

Three Rivers Walk To Emmaus

1995-2007 Fifteen years of Walking with Jesus

December 2007

IMPORTANT DATES

GATHERINGS

December 14th at Regional

Locations

January 11th at Ingomar UMC

February 8th at Regional

Locations

March 14th at Ingomar UMC

April 12th at Camp Lutherlyn

Men's Walk #6

May 9th at Ingomar UMC

June 13th at Regional Locations

CHRYSALIS FLIGHTS

Family Resource Center

Boy's Flight #6 Jan. 19 - 21, 2008

Girls Flight #7 Jan. 19 - 21, 2008

SPRING WALKS

LUTHERLYN

Men's Walk #65 April 10 - 13, 2008

Women's Walk #66 April 17- 20, 2008

FALL WALKS

LUTHERLYN

Men's Walk #63 Oct 11-14, 2007

Women's Walk #64 Oct 18-21, 2007

COMM.LAY DIRECTOR PG.1

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR PG.2

CHRYSALIS PG.3

EMMAUS ECONOMICS PG.4

KIROS PG.6

CHRYSALIS VS EXODUS PG.7

NEW MUSUC PG.8

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GARTH JOHNSTON
5877 PLEASANT STREET
SOUTH PARK, PA 15129.

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FROM THE COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

Cleopas and Isaiah – On the Road to Emmaus?

You remember the story, Cleopas and his friend were going to the village of Emmaus and Jesus himself came up and walked along with them. But they were kept from recognizing him until the living Christ was revealed to them in the breaking of the bread, and they said, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" As you reflect on your Walk, you likely had one of those "Were not our hearts burning..." moments. It made your Walk one of the moments in your life when you knew that God intended you for something greater than just going through life, you knew that you were created for a purpose.

Isaiah wasn't with Cleopas on the road to Emmaus but in a vision described in Isaiah 6 heard the Lord say "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And he replied, "Here am I. Send me!"

Each of us left our Walks with a renewed purpose to serve God, some of those callings have taken us far away, and sometimes those callings are to serve nearby, saying, "Send me!" We are reminded on our Walks that "there is no church of Emmaus" and that we are to go into the world in Christian Action. I ask that in the coming year you remember both Cleopas and Isaiah.

Remember Cleopas and your heart burning, and think about the opportunity to help someone else experience that love of Christ in the same way.

Remember Isaiah and answer, "Send me!" when you consider how you can serve your Three Rivers Emmaus community in the coming year.

- Think about Sponsorship and when God asks "Whom shall I send?" reply "Send me!" Sponsorship is a gift of Agape love.
- When the Walks come around and folks are needed to serve a meal, or clean bathrooms, reply "Send me!"
- You will receive a Newsflash about Candlelight and Closing, it will be God's invitation to attend, and it will be God asking "Whom shall I send?" reply "Send me!"
- An invitation to give a 4th Day Talk or a signup sheet to serve at a Regional Gathering is God asking you "Whom shall I send?" answer "Send me!"

I hope and pray that in the coming year, serving on team, in a 4th Day capacity, attending Gathering or Candlelight you will hear God like Isaiah did, and answer in the same way, so that someone else can say "Were not our hearts burning...", and you can pass on the blessing that is the Walk to Emmaus to another brother or sister in Christ.

Thank you, God Bless & DeColores! John McMullan,
'07 Community Lay Director TRWE #37

"Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the Gospel of Christ; and for your generosity in sharing with them and everyone else."
2 Corinthians 9:13



FROM THE COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Love Notes from Linda

So long, farewell, adieu!!

Another year has passed and I have basked in the love and joy of serving as The Western Pennsylvania Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus Community Spiritual Director. How do I love thee, TRWE? Let me count the ways:

I love you for your willingness to commit
I love you for your desire to serve others
I love you for the sacrifices you each have made
I love you because you are a beautiful outpouring of Christ's love
I love you because you are continuing to grow in spirit
I love you for the depth of your love for others
I love you because just when I think that life is hard I find one of you walking beside me holding my heart

I love you because you are you
I love you for all that you are trying to become
I love you because working with you has grown me
I love you because God gifted you to me

As I depart Western PA and TRWE, I leave a beautiful legacy of love. I will search for the nearest community in Arizona and take a portion of your love with me to share with them. I will never forget you, and I will pray for you daily.

