News from our Congregations


Hood River: Participated in Ecumenical Vacation Bible School.

John Day: Men’s ministry is active and meeting regularly.

Junction City: Mike Crouch has begun as Interim Minister.

La Grande: Thank you for hosting women’s Pray and Play in June!

North Bend: Celebrated 100th Anniversary with dedication of a new stained glass window given by former pastor Steve Womack and family.

Parkview: Moved into new site and has called Gene Hill as Pastor.

Pendleton: Working with Dick Hamm on a visioning process.

Springfield First: Pastor Erin Curtis is on a one month sabbatical study leave.

Regional Youth Council Applications On-line

The RYC is a group of high school students and adults who meet 3-4 times a year to work on regional programming and mission with, by and for teenagers. The applications to apply for youth council are now on our web site at http://www.oidisciples.org/#regional-youth-council/ctxz, and have been sent to pastors by email.

Deadline is September 1 for application.
On June 22, Cathy and I enjoyed celebrating the 100th anniversary of First Christian Church in North Bend. Not long ago, we enjoyed the 100th year celebration for First Christian Church in Burley. Four local congregations have celebrated 150 years, and a couple have recently marked 50th anniversaries. Why celebrate anniversaries? To give praise for what God has done and to give thanks for people who stay together through challenges instead of straying apart like lost sheep. Separation from each other is the default behavior so prevalent in our culture.

Earlier this year, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon celebrated a 40th anniversary. This year also marks the 20th anniversary of our beloved ecumenical partner in Ecuador. It was in 1994 that Victor and Violet Vaca began the FEDICE ministry among the indigenous people of the Andes mountains in northern Ecuador. Numerous new churches, economic projects and health services have resulted. The FEDICE ministry continues with the leadership of Blanca Puma who has taken the time to visit in our churches many times. I’m happy that we as Disciples of Christ have been partners with FEDICE through Global Ministries now across two decades. This summer, a group of eleven Disciples from the region will visit Ecuador. The group will work with Ecuadoran Christians on a building project, worship with churches in the communities, and visit economic development projects such as the one we are now supporting at Romerillos (our current goal is $15,000 for livestock and agricultural microloans). We are grateful to Rick Ikeda of Salem FCC for leading multiple trips to Ecuador.

Regional Garden Growing —

The regional garden continues to grow and grow and grow. Check out pictures on our Facebook page and our website.

We continue to be in need of folks that would like to spend an hour or two or three pulling weeds. A harvest party will be announced soon.

Thanks, also, to the over 35 folks that are growing barrels of food through our “One Garden, Many Places” part of our Regional Garden.

Stay tuned!

Women’s Retreats, Mark your calendar now!

August 15-17, Cascade Idaho, “Dance of Diversity”, with Retreat Speaker, Pat Donahoo, Executive Director for Disciples Women

October 17-18, Murray Hills Christian, Beaverton, Oregon, “Up the River”, with Susan McNeely, newly returned from three months teaching in Congo.

Update on Vision Team

Your vision team has met to discuss next steps. Sub groups are now in gear planning how to gather more information from regional members in congregations that were not at the regional assembly pre-event. In addition, the prayer triads from the regional assembly will be invited to be in contact around several key discernment questions.

For the summer months as we continue to make plans for the fall, please be in prayer for the future direction, future story of our Regional Church.

Congo Initiative Resources for Congregations

The Disciples in the Northwest part of our country have a long history with mission in the Congolese nations. Mission workers launched from Northwest Christian College and multiple congregations for more than 100 years. The relationship with Disciples in Congo continues today through retired mission workers in the Lynchwood, Albany and Eugene congregations and Disciples continuing to travel to Congo to visit.

Our Global Ministries has created a wealth of material to help us understand and relate to Congolese Disciples. On the web at http://globalministries.org/congo-initiative/ you can find:

- Worship Resources
- Links and bibliography for information about Congo
- A list of special projects happening through Global Ministry Partners
- 12 Bible Studies by Rick Lowery using the Congolese context
- 6 Bible Studies led by Congolese pastors in English and French
- Videos of life and church witness in Congo.

Check it out!!

Western Side Regional Picnic

August 9 at Willamette Mission Park, 10991 Wheatland Rd. NE, Gervais, Oregon, north of Salem, Disciples will gather for a picnic BBQ. Come at 11:00 for games and set up. Plan to eat at noon, followed by a communion service. Those who would like to stay for more games and leftover food, plan to linger. Hamburgers/gardenburgers/hot dogs will be provided. Please bring salads and desserts to share. Thanks to the New Church Team for hosting.

If you have outdoor games, bring them, too.

Camps, Camps, Camps

The camp season is off and running. Kids camp for 1st and 2nd graders and Junior Camp have happened in Idaho. Chi Rho camp in Idaho is ready to launch as this is being written. Junior, middle school, and high school camp in Oregon and high school camp in Idaho are slated for July/August.