

# Northwest Passage

## YAKAMA MISSION CONTINUED

...wants to read another story about that? What if together we can figure out how to stay connected? Here's an idea to ponder this new year ... remember how it used to be done? When congregations would raise money to bring their mission representatives out to visit? Maybe we can resurrect some pieces of this old school model and bring *back* an idea that will allow us to live *into the future* together.

blessings! jill

## YOUTH WINTER RETREAT 2011

March 4-6, 2011 Jr & Senior High Ages  
Camp Koinonia, Cle Elum, WA

The world is full of influences guiding you to live your life in many different ways. We invite you to explore how each one of us can "Have it God's Way".

The Regional Youth Commission is excited to share this theme with your youth and they're working hard this fall and early winter to develop a great program. Join the RYC, adult sponsors and guest speaker, Rev. Rochelle Richards (Sumner FCC) at Camp Koinonia in March! Registration forms available now through your church office or the Region's website.



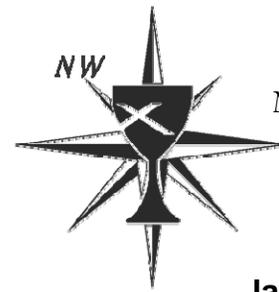
Here is a sampling of what's going on around our regional Community of Communities. To add your congregation's story to this list, go to the website, [www.disciplesnw.org](http://www.disciplesnw.org) and click on the Connections tab. Please limit your news item to 2-3 sentences.

**First Christian, Coeur d'Alene** – Celebrated the close of ministry of their pastor, Lauri Clark -Strait on January 9. The congregation is exploring next steps.

**North Hill Christian, Spokane** – Laura Jennison Reed, a seminary student at the University of Chicago and a member of North Hill, has recently been nominated to the Administrative Committee of the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Congratulations Laura!

**Country Homes, Spokane** – The Mission emphasis for January is their ESL school. Since its beginning in 1979, the Country Homes ESL program has engaged 346 tutors helping 497 students from 47 countries.

**First Christian, Olympia** – Recently approved renovations to the Payne Room to create a second worship space. The space will house an alternative worship service as well as the Ecumenical Catholic Communion, another worshipping community.



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January 2011

## REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY...

Rev. Sandy Messick

Thank you!

I know that this past year has been a difficult one financially for many of our congregations and many individuals within our congregations. Therefore, I am particularly grateful for the many congregations in our region who have continued to support the ministry of the Northwest Regional Christian Church and the wider Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund. Overall, the Northwest Region had a 6.55% increase in DMF giving for 2010! This includes both gifts given by congregations and blessing box gifts given by our Disciples Women's Ministry groups. This is an outstanding and generous witness to the commitment and participation of our congregations in the life of the wider church. As you may know, 67% of every dollar given to DMF is returned to the region to support the ministry here in the Northwest. I am honored and humbled by the trust you have placed in us and offer our gratitude and commitment to be faithful stewards of those gifts. Your gifts continue to be used to support our mission of being a "Community of Communities" connecting congregations, supporting pastors, providing leadership development opportunities for children and youth, and moving forward in our vision in a number of ways. Please see the related article on Mission Council Highlights (page 3) for more information about what's happening in the region. Thank you to each of our congregations for supporting the wider

church, not only through DMF but also through special offerings and designated gifts to the region. It is a joy to be in ministry with you.

Walking alongside you in faith,  
Sandy

## EDMONDS CHRISTIAN CHURCH LEAVES THEIR LEGACY

On Sunday, Jan. 2, Edmonds Christian Church celebrated their final worship service. Days later they closed the sale on their property, transferring title to St. Michael's Ethiopian Orthodox Church. However, the legacy of Edmonds Christian Church will continue to live on through the gifts they have offered, particularly to the Northwest Region. In addition to gifts to local outreach ministries, and a substantial gift to the Loren Arnett Scholarship Fund at the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University, Edmonds has also left significant designated gifts to the Northwest Region to provide for camp scholarships, congregational transformation, and high-quality speakers for our Regional Assemblies and other regional gatherings. Even more, the bulk of the monies from the sale of their property will be placed in a Gift Agreement with Church Extension to provide funds for establishing new congregations in the Northwest Region beginning with a new church start in Snohomish County. The Region is blessed and will be blessed for generations to come by the foresight and courage of this dedicated community of believers. As the members seek to move into new church homes, their new congregations will continue to be blessed by their leadership and faithfulness.

