

# Three Rivers Walk To Emmaus

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### IMPORTANT DATES

#### FALL WALKS @ FRC:

Men's Walk #95 Oct. 29-Nov. 1  
Candlelight – Oct. 31 @ 8 PM

Women's Walk #96 Nov. 5-8  
All Community Gathering &  
Candlelight – Nov. 7 @ 7 PM

#### GATHERINGS:

July 11 – All Community Picnic

Aug 14 – All Community Gathering  
& E-Day

Oct 9 – All Community Gathering

Nov. 7 – All Community Gathering

Dec. 11– All Community Gathering

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Twenty Three Years of Walking with Jesus



### FROM THE COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow...” These lyrics to the doxology float through my head as I reflect back on the closing comments made by the men and women of Walks 93 and 94, a powerful witness to our living Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Thanks and praise be to God for the sponsorship, for the teams and preparations, for the 4<sup>th</sup> Day community support and for the Pilgrims, now 4<sup>th</sup> Day. Praise God for God’s doing a work in us and through us and among us! Surely God has purposed us for such a time and place as this, to love and serve God in these ways.

New members to the Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus Community – again, welcome! It is our earnest hope and prayer that your recent Emmaus experience lingers with you with fond memories and that you take full advantage of the ongoing opportunities that fan your flames – song break – “...felt the fire burn brightly within you. Then I say – ay, you’ve seen Jesus my Lord. Have you seen Jesus my Lord? He’s here in plain view...”

For all 4<sup>th</sup> Day community, these fan-your-flame opportunities include Reunion Groups, serving and participating at Gatherings, Sponsorship, serving on team for upcoming Walks, Emmaus Education Day, TRWE Summer picnic – all of which are mentioned in the Newsletter below, or on the TRWE.org website.

The mission of Emmaus: to empower leaders to be the hands and feet of Christ!

The vision of Emmaus: 4<sup>th</sup> day leaders embodying Christ

And all for God’s glory! Amen?

DeColores,  
*Ken Gryger*  
*Community Lay Director, 2015*



## FROM THE COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

"I would have left this Emmaus community a long time ago..."  
Have you ever had one of those days?? The kind where nothing seems to be going right, no matter how hard you try?

You know what I'm talking about. You pick up the phone thinking your friend is calling to talk-only to find out he has a list of complaints about you. Or what about the time you said something with the intention of helping someone and that person misunderstood what you were trying to say and got her feelings hurt. Or you stood up for what you believed to be right and it seemed as though everyone was against you.

This kind of stuff happens to me all the time in our Emmaus community. Maybe it has happened to you too. We are a family and families always seem to hurt the people they love the most.

I think Jesus understands this; I think Jesus knows how difficult it is for us to forgive those who have hurt us. He must because he spends so much of his ministry talking about forgiveness.

Do you remember that time Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" Jesus answers, "No, not seven times, but seventy times seven!" (Mt. 18:21-22)

And then Jesus proceeds to tell Peter and the disciples the parable of the unforgiving servant. You know the story, don't you?

Once upon a time there was a king who decided to speak with all those who owed him money. Seated on his golden throne, the king called in his servant-the one who owed him millions of dollars. The servant can't pay back the king and so the king decided to throw the servant in jail-along with his wife and children and decided to sell everything the servant owned. The servant then fell down on his knees and asked for mercy, "Please, please be patient with me and I will pay it all," he begged the king.

The king was overwhelmed and showed mercy to the man. Such abundant mercy-he decided to forgive his debt-ALL OF IT, every last penny!

No sooner did the servant leave the king's chamber when he came across a friend of his, who just happened to owe him money. He grabbed his friend by the neck and demanded his money, then and there! When his friend fell down at his feet and begged for mercy, the servant refused and had his friend thrown in jail.

When some of the servant's other friends saw this, they were upset and went and told the king what they had witnessed. The king called the servant before him and asked, "How could you do this? I forgave you when you asked for mercy. You should have mercy as well." (Mt. 18:23-33)

How often do we act like that servant who is unable to forgive? We ask God for mercy; we ask God to forgive us; and then we hold on to the offenses of others, refusing to forgive them? God forgives us for every sin. So out of our love for God, how can we withhold forgiveness from our brothers and sisters? Jesus tells us to love one another. That is so difficult to do when we are holding on to past hurts and pain.

Our Emmaus community is made of imperfect people. People who make mistakes; people who inadvertently hurt one another; people who don't always listen to each other; people who are human; clergy who are human.

