



INLAND STREAM

INLAND WEST USA MISSION CENTER NEWS

Inland Stream Spring-Summer 2016

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8 Memories of Youth Camps & Reunions—By Brad and Lori Martell

It is reunion and youth camp time again. We hope you, your families, and friends will be attending one or more this summer (see page 6 and 7 for dates and locations). We all have favorite memories and experiences. Here are 8 of our fondest memories:

Oatmeal. The best oatmeal Brad has ever eaten is at camps and reunion. I don't know why it's so good. Perhaps it's the secret ingredients of a dash of prayer and a tablespoon of love the cooks add to every pot!

Teens Gone Wild. A group of teenagers (including 16 year old Lori) attended reunion together since the parents were all unable to take time off work. Our encampment included a boy's tent and a girl's tent. Mostly, our gang of 8 (four pairs of brothers & sisters) were greeted with enthusiasm by the adult contingent. After all, teens wanting to come to a church gathering without their parents is a special thing, right? Well, there were a couple of adults who assumed the worst and took it upon themselves to hound us like watchdogs all week. They knew there was unspeakable "wildness" needing to be tempered by a heavy hand. (Our wildest act during the week was using a light after lights out.) We ignored most of the harassment and laughed off the rest. We knew we were good kids having harmless fun, and we ended up having an enjoyable and deeply spiritual week together.

Sister's Baptism. As a little brother Brad was both excited and jealous of my sister (Robin) being baptized at reunion. My grandpa (J.B. Fell) led my sister by the hand into the cool water of the pond at the Echo Valley MT campground, as those of us on shore sang hymns. I wanted to be baptized too, but was still 2 years too young. Like many things in my life my sister inspired me and showed me the way to discipleship.

Cooking Class. The campgrounds of Lori's youth near Six Mile, South Carolina, grew plump wild blackberries as long as my pinky finger. Cooking class participants picked huge tubs of fresh berries, "One for the bucket, two for me. . . ." Returning to the kitchen with hands and faces stained purple, we learned to make from scratch blackberry cobbler, enough for the whole camp.

From the Mouths of Babes. Several years ago we taught the intergenerational class at Cromberg CA Family Camp. Our topic was "Eco-discipleship" exploring our discipleship and sacredness of creation. One day we included a disclaimer, "Today's class includes some film footage of environmental destruction that may be disturbing for young children." We offered an alternative activity but all the parents chose for their kids to stay with the group. The next day we received a report from parents that two six-year-old boys were quite moved by the class which was about mountaintop removal coal mining. Apparently they were overheard having a conversation during which they agreed that it is bad to destroy whole mountains and all the trees and animals that lived there so we can have some power. They totally got it!

Camp Log Cover Art. Lori was chosen one year to do a Camp Log cover illustration of the campground's newly completed open air tabernacle during youth camp. This meant I spent several hours during the week sitting quietly by myself looking and drawing. It became a meditation and a spiritual experience. This was a holy place for me and I felt the Spirit present while I created my contribution for the camp. Even though it meant I was missing whatever else was happening during those hours, I treasured that time with God and I have never forgotten how special it was.

Seeds of Friendship. Having now been attendees, staffers, and guest ministers at many camps & reunions in different mission centers, we have friends all over the country. Through our camp and reunion experiences we have been blessed by the seeds of friendship that have bloomed into relationships that stand the test of time.

The Mission of Jesus Christ. Every reunion and youth camp from when we were infants to now we have grown closer to Jesus through the blessings of community. Through the experiences and testimonies of others we have experienced the mission of Jesus Christ in abundant ways. A couple of years ago when we were guest ministers at the Samish Island Adult Reunion we met a woman in her 90s who has been a member all her life. She shared with us how excited she was to see the church embody ministries of justice and peace, worth of all persons, and the sacredness of creation. Her testimony was that the church is embodying the Mission of Jesus Christ and she felt extremely blessed to share in that ministry. For us, reunions and camps have been a blessing of Christ's Mission that enlivens our ministry when we get back home.

What are your favorite memories of reunion and youth camps? Tell us by emailing bmartell@cofchrist.org.

Leading Congregations in Mission— Our Journey together...

Our journey began over three years ago in the fall of 2012. That's when the first of seven Leading Congregation in Mission (LCM) weekend workshops/retreats was held. And what a journey it has been. During those weekends we have learned about being leaders in the mission of Community of Christ. We shared in spiritual practices and exercises intended to help us connect with each other. We learned that we need to slow down and take time for each other and for God. The time we spend together should be as much, or perhaps more, about connections and time to be renewed than about having a to-do list of what has to get done.