Sometimes you were my Goliath, but most times you were my David. I have lived among the Pharisees; I have preached to Sadduces; and I have sought to err on the side of grace always. In my humanity, I have often failed, but you were always there. Emmaus is a place to recenter our lives and get our priorities straight yet once again, and that is why it is so important to allow each pilgrim the opportunity to serve on team. It is there that we hone our spiritual graces and continue the journey together.

May your experience in Emmaus be fulfilling. I wish all of you blessings uncountable and riches in heaven. You are good and faithful servants who love the Lord and I thank my God for an opportunity to have walked the journey with you.

And remember, Christians never say goodbye – we will meet again at the throne of God and rejoice in the life we shared in community.

**New address: 867 West Glenmere, Chandler, AZ 85225
New phone: 480 802-1746**

Amen, praise the Lord and DeColores! Linda Tunnell (big hug)

Three Rivers **WALK to EMMAUS** and **CHRYsalis**

The Chrysalis Flights are scheduled in a little more than a month from now. Since there is only a little over a month it is time now to register youth for this special three day weekend.

The weekend will be different than an Emmaus weekend. Here are some of the differences:

- The Chrysalis weekend is in the middle of winter
- The Chrysalis weekend begins on a Saturday morning and ends on Martin Luther King's Monday Birthday
- The Chrysalis Candlelight is SUNDAY NIGHT, January 20, 2008 around 7:45 pm
- The Boys and The Girls flights will be the *same* weekend ~ Jan. 19, 20 and 21, 2008
- The Camp is in Cranberry Twp. (Right off of RT.19, Cranberry Exit off of 79, and by the Turnpike exit in Cranberry) The Camp is called FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER. After a HUGE donation from Bill Cower and others...most of the camp was demolished and rebuilt.
- 5 talks are given by teens, 5 talks by Adult Lay People, 5 by clergy

This ministry needs you.

This ministry must have your involvement in some way, shape or form to continue.

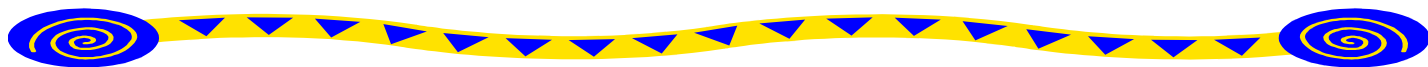
Please sponsor a teen.

Please sign up to pray. Or Serve a meal.

Please come to candlelight on Sunday, January 20, 2008

Please help.

Contact me with any questions ~ Heidi Varner ~ 412-833-2944 ~ heidiv491@msn.com



Regional Gatherings are back!

*****Four Great Locations – One Night*****

East – First UMC Murrysville

Central – **Canceled** due to building Conflict Please attend a different location

South - 1st Presbyterian, Houston, PA

North – Slippery Rock UMC **Note new Location**

Friday, December 14th

Faithful Servants are needed!

If you would like to assist as a Leader, Clergy, 4th Day Speaker, Musician, Snack/Fellowship Time Coordinator with Clean Up, please contact John McMullan–724-772-6623 jmcmullan@zoominternet.net

Economics, Walk Fees & “Gee, where does the money go?”

If you are still reading after a title like that one- God Bless You!

It can probably be said in any time that “these are uncertain economic times”, and this time is no different. I think that everyone is being impacted by the rising price of gas, maybe lending rates and who knows what new uncertainty tomorrow may bring.



We do know a few things- as a community TRWE signed an agreement to conduct our Walks at Camp Lutherlyn through 2009. The Board made this decision to provide some continuity and security in where we will be, and to lock in dates that work well in consideration of holidays and such. Locking in with Lutherlyn took away the opportunity to do our own cooking, which is a trade-off of costs for some safety in knowing the meals are prepared professionally. In return for this security we agreed to a cost increase of about 3.5% per year, not inconsistent with inflation, and we thought fair to Lutherlyn and TRWE. For 2008 our camp fee will be \$141.00 per person.

