September 15, 2015.

Interim Pastors, beginning

Group read together Martha Lynchwood:

Where the congregation’s Pastor

Eugene First:

Dale, begins his ministry in

Albany:

Christ’s ministry in the world.

While working together with

Our mission is

news from our Congregations

Regional Assembly

Regional Assembly

Volume 2 Issue 7

www.oidisciples.org  503.226.7648  0245 SW Bancroft Suite F, Portland 97239

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On the Way with Doug and Cathy

July 15  Junction City  Doug
July 14  Vision Team Meeting  Cathy
July 13  Lebanon  Doug
July 12  Hood River, Worship  Cathy
July 12  Eugene, Allison Park, Preaching  Doug
July 8  Portland, Women’s Prayer Circle  Doug
July 8  Boise, Red Rock Transition Committee  Doug
July 7  NBA Board Orientation  Cathy
July 5  Keizer, Worship  Cathy
July 5  Portland, Christ Church meeting  Doug
July 5  Portland, St. Johns Covenant Worship  Doug
June 30  Lebanon, Santi Area Ministers  Cathy/Doug
June 30  Springfield, Northwood, Staff Meeting  Cathy
June 30  Junction City, Committee Meeting  Doug
June 29  Portland, Midway, Meeting  Doug
June 28  Springfield, Northwood, 3 services  Doug
June 28  Eugene First, Worship  Cathy
June 28  Portland, The View, Worship  Doug/Cathy
June 27  Salem, Specialized Ministries Picnic  Doug/Cathy
June 24  Portland, Commission on Ministry  Doug/Cathy
June 23  Albany, Verne Catt McDowell Board  Doug

Boundary Training -- Keizer & Nampa

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) requires active ministers to take regular and recurring training in how to keep appropriate personal boundaries within ministry. Insurance companies also frequently want to know that ministers of insured congregations have had this kind of training.

Boundary training includes strategies for reducing the risk of improper contact between ministers and their parishioners or constituents. Such training can further include strategies for reducing the risk of improper kinds of contact between volunteers and other participants in a ministry, as well as learning to recognize and stop incidents of sexual harassment or intimidation.

The Commission on Ministry has established a boundary training event for 2015. Dr. Ruth Fletcher, Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Montana, will lead two identical workshops in September scheduled in Keizer, Oregon and in Nampa, Idaho. The first training will be on Friday, September 25 and held at Keizer Christian Church, near Salem. The second training will be on the next day, Saturday, September 26 at First Christian Church in Nampa. Both events will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude by 4 p.m. Matt Rosine of the Pension Fund will also be with us to share about the services and resources of this ministry.

Attendance at one of the two events is required for all active ordained and commissioned ministers in the Oregon-Southwest Idaho region. This includes those retired ministers who will want to be considered as candidates for interim ministries.

Registration materials will be available soon by email as well as on our regional website at www.oidisciples.org.
One of the most interesting and engaging parts of my work as one of your regional pastors is meeting with congregations while they are in the process of ministerial change. In the past few years, transitions have happened in a variety of ways. In our region, we have had pastoral changes in La Grande and Parkview for example, after several months of a pastoral search committee working with a Regional Minister. This occurs during a time of interim ministry, as is currently happening in Junction City and Lebanon. Some of the transitions occur because the pastors have retired, as in the Lynchwood and Dallas congregations, for example. Several of our congregations have entered a time of discernment and planning for six to twelve months before a pastor retires, as at Red Rock and Albany. By giving to Disciples Mission Fund, Disciples congregations help each other through times of pastoral transition.

In September, two congregations will begin interim ministries. Albany First will welcome Eric Dale who comes to them following an interim pastorate in Washington. Eric will join Associate Pastor Douglass Anne Cartwright in working with this congregation. The Medford First congregation will welcome Bill and Mary Jacobs to share the work of interim ministry. Bill and Mary come to Oregon from Arizona where Bill has served for over a decade as the pastor of Mesa First Christian. Mary has done interim ministry in Arizona congregations and the Northern California regional ministry as well working for Week of Compassion.

In the last three visits I visited in congregations in different stages of pastoral relationship: Eugene First where pastor Dan Bryant has served for over 20 years, Keizer Christian were pastor Bob Arnold is well into his first decade as their pastor, and Hood River Valley Christian where pastor Alicia Speidel is in her second month as pastor. Each one has a good and strong bond with their pastors and the sermons I heard in each place were Biblically based, spoke to the particular moment in the life of the congregation and culture, and offered a solid word of hope. We are blessed by the quality and dedication of the pastors that serve our congregations in this regional church. In gratitude. Cathy

Two Women’s Retreats in Idaho & Oregon

In the midst of summer, it may seem early to think about fall women’s retreats, but now is the time to secure your registrations and to put these events on your calendar so you can look forward to them.

August 14-16 in Cascade, Idaho, women will gather with keynote speaker, Rev. Patty Evans, recently retired pastor from Albany First Christian, for a three day retreat held in the Ashley Inn Hotel. This expanded format gives women time to relax and meet other Disciples Women in a beautiful location.

October 16-17 is a shorter model of retreat without arranged hotel and held at the Murray Hills Christian Church. Women stay in their own homes if they live in the area or share local hotel rooms near the church from a list provided. Some limited homestay options are available with advance notice. This year’s keynote speaker is Rev. Sandhya Jha, Director of the Oakland Peace Center in California. Women are welcome to come for the whole event or Saturday only (at a reduced price).

You can find details for both retreats on our regional web site: http://www.odisciples.org/#!womens-fall-retreat-2014/c16t0

Seven Church Camps this Summer

Our church camp season is now almost half completed. At this writing three camps have been done: Kids Camp in Ontario (grades K–2), Junior Camp (grades 3–5) and Chi Rho Camps (grades 6–8) at Camp Cascade in Idaho. High School camp in Idaho and three more camps for all ages are planned for Suttle Lake Camp.

We are deeply grateful for Rev. Erin Donnell, Associate Minister at Red Rock Christian Church in Boise, for attending all four of the Idaho camps to give leadership and consistency to the programs. Directors and staff for these camps came from members of the Red Rock, Ontario and Nampa congregations.

The Suttle Lake Camps are being directed this year by leaders from Albany, Ione, and Portland First Christian.

All seven camps share the theme: Say WHAT?! This theme centers on 1 Corinthians 13, and explores the “love chapter,” applying its beautiful language and deep meaning to our lives. WHAT stands for: Words matter, Holding on to what is important, Acting in love, and Taking love our into the world. All the camps share a common curriculum and tshirts that match. An evaluation of the camping program this fall will be open to anyone who has interest.