Mission Statement of the Region

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

On the Way with Doug and Cathy

• Apr. 25-26 Suttle Lake Camp Directors Meeting Cathy/Doug
• Apr. 27 Portland First, Asst. Min. Farewell Doug/Cathy
• Apr. 27-29 Denver, DOC, UCC, Presby meeting Doug
• Apr. 29 Salem, Santiam District Ministers Breakfast Cathy
• May 1 Ecumenical Ministries Ministry Tour Doug
• May 2-3 Hood River, Regional Assembly Cathy/Doug
• May 4 Hood River Valley Christian, Worship Doug/Cathy
• May 4 Portland, Peniel Ministries, Worship Doug/Cathy
• May 6 Columbia River Valley Clergy with Blanca Puma presenting FEDICE Doug/Cathy
• May 7 College of Regional Ministers Cte. Cathy
• May 7 Women’s Prayer Circle Cathy
• May 7 Junction City, Committee Meeting Doug
• May 8 Lynchwood CWF with Blanca Puma Cathy/Doug
• May 10 Hood River Executive Cte. Meeting Cathy
• May 11 Hood River Valley, Pastors’ Farewell Cathy
• May 11 Portland First, Worship Doug
• May 12 LaGrande Committee Meeting Doug
• May 14 Ecumenical Ministries Banquet Doug/Cathy

Grants Pass: Has a new staff member, Josh Johnsen, who created a wonderful video about regional assembly. Check our Facebook page to see it.

Boise, Red Rock and Eugene First: Fielding softball teams toward their new bus by Dallas:

Junction City: Preparing a new sign to be more visible to passing traffic.

Allison Park: Held a plant and bake sale to raise camp funds.

North Bend: Preparing for 100th anniversary celebration June 22.

Portland First: Continuing listening sessions for formation of their new strategic plan.

Ione: Pastor Stacy Shelton traveled to Costa Rica in May with members of the Bethany Fellowship.

Springfield First: Installed a new sign to be more visible to passing traffic.

Portland First: Worship Doug/Cathy

Save these dates!

June 7 Portland Regional Board Meeting
June 14 Boise God Rocks Concert for Camp
June 14 Phillips Home, Salem Specialized Ministries Picnic
June 16-20 Camp Cascade Junior Camp
June 21 LaGrande Women’s Pray and Play Day
June 25-29 Atlanta, GA Quadrennial Assembly Women
July 7-12 Camp Cascade Chi Rho Camp
July 10-22 Ecuador Trip to FEDICE ministries
My Turn

The Regional Assembly singing is still echoing in my heart. The Friday night spirited a cappella singing of the spiritual “Down to the River to Pray” and the floating prayer banners accompanied the bringing in of the jars of water from 32 creeks, rivers and streams from around our regional church. As the blue and green jars found their places on the draped table in the front of the sanctuary, my heart rejoiced for the many places of ministry that these jars represented to us. On Saturday morning we poured portions of each jar of water into a common larger jar and then used this water to wash each other’s hands in humility for the service and ministry we do together in Oregon and Idaho. To the sounds of “Peace Like a River”, with resounding piano improvisation, we took jars of this remixed water out with us to remember that though we appear to be in separate congregations, we are one ministry in many places, bound by one Spirit.

This metaphor of a molding river was played out in workshops where people from multiple congregations danced, sang, planned, and prayed together; an offering of $1,876 for our mission project with FEDICE in Ecuador; in the sales of One Fair Trade items of over $1,850; in the choir that sang together on Saturday afternoon; in the technology that has emerged since the assembly on-line; in “the wave” moments enjoyed by worshippers; in the welcoming of nine new congregations into regional life; and in the conversations in prayer triads around the sanctuary with Dick Hamm on Friday afternoon with persons from our five districts intermingled.

Watching the Spirit flow through the assembly, I headed out with renewed hope for the possibilities ahead of us in shared ministry.

In hope, Cathy

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 English with our partners in Congo.

Get your feet wet

West Side Regional Picnic August 9 Willamette Mission Park

This summer will mark the sixth annual regional picnic. We will meet at Willamette Mission State Park, north of Salem on Saturday, August 9. This annual gathering has become a favorite summer tradition of many on the west side of our regional church. Mark your calendar now, and watch this newsletter and our website for details as the time approaches. We’ll gather at 11 a.m. and eat at noon, followed by worship. We will provide the burgers and dogs, and you can bring desserts, salads, and smiles.

Kim & Erik Free in Mozambique

The latest news from Kim and Erik Free is that they now have a vehicle they can use to visit in churches and run errands. Erik has preached his first sermon and the two of them continue to learn Portuguese.

Their Facebook page “The Frees in Mozambique” has videos and pictures you can enjoy. Especially wonderful is the Palm Sunday video.

They are keeping a blog which you can get delivered to you by email by going to this website and signing up http://thefreesinmoz.wordpress.com/about/

God Rocks at Red Rock Christian in Boise

East side Disciples hold an annual music festival in the field on the Red Rock Christian Church property in Boise with proceeds going to help offer scholarship help for church camps at Camp Cascade. The event starts in the afternoon and goes in the evening with food, music and lots of fun. Put this on your calendar for June 14!!

West Side Church Camp Registrations due June 30

Suttle Lake camp registrations are due on June 30. Make sure and check with your congregation’s office or our web site for registration materials. This year’s theme is “Praying it Forward” and will look at the many ways prayer changes our lives of faith. Camp staffs are almost complete, the curriculum is outlined, and the directors have had their meeting at the camp to decide on new and creative ways to use the space. High school camp will include some exciting field trips and a new schedule to take better advantage of the area.

Pentecost Offering for New Church Ministries

Our annual offering for new church ministry will be received June 1 and June 8. Half the money received in this offering remains in our region to assist with building up new congregations in our region. The other half of the funds received are given to the New Church Ministry of our whole church. With these offerings New Church Ministry offering new church pastor training, coaching and support.

New congregations received in the last five years include:
- Trees of Righteousness Christian Church, Portland/Vancouver
- Escudo y Fortaleza in Salem
- Penniel Ministries, Portland

Since 2001 the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have launched or received 786 new congregations. Praise be!!

Watch our website for details!!

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