At our last workshop in February of this year those attending from the Inland West Mission Center were asked to share a thought on their experience in LCM. Here are the responses:



- ♦ LCM has reaffirmed how the Holy Spirit continues to call us to be intentional and authentic in our interactions with others. I have appreciated the work the church has done to help our congregations grow in Christ's Mission.
Terry Reiff, Whitehall
- ♦ LCM has led me to greater self-awareness. And help me in learning constructive ways to be intentional in my own spiritual development so that I can share with others more deeply. It has been a wonderful experience in sharing the blessings of community.
Ann Glenn, Boise
- ♦ LCM helped me to reconnect to what I love about the gospel. I was reminded of how much I treasure the relationships I am blessed to have, and it gave me the confidence to be excited about the relationships to come.
JoAnn Fisher, Boise
- ♦ LCM has given me a new approach to leadership – inside and outside the church actually. Redefining how we look at mission, reflecting the world's changing challenges, requires us to reimagine how we will lead others in mission. Even after three years of sessions, I am still wrapping my head around the changing face of my own ministry and spiritual development. But LCM resources and teachings illustrate the connections between my personal journey, my congregation's evolving story, and the world where we make mission real. I'm learning to determine and live with the essential questions encouraging us to look at all those elements together holistically.
Debbie Selzer, Spokane Valley
- ♦ LCM has helped me identify my passion for outreach. Excellent tools, practices and exercise to development myself and others spiritually. I'm excited for the long journey in Christ's mission.
Dixie Simon, Spokane Valley
- ♦ LCM....such beautiful, loving, dedicated people. Full of grace, desiring to serve God with all their being.
Carol Ann Reiff, Whitehall
- ♦ LCM..I have felt very blessed to spend this extended period of time in conversation, exploration and learning focused on developing a missional spirit within our individual lives, congregations and community.
Joanne Gose, Boise
- ♦ The ideas, discussions and resources experienced in LCM illuminate powerful and meaningful possibilities. Now, to go forth and live into our mission, Christ's mission!
Walt McIntosh, Billings
- ♦ Pat and I have learned to go in Jesus name and risk loving the one in front of us, the bruised, broken and those captured by a life of hard choices – sharing the healing power of Christ Jesus.
Candy Moon, Coeur d'Alene



- ♦ LCM has been a life changing spiritual journey of encountering God anew. I live to make Christ mission my mission. I feel transformed and resurrected with Christ Jesus. God is the creator and in creation, I am engaging in spiritual practices and denied of the culture, traditions and life experiences that shaped the negativism in my life and let God's will be. I live each day experiencing the beauty of God's creation not only in the diversity of nature but also in the human life. For everything is Divine. Yes, I extend the invitation to experience the love and grace of Jesus Christ, anew in relationship that fosters and empowers others to live a life as a disciple of Jesus.
Gil Martell, Billings

Inland West Blog—Readers Needed!

Greetings:

I want to thank all the wonderful people who have contributed their testimony to our blog this last year. Now what we need are readers. With this thought in mind over the coming months I am offering powerful testimonies that tell of God speaking, and lives being changed. Most of us who open our hearts to the Lord hear, and are led by the still quiet voice. For some of us God speaks a little louder. I hope you will take the time to read our Blog over the coming months, I know your heart will be touched by the wonder of God's love. I hope you will consider sharing your testimony of how God has changed your life. You can find the blog at <http://cofchrist-inlandwest.blogspot.com/>.

Looking forward to hearing from you

Lavera Wade

Digital Pastor

K7zall@gmail.com

SPEC 2016 July 20 to 30, 2016

2016 Theme: "CONNECT"

Where: Independence, MO, and Lamoni, IA
(Graceland University)

Who: Youth who have completed grades 9-12

Cost: \$525

Arrangements for those that may need financial assistance can also be made by contacting Lynn Chapman.

Contact person: Lynn Chapman

E-mail: lkc5309@gmail.com

Phone: (509) 990-7333

The Inland-West Mission Center will join with the GPNW Mission Center to be one of the largest delegations with approximately 65 campers and 20 staff.

Registration Deadline is May 31, 2016

We want EVERYONE that is eligible to attend SPECTACULAR! Don't miss out!



Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper dramatization - Pastor Walter McIntosh, Billings, MT

A member of our congregation said *"I have an idea for a Good Friday service..."* and I was all ears. I really appreciate and enjoy meaningful messages, no matter what form they may take, so I was enthralled as he continued to talk *"...and it involves a dramatization of Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the Last Supper."* I would later learn that our congregation had done this previously - but that was many years ago, before I lived here. I would also learn the original drama was written by Methodist pastor Ernest K. Emurian, and was first presented on Palm Sunday in 1954. Emurian had studied a faithful representation of da Vinci's painting and wrote soliloquies for each of the twelve to shed some light on what they may have been thinking. If da Vinci captured the moment when Jesus announced "One of you will betray me", Emurian has perhaps captured the thoughts of the twelve at that same moment.

