

Three Rivers Walk To Emmaus

January 2006

IMPORTANT DATES GATHERINGS

February 10 at Ingomar UMC
March 18 at Camp Lutherlyn

SPRING WALKS LUTHERLYN
Men's Walk # 57 Mar. 16-19, 2006
Women's Walk #58 Mar. 23-26, 2006

CHRYSALIS FLIGHTS
Boy's Flight #4 June 23-25, 2006
Girls Flight #5 July 7-9, 2006

FALL WALKS LUTHERLYN
Men's Walk October 26 – 29, 2006
Women's Walk November 2–5, 2006

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IF YOU CHOOSE TO GET YOUR
NEWSLETTER BY U S MAIL,
PLEASE SEND A CHECK FOR \$8
FOR A ONE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION
TO: GARTH JOHNSTON
5877 PLEASANT STREET
SOUTH PARK, PA 15129.

THIS NEWSLETTER MAY BE
VIEWED AT WWW.TRWE.ORG

FROM THE COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

It is a new year. It is time for a new Lay Director. My name is Linda Claypool and I made the Three Rivers Walk Emmaus # 14 and I sat at the table of Rachel (clap). When I made my walk in November of 1995, I would have never dreamed that I would be Lay Director of the TRWE Community.

We learned that God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called. I am totally relying on him to guide me through out this next year as your Lay Director. God has called me to do many things in my life. Things I thought I could never do. I learned to put total trust in him. One of my favorite Bible verses is Philippians 4 v.13

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me".

I rely on this scripture a lot in my life. As Christians, we need to trust in Christ in every part of our life. So when you are asked to be on team, give a talk, or even be Lay Director. Before you say no and think you can't possibly do it. Remember, through Christ we can do all things.

I am excited about seeing God's work in this community as you and I answer his call.

Decolores, Linda Claypool Community Lay Director

FROM THE TREASURER

Since we are now officially recognized as a **501 (c)(3) non-profit organization**, we are required to file a tax return. This tax return is considered public record. If you would like a copy of our tax return, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Christian Stoecklein, 704 Augusta Drive, Bridgeville, PA 15017.

Due to higher costs at Lutherlyn, the fee for a Walk for Team and Pilgrims is \$150.

PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

The new email for the newsletter and Garth Johnston is trwecomm@comcast.net



FROM THE COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Love Notes from Linda

I can clearly remember walking around with my head in the clouds for the nine months preceding my first daughter's birth. Then, suddenly, she was here, and I was holding her in my arms. I was overwhelmed with two feelings – the first was one of responsibility and the second was one of commitment.

As I begin my term as the Spiritual Director of the Western Pennsylvania Emmaus Community, I am overwhelmed with those same two feelings – responsibility and commitment.

Responsibility to each and every person who has completed the walk -- to be there for you and commitment to be my best for the community over this next year as it unfolds with surprises, delights, and concerns.

My hope is that each of you would see your position in the community with responsibility and commitment as well. It has been my experience since my pilgrimage that commitment, especially on walks, is sometimes dicey. We commit to being a part of a team that will make possible for another, *the very experience that we treasure*, but when we get down to the wire, we often find excuses to miss teamings and/or leave the weekend early.

I know that clergy sometimes have commitments that require an early departure. But each of us, clergy and laity alike, need to look hard at the commitment we face when we accept teaming responsibilities. We are responsible for the cost of the walk just as the pilgrims are, and that fee needs to be paid before the last teaming day. That has not been our experience in the past. As leaders in the community, we set the example. That is what leadership is all about – leading by example.

Our commitment to teaming is more than just showing up *prepared* on the scheduled teaming dates. It is being involved in a reunion group and attending gatherings as often as possible. It is staying in touch with the community at large and supporting those who are experiencing difficult times with an email, card, or phone call, and continued support of pilgrims from our teaming walks.

