



Northwest Passage

Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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March 2009

RISE HAPPENINGS



Come to the **Ministry Design Gathering** in your area and lend your voice to the

emerging shape and ministry of the Northwest Regional Christian Church.

Ministry Design Gatherings 3:00 – 5:30 p.m. March 22nd

North Hill Christian Church, Spokane
First Christian Church, Tacoma

March 29th

Edmonds Christian Church, Edmonds
Othello Christian Church, Othello

DISCIPLES HOME MISSION & NWRCC SPONSOR PRODUCTIVE WORK DAYS AT YAKAMA CHRISTIAN MISSION

Fog, rain, and cold did not keep workers away from accomplishing some big jobs during the work week at the Mission. YCM staff, David and Belinda Bell and Jill Delany hosted the group and kept everyone working and well fed. Carl and Robin Zerwick from Disciples Home Mission, Office of Volunteering, organized the days and coordinated the work each day. Members from Country Homes Christian, United Christian Yakima, Englewood Christian, Northwest Protestant Richland, All Pilgrims, and First Christian Kennewick, were joined by folks from Shalom UCC in Richland and two congregations from South Idaho Region. The workers completely sided Friendship House – a big and necessary task!

Office of Disciples Volunteering hopes to sponsor more work days later this year at the Mission and would love to see representatives from more Northwest congregations.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE LAUNCHES NEW IMMIGRATION ADVOCACY TOOL

A new tool for advocacy on refugee and immigration issues has been released by Refugee and Immigration Ministries of Disciples Home Missions. An initiative called Service Speaks makes it possible for congregations and advocates taking action in support of immigrants to speak louder than words spoken against immigration. Church World Service created Service Speaks as a way for congregations and advocates to share with congressional representatives what they are doing to help refugees and immigrants.

Congregations are asked to send information on their immigration-related work to ServiceSpeaks@churchworldservice.org. It can be as simple as sending a carbon copy of email event announcements or volunteer hours logged. CWS will make the information available to legislators, urging them to consider the direct service provided by their constituents more than the anti-immigrant calls they receive in their offices. CWS will not share names or locations of specific immigrants. A flier explaining Service Speaks can be viewed at www.churchworldservice.org/site/DocServer/ServiceSpeaks.pdf?docID=1081

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“Living Forward”

Special Regional Assembly

May 16, 2009

10:00 – 3:00

Englewood Christian Church, Yakima

Join the NWRCC in celebration as we "Live Forward" into God's rich future with a special regional assembly. Together we will consider:

- The RISE Ministry Design Plan for the NWRCC
- The Calling of a new regional Minister
- Becoming a Global Mission Region

Registration materials can be found at: www.disciplesnw.org/assembly09.html

EASTER SPECIAL DAY OFFERING

Go Light Your World

We are a family whose hearts are blazing;
So let's raise our candles and light up the sky
Praying to the Creator, in the name of Jesus
Make us a beacon in darkest times*

As a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a beacon of light in the darkest of times. The Easter offering, supports the General Ministries of the Christian Church as together, we bring the light of Christ to dark corners of the world.

In 2008, the Office of Disciples Women coordinated an all women blitz-build thru Habitat for Humanity in Beaumont, Texas. Not only did they provide a family with a home, but they deepened their own spiritual journey and helped one young woman express her faith in Jesus for the first time. She was a participant in the build, brought along as a friend and at the end of the trip she was a person reconciled with God and her family. Her candle of faith now burns bright.

The Division of Overseas Ministries is working faithfully to rebuild a hospital in the Bolenge region of the Congo. The hospital was first built by the Disciples in the 1920's and for over 80 years it stood as a beacon of light in a war torn region. The reopening of this hospital will be a beacon of light in the darkest of times.

The Pension Fund is a beacon of light for the faithful servants, primarily missionaries and small or rural church pastors, whose pensions today are insufficient to meet the basic necessities of life. Through the Easter offering, the Pension Fund increases pensions through the ministerial relief fund, which is supported by the Easter offering. The ministerial relief fund shines the light of Christ into the world.

Your gifts to the Easter offering are a beacon of light. Your gifts call us forward to be one family, a movement for wholeness. You are invited to give generously and faithfully, as together we GO LIGHT OUR WORLD!

*Adapted from Kathy Traccoli's "Go Light Your World"

Mission Statement of the NWRCC

Called by God and sent by the Living Christ, we the Northwest Regional Christian Church intentionally engage with one another rejoicing in our diversity and shared gifts, deepening our spiritual life, building true community, acting courageously in ministry and mission, and sharing God's good news with a fresh voice and a new song. We seek to "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)