As we discussed what it would take to do this drama, and do it well, it became apparent that it was going to take some effort. We'd need a cast of 13 (Jesus plus the 12 disciples), costuming to look our parts, a 'stage curtain' or something to hide the actors as they set the scene, and a few others to narrate, pull the curtains back, work the lights, and so on. As the weeks passed, progress reports indicated a diverse group of actors had been recruited, the costumes were being planned, and the text for the disciples' monologues had been finalized. Then came plans to advertise the event in our local paper, purchase the materials for the costumes/robes, and ideas for a curtain across our altar area (each of these at a cost). As we entered deeper into the Lenten season, things picked up and I got a call from the local paper, wanting to do a story on the event.

Much like Jesus and his twelve, our drama group consisted of people of varying ages, backgrounds and professions – but bound together because we follow Jesus. Each of us approached the podium and read our soliloquy, then went behind the rented curtains to take our place at the table. The insights into each of the twelve are tremendous, and yet strikingly human. After all of us had finished our parts, and the 74 friends, neighbors and guests had sung the final song, the curtains were pulled back to reveal a Last Supper scene. I would encourage you to Google "last supper drama emurian," and read more about this strikingly simple yet impactful scene.

Several of the cast were from a church we often co-event with, All Nations Christian Fellowship Church. A few more were coworkers, or friends of church members, and just over half were Community of Christ. Huge thanks to Gil Martell for leading this grand effort – he suggested the drama, got the cast and crew together, and edited the soliloquies. Kudos also to Linda Martell for leading the wardrobe effort and getting us to look like disciples; and a great job from our congregation, who pitched in to bring snacks for the gathering afterward.

Additionally the Billings Gazette did a feature story prior the Good Friday service. See the story by Susan Olp (Mar 24, 2016), "Da Vinci's 'Last Supper' comes to life in Billings on Friday":

http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/da-vinci-s-last-supper-comes-to-life-in-billings/article_e7b21660-2cc0-57f0-ab55-9775a8b4df5e.html.





2016 Inland West Reunions

Echo Valley Reunion

June 16-20

**Echo Valley Campground
Avon, MT**

**Guest Ministry: Dave and Gail
Anderson, Brad and Lori Martell
Director: Mary Beth Hunter**

Samish Island Reunion

**Due to unforeseen
circumstances this reunion
has been cancelled.**

Cascade Reunion

July 6-10

**Cascade Campground
Cascade, ID**

**Guest Ministry:
Brad and Lori Martell,
JoAnn Fisher
Director: Andrea Silva**

Red Cliffe Reunion

July 9-15

**Red Cliffe Campground
Huntsville, UT**

**Guest Ministry:
Brad and Lori Martell,
JoAnn Fisher
Director: Seth Bryant**

Early registration is always appreciated. You'll find more information and registration forms for each reunion at www.cofchrist-iwest.org.



Red Cliffe Kids Camp

June 17-19, 2016

Red Cliffe Campground in
Huntsville, UT

For youth who have
completed grades K-6

RSVP by June 5

Director Carol Andreasen
307-537-3302

chosierandrea5@hotmail.com

Cheney Kids Camp

June 24-26, 2016

Cheney, WA

For youth age 7 to 12

RSVP by June 12

Director Kathleen Strozyk

509-636-2011

edwallian@juno.com

Echo Valley Youth Camp

August 3-7, 2016

Echo Valley Campground in Avon, MT,

For youth going into grades 4 to 9

RSVP by July 24

Director Robin Martell

406-671-1914

rmartellrealestate@gmail.com

Cascade Junior Camp

June 16-19, 2016

Cascade Campground in Cascade, ID

For youth ages 9 to 12

RSVP by June 5

Director Sherie Moody St.Clair

208-334-2600

sms@lottery.idaho.gov

Cascade Jr/Sr High Camp

August 6-11, 2016

Cascade Campground in Cascade, ID

For youth ages 13-18

RSVP by July 24

Director: Andrea Silva

stampin.silva@gmail.com

Join us at an Inland West youth camp this summer!

Details including prices of each camp at cofchrist-iwest.org.

Print your registration and RSVP to your camp director as soon as possible.

Our camping program relies on dedicated volunteers such as directors, counselors, teachers, cooks, and nurses. We extend a big "Thank you!" to all who take on these important roles for our youth. If you'd like to help at a youth camp this summer, please contact the director listed above or call the Mission Center office at 800-918-8335.

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**Mark Your Calendar!
2016 Mission Center Conference is
October 8-9
In Salt Lake City**

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