

Northwest Passage

Got Spirit?

NWRCC Summer Camps 2011

Finding God... in the Everyday

Make sure your calendars are marked & plans are made! *Registration forms available online or at your church office today.*

Zephyr - Liberty Lake, WA

Kids - Entering Grades 2 & 3: August 1 to 4

Junior - Entering Grades 4, 5, 6: August 1 to 6

Chi Rho - Entering Grades 7, 8, 9: July 25 to 30

CYF - Entering Grades 10, 11, 12 and New Grads: July 25 to 30

Gwinwood - Lacey, WA

Kids - Entering Grades 2 & 3: August 8 to 11

Junior - Entering Grades 4, 5, 6: August 8 to 11

Chi Rho - Entering Grades 7, 8, 9: August 15 to 20

CYF - Entering Grades 10, 11, 12 and New Grads: August 15 to 20



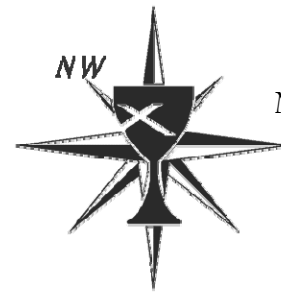
Here is a sampling of what's going on around our regional Community of Communities. To add your congregation's story to this list, go to the website, www.disciplesnw.org and click on the Connections tab. Please limit your news item to 2-3 sentences.

Opportunity Christian, Spokane – Will be holding a Women's Retreat at Zephyr Camp on Sept. 23-24. The theme will be "Standing on the Promises."

Comunidad Cristiana, Tacoma – is starting a food bank and is seeking donations of food and money. To offer your help, please contact pastors Griselda and Miguel Rivera at griselda106@msn.com.

Othello Christian - New pastor, Nan Riddle arrives this week and will officially begin her ministry on June 18. The congregation offers thanksgiving to Dennis Borgman who has served as interim minister for the past 5 years. Blessings on endings and beginnings!

Joyce and Wes Veatch have relocated California: Joyce and Wes Veatch have sold their home on Whidbey Island and relocated to Southern California at a Senior Housing community. They will be near their daughter Cathy and family who live in Bellflower, CA. Their son and family live in Arizona. We will know their permanent California address later. Wes served the Bellevue Christian Church and then he and his wife Joyce served First Christian Church in Anchorage, AK.



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Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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Phone: 253-893-7202

www.disciplesnw.org

June 2011

REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY...

Rev. Sandy Messick

Endings and Beginnings

This is a season of endings and beginnings in our house. Our daughter, Sarah, has graduated high school and is now busy meeting future classmates on Facebook and planning her dorm room as she prepares to head off to Boston University in the fall. Our son, John, will finish middle school this week and is preparing to enter high school this fall. We have two graduates, and next year, two freshmen. Endings and Beginnings. They both go about the house humming graduation songs in an effort to make me tear up. It never fails.

Endings and beginnings are part of our transformation stories as well. Any new beginning requires an ending. Often, it's not the starting something new that's most difficult. It's letting go of what is no more. This is not a new story. Endings and beginnings have been a part of the story of faith since the beginning. In the Hebrew scriptures, the story of the Exodus is a story of a people being forced to let go of what was, journey through a wilderness time of uncertainty, and then enter into God's new beginnings. Remember in that story, in the middle of the wilderness the people wanted to return to what had ended, even when what had ended was slavery. It was at least familiar and predictable. New beginnings are frightening, and yet, our God is a God of new beginnings, new possibilities, new promises. Our God is a God who promises

that in our endings and in our beginnings, God will be with us.

This past Sunday we celebrated Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit to the church. It too is a story of endings and beginnings. It marked an ending to the first chapter in the Jesus story and the opening of the next chapter as Spirit moved to send the church out into the world. We continue to live out the Pentecost story as Spirit moves within and through each of us and our congregations to be the church in the world. In our endings and in our beginnings, may God hold us, inspire us, challenge and lead us, that we may celebrate and release what is ending, and embrace and imagine what is beginning.

Blessings,
Sandy Messick

COMMON TABLE— AUGUST 6

Mark your calendars now for our Summer Common Table at United Christian Church in Yakima, August 6. The Regional Board will meet Friday evening, August 5. The Mission Council will meet Saturday morning, August 6. Then, we will all gather together for lunch and a time of learning on Saturday afternoon. More details are coming, but mark your calendars now!

