



**IMPORTANT DATES**

**GATHERINGS**

**December 8<sup>th</sup> at Ingomar UMC**

**January 13<sup>th</sup> at Carnegie UMC**

**February 9<sup>th</sup> at Regional Locations**

See article in newsletter

**March 9<sup>th</sup> at Ingomar UMC**

**April 14<sup>th</sup> at Lutheran Camp**

Men's Walk #61 Candlelight

**SPRING WALKS**

**LUTHERLYN**

Men's Walk April 12-15, 2007

Women's Walk April 19-22, 2006

**FALL WALKS**

**LUTHERLYN**

Men's Walk October 11-14, 2006

Women's Walk October 18-21, 2006

**CHRYSALIS FLIGHTS**

Family Resources Retreat Center

Boy's Flight #6 June 29-July 1, 2006

Girls Flight #5 July 7-9, 2006

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5877 PLEASANT STREET  
SOUTH PARK, PA 15129.

THIS NEWSLETTER MAY BE VIEWED AT [WWW.TRWE.ORG](http://WWW.TRWE.ORG)

# Three Rivers Walk To Emmaus

December 2006

## FROM THE COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

Decolores Everyone,

As I write this article, it is almost the beginning of Advent. A time when we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We all treat each other with more love and kindness at this time of year more than any other time. My question is, why don't we show that love and kindness all of the time through out the year?

We as the Emmaus Community show much love to the Pilgrims and Caterpillars several times a year. We shower them with God' Agape Love during a flight or a walk. As Christians, God calls us to LOVE ONE ANOTHER. So why is it we forget to show that same Love to the outside team members? The team members are in charge of their areas; they know what they are to do. When we serve as fourth day help, we shouldn't tell them how to do their job, because that's not they way it was on our walk. They have their manual and are doing what they are instructed to do. Please wait for them to ask for help, before giving your advice. We need remember that as servants we need to go humbly to serve our Lord, with Love and Grace. I hope that this doesn't sound harsh; I don't mean it to be. After the walks, I often hear about this happening, God has laid it on my heart to share with you, my concerns.

This is my last newsletter article that I will be writing. I can't believe that this year has gone by so fast. I have met and worked with a lot of wonderful people. I Thank God for Blessing me with serving this community.

Thank you so much for the love and support I have received. Please keep our Emmaus Community in your prayers daily. My prayer for our community is that we keep seeking God's guidance, and that we continue to let our Light Shine.

Blessings and Love to all,

Linda Claypool



## FROM THE COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Love Notes from Linda  
Covenant anyone?

A covenant is an agreement or solemn compact between individuals by which each party binds him/herself to fulfill certain conditions and is assured of receiving certain advantages. Jesus represents the *covenant of grace*.

The key words in a covenantal relationship are “**fulfill certain conditions**” and “**receive certain advantages**.” The one (latter) is conditional upon the fulfillment of the other.

As Christians, we are people of the New Covenant through the blood of Jesus Christ. Our part of the covenantal relationship is to love our God with all of our heart, soul, mind and being, and to love one another as Jesus loves us believing that Jesus is The Son of God and the way to salvation. In return, God’s part of the New Covenant is to grant us eternal life with Him and our Savior. Sounds like a plan.

But something happens along the way – witness the Biblical story of creation and fall, climb and slide, repentance and failures. We the people of the covenant always – yes always, without exception, fall back into our old ways even though we have the very best intentions. It is soooooo easy to do the wrong thing (witness Paul’s testimony). We all are guilty of doing what we know we ought not to do rather than what is of God.

I set before all members of the Emmaus Community who are members of a larger community – The Church, a covenant for 2007:

I covenant *to place God FIRST IN MY LIFE* – before ANYONE and EVERYTHING, EVERY DAY!

I covenant *to develop a relationship* with God and Christ through daily Scripture readings, devotional readings and prayer.

