

# Community Newsletter

Western Montana Walk to Emmaus & Face to Face Encounters - First Quarter/ 2016



## *“State of the Union” for our Community!*

**Happy 2016!** I hope that this year is overflowing with blessings and you find yourselves enriched and comforted by God’s loving embrace. I also hope that you are guided, inspired and directed by the Holy Spirit’s active presence in your day to day lives. My final hope and prayer is that our Walk to Emmaus Community is, and continues to be, a source for inspiration, joy, shared fellowship, and strength for each of you.

2015 was a great year for the Western Mt Walk to Emmaus Community. How so? We had two great walks last Spring led by **Dean Reese** and **Connie Myers**. We were honored to pilot a **“Face to Face Encounter”** this Fall in Lakeside. Trust me when I tell you that holding an Encounter was a BIG deal and only occurred because of the trust we have established with the Upper Room. It’s a demonstration of the reality that our Community is a shining example of the true spirit and intent of the Walk to Emmaus and actively lives the Emmaus ethos.

We are a community and everyone has a role to do; I want to formally thank the Board of Directors for their service and answering the call in such a laudable fashion. Most importantly, I want to thank and welcome last year’s pilgrims because you’re the reason we do what we do! Thank you for trusting us and joining our community!

**For 2016**, we ARE going to continue to grow and be a vibrant ray of light in our churches, Walk community, and in our secular world. What is in store? Two Walks this Spring led by **Glenn Merkel** and **Lanell Curry**. At least one **“Face to Face Encounter”** (probably in Corvallis and possibly a second in Bigfork). We have active Gatherings ongoing in the Bitterroot, Missoula, and the Flathead as well as the annual summer picnic which will be in Mission Valley this year. Because of good fiscal management, we are going to be replacing the Community trailer with a new one which should be really helpful. If you have good ideas on ways we can continue to improve by touching more lives or to increase the depth of how we touch lives, the Board wants your suggestions.

The new year also brought us some new Board members and new officers. Personally, it was only after a great deal of prayer that I agreed to accept the responsibility of serving as the Chair of the Board for such a special community that I hold so dear to my heart. It is with no small amount of trepidation that I begin to shepherd us forward. Please know this, I care passionately about this Community and will serve it with gratitude in my heart. Also, I will always be open and available to hear and listen to each of you. So please don’t hesitate to contact me with any thoughts, ideas, questions, or concerns.

Let’s be the face of God to each other, our churches, and all those with whom we come into contact.  
**And, let’s be the vibrant community of God he calls us to be!** DeColores, Clint Brown

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### What's Up ?

#### **Message from Men's Weekend Lay Director- Glenn Merkel**

Well, here we are---2016! Can you believe it? The time is just flying by and we still have so much to do before the Walk begins on April 21. The men's team has been established and is ready to go. There is a lot of excitement in the air (maybe more from my perspective). I'm getting anxious to begin. My prayer now is for your consideration of sponsoring someone. Is there someone you've been thinking about sponsoring? Well, let's do it! We have room for more.

It's going to be a fun and exciting time on this men's weekend Walk. We also need you to sign up for the 72 Hour Prayer Vigil\* and be planning to attend the Saturday night Candlelight ceremony. We always would like more people attending; it means so much to have an active and supportive community.

God Bless You and I hope to see you there!

DeColores, Glenn

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#### **Message from Women's Weekend Lay Director- Lanell Curry**

The men's and women's Western Montana Walk to Emmaus weekend teams held our first team meeting on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> in Mission Valley. There were many enthusiastic participants, including those who have worked past Walks and those who were Pilgrims last year and are anxious to work this year. It takes many of us working together to make a successful weekend and we need each of you. If you are interested in working the weekend, please complete your team application and get it sent in as soon as possible. The applications are available on the Western Montana Walk to Emmaus website that is listed on the next page.

If you are working a weekend this year, I thank God for you. I know it's a sacrifice to make working the Walk to Emmaus weekend a priority in your life. It is a long commitment with lots of obligations; I also know it is full of those "rare and beautiful moments" wherein you get out of it far more than you put into it. I thank you for all you *put on hold* to provide this opportunity for our Pilgrims.

