



# Three Rivers Walk To Emmaus

## Twenty One Years of Walking with Jesus

August 2013

### FROM THE COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

#### IMPORTANT DATES

##### GATHERINGS

September 13      Ingomar UMC 7:30  
 October 11        Ingomar UMC 7:30  
 November 2      Family Resource Ctr 7:30

##### FALL WALKS                      FAMILY RETREAT CENTER

Men's Walk #87        Oct, 31-Nov. 3  
 Gathering/Candlelight    Nov. 2 @ 7:30  
 Women's Walk #88        Nov. 7-10  
 Candlelight                Nov. 9    8:30

COMM. LAY DIRECTOR      PG. 1

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS      PG. 2

BOARD NOMINATIONS      PG. 3

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FLEECE BLANKET SALE      PG.3

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LAY DIRECTOR                PG. 6

THE GIFT                      PG. 6

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 IF YOU CHOOSE TO GET YOUR  
 NEWSLETTER BY U S MAIL ---  
 PLEASE SEND A CHECK (PAYABLE  
 TO TRWE) FOR \$10 FOR A 1 YEAR  
 SUBSCRIPTION TO LYNNE  
 JOHNSON    251 PORTMAN LANE,  
 BRIDGEVILLE, PA 15017.

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 IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO  
 DOES NOT HAVE EMAIL, PLEASE  
 PASS THIS INFORMATION TO HIM  
 OR HER.

THIS NEWSLETTER MAY BE  
 VIEWED AT WWW.TRWE.ORG

***Life does not consist in the abundance of possessions. Luke 12:15***

When I became Community Lay Director I received (along with the Emmaus Manuals) a book of “one liners” called “Zingers.” I have referenced it several times throughout the year and today these “one liners” caught my eye as they pertain to the above scripture. ***“God doesn’t measure success in units of silver, but in units of service.”*** And ***“We tire of those pleasures which we receive but never of those we give.”***



I am blessed with a wonderful family, church family, and Emmaus family who have all helped me in my faith journey. Family is where we first learn to serve. As we grow, our ability to serve grows. I grew up on a farm and as I grew, my chores and ability to do them grew as well. Gathering eggs, washing and boxing them is not something a 6 year old can do, but bottle feeding a baby lamb was.

As pilgrims on a Walk we are served; then as we grow in our relationship with God, we want to serve others. **Emmaus calls this “progressive servanthood.”** The progression should look something like this—join a reunion group, attend Gatherings, help with fellowship, give a 4<sup>th</sup> Day talk or lead music at Gathering, serve as a 4<sup>th</sup> Day volunteer on a Walk, sponsor someone, serve on several Teams (outside and inside the conference room), give a Talk or 2 or 3☺, serve as Walk Lay Director, serve on a committee, serve on the Board of Directors, serve as Community Lay Director. Of course not everyone is going to do all these, but ***“God isn’t interested in how many talents we have—he’s interested in how we are using the talent we have.”***

Emmaus encourages us to stay actively involved in our local churches but it also encourages us to stay active and involved in our TRWE Community as well--through Reunion Groups, Gatherings, and service for Walks. I grew up in the church and knew about God, but it wasn’t until my Walk #40 that **I felt God** and wanted a deeper relationship with him. I didn’t think I could ever give a talk and yet, here I am, moved further along in faith and maturity by “progressive servanthood”, a foundation of the Emmaus model. When I ask myself how this happened, I have to say it was all very simple--I just said “yes” and showed up. God worked out the rest. What about you?

Thank you and Thank you Jesus, for allowing me to serve Him in this way, alongside so many of you wonderful Christian servants. ***“The glory of life is love—not to be loved; to give—not to get; to serve—not to be served.”***

DeColores, Judy Grice, CLD, TRWE# 40

#### 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](mailto:Rpratt2707@gmail.com)



## FROM THE COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

Just a word for our new brothers and sisters.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Please welcome Cindy Parker to the position of Community Spiritual Director; she will bring a freshness and excitement to our community that will be like the refreshing wind of the Spirit. As you know, Cindy is fully committed to the Emmaus model and eager for our community to grow. Please pray for her and support her with all of the love and prayers you have given to me. Each member of your Board of Directors will affirm with me that your prayer support is vital. Therefore, as you remember Cindy I would also ask you to pray for and support Judy Grice and all the other Board Members.

