

**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

- Mar. 29 Boise, Red Rock CC, S. ID Women's retreat Cathy
- Mar. 29 Albany, June Fleshman Memorial Doug
- Mar. 30 Caldwell Treasure Valley CC, Preaching Doug/Cathy
- Mar. 31-Apr. 1 Commission on Ministry, Nampa/Boise Doug
- Apr. 2 Lynchwood cte mtg Cathy
- Apr. 3 Albany FCC cte mtg Cathy
- Apr. 5 Women's Pray and Play, Lynchwood Cathy
- Apr. 6 Allison Park, Preaching Doug
- Apr. 6 Silverton FCC, Worship Cathy
- Apr. 6 Trees of Righteousness 7th Anniversary Cathy/Doug
- Apr. 8 Interchurch Center 50th Anniversary Doug/Cathy
- Apr. 9 Hood River Valley Christian Cte Mtg Cathy
- Apr. 9 EMO Retreat Doug
- Apr. 11 Lebanon, Memorial Service Cathy/Doug
- Apr. 12 No CA/NV Regional Minister Search Cte Cathy
- Apr. 13 Trees of Righteousness Preaching Doug
- Apr. 13 Murray Hills Worship Doug
- Apr. 16 Eugene Ministers' Lunch Doug/Cathy
- Apr. 17 Lynchwood, Maundy Thursday Cathy/Doug



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Regional Assembly

Hood River Disciples are ready to greet you May 2-3 at the first Regional Assembly of the newly formed Christian Church in Oregon and SW Idaho.



Preacher **Rebecca Hale** will invite us to reflect on scriptures that help us in "Getting our Feet Wet" as we enter a new part of our church life together. Taking her texts from both Old and New Testaments, she will encourage us to do more than stick our toes in the water of faith, but to take risks and envision bold new directions.

Our Regional Visioning Team Consultant, **Dick Hamm**, will be with us from 1:30-4:30 on Friday afternoon for those who can come early and dream with us about the next shape of our regional church. He will also lead us in a prayer and discernment workshop time on Saturday morning.

Regional Ministers **Doug and Cathy Wirt** will address the assembly on Saturday morning before a series of **workshops** which range from dance, to church finance, to global mission, to community gardening, to local mission, and more. You can see a list at www.oidisciples.org.

Global Mission Partner **Blanca Puma** of FEDICE in Ecuador will speak with us about our newest joint project in Romerillos on Saturday afternoon.

Programs for middle school youth and children, as well as childcare, are planned.

Housing is available in nearby hotels, and home stays with church members have been offered. **We hope to see you in Hood River!!**



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News from our Congregations

Albany: Sara Staton completed her ministry with the congregation in April.

Eugene First: Softball team, Heart of Eugene Dragons, are up and at 'em for a new season.

Hood River Valley: Dave and Linda Presley are completing their ministry with the congregation in May and relocating to Indiana.

LaGrande: Children's afterschool program continuing to grow.

Medford: Preparing for the 10th annual "bonnet tea" in May.

Murray Hills, Beaverton: Preparing for another "church leaves the building" Sunday in May.

Northwood: Began a ministry with persons living in transitional housing on their property.

Parkview, Meridian: Almost ready to move into their new buildings.

Salem First: Served breakfast on Easter at the Union Gospel Mission for the 5th year in a row.

Save these dates!

- May 2 Hood River**
Conversation with Dick Hamm
- May 2-3 Hood River**
Regional Assembly
- May 14 Portland**
Ecumenical Ministries Banquet
- May 17 Allison Park**
Women's Pray and Play Day
- May 18 Grants Pass**
Women's Pray and Play Day
- May 24 Cascade Camp**
Miracle Day Camp Clean up
- May 31 Springfield**
Regional Garden Build
- June 7 Portland**
Regional Board Meeting
- June 14 Boise**
God Rocks Concert for Camp Funds

Regional Assembly

Hosted by Hood River Valley Christian

May 2-3, 2014

My Turn

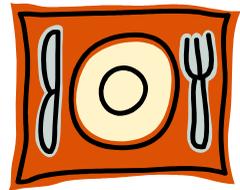
Several people have asked how this new Oregon and Idaho arrangement is going. I respond that we have moved into the fun part. By that I mean that we have worked through most of the issues about how to do this on paper. Now we can spend more time with people, getting to know each other and finding ways to support the ministries of Disciples throughout this region.