Of course there are other costs to a Walk including-

• Upper Room Pilgrim Fee	• Conf. Room Supplies	• Sunday Hearty Snack
• Pilgrim Crosses	• Purple Worship Books	• 4 th Day Meal Costs
• Group Photo	• Mailing & Copying Fees	• Napkins, Tablecloths, etc.

When you put it all together the additional expenses equal another \$24.00 per person, making the total projected cost \$165.00 for a Walk in 2008.

Your Board of Directors has had very long and detailed discussions about Walk costs and what fees should be for the coming year. The good news is we have not increased Walk costs for over two years, and will hold to the \$150.00 cost at least for the Spring Walks. The bad news is that we can expect to run a deficit based on the Walk expenses. Currently we are blessed with some cash reserves that allow us some time to determine how to move forward.

We need to think about a number of things-

- If we ask people to give more financially to the community, how does that affect those faithful sponsors who fully fund the cost of a Walk for their Pilgrim?
- Is it appropriate to charge a Pilgrim for the “Christ is Counting on You” Cross?...or their Purple Worship Book?
- As the meals served to 4th Day servants get rolled up into total Walk costs (and thus Walk fees) - are we really serving the Pilgrims and Team if they end up buying our lunch?
- Could we address higher Walk Fees through a stronger Scholarship program?
- We are told that some communities fully fund the Walk for Pilgrims and Team, could we do this too? If we average 15 Men per Walk and 28 Women per Walk costs for Pilgrims and Team would amount to nearly \$40,000.

Economics, Walk Fees & Gee, where does the money go?" cont.

So.....I would like to ask you to do a few things.

1. Think creatively about how we can be responsible stewards of God’s resources and keep our Walks affordable- pass your ideas along to a member of the TRWE Board.
2. Pray. Pray that your Board of Directors will be able to discern God’s will in establishing Walk Fees, honoring Sponsors gifts of Walk fees, and determining Sponsorship levels.
3. Give. A stronger and consistent pattern of giving to the community might allow us to offset all the non-camp fees for Pilgrims and Team.
4. Pray. Pray that we will be a community that never turns someone away based on the inability to pay to attend the Walk.

Remember. All gifts to Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus paid via check should be tax deductible as a charitable contribution on your Federal Income Tax- we are a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

Please trust that the TRWE Board of Directors will continue to work to keep Walk fees and costs to a minimum. Also trust that we take our role seriously in managing your gifts and offerings to the community, please pray for the Board and the community in this time.

Thank you and DeColores. *John McMullan – Community Lay Director ‘07*



WHY NOT GIVE A CHRYSALIS FLIGHT FOR CHRISTMAS TO A TEEN YOU CARE ABOUT??



THE FLIGHTS ARE APPROACHING QUICKLY. BOTH THE GIRLS AND THE BOYS FLIGHT WILL BE HELD IN JANUARY, OVER MARTIN LUTHER KING WEEK-END. THE FLIGHTS BEGIN SATURDAY, JANUARY 19 AND END MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2008. APPLICATIONS CAN BE FOUND BY GOING TO WWW.TRWE.ORG OR BY CONTACTING HEIDI VARNER AT heidiv491@msn.com OR CALLING HEIDI AT 412-833-2944

WHAT BETTER CHRISTMAS GIFT CAN YOU GIVE THAN A WEEKEND FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND GOD’S AGAPE LOVE?

Kairos Prison Ministry

*Jesus, come join us in our journey as we seek your will for this community **in this environment**. Teach us to love each other as you love us, to give ourselves as you give yourself that the Kingdom of God might be made present to all. (**Kairos Community Prayer**)*



On Sunday, November 11, 2007, 24 men stood, one by one, and shared how their Kairos weekend impacted them. They had heard and responded to many talks and meditations that presented the Gospel to them in the Kairos format. One by one, each man spoke of coming to understand that he is forgiven, that he is loved, that Christ is his Savior, and that he is called to be a witness to others. Even the two who were most uncertain said they now realized there are some people they can trust (no small accomplishment in prison, my friends) and that their lives were changed forever.

