

Northwest Passage



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.

First Christian, Tacoma – Pastor Carol Rawlings has announced her retirement effective the end of 2011. Congratulations, Carol, as you enter a new season of life's journey and a different form of ministry.

Lake Washington Christian, Kirkland – held their "Conference on the Present" on Oct. 16 as part of their work in the Journey of Discovery Transformation Process.

Lake City Christian, Seattle – took a walk/drive through their neighborhood on Oct. 16 as a way of exploring their community and then engaged in conversation about how they might better connect with their neighbors in ministry and mission.

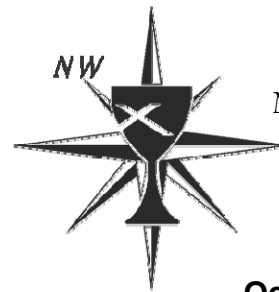
Chelan Christian – pastor, Frank Needles, has announced his retirement at the end of the year. The congregation has formed a search committee and is currently seeking an interim minister. Congratulations, Frank, and best wishes in the next season of your ministry.

First Christian, Bremerton – on Sunday, October 16 took a step forward in what they describe as "the awesome and amazing goal of being a Global Mission Congregation this fall. They see this as being part of the congregation's Guiding Vision:

- discerning how we can respond to needs within and beyond our congregation
- work on behalf of justice for all God's people
- finding ways to overcome the forces that degrade enslave and oppress God's creation.

Their Global Missions Ministry Team, led by Rod Smith, has learned about our Disciple partnership with the United Church of Christ in Global Ministries where we provide a critical presence by meeting people at their deepest need. They developed a process that led to approval by the congregation. They currently have two settings, "Connecting the Threads" where they are learning about the five areas of our overseas service. They are working on a "check list for future action". December 1st they will joyfully host Liz and Doug Searles at one of the 25 area cluster gatherings to learn more about our work in Poland.

Among our pastors: Rev. David Van Heyningen is currently serving as interim pastor at Snoqualmie United Methodist Church through June 30, 2012



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Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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October 2011

REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY...

Rev. Sandy Messick

Becoming a Critical Presence

In case you haven't heard, our Global Ministries missionaries, Doug and Liz Searles, will be visiting our region starting in October and lasting through December. Their schedule is listed elsewhere in this newsletter and can be found online at www.disciplesnw.org. We are fortunate to be in partnership with them, and even more fortunate to be ecumenically sharing their visit with our wider family in the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

The mission of Global Ministries is to be a "critical presence" which they define as meeting God's people and creation at the point of deepest need: spiritually, physically, emotionally, and/or economically. Global Ministries does this through our missionaries and mission partners (churches, organizations, and groups) throughout the world. I believe we are blessed and I am grateful for the ministry they are offering on our behalf in God's name.

Even more, I think the idea of being a critical presence is one we can adopt in our own communities and congregations. While many of us are not called to be missionaries to foreign lands, we are called as people of God to be a critical

presence in our neighborhoods and communities. We are called to meet God's people at their places of deepest need and be in relational ministry with them in whatever way that may be. To do this, we need to engage with our communities with open eyes ready to see the needs of those around us, open ears ready to hear the stories of those we meet, and open hearts ready to enter into relationship. I know that many of you, and many of our congregations, already know this and are living it out; being God's presence in your communities. May God's light continue to shine in and through each of you.

Blessings, Sandy Messick

You Are Invited

The Northwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and

First Christian Church of Longview, Washington

cordially invite you to the **service of installation** of their new pastor, **Rev. Eric Atcheson**

3:00 pm, October 30, 2011
First Christian Church
2000 East Kessler Boulevard,
Longview, WA, 98632

Reception in our fellowship hall to follow the service.

SEARLES ARRIVE THIS MONTH FOR MARATHON MEETINGS

Global Ministries has assigned Liz and Doug Searles, missionaries to Poland to be with us from October 22-December 18. Global Ministries shared a 50-50 appointment for the Searles' with the Presbyterian Church (USA). They are scheduled for 25 Cluster Gatherings and eight Sunday morning services.

