

Three Rivers Walk To Emmaus



IMPORTANT DATES GATHERINGS

February 11 7:30 Regionals

South 1st Presby Houston

North Harrisville UMC

East Murrysville UMC

March 11 Ingomar UMC 7:30

SPRING WALKS LUTHERLYN

Men's Walk #77 Mar. 31 – Apr. 3

Candlelight/Gathering Apr. 2 7:00

Women's Walk #78 Apr. 7 - 10

Candlelight Apr. 9 8:00

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PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS trwecomm@comcast.net

THIS NEWSLETTER MAY BE VIEWED AT WWW.TRWE.ORG

Nineteen Years of Walking with Jesus

January 2011

FROM THE COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

HERE WE GO!

As the Christmas carols fade from the radio, there is another tune that becomes very familiar here in Western PA at this time of year. "Here We Go", inspires and requires an interesting mix of faith, hope, confidence, and dare I say "swagger", as we cheer on the Steelers in and through the post-season.

It kind of reminds me of another song, one with which I know you are familiar. The first time I remember hearing "Here I Am, Lord", was in the fall of 1994. I had begun attending a Divorce Recovery program, at what would soon become my church. At the time, I had been away from church for quite a while, but I felt so welcome, as if I found a place where I actually belonged. They liked to warm up the group meetings with a few songs, and one of their favorites was "Here I Am, Lord".

I have to admit I might not have actually sung it the first time, as at that point in my life, I wanted to read the words before I would sing. I probably did not sing it the next time either, because when I did read it, I said "Whoa! !" I did not want my mouth writing checks that my account was not prepared to honor.

But eventually, inspired by seeing the group leaders and other participants actually LIVING out those words, I was able to get past my trepidation and just sing. Anxious, doubtful, hypocritical, whatever, I just sang.

Meanwhile, as I began seeking to know Jesus and to see how I fit into His plans. God has led me to many places, ministries, and people that I would otherwise have never met! Every day has been an adventure ever since.

In addition to coming to see and feel the impact of His awesome presence in my life (as if that were not enough), He brought Heidi and me together and led both of us to experience the Walk to Emmaus.

Needless to say, we have sung "Here I Am, Lord" a number of times since then and have had opportunities to serve and be served in Emmaus and Chrysalis, in our church, and beyond. Now, instead of fear, I sing with anticipation, looking forward to what He has in store, and knowing that He will make it good.

I am eternally grateful for His amazing Grace and am blessed beyond my own comprehension.

I will speak for the Board to say that we are all humbled and honored to serve this wonderful Emmaus Community as this New Year begins. Clearly, we will need **HIS** help, and we will need **YOUR** help.

Your next calling might involve sponsoring a pilgrim, being part of a team, taking a Board position, or any of the many 4th Day opportunities that support our Walks and our Community. I encourage you to consider prayerfully what God may be calling you to do.

I assume you have already read the words...now let's all stand up and sing together!

DeColores!! Mike Varner TRWE 43 Table of Mark

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.

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



FROM THE COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Where does one look for God? Matthew 2:1-12

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem **2** and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east¹ and have come to worship him." **3** When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. **5** "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: **6** 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" **7** Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from

them the exact time the star had appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." **9** After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

With Epiphany comes the question, "Where does one look for God?" Sometimes the nature of God's presence in this world is surprising, sometimes even shocking. We begin with a parable of an ancient king of what is now northern Afghanistan. He was wealthy according to every earthly measure. At the same time, however, he sincerely and restlessly strove to be wealthy spiritually as well. "One night the king was roused from sleep by a fearful stumping on the roof above his bed. Alarmed, he shouted: 'Who's there?' 'A friend,' came the reply from the roof. 'I've lost my camel.' Perturbed by such stupidity, the king screamed: 'You fool! Are you looking on the roof?' 'You fool!' the voice from the roof answered. 'Are you looking for God in silk clothing, and lying on a golden bed?' "The story goes on to tell how these simple words filled the king with such terror that he arose from his sleep to become a most remarkable saint.

The camel on the roof raises the Epiphany question, "Where are you looking for God?" This compelling question of life properly stands at the beginning of a new year, just as "Where have you found God?" nicely serves as a question to cap a year's closing. Our Gospel lesson is a camel-on-the-roof reminder that God is not to be found where the world's princes and powers reside. Our Gospel and our parable calls us to be like the king's friend, willing to make a fool of ourselves asking the camel-on-the-roof question to a world busy seeking God in all the wrong places, willing to rouse the world with the message of "Arise, shine, for your light has come."

As we turn over a new year, one thing is sure: more and more people are trying to find a way to God by climbing the ladders of success and power and respectability. Unfortunately, today in our difficult economy, the pursuit of money and power has become one of the most powerful mystery religions ever to show its face in the history of humanity. This makes it all the more imperative that the Epiphany News is that God is found in incarnation, in the humility of birth in a stable. As startling as a camel on a roof is, the Christian message that the vulnerability of a life of homelessness, and the suffering of death on a cross, are heralded as marks of God's most powerful work in the human life. Our text reminds us that light has come upon the "little ones" to share with the "learned," a light more brilliant than the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night, more brilliant than the "thousand points of light" shining in the darkness. Christians are called to offer a ministry of light and a message of illumination to those in power. The magi point us to where the world's best hope, the world's only salvation comes: bowing before the Christ who is found and served in the most unlikely, most unappealing, most humble of places. If the light of Christ can illuminate a stable in Bethlehem, can the light of Christ shine through you in your world? Perhaps this year you could sponsor a pilgrim as your magi gift to the baby Jesus.

