Mission Statement of the Regional Church

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.

On the Way with Doug and Cathy

- Nov. 22 North Bend FCC  Cathy/Doug
- Nov. 18 Eugene Springfield Ministers  Cathy/Doug
- Nov. 17 Albany  Cathy
- Nov. 16 College of Regional Ministers Exec Cte.  Cathy
- Nov. 15 Portland, Christ Church  Doug
- Nov. 15 Murray Hills, Portland FCC  Doug
- Nov. 12 Commission on Ministry  Doug
- Nov. 12-14 Oakland, CA, National Benevolent Assn Bd.  Cathy
- Nov. 8 Portland, Peniel Ministries, Worship  Doug
- Nov. 8 Keizer, Faithful Planning Team  Cathy
- Nov. 8 Junction City, Worship  Doug
- Nov. 8 Albany, Worship and meetings  Cathy
- Nov. 7 Regional Board Meeting  Doug/Cathy
- Nov. 5 Regional Vision Team Meeting  Cathy
- Nov. 5 Regional Ministers’ Staff Review  Cathy/Doug
- Nov. 5 Ecumenical Ministries Nominating Cte.  Doug
- Nov. 5 Columbia Gorge District Ministers  Doug/Cathy
- Nov. 4 Grants Pass Committee Meeting  Doug
- Nov. 3 Regional Finance Committee  Doug
- Nov. 1 Pendleton, Doug Preaching  Cathy/Doug
- Oct. 28 Ecumenical Ministries of OR, Finance Cte  Doug

Save these dates!

February 7  Portland  Regional Board meeting
February 13  Salem  Pray and Play for Women
February 20  Eugene  Pray and Play for Women
March 19  La Grande  Pray and Play for Women

Advent Blessings.

From your Regional Church Staff

Audre Bratcher
Liz Cronin

Cathy Myers Wirt
Douglas A. Wirt

News from our Congregations

Boise/Red Rock: Associate Pastor Erin Donnell returned from sabbatical leave that included a trip to Palestine with Disciples Women.

Christ Church/Portland: Giuseppe Amato serving as ministerial intern

Glenwood: Taylor Lind is providing regular pulpit supply on Sundays.

Hood River Valley: Bid farewell to John and Shirley Ihle who moved to Washington to be near family. John served as pastor of the congregation in the 1980s and 1990s.

Junction City: Gary Ivey is serving as Interim Pastor.

Lebanon: Myrna Phillips to serve as Interim Minister beginning in December.

Murray Hills: Raised $3,000 for their food pantry with a Prime Rib Dinner and chicken dance contest (using the Regional Chicken Suit from the camp supplies).

North Bend: Shares a “teddy bear” ministry by giving stuffed animals to those who could “use a hug and care.”

Northwood: Completing remodeling project with entry area and the addition of parking.

St. Johns: Bonnie Vance serving as ministerial intern.
Aloha Christian Church — The Legacy Continues

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The church used a good portion of their remaining assets to establish the Aloha Christian Church New Church Ministry Legacy Fund. The funds were given to the Oregon Disciple Foundation and invested through our Christian Church Foundation. Each year earnings from this fund will give support to new church ministries in the Oregon-SW Idaho regional church. The first distribution this fall has already helped to provide training for new church leaders in the Portland area. The Aloha congregation also made a contribution to The View Christian Church Youth Ministry Fund, providing camp scholarships for youth in the future. This fund is also administered through the Oregon Disciple Foundation.

There are other signs of life continuing from the Aloha ministry. Iglesia Cristiana Peniel de Hillsboro, which started at Aloha, now meets at the First Congregational Church in Hillsboro. The steeple from the former Aloha Christian Church building now sits atop the First Christian Church in Grants Pass! And members of the former Aloha congregation continue to share their faith in new ways.

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Women’s Pray and Play Day 2016 Dates

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Say W H A T ! ?

Gary Smith Retiring after 35 years

On January 31 Red Rock Christian Church will celebrate 35 years of ministry with Rev. Gary Smith and mark his retirement from the congregation. Gary’s wife, Robbie, has also shared her musical gifts with the congregation for many years as choir director. Gary was also instrumental in bringing about our new identity as the Oregon-SW Idaho region. You are invited to join the congregation and friends at 4 pm at the church to thank Gary for years of faithful and skilled service in Boise.

Doug

People often express surprise when they see the number of places that Cathy and I visit throughout the year. At each regional board meeting, we report on how many churches we’ve visited since the last board meeting, and that report is posted on our website. When I see the list, I’m surprised too!

Your regional ministers’ travel schedules don’t tell the whole story of regional church life. The real story is told in the many active, life giving ministries happening through Disciples of Christ churches in Oregon and SW Idaho. You can find Disciples in this region in ministries with youth, children and seniors, in men’s groups and women’s ministries. You can find Disciples feeding and sheltering neighbors in need every day of the week. You can see Disciples reaching out to people caught up in addictive behaviors, teaming up with Christians in another country, accompanying people going through surgery, or learning to be a parent or a spouse or a pastor. You can hear Disciples saying an earthly goodbye to a loved one or Disciples baptizing new believers, or Disciples sharing stories that help people learn that the teachings and people of Jesus Christ can make a huge difference for the good in their lives.

That’s the story, for as Hebrews 4 says, “the word of God is living and active.” Cathy and I enjoy telling stories about one congregation to another congregation, sharing in one location what other Disciples are doing somewhere else. We spend lots of time with churches in transition in between pastors, seeking a new model for their ministry, or beginning or ending the ministry of a congregation. Twenty per cent of Disciples congregations in the Oregon-SW Idaho regional church have started since the year 2000. Some arrive at the end of their visible ministry, yet continue to bless others for years to come through the future use of their assets.

Even as your Regional Ministers visit with all 45 congregations in this region, every ministry has a role in building up every other congregation. Many congregations do this by supporting Disciples Mission Fund. Many individuals give a personal gift to support regional ministries each year through the Annual Fund. In 2014, about half of the congregations in the Oregon-SW Idaho supported the Christmas offering and in doing so supported each other’s ministries. In 2015, we hope that our Christmas offering will increase in congregational offerings, or by individuals supported the Christmas offering and in doing so supported each other’s ministries. In 2015, we hope that our Christmas offering will increase in congregational offerings, or by individuals simply sending their own Christmas offering to the regional church.

God’s people, like the hope that we share, are living and active. Cathy and I count it a blessing and privilege to share in Christian ministries with you in so many times and so many ways. We pray God’s blessings for you and yours in this season of seeking joy and peace for all.

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