If you are not working this year's Walk weekend, please consider sponsoring someone that the Holy Spirit urges you to benefit. Also, participate in the 72-Hour Prayer Vigil\*, pray for the team and try to attend the Candlelight Event and/or the Sunday Closing.

Thank you to everyone for your support, your prayers and your hands and feet! De Colores, Lanell

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**\*Editor's Note:** It is important to keep the Pilgrims and the Team in your prayers. It is also important that they know how much love is being sent their way. Prayer charts are located at the Team Meetings but you can also expand your prayerful horizons and try the electronic sign-up feature for prayer vigils. It unites us world-wide! Go to: [www.westernmtwalk.com](http://www.westernmtwalk.com), you should be on the home page.

- Scroll down until you see the highlighted words, "**Walk Weekend prayer vigils**", click that link.
- Now you will be on an amazing list of "**Active Prayer Vigil Sign-up sheets**" from all over the world!
- Scroll way, way down until you see "**Western Montana Emmaus Community**", you have a choice of the men's weekend or the women's weekend or both!
- Click on the dates of your choice, click on, "**Sign-Up**" next to the hour of your choice. You will be asked a few questions so that our community can log you into our prayer vigil.
- Click on "**Submit Form.**" Imagine the wonder of the Pilgrims when they see how many hours and how many people are praying; for them constantly. Your email will not be seen but your name will be on the chart at the Walk at the Glacier Conference Center Lodge!

(Watch for more information about the Saturday night Candlelight ceremony in the next newsletter)

## What's coming?

### **Next Team Meetings (9:00 -4:00) for Walk preparations:**

*Saturday, February 13, at First United Methodist Church in Missoula*

*Saturday, March 12, at Mission Valley UMC, St. Ignatius*

*Saturday, April 9, at First United Methodist Church in Missoula*

***GATHERINGS: "Helping one another recognize the risen Christ in the midst of our lives that we may live more fully in the Presence"***

### **Local Gatherings – "Tips & Training" on Sponsorship included**

**Flathead Community:** Sunday night, **February 21**, Dinner Potluck at Lakeside Community Chapel at 6:00 p.m. (Contact: Julie Whitney, 837-2349, 250-4781)

**Bitterroot Community:** Sunday afternoon, **Feb. 21**, Dessert Potluck Gathering, Corvallis United Methodist Church at 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. (Contact John Farley, 369-6930, 363-6966)

**Missoula Valley Community:** Sunday afternoon, **Feb. 28**, Nibbles/Snacks Potluck, First United Methodist Church at 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. in the down stairs Fellowship Hall. (back alley entrance)  
(Contact: Barb Blanchard-Mahoney 529-4488)

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## News from the Board of Directors

### Elected

**2016 WMWTE Board Officers:** Community Spiritual Director-Rev. Derf Bergman, Chair- Clint Brown, Vice Chair - Jon Ekstrand, Secretary- Ruth Johnson, Treasurer- Kay Duffield

**Formal Board Members:** Rev. Dennis Reese, Colleen Leister, John Farley, Gary MacLaren, Carol Tripp, Shelly Brown, Melanie Mellgren-Sidmore, and Dan Keyser

**Ex-Officio Representatives:** Glenn Merkel and Lanell Curry (2016 Lay Directors)

**Thank you for giving of yourselves and your expertise on behalf of our Community!**

### Important: “Painless” Fundraising to keep Walk costs down

The Western Montana Walk to Emmaus community receives its greatest fundraising benefits from these Herbergers’ events! With everyone’s help, we can continue to raise funds to offset the ever increasing costs associated with sponsoring the Walk to Emmaus! De Colores!

#### Herbergers’ Spring Community Days



#### Friday, Feb. 26 & Saturday, Feb. 27

The Kalispell contact is Melanie Mellgren (261-6697). The Bitterroot contact is John Farley (369-6930) and the Missoula contact is Colleen Leister (529-8832); you can purchase books through them. You are responsible to turn in \$5.00 for each book you take to sell.

We also need members to help sell books each day at the store. Volunteer by calling Melanie, John, or Colleen for times assigned to our group.

Western Montana Walk to Emmaus  
P.O. Box 7676 / Missoula MT 59807