What made closing so powerful is also what makes it incomprehensible by any human standards. The men are inmates of a maximum security prison—SCI-Greene—where most are serving life sentences. Forgiveness, love, trust, and joy are foreign to their environment. No matter how often I go inside, I still find it the most desolate place I've ever been. And yet ...

As the new graduates shared, the Kairos alumni (Praise God, we had our 100th participant on K-4) shot up their arms in God's victory, and jumped to their feet repeatedly to express their love for the new guys. One by one, most participants addressed one or more of the previous graduates and credited his own attendance on K-4 to someone's astonishing behavior and active witnessing. As one man put it, "I couldn't figure out why this guy was happy in here. Now I know."

After each man shared, everyone sang and danced the song of the weekend—a completely ludicrous version of "Pharaoh, Pharaoh" led by Father Mark Zimmerman, an Anglican priest from Somerset. The whole room joined in. It felt like a college fraternity party. It gave new meaning for most of us to Acts: 16:25, "About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening..."

In two short years, Kairos has gone from an idea to a very distinctive reality in SCI-Greene. Prior to K-4, there were 76 Kairos grads. Of that number, 20 have either been transferred to other facilities or released. Of the 56 remaining grads, on average, 31 still come every Friday night for our Prayer and Share Fellowship. As one of my good friends inside said, "Everybody in this Institution now knows about Kairos! That's not to say they are all in favor of Kairos. That's not to say they are all **for** Kairos. That's not to say that they all want to attend Kairos. But by golly, they all know about it." Praise God, I say.

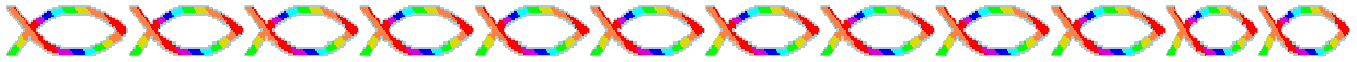
Kairos happens because a huge team of people serve. The most important service is prayer, because prayer is what gives Kairos the power to have such an impact on the whole prison. We had, on our lists, 590 people, including the team, praying round the clock during the K-4 weekend. And that 590 does not include Kairos alumni inside who organized their own Prayer Vigil. Since the goal of Kairos is to build the church within SCI-Greene, their self-organized vigil shows quite clearly that God is indeed at work there.

I want to share one of the many miracles I witnessed on the weekend. The Kairos inside team serenades the guys into the classroom on both Saturday and Sunday mornings. On Sunday of K-4, the guys told us (the team) to wait before coming in. When we got there, they had organized an impromptu chorus to "serenade" us. They were singing Rich Mullins's "Awesome God." So now picture, you have inmates on one side of the room, free-world people on the other, divided. Somewhere, during the chorus, both sides started drifting toward each other. We ended up in a circle, holding hands, praising together our awesome God who can take any one who's willing to say yes to Him and bring them together as one. Thanks be to God. As my dear friend, Wendy Paff Scott put it in her article for the **Cursillo** newsletter, "When the Holy Spirit shows up at a maximum security prison, it is unmistakably Holy, unmistakably a miracle."

The miracles occurring at SCI-Greene can be repeated at other area institutions. In fact, nearly two dozen prisons have contacted the Chairman of the Advisory Council who asked that Kairos be brought to their facilities. We don't have the workers. Won't you help?

Bill Korbel, TRWE #31 (special thanks to Wendy and Carla Rizzi for help in writing this article).

Bill Korbel



Chrysalis vs. Exodus

There is a serious problem among Christian youth in America. Nearly 75% of Christian youth (yes, professing church-going Christian youth) leave the church after high school. They have attended church all of their life and have not found the answers they are looking for. Intellectual skepticism is one of the major reasons they walk away – they don't know what they believe or why they need Jesus Christ.

The reason for the exodus is that most Christian high school and college students are ill-equipped to resist the anti-Christian world view and rhetoric. Students will face college professors who view evangelical Christian students unfavorably.

Ill-equipped students are becoming the "new atheists." Students are finding any form of religion and spirituality is acceptable to fill the God-shaper hole in us. Kabala, Buddhism, WICCA, and other New Age beliefs and practices are all the same to our youth! Jesus Christ – well He is just another option in the spiritual "dim sum."

