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News from our Congregations

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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

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The Christian Church • La Iglesia Cristiana
www.oidisciples.org  503.226.7648   0245 SW Bancroft Suite F, Portland 97239

On the Way with Doug and Cathy

- Feb. 25 Hood River Valley Christian, Trustees Doug
- Feb. 25 EMO Board Meeting, Chairing Doug
- Feb. 24 Camp Directors’ Meeting Cathy
- Feb. 24 Eugene, Olive Plaza Board Meeting Doug
- Feb. 24 Santiam Ministers’ Breakfast Salem Doug/Cathy
- Feb. 21-22 Midwinter Middle School Retreat Cathy/Doug
- Feb. 18 Springfield, Northwood, Visit Doug/Cathy
- Feb. 18 Eugene Area Ministers’ Lunch Cathy/Doug
- Feb. 17 Junction City, Board Meeting Doug
- Feb. 17 Albany, Transition Committee Cathy
- Feb. 15 Lynchwood Pastoral Installation Doug/Cathy
- Feb. 15 Murray Hills Worship Doug
- Feb. 12 EMO Bishops and Exees Luncheon Doug
- Feb. 11 Silverton community meal Cathy/Doug
- Feb. 11 EMO Interfaith Advocacy Day, Salem Doug
- Feb. 10 Grants Pass prayer group and food bank tour Cathy
- Feb. 9 Springfield Regional Garden and Medford Cathy
- Feb. 9 Come Unity Garden with NBA Staff visiting Doug/Cathy
- Feb. 8 Lebanon Worship, Week of Compassion Cathy
- Feb. 8 McMinnville, Worship Cathy/Doug
- Feb. 7 Regional Board Meeting, Midway Cathy/Doug

Save these dates!

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March 14 Ontario
Women’s Pray and Play Day
March 28 Portland First
Women’s Pray and Play Day
April 17-18 Spokane
Stewardship Event
April 18 Silverton
Women’s Pray and Play Day
April 18 Burley
Women’s Pray and Play Day
April 25 Pendleton
Women’s Pray and Play Day
May 16 5 Locations
Regional Visioning Day
(See front page article of this newsletter!)

Plan to go to the site nearest you and bring 2-3 people with you!!

We will gather in five locations from 12:30—4:30 p.m. and become connected by simulcast between sites at beginning and end of the time.

Worship in all five locations simultaneously will be followed by some time talking in small groups without the technology switched on. Three to four conversation questions will be raised and the information from these conversations captured to feed into the long range visioning of our regional church.

The five groups will connect for the last 45 minutes for summing up what has been learned. Each group will be facilitated on site by a member of the vision team. The discussion questions will be publicized ahead of time.

…..stay tuned!!

Stewardship Event Spokane April 17-18

Over 100 Disciples attended the stewardship workshops last fall in Portland and Nampa. If you didn’t, you have one more chance. Bruce Barkhauer and Jerry Lang will lead a two-day event April 17-18 at Country Homes Christian Church in Spokane. Go to http://www.disciplesnw.org/event/stewardship-retreat for information.
My Turn

Last weekend Lynchwood Christian Church opened up their facility for 25 middle school youth and their adult leaders to hold a “lock-in” event. Youth came from 8 congregations and adults from 7 congregations — but here is the kicker — 2 of the adults came from congregations that sent no youth, and kids from 3 congregations came with no adults from their congregation. While juggling people into one of the 5 small groups that would be meeting for discussion twice during the event, I smiled as I thought of adults who would come out of a love for our regional youth ministry. I smiled when I realized there were kids that could come to the event from congregations that could not send adults that weekend, because they knew that their regional partners had their back with the kids.