Cathy and I have had our first visits in seven of the nine congregations affiliating from the South Idaho region. Cathy visited with the South Idaho spring women's retreat. Women from SW Idaho and Oregon will go to the Quadrennial event in Atlanta this June. The Commission on Ministry has met with eight commissioned ministers and ordination candidates from SW Idaho and also SE Oregon, which can be a lot closer to Boise than to Portland! We thank Bob Arnold, Commission on Ministry Chair, for going to meetings in Nampa and Boise this spring, and Ken Stamper and Jani DeMond, who have come from Idaho to Portland for Commission meetings. We have had a number of conversations about Disciples youth camps for this summer at Suttle Lake in central Oregon and Cascade Christian Camp in Idaho. Oregon Disciple Foundation will provide camp scholarships for youth in all five of our districts. The regional nominating committee has a strong slate of leaders from SW Idaho to join the regional board in June, including a new Treasurer and our Moderator Elect. Our fall stewardship workshops will take place in Oregon and in Idaho.

As you can see, our new regional partnership is off and running. Most of the things that Oregon Disciples have done together are still happening, too. At the Regional Assembly in Hood River, Dick Hamm will ask for your ideas, hopes and prayers for how we can strengthen our witness as Disciples going forward. *"We are members, one of another (Ephesians 4:25)."* Doug

FCC Silverton to Receive Honor at EMO Banquet, May 14

First Christian Church in Silverton will receive the Ecumenical Service Award on May 14 at the Annual Dinner of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. The congregation will soon reach 100,000 meals served in their Community Dinner program, a result to be noted at the Silverton congregation on June 11. The Community Dinner has brought together churches from many denominations and people from all walks of life to share a meal together once every week. Other Disciples have started similar efforts in their own communities.



EMO will also install Co-Regional Minister Doug Wirt as President of the Board of Directors at the Annual Dinner. Tickets are available for \$75 at www.emoregon.org or 503-221-1054.

Quadrennial Scholarship Applications

Quadrennial Assembly for women began in 1957 gathering women every four years or so to worship, learn, and play together. For decades they met at Purdue University, and in recent years the event has moved around the country. This year's event will be in Atlanta, June 25-29. Scholarship help is available for women from Christian Church in Oregon and SW Idaho. Grants for \$100 and \$200 can be obtained by filing an application by April 22. Go to <http://www.oidisciples.org/#!news/c1h8s> scroll down to form.



Kim & Erik Free in Mozambique

After months of preparation and visiting churches, Erik and Kim Free have arrived safely in Mozambique for their assignment with Global Ministries. They are serving with our partner church, the United Church of Christ in Mozambique. Kim will assist and train with community health care and will work with women and girls on empowerment projects. Erik will offer training in agricultural skills and assist with local church pastoral needs.

The Frees will be missionary partners with the Christian Church in Oregon and SW Idaho and also with Disciples in the Northwest region. They are on a four year assignment and will be available to visit with congregations during their itineration in the United States. Kim and Erik Free have been active in our regional camp program, as well as in several of the Oregon Disciples congregations. You can follow their blog: <http://thefreesinmoz.wordpress.com/>.



Women's Pray and Play Retreat Days

Acts like you MEAN IT 52 women from 10 congregations, hosted by Lynchwood Christian, enjoyed the first of our four Pray and Play Days. An offering of \$600 was split between FEDICE and Disciples Mission Fund, and 69 books were donated to the elementary school next door. Three more events are planned for Allison Park, Eugene (5/17), Grants Pass (5/18), and LaGrande (6/21). Cost is \$15, and includes a copy of *Just Women Bible Study* for each person.

Save the Dates September 19-20, or 21 for Stewardship Event

Bruce Burkauer and Jerry Lang will lead stewardship events in September for Disciples in SW Idaho and Oregon. Bruce is Director of the Faith and Giving ministry for Disciples of Christ, and Jerry is Vice President of Christian Church Foundation. The first event will be on Friday evening and Saturday, September 19-20 in the Portland area. The second will be on Sunday afternoon and early evening, Sept. 21, in the Boise area. The NW Region will offer a similar event in the Spokane area, April 17-18, 2015. Bruce and Jerry will lead a workshop at Regional Assembly in Hood River on the morning of May 3.



Trip to Ecuador, July 10-22

Rick Ikeda of Salem FCC is once again organizing a mission trip to Ecuador for the summer of 2014. The dates will be July 10-22, with opportunity to work and to worship with partner churches in the local community of Cachiviro in northern Ecuador. Our FEDICE ministry partners have planned a work project involving labor of various skill levels. We will also have time to visit the world famous craft markets at Otavalo and see other interesting sites in the country.

Approximate costs per person are \$2,450. A \$200 deposit is requested as the initial payment. Some of our congregations raise funds or receive special gifts to help support the cost of a traveler. A limited amount of scholarship funds are also available.

Please contact Rick Ikeda at rtjir@outlook.com for more information. You can also visit with Blanca Puma, FEDICE Executive Director, during her Oregon visit, April 30—May 9. She will be at Hood River Valley, Eugene FCC, Peniel and Lynchwood.