I covenant *to truly become humble* – to let go of “**how others do it**” and allow the beauty of “**another’s way of doing**” become a blessing to me.

I covenant *to be a child of grace*.

I covenant *to learn true repentance and deep sorrow for my sins*.

*And, I covenant to love my brothers and sisters in Christ; to withhold criticism and to extend grace even when I believe that I am correct because I know that God is watching and He will sort it all out.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**The answer is before you, the question is: “Will you commit?”**

**Amen, praise the Lord and DeColores!**

**Linda Tunnell ( big hug )**

## Looking to 2007

by John McMullan – Assistant Community Lay Director

I think that we should begin with prayer-

*Come Holy Spirit and fill the hearts of the faithful, kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth.*

*O, God, Who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of your faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy your consolations. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

In so many ways we are a community built on prayer; we pray for folks we hope to sponsor, for pilgrims that we do sponsor, for Speakers at the Walk, and in the 72 hour Prayer Vigil. I know of folks who pray while making agape for upcoming Walks, and folks who have served as Lay Directors who spent a full hour in prayer each time before ever picking up the phone to call someone to serve on Team.

So have we got it covered? I don't think so. We are called in Ephesians 6:18 "*Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit*". I Thessalonians 5:17 says "pray continually", and Philippians 4:6 tells us "*...but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God*".

I would like to ask that each member of Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus pray for our community every day.

- I ask that you pray that TRWE will serve God effectively and with excellence.
- I ask that you pray for the well being of the members of our community.
- I ask that you pray for the leadership of TRWE, that your Board of Directors, Spiritual Director, and Lay Directors for the Walks will be faithful, discerning and that what they do will glorify God, not themselves.
- I ask that you pray for a faithful and involved 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community to serve God in a million ways in the community and out, including in His service on Walks, at Gathering, in Sponsorship...and in prayer.

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."* Romans 12:12

As we look forward to 2007, make a commitment to pray for the Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus community and its people every day in the coming year.

DeColores!



### TRWE LOGO WEAR



Have you always wanted to have a denim shirt, tee shirt, and golf shirt or sweat shirt, or any other items with the TRWE logo on it? Now is your chance. We can get reasonably priced items with the logo embroidered on them. If you are interested go to the [trwe](http://trwe.org) web site and print the order form and send it to Barb Moore.

Barb Moore, [pbixoye@yahoo.com](mailto:pbixoye@yahoo.com) 724-654-3390

***Save the Date:***  
**February 9, 2007**

**TRWE Regional Gathering  
Coming To An Area Near You!**

**East – Murrysville, PA**  
**North – Harrisville, PA**  
**South – Houston, PA**  
**Central – Ingomar, PA**

**Your Choice Of Locations  
To Connect And Worship  
With Emmaus Friends**

*Look For More Details In January!*

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For more information  
or to volunteer to help with  
one of these gatherings, contact:

John McMullan (724-772-6623 or [jmcmullan@zoominternet.net](mailto:jmcmullan@zoominternet.net))  
Colleen Clark (412-366-3278 or [colleen.c.clark@verizon.net](mailto:colleen.c.clark@verizon.net) )

## TRWE 2007 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY	
January 13 <sup>th</sup> (Saturday)	E-Day/Gathering – Special Day & Time! Saturday / 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
FEBRUARY	
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Regional Gatherings – 4 Locations 1 Night!</i> Harrisville UMC – 1 <sup>st</sup> Presbyterian, Houston Ingomar UMC – Murrysville UMC
MARCH	
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	All Community Gathering Team Commissioning – Ingomar UMC
APRIL	
April 14 <sup>th</sup> (Saturday)	Gathering @ Men’s Candlelight TRWE #61 Camp Lutherlyn, Prospect, PA
MAY	
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	All Community Gathering Ingomar UMC
JUNE	
June 8 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Regional Gatherings – 4 Locations 1 Night!</i> North – South – Central – East
JULY	
July 7 <sup>th</sup> (Saturday)	Gathering @ Chrysalis Candlelight Location: TBD
AUGUST	
August 10 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Regional Gatherings – 4 Locations 1 Night!</i> North – South – Central – East
SEPTEMBER	
September 14 <sup>th</sup>	All Community Gathering Annual Meeting Team Commissioning – Ingomar UMC
OCTOBER	
October 13 <sup>th</sup> (Saturday)	Gathering @ Men’s Candlelight TRWE #63 Camp Lutherlyn, Prospect, PA
NOVEMBER	
November 9 <sup>th</sup>	All Community Gathering Ingomar UMC
DECEMBER	
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Regional Gatherings – 4 Locations 1 Night!</i> North – South – Central – East

