

Mission Statement of the Regional Church		On the Way with Doug and Cathy	
Our mission is		• Nov. 22	North Bend FCC Cathy/Doug
• To nurture members and congregations		• Nov. 18	Eugene Springfield Ministers Cathy/Doug
• To establish and receive new congregations		• Nov. 17	Albany Cathy
While working together with the whole Church to do Christ's ministry in the world.		• Nov. 16	College of Regional Ministers Exec Cte. Cathy
Doug and Cathy Myers Wirt Regional Ministers		• Nov. 15	Portland, Christ Church Doug
Audre Bratcher, Administrative Assistant		• Nov. 15	Murray Hills, Portland FCC Doug
		• Nov. 12	Commission on Ministry Doug
		• Nov. 12-14	Oakland, CA, National Benevolent Assn Bd. Cathy
		• Nov. 8	Portland, Peniel Ministries, Worship Doug
		• Nov. 8	Keizer, Faithful Planning Team Cathy
		• Nov. 8	Junction City, Worship Doug
		• Nov. 8	Albany, Worship and meetings Cathy
		• Nov. 7	Regional Board Meeting Doug/Cathy
		• Nov. 5	Regional Vision Team Meeting Cathy
		• Nov. 5	Regional Ministers' Staff Review Cathy/Doug
		• Nov. 5	Ecumenical Ministries Nominating Cte. Doug
		• Nov. 5	Columbia Gorge District Ministers Doug/Cathy
		• Nov. 4	Grants Pass Committee Meeting Doug
		• Nov. 3	Regional Finance Committee Doug
		• Nov. 1	Pendleton, Doug Preaching Cathy/Doug
		• Oct. 28	Ecumenical Ministries of OR, Finance Cte Doug

News from our Congregations

Boise/Red Rock: Associate Pastor Erin Donnell returned from sabbatical leave that included a trip to Palestine with Disciples Women.

Christ Church/Portland: Giuseppe Amato serving as ministerial intern

Glenwood: Taylor Lind is providing regular pulpit supply on Sundays.

Hood River Valley: Bid farewell to John and Shirley Ihle who moved to Washington to be near family. John served as pastor of the congregation in the 1980s and 1990s.

Junction City: Gary Ivey is serving as Interim Pastor.

Lebanon: Myrna Phillips to serve as Interim Minister beginning in December.

Murray Hills: Raised \$3,000 for their food pantry with a Prime Rib Dinner and chicken dance contest (using the Regional Chicken Suit from the camp supplies).

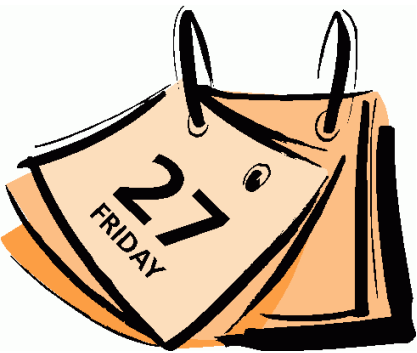
North Bend: Shares a “teddy bear” ministry by giving stuffed animals to those who could “use a hug and care.”

Northwood: Completing remodeling project with entry area and the addition of parking.

St. Johns: Bonnie Vance serving as ministerial intern.

Save these dates!

February 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>	
March 19	La Grande
<i>Pray and Play for Women</i>	





The Christian Church • La Iglesia Cristiana
OREGON & IDAHO

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Advent Blessings....

From
your
Regional
Church
Staff



Audre Bratcher

Liz Cronin

Cathy Myers Wirt

Douglas A. Wirt

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People often express surprise when they see the number of places that Cathy and I visit throughout the year. At each regional board meeting, we report on how many churches we've visited since the last board meeting, and that report is posted on our website. When I see the list, I'm surprised too!