The Psalmist said: "How pleasant it is when sisters and brothers dwell together in unity. It is like oil flowing down Aaron's beard." I pray for that unity within TRWE; God has given us such a wonderful opportunity to make disciples and train the leaders of our congregations.

I will stay on the Board in order to assist Cindy, but she and Judy are a team, leading you into God's tomorrow - grant to them the grace you have granted to me and we'll praise God together.  
DeColores Bill Saxman

Dear Emmaus Family,

My name is Cindy (DeAngelo) Parker and I was on the Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus #64 and I sat at the table of Elizabeth.

When I think about how I ended up as a part of this Emmaus Community, I can see evidence of God and God's mysterious ways throughout my journey, as I'm sure you can, too, if you think about it.

"Would you be interested in attending a spiritual retreat?" my sister (Laurie Sponaugle, TRWE 23) asked me one cold February afternoon as she handed me a steaming cup of tea. I thought about her question as I watched the flames flicker over the logs in the fireplace and shrugged. "Sure, why, not?" **God was at work here!**

I had packed up the girls earlier that morning and made the trek from Latrobe to Mt. Lebanon for a visit. My husband had moved out five months before and I was seriously contemplating what God had in store for me. (As we talked, she planted the seed which eventually became a reality after three years at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and a Masters of Divinity degree.) **God was at work here!**

Needless to say, I was in the middle of some VERY BIG trust issues-but I never questioned my sister about Emmaus. She gave me a few details about the weekend but I didn't press her, which is VERY unusual for me. I like to know everything and usually want as many details as possible! **God was at work here!**

A few weeks after I gave her my registration, I received an invitation to my 20<sup>th</sup> high school reunion. I was torn. I really wanted to go to Emmaus and I also thought about the people I hadn't seen for 20 years. I called my sister and explained my dilemma. We prayed,

I thought, and then I prayed some more. I finally decided to attend Emmaus. **God was at work here!**

My sister picked me up that Thursday afternoon and took me out to dinner. We ate at a little place, (I can't remember the name, but I do remember that they had REALLY delicious pie!) And I wasn't sure if I'd like the food on the retreat, or how much food there would be-so I fortified myself with dessert. Laurie drove us the rest of the way to Camp Lutherlyn and she helped me unpack my stuff and make my bed. Just before she drove away, I remember her saying, "The Methodists do a weird thing naming grace (prevenient, justifying, sanctifying) but just go with it!" **God was at work here!**

It is difficult to find the words to explain what happened and how I was transformed on my walk, but then you probably understand. Perhaps that is why you take the time out of your busy schedule to serve on team. You remember the glow of love on the faces singing to you during candlelight. Perhaps it was the mimes placing the nail into your outstretched hand, telling you just how much Jesus loves YOU! Maybe God gave you the courage to name the sin you had been carrying around for years and you were finally able to begin to put it to rest at dying moments. **God was at work here!**

Whatever your reason to serve, SERVE you do! And so when I was asked to serve as the Spiritual Director for the Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus Community, I prayed. I thought about the first time I served on team and I prayed some more. I had many conversations with Bill Saxman and my sister and I prayed some more. I spoke with my husband and I prayed some more. Different people gave me many different responses: "You're too busy; how will you

ever do all that?” “They couldn’t find anyone else who was crazy enough to say yes-so they asked you!” “You would be an excellent Spiritual Director for the community!” *God was at work here!*

Therefore, I serve because YOU serve, because you give so selflessly, because you personify and make the love of Christ REAL! Thank you so much for all you do. All you do, you do in Jesus’ name.  
DeColores! Cindy

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## TRWE Board Nominations for the Class of 2014-2016

Current nominees include: Glenn Brooks, Lynne Keener (Ramsey), Lisa Foust (currently serving on Board), Amy (Stevens) Parks, Mike Schmidt, and Melissa Whitling; Pastor Andy Verner (Baden UMC) and Pastor Scott Gallagher (Garden City UMC). Thank you and bless you for your willingness to step up and serve the community in this way!

The election process – here’s how things are supposed to work. Elections are held at the September Gathering (September 13 7:30 pm, Ingomar UMC). Nominations are not yet closed and will be accepted from the floor if the nominee is present and willing to accept the nomination. Then, the community will vote from this ballot.