## **CATCHING UP WITH OUR GLOBAL MINISTRIES MISSIONARIES**

There's a theme running through the minds of our Missionary partners this in these early days of January- the wonder of Epiphany when God's nature in Christ was revealed to us at Jesus' baptism. In her newest letter to us, missionary Alison Stendahl takes a chance to relate the continued wonder of this last celebration of the Christmas season through her eyes and experiences in Turkey. She finds comfort in the tradition of Greek Orthodox Church of Istanbul as they, "...symbolically demonstrate God's redemption of all creation as part of the plan to save humanity..." and is encouraged as the people of Turkey celebrate as a whole, regardless of religious beliefs or ethnicity.

Liz and Doug Searls write to their mission partners from Poland where they serve the Evangelical Reformed Church. Epiphany brings to mind for them the reality that the wonder of Christmas, the Epiphany message, does not need to stop after January 6. The message of God in Christ is not only for Christmas, "...it doesn't need to happen on one special day, or even in one special week or month or year. Each day is an unwrapping of a precious gift of life if we can choose it."

Remember these people, called to witness and serve in areas of the world that feel far and unfamiliar to us. Keep Carlos Madrazo, Jr. (East Timor), Ana and Tod Gobledale (United Kingdom), Thomas and Lynnea Morse (China), Alison Stendahl (Turkey) and Doug and Liz Searles (Poland) in your prayers and support them by sharing their stories.

Take a minute, now and then, to visit the NWRCC Global Ministries page to get updated news and information about our Missionary partners:

<http://www.disciplesnw.org/ourwork/globalministries.html>

Contact the Regional Office if you would like more information about how to reach out or learn more about this vibrant ministry around the globe.

## **NAPAD YOUTH WINTER RETREAT RESULTS IN YOUNG CONVERTS**

*Disciples News Service*

Organizers of the North American Pacific/Asian Disciples (NAPAD) Youth Winter Retreat were pleased with the outcome of their meeting, where six youth professed a faith in Jesus Christ for the first time. The gathering took place December 27-30, 2010, at the Mission Spring Christian Camp in Scotts Valley, California. About 30 youth, 10 college students, five adult volunteers, and five counselors attended.

"At our last night, six youth confessed their faith by accepting Jesus Christ as their savior, which was a high point of the retreat," said Rev. Jae Hyung Cho. "The six students are scheduled to have baptism at their own home church."

The keynote speaker was Rev. Sandhya Jha. Guest speakers included Rev. Ben Bohren, JoAnne Kagiwada, Rev. Oggi Luvsan and Rev. Daniel K. Lee. To find out more, go to: [www.napad.net](http://www.napad.net)

## **MISSION COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS...**

The Mission Council met on Saturday, January 15, 2011. Within our new structure, the Mission Council has the responsibility for programming and visioning as we seek to live into our Mission Plan. Below are some of the highlights from the recent meeting:

- One meeting in two places: Though most of the council met in the Seattle area, Christy Bristow joined from her home in Spokane via Skype. This was our first experiment in using technology to strengthen our ability to meet together, particularly during these winter months when travel over the Pass and across the state makes gathering together difficult.
- Recommended distribution of Albright funds not covered by the Regional Gifts policy
- Approved the recommendations of the Sacred Conversations Report to increase and enhance our ministry with new congregations and pastors
- Began brainstorming speakers, themes, and ideas for Regional Assembly, 2012
- Engaged in a visioning process asking: What is Jesus calling us to do next as Region? We explored a variety of ideas particularly around ways to encourage connections between pastors and congregations.
- Discussed the results from the White Privilege/Anti-Racism event in September. Though a number of ideas were generated, we are still struggling with finding ways to invite, include, and welcome all voices to the table. Ideas about ways to expand the table to better include our racial/ethnic churches were explored.



**Yakama Christian Mission**  
- In Action

Greetings Regional Friends,

A new year is upon us ... and, like most folks, Dave, Belinda and I have had some time to take stock of our lives at the Mission. A look back at 2010 and a forward gaze upon this new year has helped us figure out (a least a little bit!) how we're going to go about our ministry this year in regards to spending time with you all. Often times during our less busy months we spend time visiting with congregations. It's super nice ... we're invited over to "your place" for worship and fellowship ... kind of like having dinner with friends every once in a while. It's a great way for us to stay connected with you and keep folks updated on what's going on out in White Swan. We've come to realize, however, that this year we aren't going to be able to visit like we used to. With budget shortfalls, Dave and I are no longer receiving salaries and Belinda only has income from a private grant to run the after school program. Our ability to travel as Mission representatives has been cut. I want to say that we're surprised by this, but we're not. We've actually seen it coming for the last three years ... during which we have not received any congregational giving from DMF (other than specifically designated monies). We knew it would catch up with us. But. I don't want to end the note on a depressing "lack of funding" note. Who...

*(Continued on page 4)*