I'm excited about serving the community this coming year, and I hold the community in my arms and experience the same awe and reverence that I did when I first held my baby girl, Hallie. Some days I feel overwhelmed by the responsibility and commitment of being the Spiritual Director, but then I look around, and just as it was with my first baby, I see so many willing hands and hearts wanting to help, that it feels me with joy and delight and, yes, even excitement for our future. I promise to keep you all in prayer each day, and I covet your prayers as we journey together in 2006.

As we begin this New Year in partnership, let each of us remember what our Community stands for: Recommitment to Jesus Christ; we had our three-day course, and now our fourth-days are dedicated to bringing others to a higher commitment and fuller sense of responsibility in serving God through Jesus Christ. We are more than mere Christians – we are *disciples!* Amen, praise the Lord and

DeColores!

Linda Tunnell (big hug!)



The Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus Community wants to extend a very warm THANK YOU to Bonnie Wiegand, Barb Moore, Lynne Johnson, John Turnbull, Peg Nicholas, and Mike Wild for their many years of dedicated service on the Board of Directors. They spent many hours working for the glory of God with tireless effort and a servant's heart for our community. Bonnie, Barb, Lynne, Peg, John and Mike many thanks for a job well done.



It's always better to give than to receive. If you enjoyed all the gifts of Agape that were showered on you at your walk, now is the time for you to do the same for our new pilgrims on the upcoming walks #57 and #58 and Chrysalis Flights #4 and #5. This is your opportunity to get creative!

The preliminary numbers of agape needed

For the MEN'S WALK #57

Conference Room 50, Dining Room 55, Whole Team 60 based on 20 Pilgrims

For the WOMEN'S WALK #58

Conference Room 65, Dining Room 70, Whole Team 75 based on 35 Pilgrims

Extras will be returned at closing on Sunday and will also be brought to gatherings for two months after the walks.

AND-don't forget SNACK AGAPE!! Veggie and fruit trays are good. Homemade foods (some salty, some sweet) are especially appreciated!!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (412) 835-6072 or email to trweagape@yahoo.com.
Sandy Codding TRWE #42



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 AND HAVE NOT CONTACTED ME PLEASE EMAIL ME WITH WHAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AND I WILL GIVE YOU PRICES.

BARB MOORE, pbixoye@yahoo.com 724-654-3390

Fourth Day Corner



I have been blessed to experience an Emmaus “Hat trick”. I made my pilgrimage on TRWE #51, was an ATL on TRWE #53 and a TL on TRWE #55. Each walk I found more intense but was also more comfortable and open to hearing Gods word. I also learned how not to anticipate but found the “High points” impossible to not anticipate. Direction for my life first nudged at me, then spoke to me then yelled at me.

Emmaus has a goal of sending people back to their churches with an excitement and determination to follow thru with Gods work. I have felt a need to bring the contemporary Christian music I love to my church – a very dangerous thing to do – CHANGE. Working with our music director and the church we formed a praise band. In the year since our efforts began we have evolved to a band of nine very committed members. Practices are still fairly ugly but when we actually play we sound pretty good. The church has gone thru the usual range of emotions but has now settled with an attitude of acceptance. God’s gifts of peace and patience brought us thru the times of uncertainty and rebellion. We are now enjoying times of growth as a band and more importantly growth as a church.

I also felt the need to improve on my teaching as a church schoolteacher at our church. I have been teaching church school for the high school kids at our church for 12 years (wow – the 1st graders are now graduating?) I have found myself becoming complacent and my teaching stale. But the excitement experienced at Emmaus has become a goal for me. I have new feelings for teaching and I am determined to truly teach worthwhile lessons that will mean something to each student for years to come.

I see Gods hand in many parts of my life. I attempt to express the kind of love we feel and express while on a TRWE walk. I find myself enjoying great conversation with total strangers, clients and even relatives. Fruits of the Spirit have become a part of my daily walk. I am truly blessed to be part of the Body of Christ (Talk #13) as a member of the Emmaus community.

DeColores

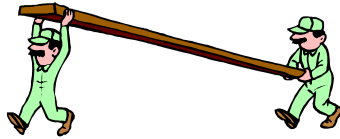
Terry O’Keefe, TRWE #51, Table of Elijah.



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.