There will be five Board of OTE Directors position vacated in January 2014

– four laity and one clergy. Further instructions will be offered during Gathering.

Lastly, TRWE community - thank you and bless you for your patience in enduring my phone calls during the nomination season. There are many very busy people in our community – in a good way! It has been a blessing to hear many of your stories of how involved you are in your churches, communities, Kairos, caring for family members, etc., etc., etc. It inspires and encourages me and many others to know that the Walk to Emmaus has been a vital part of your faith walk and to encourage you to be who you are and do the things you do in and through Christ whom we count on– Changing Our World!

De Colores! Ken Gryger, 4<sup>th</sup> Day Board Rep, 2013

## SNACK AGAPE

As you all know, snacks for the weekend are part of the “radical hospitality” of the Walk. The point of snacks is not to over-stuff the pilgrims but to give them a place and time to relax and have casual conversation with folks not at their table. Food or snacks naturally draw pilgrims to one location for conversation and fellowship.

That being said, it was discussed that since we have so many giving and willing Emmaus supporters, there was an overabundance of snacks for the spring walks. Therefore, it was decided to set up an “Agape Snack Sign-Up” page on the TRWE.org site so the amount needed is what is collected. **These are suggested guidelines.** There will also be places

for you to write in a snack that you want to give as a gift of agape. They are most welcome.

Due to some changes we are making on our web page, please look for this page to be up and running sometime mid-September. We will keep you informed as to when it is up and ready for sign-ups.

Snack Agape should consist of sweet, salty, and healthy choices as well as 2-liter bottles of soda and cases of water.

If you would like to serve the walks by supporting the walks with a donation of snack agape, it would be greatly appreciated.

Kathy Shusteric                      BOD Kitchen Coordinator

Keep Looking Up



## Limited Edition Emmaus Fleece Blankets.

These are one of a kind on a first come, first served basis due to a limited quantity of the fleece material. The blankets are 2.5 yards in length for \$35. There may be one

or two 2-yard blankets for \$30. All of the proceeds go the Scholarship Fund for future pilgrims. For orders, please call Heather Stewart at 814-521-0302 or Ryan Moynihan at 412-613-9555.

## IT'S THAT TIME.....

We were visiting my brother the other day. As we sat outside and talked, I noticed his Rose of Sharon bushes in full bloom. My mother always reminded us that this is the last flower of summer. Then I went to check my Facebook page to find many photos of our friends' kids getting on the school bus. I guess the message in all of these things is that summer is ending. Nobody really wants to hear that or think about it, but it is just a fact of life.

Along with the blooms of Rose of Sharon, seeing school buses full of students, and sweaters in the stores comes the planning for the fall walks. The board, Mike Varner, and Heidi Walker have been planning their parts for a while but now it is time for your part. God has called many of us to serve on team and you said "Yes". What about the rest of us? What do we need to do? Well, because this is being written by the Community Registrar, I am sure that you figured out your part may be sponsoring someone.

I could remind you that it is our responsibility to do that. I could remind you how you felt after your weekend and what if your sponsor had not listened to the calling God had put on his/her heart to sponsor you. I could remind you your sponsor help to change your personal walk (relationship) with God. I could even remind you of the difference in you and your church in your 4<sup>th</sup> days. Maybe I could even remind you that this community can only grow because we sponsor people, or remind you of what a gift sponsoring is.

But I won't because you heard all of that before. I will just ask--Is God calling you to sponsor someone? Are you praying about that now? That is the only real way to know who those people are. We

have several resources to help you identify those persons how to sponsor them. Contact your sponsor or any board member with any questions or help you might need. Come to sponsorship training at 6:30 pm on Friday Sept 13<sup>th</sup> at Ingomar Church, right before Gathering. Even if you are not sponsoring this time, you should come. The information is invaluable for recruiting people to help in your ministry. Whom do you sponsor? Start with prayer and continue to pray during the process and then during the walk and then in your pilgrims' 4<sup>th</sup> days.

A pilgrim--

- Should be member of a local church.
- Should have a desire to strengthen his/her spiritual life.
- May have unanswered questions about personal faith (but not in a faith crisis).
- Understands that being a Christian involves responsibility.
- Is willing to dedicate her/his everyday life to God in an ongoing manner.

