

From the Community Lay Director

And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ... But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." ... Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Matthew 14

One of my favorite books I read this summer is *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat* by John Ortberg. In it he talks about the invitation to walk on water as the way we should view stepping out in faith to experience more of the power and presence of God. He says there are certain things that happen when God wants to use and improve us.

There is a call. There is fear. There is reassurance – God promises his presence. There is a decision. There is a changed life.

Then he says, "I believe that there is some aspect of your life in which God is calling you to walk with and to him ..."

In accepting the position of Community Lay Director for 2003, I believe I have been called to get out of the boat! And I accept that call with fear of the task ahead of me, but the assurance of God's presence beside me every step of the way.

I invite each of you to join me on the water so that TRWE experiences the power and presence of God in community and individually as we all allow Him to use the gifts He has given us to make disciples of us all.

Lill Griffith TRWE #28 Sarah

BIG NOTE OF GRATITUDE

is extended to our "retiring" board members—Randy Stevens, Kay Day, Lee Chandler, Pat Mould, and Jim Smith. Their tireless efforts with seen and unseen acts of servitude on behalf of the Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus Community have been exemplary! Because of their dedication to God and to the Community we have benefited beyond expectations and we thank them and know that the Community will be able to count on their expertise and willing hands as we enter a new year.



COMING ATTRACTIONS (Directions Page 6)

January Gathering E-Day February Gathering March Gathering Dutilh UMC Ingomar UMC Ingomar UMC Dutilh UMC

Men's March 20-23, 2003

7:00 Jan. 10, 2003
6:30 January 17, 2003
7:00 February 14, 2003

TBA March 14, 2003

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION OF FEBRUARY GATHERING!!!

Spring Walks

Women's April 3-6, 2003

Fall Walks

Men's November 6-9, 2003

Women's November 13-16, 2003



Greetings Emmaus Community

s I write this we have just celebrated Christmas, the coming of the Savior of the world to earth. It always amazes me how each year is different and yet it is very much the same.

Each day comes and goes and as we approach a new year I wonder what changes will be in store for each of as we continue our Fourth-days with Christ.

As your new Community Spiritual Director I am beginning to feel the pressure of the position. One responsibility I feel that needs to be addressed first is guidance of the community into a better understanding of Emmaus and of what being a servant really is.

In that endeavor I would share two thoughts with you. First, we cannot share (agape) love with others unless we have learned to love ourselves as God loves us. Max Lucado, in his book A Love Worth Giving, says this and reaches out to help us understand that God sent his Son out of love for each of us. He reminds us that God loves us with an everlasting love and that when we truly understand how much God loves us, we then can fulfill His desire to love our neighbor. Lucado goes through I Corinthians 13 and talks about how this is the kind of love that we as Christians need to be showing to the world—God's love shown in his Son. This is the love we in Emmaus have experienced and hopefully have learned to share with others. (My suggestion to you is to read this book when you get the chance.)

The second thought is from a new song that I discovered at Christmas. A group called Trans-Siberian Orchestra calls it "A Star to Follow". The song begins with the words: 'God rest ye merry gentlemen' sung by one group – adds 'There up in the sky a star to follow' sung by another group–adds 'All await the coming of the Lord' by a third group. Each one has the same rhythm but different melody. There is then a middle section sung by a children's choir singing 'Christmas lead and we'll follow hope and tomorrow...' And then the end which is four groups each singing its own lines in unison ending with 'Joy to the world, the Lord has come. Let His light shine on everyone.'

What struck me most about this was the way each group had its part and sang it in perfect harmony with the others. No one was louder or softer but each was just loud enough so that if you listened when they were all together, you could hear the words of each section. This is what the Emmaus community is supposed to be--a group of Christians with each doing his/her part as best as can be done – the Board of Directors as a whole, each committee of the Board, each new walk team, and most importantly, the community itself.

We are part of the same song – God's love found in Christ Jesus and his servant hood. As we begin 2003, my prayer is that we begin to sound a new song unto the Lord of all Creation--one of harmony and understanding where we can all do our jobs so well that if you listen you can hear the individual parts but see only the whole a group of loving, caring Christians bound to showing the love of Jesus to our neighbor.

DeColores, Barb Moore Spiritual Director

NEW TRWE MEMORIAL FUND

At our January Board of Directors' meeting it was decided to initiate a TRWE Memorial Fund. The purpose of this fund is to support ongoing TRWE projects (e.g. Music books, banner poles, team books, board books, and other items deemed necessary by the Board). Many of the members felt the need to recognize loved ones in a tangible manner.

