



## WHERE DID IT GO?

Wow! Where did the summer go? Wasn't it the Fourth of July just the other day?

Summer is often a time of breaking from our usual routines. Children take a break away from school, we take a break from work for vacations, and we take the time to do things we normally don't get a chance to do. But very soon kids will be going back to school if they aren't already. Our vacations are over and our lives are returning to things more settled, more familiar, more normal.



Often summer is also the time when some things are just kind of put on hold -- not forgotten, just not at the top of our priorities. Unfortunately, sometimes church attendance is one of these things. "Yeah, I know, it's Sunday morning, but it's such a beautiful day. Let's go do something. We won't have this great weather forever." I have been guilty more times than I'd like to admit of saying this. But another voice usually points out that things can be done after church (thanks Diana). Still there are times where we have taken a Sunday off to do something else like visiting our grandson 2 ½ hours away.

So for some of us, autumn is the time, as Paul McCartney sang, to "get back, get back, get back to where you once belonged."

When we are gone from church, people notice. And it's always nice to hear folks say, "Welcome back. We've missed you." It's nice to know that people care. It's such a great feeling to know that you belong somewhere.

Well, Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus is like that. When you are not participating in our activities, we miss you. Romans 12:5 says, "So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs

to all the others.” TRWE is one body. We are not as vibrant a community without your presence. We are weaker without your participation. We cannot function as we ought if part of the body is missing.

In the past two years the Board of Directors has made some painful decisions that affect the body that is TRWE. Elsewhere, in the newsletter there is an article on that topic.

Joel 2:12 says, “Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart...” My hope and prayer is that if Emmaus has made a difference in your life, you will want to come back and make our body strong again. We miss you.

God's Peace,

Ron Hujik  
TRWE CLD

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## ***THANK YOU!***

The Board of Directors wishes to thank Judy Grice for serving the last few years as Registrar. Judy has done a tremendous job receiving, recording, and maintaining all pilgrim applications. She also has performed many other duties to make a walk run smoothly such as providing table and cabin assignments, greeting/registering the pilgrims as they arrive, preparing the crosses, coordinating the walk photo/photo key, and so much more.

We will truly miss Judy's loving spirit, guidance and support at the board meetings. Thank you Judy.

On that note the Board would like to welcome Sharon Gallagher as our new Registrar. Also Pam Walter has been selected as our new Assistant Community Lay Director. We look forward to working with them at the Board meetings.



## A NOTE FROM OUR UPPER ROOM COMMUNICATOR:

I hope August is treating you great!!

I wanted to send you all some information on The Gift fund that is such an awesome opportunity to help with what our ministry gets to do all over the world.

### THE EMMAUS GIFT

If you have any questions, please give me a call or shoot me an email and I will be happy to visit with you about this!

Grace, Peace, and Love,

Mandy McLean

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## QUESTIONS...

During the past few months there have been two questions that have been asked repeatedly of members of the Board of Directors: 1) Why is there now only one walk per year? 2) Why do we have to wait so long for walks #105 and #106?

I would like to answer those questions through this newsletter so the entire community will know the answers and hopefully understand.

Over the last few years TRWE has struggled as a community. Attendance at Gatherings and other functions has declined. We conducted a survey to try to improve Gathering attendance. We have tried some new things to increase Gathering participation, such as themed evenings. The August Gathering was our second annual all-music fest. For a community of our size it was disappointing to see only 35 people attending.

Unfortunately, this trend also is seen in walk preparation and supporting activities. Walk Lay Directors are finding it more difficult to find committed persons to be on teams. Often a complete team is not in place when teaming begins. Sometimes a full team isn't formed until the week of the walk which doesn't bode well for the pre-walk bonding experience.

Also there has been great difficulty in providing a full complement of pilgrims for a walk, especially for the men. This can lead to sponsors finding potential pilgrims right at the deadline who may not be ready to attend.

Finding Fourth Day help is also challenging – we always need servers, cleaning angels, agape makers, set up/tear down help and prayer vigil participants.

The Board of Directors decided to have one set of walks a year to see if it is easier for the community to get involved. This explains why we had a spring walk in 2018 and will hold a fall walk in 2019. For the women's walk, we had a full slate of 25 pilgrims. However for the men's walk we still struggled to get to at least a dozen. In hindsight, waiting 18 months between walks was not a good idea, but we wanted to determine if one season was more preferable over another.

We still plan on having one set of walks a year. However, having a walk at the same time each year may be a better solution. Knowing consistently when a walk will be held may help in planning and desiring to serve. We understand that perhaps it will be difficult for a future pilgrim to attend during a particular season. If the desire to be on a walk is strong, they will find a way to attend. Remember priority?

A walk needs the community for it to be successful. So we need your help. We have created a very short survey on your preference on when a walk should be held. This will help the board in planning future walks.

Please go to this link to take the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SJMCPZL>. Your response is confidential. Please respond by September 30. Thank you in advance.

Ron Hujik –  
TRWE Community Lay Director

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## A NOTE FROM THE REGISTRAR

Dear TRWE Community,

It has been my pleasure to serve you these last 4 years as Registrar.

I have so enjoyed getting to know sponsors and pilgrims and praying for you by name from the point of receiving your applications to hearing your answers to the Closing questions.

I encourage you all to support the TRWE Community by starting to pray now, for who God will have you sponsor on the next set of Walks in Fall 2019. Sharon Gallagher has graciously taken over the Registrar duties as of August 1<sup>st</sup> and I know her mailbox is ready and willing to begin accepting applications.

If you have questions about Sponsorship, there is information on the [www.trwe.org](http://www.trwe.org) website or simply ask your Sponsor for help.

Thanks again and I'll see you at Gatherings ☺

God Bless,

Judy Grice  
TRWE #40

## TRWE ANNUAL PICNIC

The **TRWE Annual Picnic** on Saturday July 7, 2018, was a beautiful sunny day down south in Washington, Pa. We had delicious food and fun times visiting and playing cornhole, hillbilly golf and croquet.

The highlight of the day was our Cornhole Tournament. The Gold Medal team was Wes Kindelberger and Ron Hujik; the Silver Medalist team was Chub Dietz and his granddaughter Lily Beers; and the Bronze Medalist team was Becky Ramsey and Jodi White. A BIG "THANK YOU" goes out to everyone who helped set up, clean up, donated meat, drinks, paper products, brought games, kid bags, etc.

If you weren't there, we missed you. Hopefully you can make it to next year's picnic. It is scheduled to be up NORTH ☺

Happy summer,

Judy Grice TRWE #40





### IMPORTANT DATES

**FALL WALKS 2019 @ Mt Chestnut  
Nazarene Center**  
Men's Walk #105, October 10-13, 2019

Women's Walk #106, October 17-20,  
2019

### REGIONAL GATHERINGS

September 14, 2018 @ 7pm

**North** - Oakland UMC: Oil City, Pa  
**East** - Murrysville UMC  
**South** - Meadowlands UMC


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