This is not an invitation for congregations to send youth without adults, for we cannot do the program without a strong volunteer core; yet I thought we were acting like a region that shares youth ministry together. The youth sang, discussed and acted out the text from Micah 6:8

God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Keynoter, Pastor Andrew Shepherd from Lynchwood, taught the kids the quotation from Cornel West, “Justice is what love looks like in public.” The next day, when evaluating the event, 3 of the 5 groups mentioned learning that quotation as a highlight of the weekend. Another smile. However, what made me grin last weekend was watching the faces of the Lynchwood worshipping community as the event participants surrounded them in an arc around the sanctuary and sang the theme text to them in three part harmony clear, light, and bouncing around the room. Such a sweet moment of grace.

THANK YOU to Lynchwood volunteers for feeding and housing us, for the adults who slept on the floor, and drove us to the water park for play, for Pastor Andrew for sharing his heart, and for the youth who came and were all in for the weekend. Special thanks go to Debbie Harry, from The View, who brought no kids to the event, but as camp craft lady the last few years loved all the kids as her own, and who worked hard the week before to get everything ready, slept on the floor, and then asked me at the end of the weekend, “What are we doing next week.”

In hope,

Cathy

Women’s Pray and Play Days…..Get a Clue!!!

When was the last time you went on a scavenger hunt? Here’s your chance. Come go on the hunt with your sisters for the places and ways you can deepen your connection to Spirit and to your sisters around the world. This several hour event brings together searching scripture for clues, listening to stories and having time to learn some new ways to deepen spiritual experience.

Look for an event near you and bring a friend! Materials on Web Site.

March 14  Ontario, Oregon, First Christian Church
March 28  Portland, Oregon, First Christian Church
April 18  Silverton, Oregon, First Christian Church
April 18  Burley, Idaho, First Christian Church
April 25  Pendleton, Oregon, First Christian Church
May 30  Junction City, Oregon, First Christian Church

Board Approves Request on Cascade Camps

The Regional Board of the Christian Church in Oregon & SW Idaho has approved a request to offer summer youth camps in both Oregon and Idaho in 2015. The region will administer three camps at Suttle Lake, Oregon and three camps at Cascade Christian Camp in Idaho, plus the Kids’ Camp to be held at First Christian Church in Ontario, Oregon.

The board has named Rev. Erin Donnell, Associate Minister at Red Rock Christian Church in Boise, to serve in the role of Regional Camping Administrator. She will work in consultation with the Regional Ministers and the Directors of the different summer camp events. We are grateful to Red Rock Christian Church for making her time available to oversee the events at Cascade and Ontario.

2015 Personal Boundary Trainings, Sept. 25-26

Dr. Ruth Fletcher, Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Montana, will lead two identical sessions on personal boundaries on September 25-26. The training on Friday, September 25 will be at a location to be announced in the Willamette Valley. On the next day, Saturday September 26, the same workshop will be available in the Boise area. These trainings will cover the elements of personal and sexual boundaries for church leaders. One day of the training is required for all ordained and commissioned ministers within the Oregon and SW Idaho Region. Details on locations will be announced soon.

News from our Partners in Africa

Erik Free recently returned from a great visit to the Gogoi farm during which he and Kim were officially introduced to the local church community at an all night revival. Erik received a very warm welcome and spent the night singing and praising God. A house is ready and awaiting their arrival.

Kim Free had to stay home due to being sick with typhoid for the last few weeks. She has taken seven days of antibiotic injections to combat the infection. Thankfully, they were inoculated to typhoid prior to coming to Mozambique, so her case is not as bad as it could have been. She is doing better and hopes to recover fully in the next week or so. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. Kim and Erik have been part of the Portland First, Lebanon, Eugene, Albany, and Silverton congregations before going to Africa.

We have news from Wema, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where Global Ministries is helping to rebuild a hospital where Eugene First member Phyllis Weare formerly served as a mission worker. You can see pictures of the facility now being used to treat patients on our Facebook Page. The water system was partially funded by the Salem First Christian Disciples Women, and the construction has received large financial support through events held to raise funds through Eugene First Christian and Phyllis’ efforts.