

Northwest Passage

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Poland and Europe in partnership with Evangelical Reformed Church in Poland; Developing work with Roma (gypsies/homeless) in Poland and neighboring countries; What God is doing generally in missions and outreach in Europe; What congregations can do to be God's hands in the world.

During the twenty-six days they will be in Washington/ North Idaho, they will be sharing their mission story in worship, small group settings, women's and youth groups, mission/outreach committees, community settings. Most settings will be cluster gatherings with near by churches. An organized schedule will take them to every geographical area so a maximum number will hear their stories. Watch for announcements in the coming weeks for the list of locations where you can meet the Searles' and hear their story.



Doug & Liz Searles



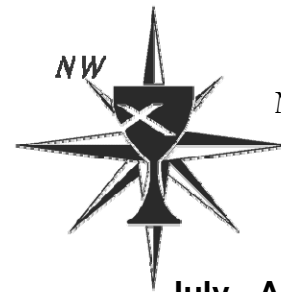
Here is a sampling of what's going on around our regional Community of Communities. To add your congregation's story to this list, go to the website, www.disciplesnw.org and click on the Connections tab. Please limit your news item to 2-3 sentences.

Queen Anne Christian, Seattle – Is celebrating their 20 years of ministry with their pastor, Laurie Rudel.

Country Homes Christian, Spokane – has been working on a new Mission/Vision statement. Their interim minister, Roger Lynn, is celebrating 30 years of ordained ministry this month.

Othello Christian - will celebrate the Installation of their new pastor, Nan Riddle, on Sunday, Sep. 18, time to be announced.

First Christian, Anchorage – recently celebrated the ministry of Rev. Dale Kelley, who has served that congregation as interim on two occasions. Rev. Kelley is returning to the lower 48 and will be resettling in the Seattle area.



Northwest Passage

Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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Phone: 253-893-7202

www.disciplesnw.org

July - August 2011

REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY...

Rev. Sandy Messick

The Lazy Crazy Days of Summer

Some of you may have noticed you didn't receive a Northwest Passage in July. Maybe some of you were too busy to notice. Amber and I had every intention of sending out a newsletter but somehow the month slipped away. Between General Assembly, vacations, and the start of camp season, suddenly we find ourselves here on August 1. So, here is your July-August edition of the Northwest Passage. There's lots happening around and about, and much to celebrate in the region and beyond.

One thing I am celebrating is transformation in so many of our congregations. Just prior to the General Assembly, our General Minister and President, Sharon Watkins, contacted all regional ministers asking for the number of transforming congregations in each region. The first question to come back was "How do you define a transforming congregation?" It's a very good question because each congregation is unique. I understand a transforming congregation to be one that is seriously wrestling with our changed cultural context and willing to re-imagine ministry and mission for this new time and place. It involves a changing culture within the congregation, a willingness to let go of what was and might have worked in the past, and a sense of

adventure and openness to experience God and engage our communities in new and significant ways. Within our region, some congregations are experiencing transformation through Journey of Discovery, some through New Beginnings, and others through their own self-designed and led processes. And some are experiencing transformation without an intentional effort but simply through a renewed sense of living out the gospel within their communities. However it is happening, it was exciting to me to go through our list of congregations and take note of the number that are pursuing or experiencing transformation in some way (over 50% of our congregations by my count, and probably more). This is news to celebrate, not only for these congregations, but for our region and the communities in which we live and are.

Blessings, Sandy Messick

GOT SPIRIT? Camping Season is in full swing!

Please keep our camping program in your prayers as we move through another camping season. I am especially grateful to our directors and counselors who have stepped up for each camp, and for our congregations who send their young people each summer. Directors for this year's camps are: **Zephyr** Chi Rho/CYF: Kami Voliva & Bob Brooks; Junior Camp: Lauri Clark-Strait & David Helseth; Kids Camp: David & Dixie Carringer. **Gwinwood** ChiRho/CYF: Tamalyn Kralman & Gary Shoemaker; Kids and Junior: Amy Walters & Rochelle Richards. **Thank you to all our volunteers!**

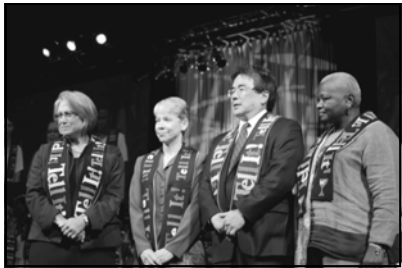
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NEWS FROM THE WIDER CHURCH

General Assembly Highlights *Tell it!*

July 9 - 13 – Nashville, TN

- **Sharon Watkins** was overwhelmingly re-elected as General Minister and President for another 6 year term
- **The newly elected Moderator team includes several northwest faces** including Regina Morton as Moderator (formerly from the Northwest Region, now in Tennessee) and Rick Ikeda, Second Vice Moderator from the Oregon region.



