



### *A Little After Christmas...*

When our children were very young, Diana and I purchased a new nativity set to display in our living room. As we set it out we decided not to include the Baby Jesus because Christmas had not yet arrived. Of course, it was one less piece that little fingers would not be able to grasp. Every morning our son and daughter would check to see if the Baby Jesus had arrived. It became a daily ritual, rather like some bizarre Advent calendar countdown.



The kids had gotten used to all of the decorations in the house by the time Christmas finally arrived. The tree, stockings, candle arrangements, and other Christmas themed figurines had become commonplace – almost taken for granted by Christmas Eve. Except for the nativity scene. It was watched closely.

Christmas morning – the anticipation, the excitement and joy of opening presents. Afterward, Katy, our youngest, came up to us. She was upset, wondering if Christmas was really here. We assured her that it was. “Then why isn’t the Baby Jesus here?” she asked.

In our preparations on Christmas Eve – wrapping presents, putting toys together, setting out the milk, cookies and carrots for Santa and his reindeer, we had completely forgotten to put Jesus in the nativity before we went to bed. I was mortified. But more than that, I felt that we had let our kids down. We wanted our children to know and understand the real reason for Christmas. Instead, our daughter taught us that morning. I found the Baby Jesus figurine and placed him right between Joseph and Mary. We haven’t forgotten to place Jesus in the nativity ever since.

As we get all caught up in the hustle and bustle that accompanies the Christmas season, my prayer for us all is that we never forget the true reason to celebrate Christmas. To remember where we and Jesus are to be found, in the midst of God’s loving family.

As we get all caught up in the hustle and bustle that accompanies our lives, my prayer for us all is that we never forget how Emmaus has changed our lives. And always remember where we and Jesus can be

found, in the midst of our Emmaus family.

DeColores!

Ron Hujik, Community Lay Director

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### ***Best Gift Given/Received***

My older sister, Sandy and I shared the same bedroom, same bedtime, same bed and same dresser.

It was Christmas Eve and of course, the excitement of who we were waiting for got the best of us. We

decided we needed to investigate to see if Santa did leave us presents even if there was no chimney for him to use.

I volunteered to go downstairs first. I tried to be stealth going down the stairs. At the last step, I peeked around the corner and did my best to see what was under the tree. I couldn't see much since all the lights were off and I didn't think to put my glasses on.

I returned to our bed and scooted under the covers. Oh dear, what was I going to tell Sandy? She was expecting me to tell her what gifts were waiting for her under the tree and I had no true answer for her, for I couldn't see the truth, I couldn't see anything without my glasses!

So I made up a story, and it was a good one. I told her that her present was wrapped in a big box that had a big red bow on it. She giggled with happiness then told me she was going to go downstairs to look for my gift.

She came back minutes later, crawled under the covers trying to get warm. She told me that there was a present for me too. It had horses on the wrapping paper, that's how she could tell it was my present.

We hugged each other, our hearts bursting with joy and excitement. We had given each other a wonderful gift, one that cannot be put in a box or wrapped in paper.

The next morning to my relief, there were presents for Sandy, for me and the rest of the children. I don't recall any red bows or any



### **TRWE Board of Directors 2019**

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wrapping paper with horses galloping on it.

It is a fond memory of mine. We had given the gift of hope to each other that someone did care about us. That was a huge gift to a couple young children who was raised in a foster home.

## ***Greetings!***

My name is Linda Sweeney, I was on the Walk to Emmaus #30, and I sat at the table of Priscilla! I am delighted to be your Agape Representative beginning January 1, 2019. While I have served on team several times, I have never been on the Board. So, I am asking for your patience in advance. Agape is such a wonderful part of the Walk and I am excited to be involved. If any of you have words of wisdom, or advice, I would love to hear it. You can email me at [agape@trwe.org](mailto:agape@trwe.org). I pray that you all have a wonderful Holiday!

Grace and Peace,

Linda Sweeney

**Literature:** Ron Saccol

**Music:** Rosella Ealy

**Purchasing:** Maxine Ellis

**Reunion Groups:** Chris Enoch

**Registrar (Ex-Officio):** Sharon  
Gallagher

**Tech (Ex-Officio):** Mike Wild



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## ***Walk to the Manger:***

What a terrific idea to focus on during the month we celebrate our Savior's birth.

How was your walk during the year of 2018? If you would turn to check your footprints, would you see them going straight to Jesus? Was the path you were on get smoother or rougher? Can you see where your footsteps dug in a couple times?

Did you make new friends along the way? I know some men and women who did this past spring at Mt. Chestnut Nazarene Retreat Center. Perhaps your path has not been so straight and smooth. If you look closely at mine, you will see where I dropped down to my knees a couple times searching for answers, sometimes gathering up strength to continue the task God put before me.

I visualize my faith walk as an old dirt road with fence posts along the side. The fence posts represent people who guide me along as I walk to the manger. They have given me some of the best gifts I ever received.

I still have my little red Bible I received when I received baby Jesus as my personal savior. Another childhood treasure was a paper weight from my 6th grade Sunday school teacher who instilled in me the power to say no to peer pressure.

A precious gift I received as an adult was from my husband who sponsored me as I went on the Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus #42.

I was shy and disoriented at the beginning of that weekend, didn't know what curves would be ahead. There were no "fence posts" that I recognized, not knowing anyone on the weekend really bothered me.

I did trust my husband though so I stayed until the end of the weekend. Now, looking back, it seems I never left.

Emmaus followed me home, I embraced it with open arms and a grateful heart. A few things I learned along the Road to Emmaus is: ministers are not afraid to get sweat on their brow, there's nothing like praying in a quiet chapel before breakfast, and walking into an Emmaus candlelight is a vision of what heaven must be like.

I enjoy going to gatherings, seeing friends that I have made through the years. I certainly enjoy 4th Day speakers sharing their experiences of their faith walk.

Communion is another wonderful gift. Instructions for communion were just a little bit different at a recent gathering. The non-dominate hand was to be used to receive the bread. The purpose was for the individual to pause and be truly grateful for what the bread and juice represent.

May this holiday season warm your spirits, give you opportunity to be with loved ones. And may it lead you to the manger with open arms and a grateful heart.

Merry Christmas,  
Pam Walter

TRWE #42, Table of Rachel



#### DATES FOR REGIONAL GATHERINGS

January 11, 2019:

**North: Grace UMC, Grove City**

**East: TBA**

**South: Meadowlands UMC**

**7:00 Doors Open**

#### TRWE CONTACT INFORMATION

Ron Hujik


Community Lay Director

CLD@trwe.org

Merle Timko



Community Spiritual Director  
CSD@trwe.org

Sharon Gallagher  
Registrar  
700 Greenleaf Drive, Monroeville, PA  
15146  
412-372-4765   
registrar@trwe.org

Ed Saxman  
Newsletter Editor  
707 Euclid Ave  
Grove City, Pa. 16127  
814-657-6722   
communications@trwe.org



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