On the Way with Doug and Cathy

Feb. 1 Corvallis, Worship Cathy
Feb. 1 Beaverton, Murray Hills, Worship Doug
Jan. 26 Boise, Snake River Dist, Clergy dinner Cathy/Doug
Jan. 25 Boise, Red Rock, Preaching Doug
Jan. 25 Nampa, Worship Cathy
Jan. 25 Boise Red Rock, Building Dedication Doug/Cathy
Jan. 25 Boise, Red Rock, Trinity Worship Cathy/Doug
Jan. 22 Hood River, Committee Meeting Cathy
Jan. 21 Eugene Area Ministers’ Lunch Doug
Jan. 20 Eugene, Olive Plaza Board Doug
Jan. 20 Regional Visioning Team Cathy
Jan. 18 Junction City, Preaching Doug
Jan. 18 Albany, Worship Cathy
Jan. 17 Junction City, Roy Helms Memorial Doug
Jan. 17 Lynchwood, Dan Stults Memorial Doug
Jan. 17 Eugene, David Waggoner Retirement Doug/Cathy
Jan 15-16 Regional Minister Orientation Leader Cathy
Jan. 15 Bishops and Executive Lunch Doug
Jan. 14 Portland, Commission on Ministry Doug
Jan. 13 Albany, Committee Meeting Cathy

Save these dates!

February 7 Midway Christian Portland Regional Board Meeting
February 15 Lynchwood Installation of Andrew Shepherd
February 21-22 Lynchwood Middle School Mid-Winter Retreat
March 14 Ontario Women’s Pray and Play Day
March 28 Portland First Women’s Pray and Play Day
April 18 Silverton Women’s Pray and Play Day
April 18 Burley Women’s Pray and Play Day

Week of Compassion

Vy Nguyen is the new Director of Week of Compassion, succeeding Amy Gopp. He comes to this position following his work with Church World Service. Vy Nguyen will visit the Oregon-SW Idaho region on February 7-8 to speak to the regional board and to preach at Murray Hills Christian Church.

Week of Compassion is the ongoing development and disaster relief fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Disciples of Christ congregations normally receive a special offering for the Week of Compassion fund on the last two Sundays of February. In some of our congregations, the outreach budget includes a percentage directed to Week of Compassion.

Recently, our mission partner in Ecuador, the FEDICE ministry, shared photos of the women of the community of Maca Atapulo. The photos showed the women paying back their microloans on time, after using the funds to begin raising livestock. Our 2013 regional gathering at Northwood Christian Church in Springfield received an offering to get this project started. Week of Compassion soon added $10,000 more.

Week of Compassion works with church partners around the world in times of disasters such as earthquakes, hurricane, volcanic eruptions and floods. Your gifts also help to begin long term economic development programs to provide a means of income to families in areas where unemployment is high and financial resources are low. Week of Compassion also responds to sudden needs in the United States. As our Director, Vy Nguyen is quick to see what help is needed when floods, fires and other disasters strike in the U.S.

Please support WOC.
It started a few years ago. We will notice it a lot more a few years from now. I’m talking about the retirement of the baby boom generation. You may have read about how this unusually large generation in the United States population has started to reach retirement age. As just one example, I visit at times with the senior housing residences started in Oregon and Idaho by our National Benevolent Association (there are seven just in Oregon and South Idaho). Such facilities know that the needs will only increase in the coming years.

Within the church, we can expect to see a lot of pastors retiring over the next decade. Some have served in churches for all their adult lives. Others accepted a call to ministry as a second career. What can we expect in the church as a large percentage of our ministers reach retirement age?

First, Disciples are blessed with an outstanding Pension Fund. For ministers and for those church employees who are Pension Fund members, the Pension Fund of the Christian Church offers extremely solid options for financial preparations looking toward retirement. You can learn about it at their website, www.pensionfund.org. If your minister and other church staff are not in the Pension Fund system, I urge you to look into this right away.

Second, many congregations will soon experience, if they haven’t already, a significant gap in between the average age of the congregation and the age of their pastor. This can present some very creative opportunities. It also can present the possibility of cross-cultural, intergenerational confusion and misunderstandings. Different generations tend to think differently from each other; but remember, that’s not the fault of the congregation or their pastor.

Third, I am grateful that so many retired pastors stay involved in the life of the church. The vast majority manage to avoid becoming a “second opinion” or worse, an open critic of the installed pastor. I can easily think of numerous examples where a retired pastor bring gifts, wisdom and encouragement, whether serving as an interim or as a “pastor in the pews.” As Psalm 84 says, “they go from strength to strength.”

Women’s Pray and Play Events

The women of the regional church have six opportunities to gather this spring. The Eugene area event changed dates since our last information was published because the Just Women magazines that form the basis of some of the events are unavailable until after the original date. The Junction City event is now scheduled for May 30.

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

Visioning Process Update

Your vision team has been at prayer and in conversation. Keep your eyes open for information about an event on May 16 that will happen in four locations on the same day. This event will help to move our conversation forward about our ministry as a regional church together. Dick Hamm convened the vision team by telephone in November, in January and will again in February to help craft the 2015 events.

In the meantime the team will:

- Distribute a Oregon/SW Idaho focused small group conversation guide to two chapters of Sharon Watkins’ book, Whole, and encourage congregations to form triads for this conversation. The guide will ask questions to the triads and request that they share their thoughts with the vision team around their discernment.
- Invite congregations to partnerships with other congregations that do similar ministry or complementary ministries.
- Continue to work toward weaving the regional youth programming together through the new Regional Youth Council.
- Solicit feedback from pastors during their regular gatherings as the process unfolds.

Stay tuned……………….

Middle School Youth Event in Portland!!

Middle School youth are invited to Lynchwood Christian Church in Portland February 21-22 for a weekend of giant waterslide fun and hearing from the new pastor at Lynchwood, Andrew Shepherd. Andrew comes from Phoenix, Arizona where he served at Foothills Christian Church and, yes, he goes to camp and will be at Suttle Lake Camp this coming summer!

Camp Poster on Line, Registration Forms to be posted SOON

June 12-June 14, 2015
Kids Camp, hosted by Ontario First Christian, Ontario, Oregon
June 15-19, 2015
Junior Camp, Cascade Camp, Cascade, Idaho
June 29-July 4, 2015
Middle School Camp, Cascade Camp, Idaho
July 20-25, 2015
High School Camp, Cascade Camp, Idaho
July 26 - July 31, 2015
High School and Middle School Camp, Suttle Lake, Oregon
August 10-14, 2015
Junior Camp, Suttle Lake, Oregon

Middle School Youth Event in Portland!!