If you would like to make a donation to that fund, please make your check payable to TRWE with MEMORIAL FUND in the memo, place it in an envelope labeled "In memory of..." "From" and give or send it to Mike Wild 1605 Shadow Ridge Court, Pittsburgh, PA 15237



Fourth Day Corner

When I look back on my walk I am reminded of the love of Jesus Christ as he was shown to me through all of your faces at candlelight. Since that mountain top experience I have fallen back into the valley but it is through my reunion group, working on teams, and attending the gatherings that I am brought back to that mountain. Although I do not always attend my group meetings or the monthly gatherings, when I do, I am reminded of the awesome Christians that have become my friends. My fourth days have been full of challenges but through my Emmaus experience(s) I have learned that all I have to do is close my eyes, open my heart, say a prayer and know that Jesus will always be there for me. All I have to do is open up to Him. **DeColores – Juergen Kloo – TRWE #31 Table of Luke**

During send-off on Thursday night, I was sure that I had made a mistake. "Why do I have to repeat my name? Why are they all applauding? These people are way too enthusiastic. How can I get out of this?" But I trusted the guy who had recommended this experience, and I figured I could just wait it out.

What I remember most about Friday was the music. The musicians were great, and maybe because our wives weren't there, no one was self-conscious about singing boldly. But as the day went on, I started to get upset. Some songs I could sing without any problem, but anytime the lyrics of a song touched on the suffering of Jesus, I got choked up. It seemed like I was the only person who was affected this way. By Friday night, I was very uncomfortable. I sought to talk with one of the spiritual directors. After we talked for a while, she asked me why I thought lyrics about Jesus' suffering were upsetting me. What had been a mystery to me all day was suddenly obvious: I just didn't feel worthy of his love and sacrifice. We prayed. I surrendered. The rest of the weekend was pure joy. I understood why those people were clapping so enthusiastically on Thursday night. I fell in love with Jesus.

In my Fourth Day, I'm seeking to share that love with others created in His Image. And I'm looking forward to the next opportunity to render some rowdy applause as the next group of pilgrims sets out on its Walk in March. **DeColores - Scott Robinette - TRWE #36**

My Fourth day has been quite eventful with more opportunities to reach people and share the Good News. I have gotten more out of my time with the Lord than ever before. It is very exciting knowing how God wants to use me.

Before my walk I struggled in so many areas; since the walk and other events, I have been in tune with God in a way I just can't describe. Don't get me wrong--I still stumble and fall short, everyday. But after being hit over the head with a 2 x 4, so to speak, I finally realized that the area in which I am to serve is through prayer.

My idea for serving God was to be so exciting, life changing and mighty. Little did I realize, how simple I was in my thoughts and expectations to serve the Lord. I looked at prayer as something I already did a lot of, something God already expected from me, not so much a duty or obligation. But I already spent a lot of time praying. Wow! How my eyes were opened! I am now able to communicate with our Lord God in a way I never imagined. This past walk (#44) was even more exciting and fulfilling for me. What an honor and privilege to serve God through prayer, but also to serve others and lift others up. There are so many folks out there in need, and they don't even know they are in need.

Through prayer we open up many doors and windows we did not know existed. God has many plans in store for each one of us. Open the opportunity for yourself. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING. God will bless you and those you pray for in ways you cannot imagine. Blessings we cannot contain scripture tells us. Wow!!!! **DeColores** - **Christina Kapolka - TRWE #24**



SPONSORSHIP

The lights, the decorations, the beauty and glitter that we associate with Christmas, the wondrous birth of our Lord and Savior are concluding. Our homes inside and out look so plain for a period of time. I am aware of myself adjusting. It gives me sort of a flat feeling until my attention is drawn to the next activity.

This year one of those activities is teaming. We began earlier this winter because of the available walk dates at the Salvation Army Camp: March 20 -23 for the Men's Walk and April 3 – 6 for the Women's Walk.

There is much to do to prepare for walks. Agape to be made, teaming to be planned and conducted, music to be planned and talks to be written are just a few of the numerous activities. As we leave this holiday season, it is easy to lose our sense of what is the most important Emmaus activity--the activity of sponsorship. Sponsorship is a gift that has had a profound effect on many lives. A number of us, myself included, would site our walk as an important point in our spiritual lives--the foundation from which many things blossomed. Many of our Christmas gifts had short lives and are already broken, worn or discarded. But, the gift of sponsorship often stands the test of time with the benefits of this gift continuing to grow and magnify over time. It seems appropriate to consider such a gift on the heels of Christmas.

Sponsorship requires an investment of ourselves in the welfare of other persons. It involves placing a higher priority on their potential gain from this walk than the anxiety we feel in discussing the walk with another.