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2006**



Linda Claypool	Community Lay Director	John McMullen	Asst. Community Lay Director
Colleen Clark	Secretary	Linda Tunnell	Community Spiritual Director
Christian Stoecklein	Treasurer	Sandy Coddling	Agape
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Kay Rahuba	Purchasing	Joan Burnette	Registrar
Andy Wahl	Reunion Group		

Three Rivers **CHRYSalis**

Chrysalis

I once again waited until the last moment. It reminds me of an Emmaus talk “Priority”. I know writing this article should be my top priority but with a job, family, diet and exercise, time slipped away. I kept saying I’ll get to it.

For the Three Rivers Chrysalis to be fruitful and multiply the Three Rivers Emmaus community must make Chrysalis a priority in their prayer time. We cannot wait and watch to see if Chrysalis survives. We all must do our part to make sure Chrysalis survives. Whether this is prayer, sponsoring, or even providing a servant role during the flight. Even though I did not make this article a priority, I do make Chrysalis a priority with support, prayer and encouragement to leaders and youth.

God blessed me with a young man from my church to sponsor on our first Boy’s flight! It has been a wonderful experience I cannot express the joy and the change in this young man.

It is all up to each one of us that knows a youth who needs to fly with Christ. This June and July each of us has a chance to sponsor and support Chrysalis. I hope we all can make our Fourth Days a time to remember and support Chrysalis

Fly with Christ
Randy Stevens
TRWE # 17
Chrysalis Assistant Lay Director



YOU are the light of the world—like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see. Don’t hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. Matthew 5:14-16

Three Rivers CHRYsalis

Fourth day Corner.....

I am a 21-year-old girl and I spend a lot of my time searching for what every other 21-year-old girl is looking for: love. The funny thing is I found the best love of my life when I was 15, when I went on my Chrysalis flight. The agape love I was shown that weekend was more amazing than anything I have experienced since. The love of Christ that was showered (onto tables and beds) before my eyes along with the caring hearts of the people around me was astounding. I remember thinking, “if these people love me this much and they don’t even know me, then I can’t imagine what God’s love must be like”.

The people I have met through Chrysalis, both that weekend and every Butterfly occasion since, are my family. Of course when I went on my Chrysalis flight I wasn’t looking for additions to my family, but there is such a special bond among the people attending that a “family” is the only way to describe it. I got a new dad (Christ) and a whole bunch of new brothers and sisters! By the third day I was calling the girls at my table “sister” and we still end our emails to each other with “love you sister”.

After our weekend we all had to go back to the real world and immediately everyone became busy with different things and we only saw each other a few times during the next couple of years. I hadn’t seen anyone in at least a year when it came time for my high school graduation party, but I sent them invitations just so they would know they were still important to me. It was a long drive and I knew how busy everyone was so I didn’t expect anyone to come. I remember my mom coming up to me at my party and asking me, “Heidi, who are those girls over there? I don’t remember them from school”. When I looked I saw three of my most beautiful butterfly sisters! I was so excited I ran over to them and we all had a great big group hug. They all apologized for not bringing me a gift or card, but I assured them that their presence was more than enough. That day I felt the love that I had first experienced on my weekend all over again.

I can recall one special moment from my weekend when the love of the people around me first “hit” me. I was sitting in the Chapel after Candlelight, a fire was in the fireplace and people were quietly sitting around the room. I was gazing into the flames of the fire and thinking about what had just happened and tears started streaming down my face. All those people, who didn’t even know me, drove long distances just to show me that they loved me and God loves me so much more. I remember the room being so cozy warm and feeling so comfortable and content and happy with myself: something I hadn’t felt in a long time.

Of course there were many other moments on the weekend that I will forever remember and that are just as important to me. That is why it’s hard for me to answer the inescapable Chrysalis question of: “what was your favorite part about your weekend?” After a lot of thought and many attempts to answer, I have finally come up with something to describe it: “It’s the unconditional agape love of Christ and His family that I was shown that weekend.”

Heidi Pifer,

Northeast Ohio Chrysalis #16 and Three Rivers Chrysalis #3

FLY WITH CHRIST!