



# Northwest Passage

Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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January 2010

## REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY...

Rev. Sandy Messick

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

### Poured Out in Mission... Responding to the Devastation in Haiti

Our theme for our next Regional Assembly has been reverberating in my head this past week as I watched the images coming out of Haiti. I heard this morning that the death toll from the 7.0 earthquake that struck last week may never fully be known but is already into the hundreds of thousands and the number of homeless over one million. The tragedy has struck especially close to home for our partners in the Region. Kim and Patrick Bentrutt, our missionaries, survived the quake as did the head of CONASPEH, our global mission partner there, Patrick and Francoise Villier. A work group from several congregations in Tennessee along with the Regional Minister from Tennessee, Glen Stewart, were also safe. Others were not so lucky: the CONASPEH building was destroyed with many nursing students inside. The Villier's lost a foster son in the tragedy. Sam Dixon, a personal friend of our Week of Compassion director, Amy Gopp, and head of the United Methodist Committee on Relief survived the quake but was not able to be rescued from the

rubble in time. Stories of such tragedies abound and words cannot express the devastation or grief. Our Haitian congregations here in the U.S. likewise are devastated as they worry about friends and families they've not yet been able to contact or are grieving the loss of those who did not survive.

Yet even in the midst of the horrific images, I have been encouraged by the work being done on our behalf by so many in that poorest part of the world. Global Ministries, Church World Service and Week of Compassion all mobilized their efforts immediately sending support, supplies, and providing information. I know that many congregations in this Region have taken or are planning to take special offerings for Week of Compassion. I encourage you to let me know when you do and how much you raise so that we can celebrate that together. Already I know of over \$11,500 given by congregations and individuals in our Region, and I know that is only a fraction of all that has actually been donated. Though many would like to travel to Haiti in order to assist in the relief efforts, the word we are receiving from all sides is that financial donations are what can help most right now. If a Hands On project is desired, you are encouraged to make baby and hygiene kits for Church World Service to replenish their supplies cleaned out after the earthquake. In the meantime, we can be assured that those who need to be

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## REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY... (CONTINUED)

there are, and that our gifts can help support them in their work. Through them, we are being poured out in mission.

Please continue to keep your prayers and support going: for the people of Haiti, for the relief workers and medical personnel, for our Haitian congregations, and for those throughout the world who have similarly experienced acts of devastation and are continuing the process of healing and rebuilding.

Blessings,  
 Sandy



### QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY JUNE 23-27, 2010 GREENSBORO, NC

"Awake! Awake Deborah! Awake!  
 Awake, break out in song!"

- Judges 5:12

## AWAKE! AWAKE!

Awake to the Body of Christ  
 Awake to the Treasure of Wisdom  
 Awake to the Song of Praise  
 Awake to the Dance of Mission  
 Awake to Awaken the World

Check out [www.quadrennial.org](http://www.quadrennial.org)  
 for more information

## REGIONAL ASSEMBLY IS COMING!

Mark your calendars: May 21-23, 2010 in Spokane, WA. The Assembly Planning team is hard at work to plan an assembly that celebrates our theme "Poured Out in Mission." Throughout the weekend we will not only learn about mission possibilities, but



have the opportunity to participate in hands on activities and celebrate the work that is already being done by the congregations of the Northwest Region. Registration materials will be available in February. In the meantime, **the planning team is seeking volunteers in several areas:**

**Children's Program for Grades K-5: Helpers are needed.** Will need to pass background check. Please contact Dixie Carringer at [dicddc@msn.com](mailto:dicddc@msn.com) or the Regional Office.

**Large passenger van and driver(s):** If your congregation has a van and someone to drive it and is willing to help with transportation, please contact the Regional Office.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**



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](http://www.disciplesnw.org) and click on the Connections tab. Please limit your news item to 2-3 sentences.

**Lake City, Seattle** - With over \$320.00 from Bake Sales Lake City CC youth purchased gloves, mittens, scarves, and books for kids in Lake City for Christmas. A Christmas Concert gathered \$ 967.00 for the local food bank in Lake City.

On Jan. 17 in a congregation vote, Lake City officially called Rev. Mary Olney-Loyd to be their new pastor. Rev. Olney-Loyd was most recently the pastor at FCC, Olympia

**Queen Anne, Seattle** – Has been moving forward in living into their core values. One of those values, a heart for children, has moved them to worship in new ways. Recently they celebrated the presence of 22 children in worship.

**Findlay St, Seattle** – Rev. Joan Dennehy is currently on sabbatical through March. Rev. Kathy Coggins is serving as acting minister during this time.

**FCC, Olympia** – Has called Rev. Bill Robey to be their part-time interim while they continue their search for a new pastor/church planter.

**United Church, Moscow** – Celebrated the installation of their minister, Jodie Tooley on Jan. 17.

**Englewood, Yakima** – as part of its Journey of Discovery, they are instituting a new organizational structure which includes renaming the Board of Directors to the Vision Council with the responsibility of being Keepers of the Vision.

Englewood is also finally completing the installation of their pipe organ. Using specially designated monies they are adding 16 new ranks of pipe. The targeted completion date is mid-February.

**FCC, Vancouver** – recently began sharing space with Trees of Righteousness, a new Disciples congregation operating out of Portland, OR.

**North Hill, Spokane** - will celebrate the installation of their new minister, Michelle Mitchell, on Feb 28 at 3:00 pm.



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### YOUTH EVENTS

# Godquest.com



## Winter Retreats 2010

Hope Avenue. Easy Street. Jesus Boulevard. Interstate 4I-Believe. Seeking Railroad. Grace Road. Faith Boulevard... Names you'll encounter on the journey that is life! Do you need directions? What if you loose your way? The message is clear: no matter what direction you pick, good times or bad, the path is never lonely. Explore your journey at Winter Retreat and leave with a spirit-filled map.

**Chi Rho** (6th, 7th, 8th Graders)  
March 5-7, 2010 @ Double K, Easton, WA

**CYF** (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th Graders)  
March 19-21, 2010 @ Koinonia, Cle Elum, WA

Watch the [www.disciplesnw.org](http://www.disciplesnw.org) website for registration forms or contact your church office for information.

# BE A HERO

## SUMMER CAMPS 2010

God's heroes act in ways big and small as they welcome, befriend, and include others, as they give, rejoice, and share the good news. Campers will learn that they can live like Jesus in simple ways, with everyday things as ordinary people.

### WINWOOD

Kids Camp (entering grades 2 and 3) **July 7 - 10**  
Junior Camp (entering grades 4, 5 and 6) **July 6 - 10**  
Chi Rho Camp (entering grades 7, 8 and 9) **July 12 - 17**  
CYF Camp (entering grades 10, 11, 12 and new Grads) **July 12 - 17**

### ZEPHYR

Kids Camp (entering grades 2 and 3) **July 13 - 16** *this is a corrected date!*  
Junior Camp (entering grades 4, 5 and 6) **July 13 - 17** *this is a corrected date!*  
Chi Rho Camp (entering grades 7, 8 and 9) **July 19 - 24**  
CYF Camp (entering grades 10, 11, 12 and new Grads) **July 19 - 24**