I know each time I have sponsored a pilgrim, early on I had great anxiety about asking the question of 'Will you attend?' My nervousness was often almost paralyzing, but after I got the words out, I always felt better. Some have accepted this gift; others have yet to do so. I figure God controls who accepts. My role is to give or invest myself in the growth and life of another. Sort of, He is God and I am not.

As our walks approach, every Emmaus Community member is a team member. Yes, God has selected a few to serve on the team and to our representatives on the team but we are all on the only team that matters--God's team.

I strongly encourage you to pray about and to consider whom God might be calling you to sponsor. Now is the time for action. Included is an application.

My own experience shows that it is rare to out-give God. As I have given to others in sponsorship, the returned blessing exceeded any expectations.

God is in the process of putting together teams that can work with a full conference room of pilgrims, at least 30 men and 30 women. If we actively and earnestly work toward a full conference room and He decides He only wants a few present, that is OK. But if we have less than a full conference room because we did not take the action to serve another in this manner, I doubt that is all right. Someone has likely missed out on the profound blessing of being a pilgrim and a community member has missed out on the profound blessings of being a sponsor.

Rolen Burnette Men's Lay Director Walk #45 APPLICATION ON PAGES 9-10



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

WHY GO TO GATHERINGS???

When asked to write an article for the newsletter about attending Gathering, I was contemplating not attending. I have been going to Gathering for a long time without missing even before becoming Community Lay Director. As Community Lay Director I was expected to be at each Gathering and have the evening's agenda. So I thought to myself, I can finally miss a Gathering. After thinking about this article, I asked myself what I would miss if I didn't go. I could give you the top ten reasons to attend Gathering or the top ten reasons for missing Gathering. Neither of these is I so I assumed the role of "Mr. Emmaus"

Mr. Emmaus, why should I consider attending a Gathering?

Attending gathering is a small dose of your original weekend. We sing a few songs that you probably sang during your walk. These are always uplifting moments. Songs are like prayers of praise to God.

There is always a Fourth Day talk. The speaker answers two questions. What have I done since my weekend? And what I am going to do about it? Many times the speakers share their personal weakness and growth in ways they normally wouldn't share. As the fourth day speaker encourages us we can also encourage them. When time allows, we go into group discussions to discuss something the fourth day speaker shared or we may answer a question from our reunion card.

The clergy message always gives me something to think about. It is awesome how many times the Fourth Day speaker and the clergy's prepared talk are along the same thought. God is indeed AWESOME!! When I hear the same message from the Fourth Day speaker and the clergy, I have to ask myself, "What is God trying to tell me?" The body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion is shared with the community at each Gathering.

Of course there is fellowship time and snacks. During fellowship time you can meet new faces and rekindle old friendships. Fellowship time is a time to share and care for others.

So that is why you should go to Gathering and after thinking about how great Gathering really is, I will see you there! **Randy Stevens**

The 25th Anniversary International Emmaus

Celebration will be held July 24-27, 2003 at the Nashville Convention Center in Nashville, TN. Now is the time to make plans to attend this grand reunion. You will have the opportunity to share fellowship with people from around the world who have participated in the Emmaus movement. Worship, music and dynamic presentations will resound!

The focus will be on Powerful Plenaries that will be held every morning and evening.

Workshop tracks will center on Making a World of Difference...In Our Emmaus

Communities, In Our Lives, In Our Churches, In Our World. You will have an opportunity to attend three workshops on both Friday and Saturday.

There will be fellowship with Pilgrims from around the world and of course **music**, **music**, **music**!!!

For detailed information, please visit <u>http://www.upperroom.org/emmaus/25th/</u>. Brochures will be available at Gatherings or contact **Randy Stevens at rstevens@centria.com (412-318-4025).**

DIRECTIONS TO DUTILH UMC

From the South Route 79 or I-279, take the Cranberry exit. This will put you on Route 19. Stay on Route 19 for about a mile (second light past Bob Evans) to St. Francis Way, opposite the entrance to Cranberry Mall. Turn right on St. Francis to the first STOP sign (about 100 yards) and then turn right again at the stop sign. A motel is the first driveway. The Church is the second driveway in the middle of the block on your right. 1270 Dutilh Road

From the North Use Route 19 southbound to St. Francis Way. Use the "left turn lane" on Route 19 to turn into St. Francis way, opposite the Cranberry Mall. Turn left on St. Francis to the first STOP sign. and then turn right. A motel is the first driveway on the right. The Church is the second.