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...

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NEWS FROM THE WIDER CHURCH

General Assembly is Coming to Nashville: Tell it!

July 9 - 13 – Nashville, TN

Registration is open now at www.disciples.org

Northwest, Oregon, Idaho, Montana Regions to Host Reception at General Assembly

Another opportunity to participate in at General Assembly, don't miss the chance to mix with others from the Northwest Region and our neighbors! Scheduled on July 10th during GA, the gathering will be at the Renaissance Hotel from 8:30pm to 10:30pm. Make a plan to attend and enjoy a time of fellowship and refreshment at this after-session!

New Staff ~ Immigration Counsel

The Reverend Ronald J. Degges, President of Disciples Home Missions (DHM), has announced that Tana Liu-Beers has been called as Immigration Counsel for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This new half-time position, located in DHM, is being funded by multiple General Ministries, Racial/Ethnic Ministries, and Regions of the Disciples. The Immigration Counsel will work with the whole church on a broad array of immigration issues. Tana is currently an immigration attorney and an Equal Justice Works Fellow at the North Carolina Justice Center's Immigrants Legal Assistance Project... Tana will be deployed staff working out of Durham, NC, starting in mid-July.

General Youth Council now accepting Applications

The General Youth Council is currently accepting applications. The General Youth Council is composed of fifteen to seventeen members (10 youth, 4 adults, plus staff) who meet at least once a year to plan, implement, evaluate the general youth ministry program for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The General Youth Council seeks to be representative of youth in the whole church through a balance of gender, racial/ethnic background, and geographic representation. If you have just completed 9th to 10th grade consider applying to the council. Elected members will serve two years. But you have to hurry -- the deadline is July 15, 2011! Applications may be found at www.discipleshomemissions.org/pages/GYC-App

"MOVING FROM TALK TO ACTION" Summer Institute for Anti-Racist White People, Aug 2-3, 2011 at University Baptist Church in Seattle

Through personal reflection, small and large group discussion, and experiential exercises this workshop will explore: White privilege and unearned advantage, moving beyond guilt and shame, claiming and shaping an anti-racist identity, practicing the skills of interrupting racism and strategies for institutional change. For more information: www.alliesforchange.org/seattle

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Matching Fund Challenge Continues...

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!

DSF PARTNERS WITH SEATTLE UNIV. SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY & MINISTRY

On Thursday, May 19, 2011 the Disciples Seminary Foundation (DSF) officially named the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University as a Partner School. This move brings STM alongside other DSF partner schools, Claremont School of Theology and Pacific School of Religion. This agreement opens up scholarship opportunities for Disciples Master of Divinity students enrolled at STM as well as other scholarship possibilities and connections with the wider Disciples community.

In the words of Jon Berquist, President of DSF: "DSF serves as one of the Disciples' seven institutions of theological education. Our mission is to support and enhance theological education throughout the west.

For fifty years, we have operated partnerships with seminaries so that we could provide Disciples education in training ministers, connect seminarians to the wider denomination, enhance education and offer scholarship support to students. I am thrilled to announce that Mark Markuly, dean of STM, and I have signed an agreement of affiliation that names STM as DSF's third partner school. Beginning in Fall 2011, all STM Disciples MDiv students will be allowed to apply for DSF scholarships at 40% of tuition. We'll also be providing some travel scholarships to qualified students, and we'll be a conduit of information from the general church to students about Seminarians Conference and General Assembly. DSF students are eligible to apply for a number of nationwide Disciples scholarships, and to serve on a number of general church committees and task forces for additional experience."

Sandy Messick, the Regional Minister of the Northwest Region will now have a permanent ex-officio seat on the DSF board as will the Dean of STM. The President of DSF will serve on the Disciples Outreach Team. The Executive Committee of the Regional Board formerly affirmed and celebrated this partnership during its meeting on June 13, 2011.

CONGRATULATIONS to Sharon Nichols, recent STM graduate:

Members of the Disciples Outreach Team at the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle U and others recently celebrated with Sharon as she prepared to receive her M.Div.