# E-Day & January Gathering

## Together Again!

Plan to attend Education Day in January.  
Study: Giving our hearts and minds to Christ.

Saturday, January 13, 2007

E-Day : 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Fellowship (snack): 3:00 to 3:30 pm

Gathering/Worship: 3:30 to 4:30 pm

Location: Carnegie United Methodist

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### E-Day & January Gathering

Do you remember the old Doublemint Gum commercials? Well as far as E (Education) Day and January Gathering “Its two, two, two meetings in one!” January 13<sup>th</sup> Ilyse Johnson, a Regional Trainer from The Upper Room Walk to Emmaus, will visit us. As a part of our covenant we agree as a community to have an Education Day at least once per year.

Ilyse has agreed to come visit us and help us improve in areas such as Sponsorship, Agape, Team Formation, 4<sup>th</sup> Day Service and many other areas. Did you ever wonder why we show the movie “In Remembrance” on Thursday night? Did you ever wonder how Candlelight got started and why we do it? Ilyse has got the answers to these and other questions. The training portion will be fast moving, interactive and fun. Mark your calendar today to attend.

In celebration of E-Day and to get maximum participation we will hold Gathering following our E-Day training. So plan to come for E-Day and stay for Gathering to follow. The schedule looks like this-

Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am to 3:00 pm – E-Day  
3:00 pm to 3:30 – Fellowship/Snack  
3:00 pm to 3:30 – Gathering

Remember, Study: Giving our minds to Christ. See you at E-Day!

### **Carnegie United Methodist Church**

415 Washington Avenue

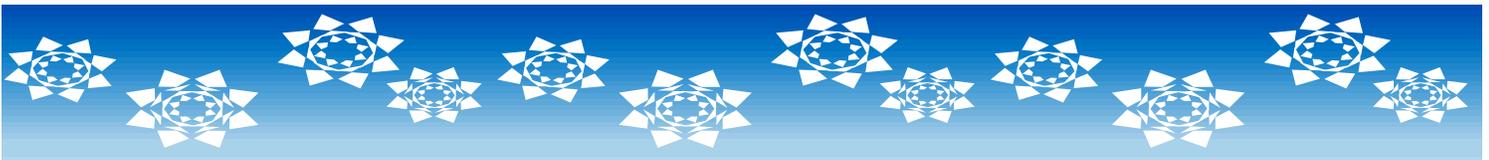
Carnegie, 15106 PA

## E-Day continued

One image of unity in nature is a flock of birds in flight; how they dip and dive and all land in one tree. How do they do that? Who's the leader? Do they ever smack into each other in mid-air? How do they train-up the baby birds to fly together?

Is this an image for our Emmaus Community or a Team for a Walk? How do we fly in unison? Who's the leader? What do we do when we smack into each other? How do we train-up our membership to fly in unison? Here are three arenas to think about. One is that the upcoming Walks stand on the experience of 60 previous weekends in our Community (not just the last set of Walks or 'my' Walk). Second is the Walk to Emmaus Handbook, often called The Model. And a third is that we are a people who want to grow and mature in our Christian Walk. There are many tasks to perform, many jobs to be done—how do we do them *with high idealism, and a spirit of cooperation and charity*? E-Day, January 13<sup>th</sup> is an opportunity for every member of our community to come together to learn to flock together. Let's hone our skills in sponsorship, 4<sup>th</sup> Day support and Team membership. It is also an opportunity to plum the depths and subtleties of the total experience of The Walk to Emmaus.