From the Turnpike take exit 3 (Cranberry Township). After the tollbooth, stay to the left to go north on Route 19. At the first stop light, turn right on St. Francis Way (about 100 yards) and then turn right again at the stop sign. A motel is the first driveway on the right. The Church is the second driveway.

DIRECTIONS TO INGOMAR UMC

FROM NORTH OR SOUTH From Interstate 79, take the Wexford Exit #73. From the exit ramp, turn left if coming from the north. Turn right if coming from the south. Immediately turn right onto Brandt School Road. In 2.5 miles you will come to Ingomar UMC on the left. The parking lot is just past the church.

OR----FROM SOUTH From Interstate 79, take exit #68. Make a right on Mt. Nebo Road at the end of the ramp. Follow Mt. Nebo to the first light. Make a left onto Arndt Road. At the top of the hill, make a left at stop sign onto Reis Run Road. At the next stop sign, go straight, crossing over Rochester Road. At next stop sign, make a left onto Ingomar Road. CAUTION—Traffic from left does not have a stop sign!!! Ingomar UMC is at the top of the rise on the right. (From Mt. Nebo until you turn onto Ingomar Road, it is the Yellow Belt.)

FROM EAST Take Turnpike to Cranberry exit. Take Interstate 79 south and follow from NORTH directions.

OR FROM EAST Take Parkway to Crosstown Blvd. (I-579). Follow signs to I-279 north, crossing Veteran's Bridge. Exit at Camp Horn Road (exit #15). Make a right at end of ramp. At the next light, make a left onto Mt. Nebo Road. At the next light, make a right onto Arndt Road and follow the directions labeled OR FROM SOUTH

ATTENTION REUNION GROUPS

So that our records remain accurate, please advise me of the name, time, date and place of any new reunion groups being formed. If you know of a reunion group that is no longer in existence, please forward that information to me so that it can be removed from the list. Thank you.

Olivia Graham, Reunion Group coordinator 724.478.4584 <u>oegraham@alltel.net</u>

IN MEMORIAM GEORGE DAY

Born December 18, 1922 Died December 18, 2002 And then one day I'll cross the river, I'll fight life's final war with pain; And then as death gives way to victory, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns. We live and work in the present, expecting God's victory in the future, secure in knowing the end—whenever it comes—is in God's hands.



The Chaplain at SCI Greensburg has approved Kairos fourth day program for the facility. Plans are underway to raising a team, set weekend dates, and team training events. There is a call for interested people to meet

January 31, 2003 7:00 p.m. at Charter Oak United Methodist Church in Greensburg.

Charter Oak UMC is located off Route 30 between Greensburg and Latrobe. The intersection is noted by a four way light. The church is located across from Mountain View Inn, which has signage on Route 30 at the intersection. Mountain View Furniture is located at the corner before the turn.

From the turnpike, travel east, to Exit 7 (Irwin/Greensburg). Merge onto Route 30 E toward Greensburg for approximately 11 miles. Westmoreland Mall will be on your right. Approximately. 3/4 mile from the mall turn left (north) at the intersection marked by the Mt. View Inn sign. Go past the Commonwealth Bank on your left. Turn into the Charter Oak parking lot on your left just before the stop sign.

Questions should be directed to Joel Marks: <u>JDMPA@aol.com</u> 724-516-5635, or contact Pat Mould or Ed Dunne. You can visit the website at <u>http://www.kairosprisonministry.org/</u>

When the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere......to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

From Pat Mould

I would like to thank the Emmaus Community for the opportunity to serve as the Agape Coordinator for the past three years. When I said 'yes' to the nomination, well, quite frankly, I didn't know what I was in for. It seemed like a natural thing to volunteer for Agape, as a former art teacher and my love for 'things visual'.

It was suggested that Agape letters and information about other weekends were now done by e-mail and websites. I had sent a couple of messages to my son away at college, but I had very little knowledge of computers or this new-fangled way of communicating. So I kind of dived in. Soon I discovered the benefits of electronic communication and made my emphasis not on receiving letters for Three Rivers but giving away letters to all possible weekends out there. It was amazing to think that with a touch of a button our message of support and love could be received around the world--South Africa, Hong Kong, Brazil, Mexico, Germany, as well as all 50 states. And something subtler was also taking place. As I marveled at the ease of communication, (no stamps, no envelopes, no trips to the post office) I became more aware of our global 3day weekend community. To know that on almost any given Friday morning, somewhere in the world, the Priority Talk was being given—to know that lives are being changed by dedicated communities of believers, whatever the form; Kairos, Tres Dias, Cursillo, Chrysalis and others, there was tangible proof of connection through my fingertips that translates into a 'knowing' of God's infinite love and care for all of us together as well as each individual. What an awesome God we serve! May God's Blessings Abound!



