

Northwest Passage

WITH THANKSGIVING AND APPRECIATION for an amazing and fruitful 2011 Itineration (October, November, December 2011)

For 46 days you graciously gave of yourselves, traveled many, many miles, and with great joy and skill shared the exciting ministry you have had in our partnership with the Evangelical-Reformed Church of Poland. You also helped us learn about the crisis among the Roma people of Europe. We are more aware of the critical work Global Ministries and our partnership with others around the world. Thank you for your significant gifts to us Liz and Doug Searles!

Mary Margaret Pruitt and Marvin Eckfeldt, Coordinators

Over the course of the three months, Liz and Doug touched the lives of over 1,800 people and through offerings taken raised \$5096.50 for Global Ministries. Thank you!



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.

Covenant Christian, Spokane – Has purchased property on the south hill of Spokane and is making plans to build a new building to house their ministry.

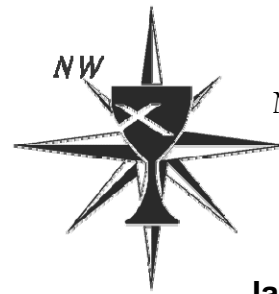
Country Homes, Spokane – Has just finished paying off their building mortgage and celebrated a burning of the mortgage in early January.

First Christian, Tacoma - celebrated the retirement of Rev. Carol Rawlings with an open house celebration on January 8. Plans are now being made to celebrate the ministry of John Williams as he prepares to move to Indianapolis, join his wife, Cheryllyn, and explore new opportunities for ministry there.

Othello Christian – hosted their first annual Drive Thru Bethlehem display this past Christmas, welcoming the community to the church building to celebrate the Christmas story.

First Christian, Port Angeles – has called Rev. Neil Allen to be their interim minister following the retirement of Rev. David Moffitt. Rev. Allen is from the Portland, OR area and begins his ministry in Port Angeles at the beginning of February.

First Christian, Kennewick – is celebrating the installation of their pastor, Matthew Keith, during a morning worship celebration on Sunday, January 22, 2012.



Northwest Passage

Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

PO Box 23819, Federal Way, WA 98093

Phone: 253-893-7202

www.disciplesnw.org

January 2012

REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY...

Rev. Sandy Messick

Many Reasons to Give Thanks

It's January and time for those New Year's resolutions. How are you doing so far as we move into the middle of January? This year I have the usual: lose those last few pounds, spend less, exercise more. We'll see. I'm also renewing one from a couple of years ago. This one came out of my experience traveling to the Middle East with Global Ministries in December of 2009. As I lugged my suitcase through several different countries (and up several staircases) my resolution for 2010 became a mantra: "Pack lightly and leave room." I was thinking in terms of travel of course, but the mantra came to have meaning in other areas of my life as well.

Pack lightly. Hold the things of life lightly. Don't try to cram commitments into every space of my day or week. Don't try to cram expectations, "shoulds and oughts" into every corner and lose the opportunity for embracing the unexpected.

Leave room. Leave space for wonder. Leave space for moments of grace. Leave space to be able to respond to people (and congregations) without the

distractions of the "shoulds and oughts." Leave room to be able to recognize the Spirit of God moving in our midst.

As our congregations are thinking about transformation and ministry for a new day, I'm asking them to consider the same kinds of questions: What are the essentials we must take with us into the new day; practices values, traditions? (And no, not everything is essential! Not everything will fit in the suitcase!) And what kind of space can we leave for the new things God wants to bring into our lives?

Pack lightly. Leave room.

Blessings,
Sandy Messick

SAVE THE DATE: REGIONAL ASSEMBLY 2012

"We Refuse to Lose" is the theme of our next regional family reunion as we gather in Olympia, WA, May 18-20, 2012. Our Regional Youth Commission is hard at work planning a thoughtful, thought provoking, meaningful time for us to come together in worship, fellowship, and conversation. Mark your calendars now and watch for more details and registration information.



YOUTH WINTER RETREAT 2012

Chi Rho (grades 6-8) and CYF (grades 9-12) youth and their adult sponsors are invited and encouraged to attend this year's Winter Retreat, March 9-11 at Koinonia Camp and Retreat Center in Cle Elum, WA.

The Regional Youth Commission is working hard to plan another great retreat. The 2012 theme, "The Circle of Life", celebrates healthy relationships with God, in families, with friends and love. The price this year is \$110/person and now includes additional meals (Friday dinner and Sunday lunch).

Request registration forms from your church office or download and print one from the Region's website: www.disciplesnw.org!

NEWS FROM THE WIDER CHURCH

NBA CALLS NEW VICE PRESIDENT OF CHURCH MINISTRIES

The National Benevolent Association (NBA) is pleased to announce the calling of the Rev. Rebecca Hale to serve as vice president of church ministries. Hale will join the staff in February and will be responsible for developing collaborative relationships with congregations and regions that further advance health and social service ministries. In addition, she will supervise the Chaplaincy Care Program.

Read the full press release at: www.nbacares.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Hale-Release.pdf



Rebecca Hale

CHERILYN WILLIAMS NAMED NEW DISCIPLES COMMUNICATION STAFF

Our own, Cherilyn Williams has been called as Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Communication for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Cherilyn is the wife of Rev. John Williams, pastor of First Christian Church in Tacoma. She has begun her work in Indianapolis in January and John will follow in February after wrapping up his ministry at FCC Tacoma.

Writes the Disciples News Service, "Williams has held many public relations and



Cherilyn Williams

communications positions. She also served on the General Board of the Christian Church, the Mission Alignment Coordinating Council and as moderator of the Northwest Region of the Christian Church."

Congratulations Cherilyn!

For more about this news release and Williams, visit: www.disciples.org/DisciplesNewsService/tabid/58/itemId/1104/Disciples-name-new-communication-staff.aspx

ATTENTION DISCIPLES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Higher Education and Leadership Ministries has important information for you:

Higher Education and Leadership Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) invites high school seniors interested in new kinds of Christian leadership to apply to join the 12th class of HELM Leadership Fellows. Application packets are available now at <http://helmdisciples.org/aid/fellows.htm>.

Leadership Fellows experience an ongoing relationship with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that adds value to their educations through organized opportunities for fellowship, training, and service to the church. With the help of a campus mentor, fellows design and conduct projects on or near their campuses, participate in an annual conference focused on shaping a Church for the future, and receive a \$2,000 annual scholarship grant.

Since 2001, over 70 fellows have passed through the program into careers as

ministers, college professors, musicians and broadcasters, teachers, activists for peace and the environment and other forms of leadership. You can meet current and past HELM Leadership Fellows at <http://helmdisciples.org/helm/fellows.htm>.

Applicants must be high school seniors entering college in fall, 2012 or community college students transferring to a four-year school. Fellows may attend any accredited four-year college or university, though students attending Disciples-related schools are particularly encouraged to apply.

The application deadline is April 16, 2012—just three months away!. For more information contact HELM at helm@helmdisciples.org or [314-991-3000](tel:314-991-3000).

SEARCH FOR MEANING - BOOK FESTIVAL, Seattle University

On Saturday, February 4, 2012 from 9am to 5pm, the Seattle University will host the "Search for Meaning Book Festival". Enjoy over 40 authors surrounding the human search for meaning on issues of spirituality, faith and social justice. This diverse group of guest authors represent a wide range of belief systems and faith traditions. Keynote Speakers are Mary Oliver - Pulitzer Prize winning poet and author and James Oliver, S.J. - NY Times best selling author and official chaplain of the Colbert Report

Admission is FREE but you must register for tickets. Visit www.searchformeaning.us for more information and registration.