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

Albany: Hosted the Ordination Service for Doug Collins in December.

Burley: Offered online Sunday worship service during heavy snow storm in January.

Lynchwood: Women gave 87 filled Christmas Stockings to local ministry.

Murray Hills: Shared pageant and breakfast on Christmas morning with families living in local shelter housing.

Parkview: On Dec. 29, Gene Hill completed his ministry. Gary Smith and Deral Schrom are serving as co-Interims.

Mission Statement on the Way with Doug and Cathy

- Jan. 31 Keizer, Church Council Meeting  Cathy
- Jan. 31 Santiam Area Ministers’ Breakfast  Cathy
- Jan. 31 Interchurch Center Steering Committee  Doug
- Jan. 29 Junction City, Pastoral Installation  Doug
- Jan. 29 Eugene First,  Doug
- Jan. 28 Salem, Bob Hanna Anniversary  Cathy/Doug
- Jan. 26 McMinnville, Meeting  Doug
- Jan. 25 Commission on Ministry  Doug
- Jan. 24 Reconciliation Steering Committee  Doug
- Jan. 22 Keizer, Committee Meeting  Cathy
- Jan. 22 Portland Pacific Island Family Church  Doug
- Jan. 22 Portland First, Worship  Doug
- Jan. 21 Ordination Bonnie Vance, Murray Hills Doug/Cathy
- Jan. 17-20 San Diego, Development Conference  Cathy/Doug
- Jan. 15 Grants Pass Greg Widener installation  Doug/Cathy
- Jan. 12 Planning Meeting 2018 Women’s Event  Cathy
- Jan. 9 Medford, Committee Meeting  Cathy
- Jan. 8 Portland, The View, Worship  Cathy
- Jan. 5 Albany, Committee Meeting  Cathy
- Jan. 5 Keizer, Committee Meeting  Cathy
- Jan. 5 Planning Meeting 2018 Women’s Event  Cathy

Save these dates!

February 4, 2017
Regional Board Meeting
Interchurch Center Portland

February 11, 2017
Allison Park, Eugene
Women’s Pray and Play Day

February 18, 2017
Keizer Christian Church
Women’s Pray and Play Day

February 18-19
Albany First Christian
Middle School Youth Event

March 4, 2017
Parkview, Meridian
Women’s Pray and Play Day

Regional Ministry Emails Change in February

New email addresses for the Regional Ministers
Doug: doug@oidisciples.org
Cathy: cathy@oidisciples.org

The Week of Compassion offering is received in February each year across the Disciples of Christ church community. These funds are on the ready for disaster relief and development work. Director of WOC, Vy Nguyen, was one of our speakers at last year’s Regional Assembly. Caroline Hamilton-Arnold, Associate Director, will be speaking at the Allison Park, Eugene Women’s event February 11 (see page 3 of this newsletter) and preaching at Murray Hills on February 12.

Stories and facts about Week of Compassion can be found on their website, www.weekofcompassion.org.

Week of Compassion responded to disasters in 39 countries last year, including responding to the earthquakes in Ecuador. While members from our own regional church were traveling in Ecuador last summer, they were part of the response of packing aid supplies for the earthquake zone. Week of Compassion joined forces with FEDICE to do this work by quickly and efficiently providing funds for FEDICE to purchase goods and take them to those in need. WOC also responded in 2016 in North America in the aftermath of floods, fires and storms.

Please give generously to this annual appeal.

Regional Ministry Emails Change in February

Volume 4 Issue 1

Regional Assembly
May 18-19, 2018
Portland FCC
Rev. Sandhya Jha & Dr. Timothy James

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As a new year begins, electronic files of numbers will pass from computer to computer showing the giving of Disciples in 2016. Our Treasury Services staff in Indianapolis add up all the gifts from each congregation for each of the Disciples’ offerings. The numbers only hint at countless decisions to share dollars with the hope that they will bless somebody somewhere, and hopefully lots of people in lots of places.

As regional ministers, Cathy and I get to see the effects of your giving to Disciples causes. In 2016, for example, we saw your giving to Disciples Mission Fund do the following:

- Respond to ten congregations in the regional church going through change of pastors;
- Say “yes” to families on tight budgets with children who wanted to go to summer camp;
- Welcome Kim & Erik Free home after a sudden departure from Mozambique;
- Bless Bethany Waggoner to her next assignment with Global Ministries in Beirut;
- Celebrate the first anniversary of a new congregation and send their leaders to leadership training in Indianapolis;
- Host 200 Chuukese Disciples of Christ for an Easter Rally in Portland;
- Gather youth, children, men and women, at 15 retreats, camps and special events;
- Train 60 church leaders for ministries of Reconciliation in Idaho and Oregon;
- Assist the Regional Church to do a visioning process and launch a three year ministry plan;
- And many more expressions of faith, hope and love in the Northwest and around the world.

Your generous gifts to Disciples Mission Fund and our special offerings bless so many people in so many ways and places that we in regional and general church ministries can’t begin to tell you all that you’ve done. Most of these come through congregational giving. It’s also possible to give online to DMF and special offerings at disciplesmissionfund.org.

So for now, as one year concludes and another begins, we do want to say “thank you” for all you’ve done.

May your gifts plant seeds that fall on good soil, and produce thirty, sixty and even one hundred times as your hope, faith, and love is shared in 2017.

Doug

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**Ecuador Romerillos Goal Reaches 80%**

Oregon-SW Idaho Disciples continue to move toward the goal of $17,500 for our microloan project in Ecuador. Managed by our mission partner FEDICE, this ministry loans small amounts to families in the community of Romerillos, Ecuador. Families use these short term loans to start a business raising onions or animals. Loans are repaid to a local women’s organization which uses the money to help more families.

As of January 6, gifts came to $14,044, or 80% of the project goal. Support has come from individuals, churches, women’s ministries and the One Fair World craft sale at Fall Women’s retreat.

Another $3,456 will take us to the goal! Thanks to all who helped.

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**Middle School Event, February 18-19 in Albany**

Registration materials are on our website www.oidisciples.org. Contact the regional office for details about registration and Albany First Christian about program details. Event includes a trip to the bowling alley and speaker Rev. April Oristano

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**Women’s Pray and Play Events**

This year’s theme for Pray and Play events for women is “Use What Ya Got!” The events will introduce ways to explore how to use whatever we have to create a faithful life with prayer, witness, and spiritual practice.

A small book sale will be a part of the event and a fair trade sale of items from Ecuador, with all money collected from the crafts helping to move us closer to the goal with our FEDICE project (see article above on this page).

Pray and Play is a 3 hour mini-retreat for women and girls of all ages. Cost is $10.00 and pays for supplies and a gift for you to take home. Registration form on website and in church offices. Hope to see you there.

Allison Park, Eugene, 2/11/17, Keizer Christian, 2/18/17
Parkview Meridian 3/4/17, Pendleton, 3/18/17

*Invite your friends!!*