Your regional ministers' travel schedules don't tell the whole story of regional church life. The real story is told in the many active, life giving ministries happening through Disciples of Christ churches in Oregon and SW Idaho. You can find Disciples in this region in ministries with youth, children and seniors, in men's groups and women's ministries. You can find Disciples feeding and sheltering neighbors in need every day of the week. You can see Disciples reaching out to people caught up in addictive behaviors, teaming up with Christians in another country, accompanying people going through surgery, or learning to be a parent or a spouse or a pastor. You can hear Disciples saying an earthly goodbye to a loved one or see them baptizing new believers, or creating events that help people learn that the teachings and people of Jesus Christ can make a huge difference for the good in their lives. That's the story, for as Hebrews 4 says, "the word of God is living and active."

Cathy and I enjoy telling stories about one congregation to another congregation, sharing in one location what other Disciples are doing somewhere else. We spend lots of time with churches in transition in between pastors, seeking a new model for their ministry, or beginning or ending the ministry of a congregation. Twenty per cent of Disciples congregations in the Oregon-SW Idaho regional church have started since the year 2000. Some arrive at the end of their visible ministry, yet continue to bless others for years to come through the future use of their assets.

Even as your Regional Ministers visit with all 45 congregations in this region, every ministry has a role in building up every other congregation. Many congregations do this by supporting Disciples Mission Fund. Many individuals give a personal gift to support regional ministries each year through the Annual Fund. In 2014, about half of the congregations in the Oregon-SW Idaho supported the Christmas offering and in doing so supported each other's ministries. In 2015, we hope that our Christmas offering will increase in congregational offerings, or by individuals simply sending their own Christmas offering to the regional church.

God's people, like the hope that we share, are living and active. Cathy and I count it a blessing and privilege to share in Christian ministries with you in so many times and so many ways. We pray God's blessings for you and yours in this season of seeking joy and peace for all.

Doug

Gary Smith Retiring after 35 years

On January 31 Red Rock Christian Church will celebrate 35 years of ministry with Rev. Gary Smith and mark his retirement from the congregation. Gary's wife, Robbie, has also shared her musical gifts with the congregation for many years as choir director. Gary was also instrumental in bringing about our new identity as the Oregon-SW Idaho region. You are invited to join the congregation and friends at 4 pm at the church to thank Gary for years of faithful and skilled service in Boise.



Aloha Christian Church — The Legacy Continues

The end of December 2015 will mark one year since Aloha Christian Church held its last public worship service. Disciples sometimes call this the close of the "visible ministry." However, it is possible for the ministry of the congregation to continue, and the Aloha Christian Church has given a good example. Through the later months of 2014, the members of Aloha Christian Church made decisions that allow the impact of the congregation to bless others for years into the future.

The church used a good portion of their remaining assets to establish the **Aloha Christian Church New Church Ministry Legacy Fund**. The funds were given to the Oregon Disciple Foundation and invested through our Christian Church Foundation. Each year earnings from this fund will give support to new church ministries in the Oregon-SW Idaho regional church. The first distribution this fall has already helped to provide training for new church leaders in the Portland area. The Aloha congregation also made a contribution to **The View Christian Church Youth Ministry Fund**, providing camp scholarships for youth in the future. This fund is also administered through the Oregon Disciple Foundation.

There are other signs of life continuing from the Aloha ministry. Iglesia Cristiana Peniel de Hillsboro, which started at Aloha, now meets at the First Congregational Church in Hillsboro. The steeple from the former Aloha Christian Church building now sits atop the First Christian Church in Grants Pass! And members of the former Aloha congregation continue to share their faith in new ways.

All of this reminds us, whether as churches or as individuals, that wise planning can allow our own witness to continue well beyond our "visible ministry." To talk about how dedicated, named or legacy funds can share your faith for years to come, contact our Christian Church Foundation representative Jerry Lang: clang@ccf.disciples.org, your Regional Ministers or your local pastor.



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 **W**ords matter, to **H**old onto what is important, to **A**ct in love, and **T**ake 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
La Grande	March 19	Mountain Home	April 16

