California.

In 2016, one student from Idaho and one from Oregon will participate in the online Master of Divinity program offered by the seminary at Claremont and a third student will study online with Phillips. Each will continue serving in local parish ministry while taking classes. Disciples Seminary Foundation (DSF) supports students studying in the west, choosing between several different seminaries. Scholarships from Claremont and DSF give strong support to Disciples students, helping them to graduate with fewer loans. Other Disciples seminaries, through the Thanksgiving offering and their own fund raising, can now offer substantial scholarship support as well. Congregations receive the Thanksgiving offering on the last two Sundays of November, or you can give at any time during the year.

**Dates for 2016  
Pray and Plays** 3

**News from  
FEDICE in  
Ecuador** 3

**Calendar of  
Regional** 4

**News from  
Congregations** 4

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

**Hosted by  
Northwood Christian  
in  
Springfield, Oregon**



I've sometimes said that new church ministry is the best kept secret among Disciples of Christ. Over 800 new ministries have started and affiliated with Disciples since 2001, including many in this region.

At the end of October, four Oregon Disciples went to Texas for a three day learning event. This event specialized in the ministries of Chuukese congregations, believers who have family history in Micronesia. Hope Partnership, a ministry of Disciples Church Extension, sponsored this event, with support from North American Pacific Asian Disciples and the Office of Disciples Women. Sessions included Disciples of Christ history and specialized topics of interest for 100 people. In Portland, the Pacific Islands Family Church has requested and received initial affiliation with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This ministry worships at Midway Christian Church in SE Portland.

Disciples now worship regularly in three languages in the Oregon-SW Idaho region, and twenty languages across the continent. Locally, the new congregations would welcome you to worship as guests, whether you speak the same language or not. Since several new churches worship in the afternoon, it's often possible to attend another service on Sunday mornings. St. Johns, Christ Church, and Trees of Righteousness are in conversation with our National Benevolent Association about new partnerships of service. It's an exciting time to be a Disciple!

**Doug**

## Ecumenical Ministries Collins Lecture

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon presents the 2015 Collins Lecture on November 19 at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Portland. This year's event offers a day-long seminar about the historic and current relationships between Native Americans and Christianity in North America. Three Native American scholar-activists will lead: legal expert **Robert Miller**, theologian **George "Tink" Tinker**, and cultural historian **Kim Recalma-Clutesi**. The seminar runs from 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and includes lunch and dinner. There will be an evening lecture session from 7:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.  
**Register at [www.emoregon.org](http://www.emoregon.org).**

## Thank you to Murray Hills for Hosting Retreat

The fall women's retreat had 99 participants from 20 congregations, and 31 of them were first time attenders! They came from as far east as Nampa, Idaho, as far south as Eugene, as far west as Tillamook and as far north as Blaine, Washington. We received an offering of \$1,700 to be split half to Week of Compassion Refugee Ministries and half to Disciples Mission Fund. We also received \$978.25 in blessing box coins and bills for women's ministries. Our fair trade sale grossed \$3,005.00 worth of fair trade goods. Because we get a percentage of the sales, our retreat can make a \$450 contribution to the FEDICE ministry in Ecuador to help our partners in

Romerillos who have been dealing with ash from a volcanic eruption spewing onto their onion and grain fields. We also sold over \$300 worth of books, donated \$87 to the coffee/soda bar that goes to camp scholarship funds, and donated a cartload of food to the food pantry at Murray Hills. This generosity is once again possible because we can keep the price of the retreat low through Murray Hills hosting of the event. Because of the Murray Hills congregation's kindness, we have been able to drop the price of the event six years in a row. We continue to be grateful.



## Update on FEDICE

**October 20, 2015**

The group of women from Romerillos met for their final recuperation of funds for their project of 2014-2015. This is the group that has been hard-hit by the ash from the Cotopaxi Volcano.

Some of the women had sold their sheep or cows at very low prices when the first ash-fall occurred in August. Their fields of onions had been covered in ash, and have just recently recuperated during the last rains.

They have united together to buy a field of grass two hours away, which they have cut for their animals, and what they could not use, they sold, with the idea of buying another field as needed. This time of adversity has united the group even more, and there were three people who helped them find the field and cut it, who wants to be included in next year's project. The group has voted to include them in next year's project.

Now they are 28 people. Blanca, Luis Jara, Lisa and Marco were present for this event, which stretched out during the whole afternoon, with the register of the information, counting and re-counting the money for the project.

We have shared tears and laughter with this group, and it is so good to see the smiles on these women's faces, after all the sad meetings that we had with them during the heaviest ash-fall, and their determination to continue working with FEDICE in spite of their precarious situation on the side of the Cotopaxi Volcano.

This is true grit! Thanks to God, and thanks to our friends from USA, we will continue working with them.

**Blessings, Fedice Team**



## Women's Pray and Play Day 2016 Dates

Dates for the pray and play events for women are set, and the registration material is on our website. The cost has been reduced to \$10, which is down \$5.00 from last year. Registration covers program materials, a Bible Study to take home, and a gift.

Pray and Play events are 3 hour mini-retreats and have time for playing together and praying together as the name suggests. Our theme scripture from I Corinthians 13 on love will be explored, and we will be reminded that Words matter, to Hold onto what is important, to Act in love, and Take faith into the world.

Say **W H A T ! ?**

**Dates and places      9:30-12:30:**

Salem	February 13	Medford	April 2
Eugene	February 20	Hood River	April 9
LaGrande	March 19	Mountain Home	April 16