And who should attend E-Day? Does this sound familiar? *We pray for the one who needs to attend E-day the most and for the one who thinks he / she needs to attend the least.*



## Does the Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus know you?

**Please keep the community up to date with any changes in your contact information.**

**If you move ....**

**If your email address changes....**

**If you are not getting news flashes or newsletters.....**

**Please send changes to [trwecomm@comcast.net](mailto:trwecomm@comcast.net)**

# The Emmaus/Chrysalis Three-legged Event Stool

by Rev. Andy Wahl

There is a three-phase method to the Walk to Emmaus and the Chrysalis Flights. The event three-legged stool includes:

1. Pre-event - sponsoring, planning, team selection, training, preparation.
2. Event - the three-day walk or flight...
3. Post-event - events following the event: Group Reunions or Next Steps, Gatherings or Hoots, church involvement, etc.

The Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis Flights are blessed events. Much planning and preparation goes into each event. There are hundreds of volunteers and just as many volunteer hours given in service. We are reminded that after each event, that *there is no real ending* to the individual's Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis Flight. These events are successful as we are obedient to God, and as we make steps to keep this community spiritually healthy at all levels.

The Three River Emmaus and Chrysalis Community continue to ignite the hearts of all ages. The lives are transformed by the power of God. We have experienced well-planned teams and wonderful three-day events. But the continued success of the Walk to Emmaus and the Chrysalis Flights relies on the three legs of the event stool: pre-event, event, and post-event.

Recall our weekend experience that the successful Christian life is solidly supported through understanding a Christian life of study, piety, and action. Trying to gain support using a stool with only two legs without a third becomes an unstable and unusable. If anyone leg of the stool is weak, then the function and strength of the stool is still compromised.

So, how is the community doing relating to the Emmaus/Chrysalis three-legged event stool? Be serious! Be honest. If I were to give a grade to the community for the strength of the stool (OK play along with me - with over 12-years Emmaus experience and serving on over a dozen Walks and Flights), here is how I would grade the community:

1. Pre-event Grade (B+): It is done well, but the B+ indicates that we can improve how we plan the event, organize team meetings, increasing community involvement, sponsorship, etc.
2. Event Grade (A-): God lifts us up and is the real event leader. What can I say - I give the event the grade of A- because I am a tough grader.
3. Post-event Grade (C- or D+).

OK, sit down and catch your breath. Spare your letters to the editor and angry e-mail to the writer. I will grade generously and consider 50% community involvement as a passing grade. So, with that in mind, let us seriously look at how this community is doing with event follow-up, especially Group Reunions or Next Steps, and Gatherings or Hoots. The community has held over 60-events (combined Emmaus and Chrysalis events). However, with over 1500 community members, the community struggles to attract 10% of the community to monthly Gatherings or Hoots. And with only 25 Reunion Groups meeting regularly, less than 15% of the community meets together. We have no official Next Step groups for our Chrysalis butterflies. To that extent, I hardly see the Post-event stool of the leg achieving a passing grade. This however is not the final grade.

We need to look at ways to improve monthly Gathering/Hoots and Group Reunions/Next Steps community involvement. We need sponsors to take earnestly the need for their pilgrim/butterfly to be attached in Reunion Group/Next Steps fellowship. We remember the illustration during the three-day weekends where the burning coal is removed from the fireplace and grows cold. When the coal is returned to the fire, it burned bright once again. Since *there is no end to your walk or flight*, we need to consider how to take positive steps to continue our spiritual growth, and strengthen the weakest leg of the three-legged event stool.