Here is their final schedule. You are invited to the Cluster Gathering closest to you.

| OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER |
|--|--|---|
| Oct. 22 Yakima: Central WA Presbytery | Nov. 1 Walla Walla: First Congregational UCC | Dec. 1 Noon Seattle UCC Clergy @ Broadview |
| Oct. 22-23 Spokane Valley: Veradale UCC | Nov. 4-5 Bellingham: First Christian | Dec. 1 PM Bremerton: First Christian |
| Oct. 23 PM Spokane: Opportunity: DOC | Nov. 5 AM Bellingham: First Christian | Dec. 3 Sequim: UCC House Church |
| Oct. 24 Spokane: Emmanuel Presbyterian | Nov. 5 After Bellingham: St. James Presbyterian | Dec. 4 AM Seattle: University Christian |
| Oct. 25 Clarkston: DOC; Lewiston UCC | Nov. 7 Bainbridge Island: Eagle Harbor UCC | Dec. 4 PM Tacoma: First Christian |
| Oct. 26 Pullman: Congregational UCC | Nov. 8 Mt. Vernon: First Christian | Dec. 7 Seattle: Lake City Christian |
| Oct. 27 Tonasket: UCC | Nov. 10-14 National Meetings: Cleveland | Dec. 9 Seattle: Normandy Park Congregational |
| Oct. 28 Ephrata: DOC | Nov. 15 Seattle: Pugetarians, Horizon House | Dec. 11 AM Bellevue: Eastgate Congregational |
| Oct. 29: Othello: DOC; PCUSA | Nov. 15 Seattle: Seattle Presbytery | Dec. 11 PM Bellevue: First Congregational |
| Oct. 30 AM Yakima: Englewood | Nov. 16 Seattle: Fauntleroy UCC | Dec. 11 Everett: United Church of Christ |
| Oct. 30 PM Yakima: United Christian | Nov. 17 Olympia Presbytery, Sumner | Dec. 13 Federal Way: Wayside UCC |
| Oct. 31 Richland: United Protestant | Nov. 18 Sumner: First Christian | Dec. 14 Seattle: Northminster Presbyterian Church |
| | Nov. 20 AM Olympia: United Churches, UCC PCUSA | Dec. 15 Tacoma: Southwest Area Disciple Clergy |
| | Nov. 20 PM Olympia: First Christian | Dec. 18 AM Kent: First Christian Church |
| | Nov. 21-28 Searles Family Thanksgiving time | |
| | Nov. 30 North Presbytery Olympic Peninsula | |



NEWS FROM THE WIDER CHURCH

“Keepers of the Song”

“Keepers of the Song” – A Sacred Choral Workshop will be held on Jan 21, 2012 at Plymouth Church, U.C.C. in Seattle. Special guest will be Hal Hopson, full time composer and church musician. The workshop is intended for music directors, organists, choir members, pastors/priests, worship committees and all who love the song that we sing. The workshop, which will feature a hymn sing, is intended to help foster better singing congregations. For more information, please contact First Presbyterian of Snohomish at www.snopres.org.

“A New Heaven and a New Earth”

– Cultural Competency Training for the Northwest, will be held at Central Lutheran Church in Seattle on Saturday, October 29, 2011. This introductory workshop assists in building skills to effectively communicate with a diversity of people – younger, older, immigrant, a primary culture or language different from your own. You will learn skills and tools for building relationships across cultures. For more information, please visit: http://app.razorplanet.com/acct/41158-3095/resources/Cultural_Competency_Training.pdf

Have you seen it yet?

Check out Musings on Mission, a monthly blog from Mission Council Moderator Wahhab Baldwin. <http://musingsonmission.disciplesnw.org/>

Thanksgiving Offering to benefit the colleges, universities, seminaries, and divinity houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be taken November 13 & 20.

Imagine this email from your college daughter or son...

Dear Mom,

Just a note to let you know I am OK. My studies are challenging as expected.

Yesterday, a professor and I had a conversation about my vocational and life goals. No final decisions yet. I am still exploring how I may make my mark in the world. Good to have this time to learn and to reflect. Thanks for your guidance.

Love, _____

Would you like to get an email like this from your child? You probably would if you recommended he or she attend one of our Disciples related colleges or universities supported by your Special Day Thanksgiving Offering through the Disciples Mission Fund.

Explore your 14 schools at <http://www.tcucc.org/> and email us at tcuccdoc@gmail.com