Some youth think church is irrelevant – it is their parent's belief, not theirs. Other youth out on their own for the first time are attracted by all the world has to offer and ignore God. Yet many leave because they've come to doubt Christianity. In fact, skepticism about the Christian faith is a major reason cited by the youth who have left the church.

This is our next generation for the church! When 3 out of 4 Christian youth leave the church because of the lack of relevancy – this should speak to us that our generation is not doing a very good job of proclaiming Jesus Christ. When our youth proclaim that sin, truth, and salvation are insignificant, we must admit that the world, sin, and the devil are winning!

How do you answer a youth when told "Jesus Christ died on the cross for you" and they reply "so what?" We are losing the next generation due to an exodus to become the modern day atheist.

Right in front of the Greater Pittsburgh area churches sits a resource that goes unnoticed. It is the Three Rivers Chrysalis. But we are struggling too.

We struggle as a community to obtain enough volunteers to team a Chrysalis Flight. We do not have enough clergy to give of their time to this cause. We do not have enough TRWE community volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors. The fact is that we are struggling to minister to the most important group of people of faith – our youth!

We have a limited window of opportunity to reach out to our youth. Chrysalis is generally focused on high school students. The fact is that nearly 75% of Christian youth leave the church after high school.

It is time for this believing community to step up to the plate – and serve. We need Chrysalis team members – sponsors – servers – Board members. We need prayer warriors to cover this community with prayer. Consider this as your invitation to serve – to answer God's call – "Whom shall I send?"

We are losing a generation to the world, sin, and the devil. What will our generation say as we stand before God and give an account? We have the means to change the world – one teenager at a time – Chrysalis. What are we going to do with such a treasured gift for our youth? Will we bury our talent, or volunteer and watch God bless this Chrysalis community.

The true question is – will the Three Rivers Chrysalis prosper – or will it be taken away from us?

The last servant who had received one talent reported that knowing his master was a hard man, he buried his talent in the ground for safekeeping, and therefore returned the original amount to his master. The master called him a wicked and lazy servant, saying that he should have placed the money in the bank to generate interest. The master commanded that the one talent be taken away from that servant, and given to the servant with ten talents, because everyone that has much will be given more, and whoever that has a little, even the little that he has will be taken away...

Matthew 25:14-29

May God richly bless our Chrysalis community 100-fold.

Reverend Andy Wahl
TRWE Chrysalis Spiritual Director

So Where's the New Music?

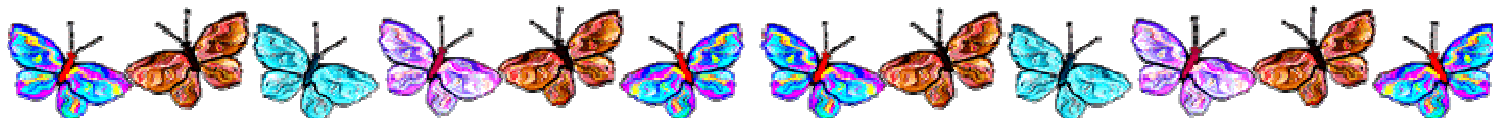
For many of us, **music is an important part of the worship experience.** A person needn't be a musician to appreciate music or to be touched by it deep within our souls. Most of us have a favorite hymn or worship song. Many of us have a long list of favorites. These songs trigger strong memories and emotional responses from us.



Today we are living in an age where a lot of great new music is being produced all the time. These new songs are missing from our worship experience as a community, so I would like to assemble a new songbook. I will need your help to do this. I would like to know what new songs you would like to see in the new songbook. Our Church Copyright License unfortunately limits the number of songs we can include in the songbook, so I want to know what everyone's favorites are.

The new songbook does not need to be all new songs. The wealth of musical tradition of the church is vast. If you want to be sure your favorites are included, send me your list! I won't know what you want if you don't tell me.

E-mail it to me at cubistdog_42@yahoo.com or give me a call at 412-548-3518



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. Prayer requests may also be sent here.



*And she brought forth her firstborn Son,
and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes,
and laid Him in a manger.*

Have a Blessed and Happy Christmas

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