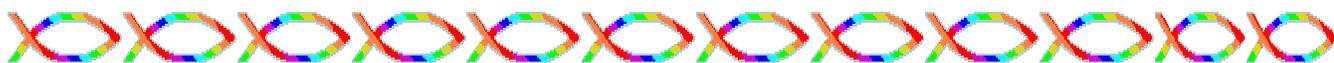
We need to take meet our post-event involvement and commitment seriously. We live in a world that can absorb every spare minute in our lives. We live as believers in an unbelieving world and it is hard. And yet as members of the community and as sponsors, we must continue *purposefully* to meet together as a community of believers. Meeting together at Gatherings/Hoots and Group Reunions/Next Steps are or opportunity to profess the faith, renew our hope, and encourage one another.

*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not neglect meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day of the Lord approaching.*  
Hebrews 10:23-25

The goal is to become spiritually healthy as a community in Christ. It is about becoming increasingly healthy in our Christian relationships through our meeting together. You may not see the need to continue to meet regularly together monthly or weekly. But consider, that your attending a Gathering/Hoots or Reunion Group/Next Steps may not just be for your sake, but for the others who attend. Maybe God will use your words to encourage; your mind to inform; your heart to show kindness; or your hands to serve.

Let us consider making it a good habit by meeting together. Plan on attend community Gatherings/Hoots, and if you are not currently in a Reunion Group/Next Steps, start your own with other community members and believers. Let us not neglect meeting together, and as a community, let us continue to strengthen the three-legged event stool.

God's peace...



## Fourth Day Corner

### 4th Day Thoughts

When I was in college, I asked my father how he figured out what he wanted to do with his life. He answered, "I never really did figure that out. I just decided whether to take opportunities as they came along." Dad suggested that I should just wait and see what opportunities might come my way.

At the Closing of my Walk to Emmaus, I remember sitting in my seat, searching for the words that might express what the weekend had meant to me, and what I planned to do about it. When my turn came to share, I told the assembled group that I had not had a strong desire to attend the Walk, but when a friend invited me, for some reason, I just said, "Yes." And I told the group that I wasn't really sure what I was going to do in response to the blessings of that weekend, but that I would be prepared to say, "Yes," when opportunities knocked.

Five years later, I'm still not sure what to do in response to the blessings of my Walk to Emmaus experience. But it seems like God has sent me some opportunities to say, "Yes." I've been blessed with invitations to serve on teams, to join in worship at Gatherings, to participate in organizing a Christian summer hockey camp, to share in some Reunion Groups, and to help lead some Bible study classes. I didn't have to discover these avenues for ministry—the opportunities found me. I just had to say, "Yes."

A few years ago, I was invited to serve on the TRWE Board of Directors. I accepted that invitation, too. The Board experience was filled with wonderful opportunities to work and share with fellow Emmaus folks as we responded to all sorts of challenges. My term on the Board has provided me with a new perspective on the many blessings that have been bestowed on this community. This opportunity to serve has been a source of growth and meaning for me. I just had to say, "Yes."

I know that we're all busy people, with great demands on our time, energy and resources. Sometimes it might seem crazy and foolish to say, "Yes." That's why I shared this passage by Frederick Buechner with the remaining Board members at my final Board meeting on December 2, 2006:

Inspection stickers used to have printed on the back "Drive carefully—the life you save might be your own." That is the wisdom of men in a nutshell.

What God says, on the other hand, is "The life you save is the life you lose." In other words, the life you clutch, hoard, guard, and play safe with is in the end a life worth little to anybody, including yourself, and only a life given away for love's sake is a life worth living. To bring this point home, God shows us a man who gave his life away to the extent of dying a national disgrace without a penny in the bank or a friend to his name. In terms of men's wisdom, he was a Perfect Fool, and anybody who thinks he can follow him without making something like the same kind of fool of himself is laboring under not a cross but a delusion.

My Dad was right. Opportunities come. I just have to be "foolish" enough to accept them.