Take your friend out for coffee or invite to your house to talk about the weekend. Include spouses in this meeting; both are invited to walk. Answer all questions. We have no secrets. (Answers for most people do not need to be full of detail. Example—"You will hear 15 talks given by clergy and lay people," but you probably do not need to say what the talks are. However, some folks need more information than others. You know the personality of your friends. You will need to decide how much they need to know.

### Other things that you need to know.

- The board has decided that the pilgrims will be given eight letters, instead of the 12 we used to give. As always, all extra letters will be given back to you to give to your pilgrims at a later time. There is a new application on the web site. Please throw away any old pilgrim applications and use only the newly updated application.
- As of today, we have 8 women and 3 men. Get your applications to me as soon as you can. Remember that we cut the walk off at 25 pilgrims and all applications and deposits must be to me by Monday Oct 21<sup>st</sup>. No application will be processed without both pages of the application completely filled out, with a deposit check included. Bill Wiegand Registrar

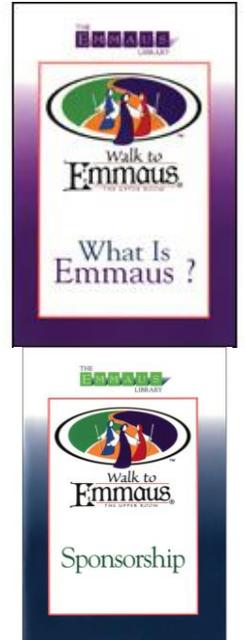
## Emmaus Sponsorship Resources from the Upper Room!

Emmaus Sponsorship is a thoughtful, prayerful and relational process rooted in loving someone enough to invite them into the gift of God's grace available through the Walk to Emmaus. Through the years sponsorship practices and methods have shifted toward being very open about everything that goes on during a Walk to Emmaus and this has been good and healthy. These days, people really want to know what they are getting themselves into. This Upper Room resource, *What Is Emmaus?* is excellent for answering your potential pilgrims' questions. When you meet with the couple you are hoping to sponsor to answer their questions about a Walk, take this resource with you. Leave it with them to read through. Better yet, give it to them in advance to look over. This resource is available for \$3.99 plus S&H from the UpperRoom website <http://bookstore.upperroom.org/>. Put *What is Emmaus* in the search field. It is also available at most Gatherings for only \$5. When you purchase at Gathering, a portion goes toward the Scholarship Fund.

If you are feeling a little shy about sponsoring, here is another Upper Room resource as part of the Emmaus Library Series you might find very useful. Maybe your sponsor modeled excellent Sponsor behavior. Maybe not so much? Regardless, this resource is a help. Consider the gift you've received from someone taking the time and

caring enough to sponsor you. Go and do likewise? Again, this resource is available for \$3.99 plus S&H from the UpperRoom website <http://bookstore.upperroom.org/>. Put *Sponsorship* in the search field. It is also available at most Gatherings for only \$5. When you purchase at Gathering, a portion goes toward the Scholarship Fund.

DeColores Ken Gryger 4<sup>th</sup> Day Board Rep, 2013



## What I Did on My Summer Vacation I went to Emmaus Training Day!

*"What I did on my summer vacation. On the 1<sup>st</sup> day of my summer vacation, I went down town to look for a job. No jobs. I hung out in front of the drugstore. .... Etc. etc. etc."*

Some of us, at least, might recall this classic skit by Cheech and Chong, depicting young boys returning to school following summer break and asked to report to the class. They describe a lackluster summer trapped in seemingly endless, repetitive, and totally unproductive and uninspiring summer activity. Surely, I'm dating myself and many of you won't catch the reference but I hope you'll all read on anyway. Because, in sharp contrast, my summer was quite the opposite – BOTH productive AND inspiring. One big summer highlight: I attended the Walk to Emmaus Training Day held at Ingomar UMC on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

Walk to Emmaus Training Day was brilliant on many levels. Even after doing Emmaus for 29 years, I am always amazed at how God just keeps on giving through the model of Emmaus. I hope you consider going next year.

Following are some highlights, for me at least and hopefully for all of us as an Emmaus Community.