WELCOME NEW PILGRIMS!

Pilgrims from Walk 43

Larry Burkhart Jeff Clark Jim Crowe Tom Fodor Greg Matta Brian McConnell Bob Morgan Mt.Pisgah Presb. Greentree Ingomar UMC Ingomar Christ UMC Bethel Park West Liberty UMC Christ UMC N Huntingdon 1st UMC New Eagle 1st Presby. New Eagle Jim Park Mark Pasek Mike Printz Forton Remington Michael Varner

Bellevue Central Bellvue Community UMC Community UMC Christ UMC Bethel Park Christ UMC Bethel Park

Barbara Arnold Ann Bart Susan Burkhart Jill Cassidy Colleen Clark Marge Cooper Marilyn Costantino Linda Counselman Debbie Dobrosky Rachel Drew **Trish Emmerling** Wendy Etheridge Celeste Fodor Joan Heckel Katherine Hrivnak Martha Johnson Sandra Marcase

Oakmont UMC Oakmont Christ UMC Bethel Park Mt. Pisgah Presb. Greentree Nat. Heights. Presb. Ingomar UMC Ingomar New Zion Evan. Mt. Pisgah Presb. Greentree Ch Faith A of God Trinity U C Lower Burrell Mapletown UMC Peters Creek Bapt. Library Ch. Of God Bible W. Liberty UMC East Liberty UMC Trinity U C.Lower Burrell 1st Presb. Greenville Fairmont UMC

Pilgrims from Walk 44 Millie Martin Laura Matta Jeanne McElhose **Robin McRoberts** Kathy Mikesell Shelly Nash Sophie Park Mina Potaczek Judy Refosco Joan Rousseaux Kim Saylor Dale Schrag Heidi Varner Iva Jane Verner Debbie Wood Johanna Wright

Trinity. UMC Scottdale Christ UMC N Huntingdon Oakmont UMC Oakmont Bellevue Central Bellvue **Christ Community Butler** Trinity U Christian L Burrell Bellevue Central Bellevue Living Word Butler 1st Presb. Houston Hew Hope 3 Seasons Comm. Trinity U.C Lower Burrell Christ UMC Bethel Comm. Prosperity St. James Roman Catholic Jefferson Avenue UMC



PRAYER CHAIN If you have a joy or concern that you would like lifted in prayer by the Emmaus Community, please email your request to botrwe@aol.com.

Do you have something of interest to the community that you would like to share? Has your email or mailing address changed? Would you like to receive the newsletter by US Mail for \$6 a year? Please notify Lynne Johnson, 251 Portman Lane, Bridgeville, PA 15017 412.257.2727. Email to <u>emmauslkj@aol.com</u>. Please put **EMMAUS** in subject line of all emails.

You can read this newsletter on our web site at www.trwe.org

To be filled out by Cand () Men's Walk	x – March 20 – 23, 2003 x – Nov. 6 – 9, 2003	() V () V	Vomen's Walk	a – April 3 – 6, 2	2003	
SexAge	Birthdate	Single	Married	_Separated	_Divorced	
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Emergency phone (
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	Ar	e you on spec	cial medication			
Has your sponsor discus	sed the following: Walk	x site Tra	ansportation	Clothing		
Bedding Reun	ion Groups Ga	atherings				
State briefly why you wi	ish to attend					
In what Community & re	eligious organizations a	re you are you	u active			
Your Church		Denomi	ination			
The above information i	s necessary for your pro	Denom	t in a Walk to	Emmaus Vour	submitting it	
does not guarantee attendance as we have a limited amount of spaces available. Early application benefits your acceptance. The cost of the weekend is \$105.00, which includes lodging, meals, and supplies. Please						
enclose a preregistration deposit of \$25 made payable to Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus. The balance due						
will be required upon yo						
your sponsor about finar				-	-	
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Date received Deposit Computer entry						

Three WALK to EME MAUS

To be filled out by sponsor:

Candidate's name_____

Remember when sponsoring a candidate, that the walk to Emmaus is not a means to correct one's character, morals, emotions, or an unstable marriage. The Walk is designed to bring participants into a renewed relationship with Christ, the Church, and fellow Christians. For married couples, husbands are encouraged to attend the Walk to Emmaus first. Each candidate must submit a separate application, and married couples should, if possible, turn in both applications at the same time so as to reserve space for the wife on the Women's Walk.

Phone ()		
City	St	Zip
Denomination		
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Walk #	Year	Table
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