If someone in our Emmaus community has hurt you, I beg you, beloved, to forgive him/her. Whether you talk to that person about how he/she hurt you or not, do not carry that grudge around with you. Go to God and ask for God's help to forgive.

Because I guarantee you, beloved, no one sets out to hurt another person. No one wakes up one morning and says to herself, "Hum...who can I hurt today?"

At the last closing, a wise man came up to me and said, "If I was not able to forgive my brothers and sisters, I would have left this Emmaus community a long time ago."

The easy thing to do when we are hurt is to just leave the community, often with the "I'll fix them" attitude. Guess who loses out when that happens?

When we stick around to forgive the brother or sister who has hurt us, which is usually the more difficult thing to do, we win because only then are we able to be overwhelmed by God's amazing grace!

Yours in Christ,

*Cindy Parker*, TRWE #64

Community Spiritual Director

## COMMUNITY THANK YOU

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

*There is always a flurry of activity behind the scenes of an Emmaus weekend and this set of walks was no exception. Meals were served, facility cleaning duty was supported and prayers were lifted up for the pilgrims and team members. I had petitioned the community to help out during both sets of walks and the community answered the call.*

*I want to offer my heartfelt gratitude to those who were able and willing to help with Walks #93 and #94!*

*It is amazing to me how a Thursday afternoon turns a campsite into a major event. And then before you know it, it's Sunday afternoon and it's time for closing and you realize that you are witnessing a revival service complete with one personal testimony after another. And then the new community members share communion with their sponsors – their family members and close friends.*

*It is so worth the extra time and effort to help out during these precious weekends. Again, "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"*

*In His Service,*

*TRWE Community 4th Day Coordinator,*

*Pam Walter, TRWE #42, Table of Rachel*




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VISIT [WWW.TRWE.ORG](http://WWW.TRWE.ORG) FOR ANSWERS TO ALL YOUR TRWE QUESTIONS!

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## HOW HAS GOD BEEN MEDDLING IN YOUR LIFE LATELY???

“This is a person’s witness to God’s presence in his or her life and to the developments in his or her walk with the risen Lord. The witness may stem from an experience, a spiritual learning, a reflection on a stretch of his or her spiritual journey or a challenge to live more fully in holiness and service.” [Upper Room Emmaus Handbook page 126]

The ideal 4<sup>th</sup> Day talk at an Emmaus Community Gathering is easy to characterize. It’s the talk that you give, in your own words, that gives witness to how God has been meddling in your life to mold you and shape you into the likeness of God’s son, Jesus Christ, for your sake but also for the sake of the world around you. Maybe that molding and shaping has been a little uncomfortable. But both in the midst and at the end of that discomfort we often see the great work that God has been doing. This is your authentic and most powerful witness. It’s meant to be shared.

Consider the Song of Miriam, Exodus 15:1-21, as a simple example. The song recounts and celebrates what God has done and continues to do in the lives of the Chosen people. Or consider the story of the healing of the blind man from John Chapter 9. (That story is so rich!) In verse 25, the blind-man-given-sight-by-Jesus replied to the Pharisees, “I don’t know if he’s a sinner or not (referring to Jesus). But I do know one thing. I used to be blind, but now I can see.”

This is the essence of a powerful 4<sup>th</sup> Day talk at a Gathering: “I was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.” And that act of God in my life has made all the difference. Remember the Changing Our World talk from your Emmaus Walk? Life change starts with you, with me. Out from there, it next extends to our families, our neighborhoods, our communities. The world is changed one life at a time. That’s our witness to God @ work in our very midst! We need to hear it!

Will you consider telling your story of God at work in your life since your Emmaus Walk? Some simple guidelines: 1) Not polished speaking but a polished talk – take time to prepare thoughtfully and prayerfully. Ask your sponsor, pastor, or reunion group to help you along. 2) Give God the glory. The talk is about you, certainly, but more importantly about God working in and through you to grow you into the person, made in God’s image and likeness, that God had designed you to be to serve God’s purposes in and for God’s broken world, the world he loves so much (John 3:16).