1<sup>st</sup> - Training Day answered the question

***"What is the purpose of the Walk to Emmaus?"***

It's not to put on Walks although we do that. It's not to bring people to Christ, although that happens more often than you'd think. It's not to refresh, renew, revitalize, or restore tired Christians. Although all these things happen, they are just means to a greater end. Those aren't the MAIN PURPOSE! The purpose of the Walk to Emmaus is no less than to CHANGE THE WORLD! Now I can sink my teeth into that purpose. It's big! It's grandiose! But you and I both know it's a good and Godly purpose. We ask God to change the world every time we pray the Lord's prayer--"thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven". To CHANGE THE WORLD is why God sent His Son. At Training Day I was reminded why I like the Walk to Emmaus so much. You see, I'm one of those people who happens to think that the world is very messed up and is in desperate NEED OF CHANGE.

Is the Walk to Emmaus the only way to change the world? No! Is it even the best way to change the world? I don't know. But I do know this.

I've seen the Walk to Emmaus work in the lives of individuals and churches and communities so I know this for certain - It's a REALLY REALLY

GOOD and time-tested instrument that God uses to CHANGE THE WORLD, one person at a time!

2nd - Training Day highlighted many of the strengths of TRWE, but also caused me to reflect on my contributions. Two areas where I

know I've fallen short are Sponsorship and Reunion Groups. Back to the basics on these for me. What about you?

De Colores Ken Gryger, 4<sup>th</sup> Day Board Rep, 2013

## A WORD (OR 2) FROM THE ASSISTANT COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

Words can't express my THANKFULNESS to everyone that helped make E-DAY & the PICNIC a huge success. Without the help of so many brothers and sisters, this wouldn't have happened. I hope all of you that attended either or both of these events have been blessed.

THANK YOU to all those who were so GENEROUS toward the Scholarship Fund. It wasn't in God's timing to have a spaghetti dinner in July, but so many of you have donated to the fund to help make it possible for future pilgrims to receive help if needed. It's our goal to keep the fund building so all pilgrims on all walks have an opportunity for aid. Ryan Moynihan and Heather Stewart are helping to do this by making blankets

that will be for sale. Praise God for those who are willing to step up and help. (See Page 3)

The Book Table that is at the walks consists of slightly used books. It used to be that books were purchased by the Pilgrims, but because of the generosity of the community, they are now free. If you have books you would like to donate for the Fall Walks, please give them to any board member or to the Board Reps for the fall walks (Carena Phillips for the women or Bryan Pass for the men). You could also bring them to the community gatherings or, if you're serving on team, books will be collected there. THANK YOU in advance for your thoughtfulness & willingness to do this. Bryan Pass

## THE GIFT

Because it is more blessed to give than receive, please consider making a monetary contribution to "The Gift".

"The Gift" is a concerted effort by the Emmaus and Chrysalis communities to raise money in order that Christians all around the world may someday have the opportunity to experience a "Walk", regardless of where they live.

According to the Upper Room, there are Emmaus communities in 39 countries and Chrysalis communities on 19 countries. That is fantastic...but there are a multitude of other countries that would be richly blessed if there were resources available to help them develop their own communities and Walks.

"The Gift" helps emerging international communities have the resources to secure facilities, provide scholarships, and train leaders." (Upper Room E17 Emmaus Gift Tri-fold)

Chili is one of the countries currently emerging in the international Emmaus

community. However, as is the case with many communities as they are becoming developed, funds to support the cause are quite limited. Start-up costs (particularly for the Chilean Emmaus Community) include flying individuals to the States to learn and train on the different aspects of the Walks. Airfare is expensive, yet how can you put a price on sharing the Word of God. As the commercial on television states ... *some things in life, even though they may cost a monetary amount, in the larger scheme of life, are priceless.* "The Gift" allows Christians in those countries yet to be touched by the Emmaus movement a priceless opportunity. Please pray about supporting this cause. If God is leading you to support this fundraising activity, please send your check to The Upper Room, Emmaus/Chrysalis Office, PO Box 305150, Nashville, TN 37230-9891 (or call 1/877-899-2780 ext. 7113). Make your check payable to The Upper Room, Emmaus Gift. Janet Stewart Agape Coordinator

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