(l to r): Sharon Watkins, GMP; Susan Ward Diamond, First Vice Moderator: minister FCC Montgomery, AL; Rick Ikeda, Second Vice Moderator: Vice-President Western Tool Supply, member FCC Salem, OR; Regina Morton, Moderator: member Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Memphis, TN formerly member United Christian Church, Renton, WA and active leader while in the NWRCC.

Have you seen it yet? Check out Musings on Mission, a monthly blog from Mission Council Moderator Wahhab Baldwin.
<http://musingsonmission.disciplesnw.org/>

- **The new partnership between Disciples Seminary Foundation and the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle U** was celebrated during the DSF luncheon on Monday
- **A number of Northwesterners gathered on Sunday evening** at the reception hosted by the Northwest, Oregon, Montana and S. Idaho regions.
- **We worshipped, discussed, prayed, learned, and fellowshiped together** throughout a hot and steamy week in Nashville, TN.

Make plans now to attend the next General Assembly in Orlando, FL, July 13-17 2011.

TURNER LECTURES

October 10-12, 2011
Englewood Christian Church,
Yakima

Featuring John D. Caputo, this year's Lectures draws its theme from Caputo's book, "What Would Jesus Deconstruct?" Asking the question, Caputo carefully unpacks the "what," the "would," the "Jesus," and the "deconstruct" in his question, to uncover what is really happening in the Church—or what should be!—namely, the Kingdom of God. This he defines as the unruly rule that results if we release what's going on in the name of God--if we let it happen--if the name of God becomes the name of a deed, not a doctrine.

Brochures and online registration coming soon!

DISCIPLES CRUISE

ALASKA: May 26 - June 2, 2012

The Senior Adult Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Florida invites you to join them on Holland America's beautiful Westerdam leaving from Seattle for a spectacular 7-night cruise through Alaska's Inside Passage. Ports of call include Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria (British Columbia) and Glacier Bay before returning to Seattle. Costs range from \$699—\$1469.

Bible study and/or worship services will be held on board when the ship is "at sea". Celebrate Pentecost Sunday by worshipping with Disciples from around the country on board ship in this beautiful setting.

The Alaska Cruise is the fifth cruise sponsored by Florida's Senior Adults, and we do hope you will consider being a part of this exciting voyage. Please make reservations through our travel agent to receive the red carpet treatment we have come to expect and enjoy!

To make your reservations or to receive more cruise information, please contact: Dean Skinner, CTC: Indian River Travel, Palm Beach, FL. (877) 626-6110 or dean@indianrivertravel.com

TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE TO SUPPORT OUR NW REGIONAL MINISTRY: Matching Fund Challenge Continues...

Last year the Northwest Region was blessed to receive a significant gift from the Cliff and Donna Albright (Rhay) fund from Christian Church Foundation. The Regional Board has designated \$12,500 of that gift to be used to help support the

ongoing ministries of the regional church through the General Fund, but we are challenging you to match that gift! Will you help us meet our goal of an additional \$12,500 in Individual Gift Donations to the Northwest Regional Christian Church this year? As of the end of April we have received \$4050 so we still have a ways to go. Donations can be made by sending a check to the Regional Office (PO Box 23819, Federal Way, WA 98093) or by credit card online at www.disciplesnw.org. Your gifts help support transforming congregations, new congregations, pastors and congregations in Search and Call, support for clergy and congregations, camps, youth events, and much, much, more. Thank you for your generous giving!

NW REGION PREPARES FOR VISIT FROM MISSIONARIES DOUG AND LIZ SEARLES FALL 2011: Oct. 22 to Nov. 2 and Nov. 7 to Dec. 18

Rev. Douglas and Dr. Elizabeth Searles have served since 1997 in international ministries in India, China and now Central Europe. They live in Lodz, Poland and their call is to walk with Kosciol Ewangelicko-Reformowany (KER), the Evangelical-Reformed Church of Poland, a minority and marginalized church. Our work seeks to support our partner's initiatives towards evangelism, church growth, ecumenical relations, and outreach. They are jointly appointed by Global Ministries and PCUSA, so they relate to three denominations: United Church of Christ, Christian Church (Disciples) and the Presbyterian Church (USA).

With pictures, music, personal witness their presentations will focus on: Work in

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