DeColores!

Scott Robinette  
TRWE #35  
Table of Moses



Rev. Kay Day is leaving for Malawi Africa.

To keep in touch with as she ministers in Africa check the Pittsburgh Presbytery website for weekly updates and click on the link for Day's Diary [www.pghpresbytery.org](http://www.pghpresbytery.org)



# KAIROS KORNER



We thank our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and are thrilled to report that K-2 is in the history books at SCI Greene. On the weekend of November 9 -12, 23 what we would consider “hardened criminals” either gave their life to the Lord for the first time or rededicated themselves to him. Rather than tell you my impressions of what the weekend meant to them, hear it in their own words:

“Even in my time of strife, I have a newfound belief in God.” “Everything keeps coming at you and at you and at you and it’s all beautiful.” “I realized (this weekend) that my foundation was all crooked and he (Jesus) helped me to straighten it out.” “Now I know what Godly love is.” “You gain twenty pounds eating donuts, but you lose a ton of bricks off your back.” “I’m not alone any more.” “All my life I’ve looked for love. I’ve had more love these past four days than I’ve had the whole rest of my life” (that one was said by a guy who recently had his death sentence commuted to life), “Someone asked me about what I wanted to get from Kairos. I said, “Growth.” I grew bigger than I expected!” “I’ve heard a knock many times. I’d open the door a little, but then I would run away. This weekend, I blocked the back door, and I opened it all the way.” “I haven’t cried since my grandmother died: in a word, (this) was extraordinary.” “I had some weaknesses (in my faith) before I came here, but I’m leaving here a rock!” “I’m taking God (long pause) and **family** away with me.” And my personal favorite: “(The guy who told me about Kairos) acted like it was some sort of top secret thing. I said, ‘Whoa, what goes on in there?’ And he said, “God goes on in there!” Amen and amen.

## Now it is time to start putting together God’s team for K-3 in the spring.

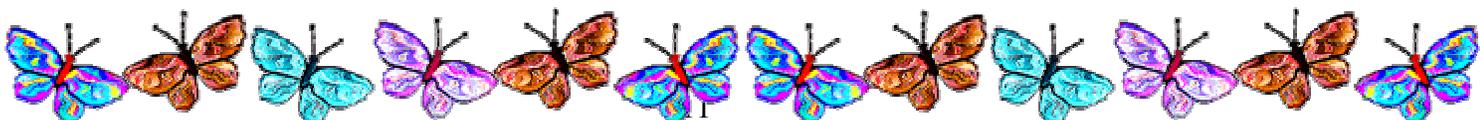
Teaming dates for K-3 at SCI Greene in Waynesburg will be held from 9:20 AM to 3:30 PM on January 27, February 10, February 24, March 10, and March 24, 2007 at Crossroads Vineyard Church in Plum Borough. There is also an overnigher to be held Friday April 13, 2007 at 7 PM and end at 1 PM on Saturday, April 14, 2007 at the First United Methodist Church in Waynesburg. The K-3 weekend will be held at SCI-Greene on the Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday of April 26 – 29, 2007. The dates are being finalized now and I will be sending them out as soon as I have them. I just wanted to give you the maximum time possible to pray about becoming involved.

If you’ve ever felt God tugging on your heart to serve his “forgotten ones,” now is the time to act. Please check your calendar and search your hearts to see if you can help us with this incredibly valuable ministry. Jesus needs you. The team needs you. The residents need you. And I need you. Please let me know. You are in my prayers.

Bill Korbel, TRWE #31, Table of James



Did you sign up to receive the prayer chain requests but are not receiving them? Did you change your email address and not let Bo Pratt know? If you want to be included in the prayer chain, please send your correct email address to [Rpratt2707@aol.com](mailto:Rpratt2707@aol.com). Prayer requests may also be sent here.



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Visit our website at: [www.trwe.org](http://www.trwe.org)

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED