



Northwest Passage

Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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December 2009

REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY...

Rev. Sandy Messick

(A continuing series of articles reflecting on the Objectives outlined in our Regional Ministry Plan)

Disciples Mission Fund

Last month this column talked about how we as the Northwest Region are using the financial gifts given by congregations and individuals to do important ministry within and beyond the Region. This month, we look at the giving to Disciples Mission Fund. How is it supporting the work, both within and beyond the region and general church? First, 67% of all dollars given to DMF by congregations in the Northwest Region is returned to the Region. DMF is the main source of income that underwrites our annual budget. In 2010, we hope to receive \$124,000 returned to the region through DMF. In order to meet that goal, our congregations would need to contribute in excess of \$185,000 to DMF. Last month's article talked about the many ways that money is used in the region to live out our vision and to be church in this place.

But what about the 33% that "stays in Indianapolis?" How is that money being used to support our work in this Region as well as contribute to the wider church and beyond? 5% goes to support our schools of higher learning including our Disciples colleges and seminaries. 6% goes to support the work

of the Office of General Minister and President which includes General Assemblies, General Board, communicating with the larger church, and coordinating Disciples Mission Fund in addition to supporting the work of our General Minister and President, Sharon Watkins. Smaller percentages are used to support NAPAD, Hispanic Ministries, National Convocation, Global Ministries, Disciples Home Missions, Church Extension, World Convention, Council on Christian Unity, and a host of other groups and organizations that either offer resources for congregations or regions, or act on our behalf in connection with the wider church. I think we can assume that most of that 33% doesn't "stay in Indianapolis," but is used to help the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) live out its mission to be "a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world." Sometimes we may feel frustrated that we can't "see" where our money is going. Perhaps it's time to look at that question from a different viewpoint: Isn't it a good thing that the gifts we give can reach beyond the places we can see.

Thank you for your generous gifts to the work of the Northwest Region and to the wider church beyond our doorsteps. Together we are doing, by God's grace, that which by God's design, we cannot do apart.

Blessings,
Sandy

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DISCIPLES WORLD TO CEASE PUBLICATION

From a recent press release: *DisciplesWorld*, the award-winning journal of news, opinion, and mission for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), will cease publication after almost eight years.

Citing declining subscription and advertising revenue, and charitable gifts, Publisher and Editor Verity A. Jones said the non-profit entity that publishes the magazine — DisciplesWorld, Inc. — is also dissolving.

PALESTINE/ISRAEL WITH GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Sandy has recently returned from her 12-day trip to the Middle East. She was privileged to travel with 5 other Regional ministers and two members of the Global Ministries team. A blog was kept that documented the trip and is available online at

<http://bagrmep.blogspot.com/>. A

webinar presentation of the trip may be scheduled in early 2010. Details will be sent out as they become available. In addition, Sandy will be making presentations at various congregations and at the Common Table event in March and at the Regional Assembly in May. She looks forward to sharing this amazing trip with the Northwest Region.

Katheryn Graham, one of the Regional Ministers in Kansas City, and a partner on this trip, shared the following prayer as one that summed up the experience: It comes from the World Council of Churches (Vancouver Assembly, 1983)

Love All People

*Eternal God, whose image lies in the hearts of all people,
 We live among peoples whose ways are different from ours,
 Whose faiths are foreign to us,
 Whose tongues are unintelligible to us.
 Help us to remember that you love all people with your great love,
 That all religion is an attempt to respond to you,
 That the yearnings of other hearts are much like our own and are known to you.
 Help us to recognize you in the words of truth, the things of beauty,
 The actions of love about us.
 We pray through Christ, who is a stranger to no land more than another,
 And to every land no less than to another.*



Kindergarten class at Sabra refugee camp in Beirut



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.

Englewood Christian, Yakima – Beginning December 1, Englewood Christian began housing homeless men for the winter season. This is our second season in which to do this. Sunrise Outreach Ministry, a ministry of the local Yakima Vineyard Christian Fellowship, coordinates this homeless ministry located in four locations across Yakima. We will be housing up to 15 men each night.

Englewood Christian, Yakima – Doug Corpron, of Englewood, is a retired family medicine doctor. He and his wife spent 8 years in Thailand in the 1950s and 60s as medical missionaries in the northern part of that country, founding a hospital/clinic. Doug is going to Thailand in January with his daughter and while there he will spend a week at the village where he worked to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of that clinic. The clinic is still going strong.

North Hill Christian, Spokane and Englewood Christian, Yakima – congratulations to these two congregations who were recently named in the top 250 Disciples Mission Fund giving congregations.

First Christian, Olympia – Pastor Mary Olney-Loyd is completing her ministry with FCC as of December 27. Mary is stepping aside to allow the congregation to move forward in their vision of calling a New Church Planter to begin establishing a new Disciples congregation in the Olympia area.

University Christian, Seattle – has been celebrating the 12 days of Christmas through service, worship and education. Some highlights include collecting blankets for the homeless, repackaging food at the food bank, singing Christmas carols to some homebound members, and training about ministering with homeless persons.

First Christian, Anchorage – The 3-6th grade Sunday School class recently collected food items to help needy children in the area. With the church's help, they were able to distribute 70 bags of food.

Are you the next Polly Grimes? – Polly Grimes is a member of Hillyer Memorial Christian Church and compiles a list of church happenings for the North Carolina regional newsletter similar to what we publish as Community Connections. If you would like to take on this ministry for the Northwest Region please contact Amber or Sandy in the regional office.



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O COME ALL YOU FAITHFUL

Thank you for your generous giving to the Christmas Fund Offering. 100% of the Christmas offering stays on the Northwest Region to support our ministry and work.

Merry Christmas!

from your Regional Staff...

Sandy Messick
Regional Minister

Amber Saladino
Office Manager

Larry Moorman
Accountant & Business Manager

Bill and Connie Robey

Journey of Discovery Co-Coordinators