DeColores,  
*Ken Gryger, Community Lay Director 2015*

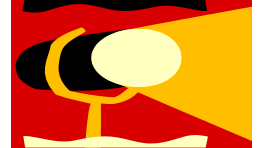
To volunteer to be a 4<sup>th</sup> Day Speaker at an upcoming Emmaus Gathering, please contact Lisa Foust by email or phone. [Lfoust41@gmail.com](mailto:Lfoust41@gmail.com) cell 814-573-5068

## GOOD NEWS FROM OUR TREASURER

We are pleased to inform the community that the IRS 990 forms were filed for the years 2011 - 2013 (as well as for 2014), and the IRS form 1025 was filed to request retroactive reinstatement of our tax exempt status. In a somewhat unprecedented 6 days, the IRS approved our request and our tax exempt status has been reinstated retroactively to May 15, 2014. God is good..... All the time. Be assured that the Board has implemented procedures to ensure that this administrative mishap will not occur in the future. Thank you for your continued support and prayers. *Chub Dietz, TRWE Treasurer*



## SPOTLIGHT ON AN ANGEL



### Tribute to Carena Phillips

Carena was on a “mission from God” when I met her. Wow! What a powerhouse that woman was. The best advice she gave me was that she would never allow anyone to rain on her parade. She was small, but mighty.

She was devoted to her family; she cherished her children and she was committed to her husband and their shared passion of serving God.

The last time we were together, she encouraged me to support another mission from God in which she was involved. I am embarrassed to say that I turned her down.

Well, guess what. Even while Carena was sick, she was still moving people to action. She passed the baton of servant-hood to me and I am officially doing the job role that Carena was doing for Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus.

Psalm 16:11 reads, *“You have shown me the path of life, in your presence, there is fullness of joy and in your right hand there will be pleasures forever more.”* Sounds to me what heaven must be like.”

And just a few verses later, Psalm 17:8 says, *“Keep me as the apple of thine eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings.”*

Right now, Carena is the apple of God’s eye; she is in His right hand; He has her nestled under the shadow of His wings.

What better place can she be? God bless.

From one of her many friends,

*Pam Walter*

*TRWE #42, Table of Rachel*



## SPRING 2015 WALKS

### A Note from the Registrar Committee...

Many thanks to the Walk #93/94 Sponsors. It was a pleasure meeting and serving you and your pilgrims. What a great group of men and women to join our TRWE Community!! ( See page 8 with the names of our newest members and their sponsors. ☺)

It's never too early to send in a pilgrim application. Pray and ask God to guide you to whomever He is calling to attend. Sponsorship is as rewarding as being a pilgrim and information can be found on the [www.trwe.org](http://www.trwe.org) website regarding sponsorship. You can also download a pilgrim application from the same website. (Be sure you have the current application with Judy Grice's address: 1105 Vista Valley Rd, Washington, PA 15301.) The application deadline for both Fall Walks is October 12, 2015. As always, we look forward to serving you.

DeColores,

*Judy Grice TRWE #40. Janet Ruckel TRWE #2 and Sharon Gallagher TRWE*

## HERE ARE THE ANSWERS!!!! WHAT ARE THE QUESTIONS???

**Remember...** in the last newsletter there were 5 Answers?

**Are you coming to get the questions at -**

**ALL COMMUNITY GATHERING AND E(education)DAY**

**WHEN: FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2015 7:00 PM**

**WHERE: DUTILH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,**

**CRANBERRY TWP. PA**

**And...**

**HERE ARE 4 MORE ANSWERS!!!**

**WHAT ARE THE QUESTIONS???**

**#6. From the comforts of my home**

**#7. What I am doing about it**

**#8. I can sing...I gave 2 talks...I served snacks**

**#9. We sang...we prayed...we received Communion...we ate**



**Reminder: EDay (short for Education Day) is for EVERYONE, seasoned veteran of the Emmaus Community or newbie. This will be a time of light-hearted learning ...or perhaps a gentle reminder... of how we can allow the Walk to Emmaus to continue to be an encouraging part of our spiritual journeys.**

*Lill Griffith* TRWE #28 Assistant Community Lay Director



**PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO...**

**... WELCOME OUR NEWEST TRWE MEMBERS FROM WALKS #93 AND #94**

MEN'S WALK #93			WOMEN'S WALK #94		
Pilgrim	Church	Sponsor	Pilgrim	Church	Sponsor
Ralph Smith	OHL UMC, Summerville	Greg Quick	Kathy Dinger	OHL UMC, Summerville	Shelley Smith
Robert Foflygen	First UMC, Washington	Bob Heim	Marcy Walters	Allison Park Christian	Eli Dille
Zachary Jupin	First Presby., Belle Vernon	Lance Trussa	Bonda Ross	New Stanton UMC	Dennis Walker
Bob Dipolito	I.C. Catholic, N. Huntingdon	P.J. Dippolito	Gerrie Tschudi	Bethany Presby. Bridgeville	John Turnbull
Darwin Trahern	The Bible Chapel	Joe Frantz	Donna Detwiler	Rural Valley UMC	Rebecca DeLuca
Steve Berfield	Mt. Pleasant UMC	Russell Beaumont	Brenda Sommerville	Mt. Zion UMC	Rebecca DeLuca
Cody Rogers	West Alexander Presbyterian	Bob Morgan	Christine Lewis	The Bible Chapel, McMurray	Bob Lewis
Kevin Yeckley	The Bible Chapel	Joe Frantz	Lauren Nosker	First UMC, Brookville	Lois Shields
Harvey Noel	Christ United COC	Brian Musick	Shela Shields	Mt. Pleasant UMC	Roger Howard
Kerry Mosier	Community UMC	Dwight Willaman	Donna Bussey	W. Alexander Presby	Kathy Morgan
Tom DePue	First UMC, DuBois	Lance Tucker	Agnes Curfman	Leesburg Presby. Volant	Tom Gomola
James Chirdon	Bairdford UMC	Larry Kretzler	Sandy Foflygen	First UMC, Washington	Ruth Simmons
Kurt Aucoin	Crossroads UMC	Bob Garland	Karen Harshbarger	St. Louise de Marillac, Catholic	Ardyth Hill
Shawn McGowan	Crossroads UMC	Bob Garland	Bernie Frank	Oakland UMC, Cooperstown	Amanda Burns
 <p><b><u>Pilgrims to begin praying for the upcoming Fall Walks are:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sharon Swortwood</b></li> <li>• <b>Tracy Goldstrohm</b></li> <li>• <b>Ann DeBold</b></li> <li>• <b>Patricia Goetz</b></li> <li>• <b>Nancy Jones</b></li> </ul>	Deb Young	OHL UMC	Dianne Hetrick		
	Phylis Aucoin	Crossroads UMC	Kurt Aucoin		
	Laura Zoeller	Bethel Presby., Prosperity	Judy Grice		
	Kate Reitz	Eau Claire UMC	Carol Brown		
	Heather Seigworth	St. Petersburg UMC	Janet Stewart		
	Sheila Johnson	Carwick Wesleyan	Melissa Whitting-Wise		
	Kim Jedlowski	Bethel UMC	Janice Gottschalk		
	Jill Waldo	Hebron Presby.	Jay Newport		
	Darlene Ross	Stone UMC	Lisa Clayton		

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!**

Save the Date – Make a Note – Tell your Emmaus Friends  
**2015 Important EMMAUS Events**



Jul 11 – All Community Picnic	Oct 31 – Candlelight 8 PM
Aug 14 – All Community Gathering & E-day	Nov 5 - #96 Women’s Walk
Oct 9 – All Community Gathering	Nov 7 – All Community Gathering & Candlelight 7 PM
Oct 12 – Application Deadline	Dec 11 – All Community Gathering
Oct 29 - #95 Men’s Walk	

Note: For all Gatherings, doors open at 7:00 PM and service begins at 7:30 PM  
 AND All Community Gatherings are held at Dutihl UMC

**ALL COMMUNITY PICNIC – JULY 11**

**DID YOU SAVE THE DATE???????**

Come one, Come All to our very first

**DOWN ON THE FARM  
 COMMUNITY PICNIC**

**Time: 3-7 pm**

Our host for the day, **Maxine Ellis**,

has graciously volunteered her farm in Finleyville

**10 Horse Emporium Lane**

**Finleyville, PA 15332**

Come ready for a day of

fun, fellowship and most of all good farm-fresh food!!!

Come ready for the day with your suspenders and bandanas – cowboy hats optional.

What to bring:

\*Beverage to share (1-2 liter or case of water) per family

\* A covered dish to share - last name beginning with

A-G Fruit, H-M Vegetable, N-S Salad, T-Z Dessert

\*Your own chair



Here is what we are planning:

\*Corn Hole Toss Tournament (e-mail your 2-team members to [shuesx4@hotmail.com](mailto:shuesx4@hotmail.com))

\*Bocce Ball \*Singing \*Bonfire \*Photo Booth \*MORE...

RSVP by **July 1<sup>st</sup>** to Lois Dille by e-mail [ljdille@gmail.com](mailto:ljdille@gmail.com) OR by phone 412-997-0719





**PRAYER CHAIN**

If you have a prayer concern that you would like lifted in prayer or have other information that you want to share with the Community, please send the information to Rpratt2707@gmail.com

***Newsletter Information***

If you choose to get your newsletter by US Mail...Please send a check (Payable to TRWE) for \$10 for a 1 year subscription to: Kathy Shusteric, 627 Sandy Hill Road, Irwin, PA 15642

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If you know someone who does not have e-mail, please pass this information to him/her.

This newsletter may be viewed at [www.trwe.org](http://www.trwe.org)

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