De Colores, Jerry Belloit

FELLOWSHIP CORNER



My name is Judy Grice and I was on the TRWE #40 and sat at the Table of Elizabeth!! I am currently serving on the Emmaus Board as **Fellowship Coordinator**. I take this opportunity to explain what this entails and how you ALL can help.

There are All Community Gatherings at Ingomar UMC- Wexford, in **January, March, June, July, September and December**. For these Gatherings we need **Musicians** to lead us in 2-3 songs to begin, a song for offering, a few songs for Communion and Closing (see Ron Hujik the Board Music Coordinator if you are willing to serve in this capacity); a **4th Day Speaker**-this is anyone in the Emmaus Community willing to give a 2-10 minute talk on what their "4th Days" have been like since their Emmaus Walk; a **Clergy** to give a 10-12 minute message in response to the 4th Day Talk and lead us in the Communion Service. Then I need **2-3 Fellowship** people to arrive early (6:45 p.m.) and set up the refreshment area with ice, cups, plates, napkins, silverware, etc. (these will be provided by the Board) and then clean up afterwards. One person can sign up for Fellowship then recruit a few friends to help.

Everyone attending Gathering is asked to bring a small snack and/or drink to share.

Regional Gatherings are held **February, May and October**. (North at Harrisville UMC; South at First Presbyterian Church in Houston or Beallsville UMC; and East at Murrysville UMC.) At these Gatherings I need a **Board Rep**; Lay Person to be **Leader**-an outline to follow will be given from the Community Lay Director; a **Clergy, Musicians; 4th Day Speaker**(same guidelines as above), and **2-3 Fellowship** people (but at these, **you will need to bring the supplies-see above**). It is also nice to add a little creative festive touch by using a theme. For example: February-red tablecloth/ valentines; March-green/clovers; July-red, white, blue/flags; October- orange/pumpkins. You get the idea!☺

In **April** and **November**, the **All Community Gathering will be held prior to the Men's Walk Candlelight Service**. I will only need a **4th Day Speaker** for these. **August** is our **All Community Picnic and Education Day**.

I have a **few** slots filled for future Gatherings. If **YOU** would be willing to serve in any of these areas, please contact me via email- [grice3 @hotmail.com](mailto:grice3@hotmail.com) (note--there is an underscore after 3) or telephone (724) 225-7806. I thank you, in advance, for your willingness to serve our Risen Lord and Savior!☺

DeColores, Judy TRWE #40

Fourth Day

In our Fourth Days, we are encouraged to grow in our relationship with Christ. Think about your own Walk. There were many members of our community who served you meals, who prayed for you by name and prepared gifts of agape for you. Come to a Gathering and place your name on a Desire to Serve form, or check out the www.trwe.org web page and sign up on line

Prayerfully discern God's will to guide you toward a new pilgrim. Perhaps you are able

to contribute to the TRWE scholarship fund or may be in need of assistance yourself. Either way check out the forms' link on our web page.

The Spring Walks will be here soon. I am looking forward to meeting the many new members of our community as well as seeing many old friends.

DeColores Gary Pennington 4th Day Coordinator



In an effort to locate Community Members with whom we have "lost contact", the Board asks for your help. If you know where any of the people listed below are, please email or call Lynne Johnson with the information.

Lkj212@comcast.net 412-257-2727

Barr, Lissa
Begue, Lynn
Bolt, Kathy Yunt
Boone, Leslie
Bruker, Joanne
Colby, Autumn
Craig, Duane
Crawford, George
Dent, Jennifer
Dulany, John
Dutton, Mary Lea
Early, Bill
Ewing, Sharon
Fallisi, Dotty
Fallisi, Tony
Farabaugh, Shirley
Foust, Bernice
Freshwater, Cindy
Gelzhiser, Will
Georgetti, April
Green, Harold
Green, Jennifer
Guyton, Michael

Guyton, Michael
Harchar, Gus
Harris, Steve
Harris, Susan
Hartman, Paul
Hilliard, Betsy
Howard, Roger
Jackson, Betty
Keene, Donna
Kuhn, Diana
Kunca, Eileen
Nuzzo, John
LaManta, Tim
Lopretta, Anna
Martin, Kathy
McConnell, Jan
Muders, Donna
Owen, Jan
Owen, John
Owens, John
Park, Donna
Pence, Deb
Peters, Ted
Pettner, Debbie

Provance, Debbie
Quinten, Collette
Ramsey, Linda
Reese, Dawn
Roush, Karen
Schlessman, Lisa
Schrag, Keith
Sidorowicz, Melanie
Slear, Harriet
Stacher, Kim
Staton, Lava
Terry, John
Terzak, Sherrill
Trautman, Laura
Turner, Monte
Verner, Julie
Wagner, Glenn
Walton, David
Walton, Luann
Weber, Cindy
Welker, Steve
Wood, Charles
Woodland, Winnie



From Purchasing

Thank you to all of the community who responded by donating items for the courtesy baskets for the fall Walks. Items that we still need are men's and women's small deodorants.

Some items that you may want to give for agape for the spring Walks are of a different nature. We can always use paper towels for the cabin bathrooms. Cloth bags for the Sunday conference room bags (to replace the garbage bags) would also be great. Reunion groups could get together to do these types of things. If you have other ideas, please email Sara Dickey at sarich@aol.com. A more complete list will be in the March newsletter but you can start now!

A WORD FROM LARRY SIMMONS, COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR 2010

My goodness, where has the time gone! My term as Community Lay Director has come to an end. This has been an eventful year. This year we had the first set of Walks in our 18-year history where the number of men exceeded the number of women (#75 versus #76). Candlelight and Closing can only be described as spirit-led. If you have not come to a Candlelight or Closing in a few years, then make an effort to do so for Walks #77 or #78. You will not be disappointed.

The economy has not been kind to our program. Our expenses exceeded income by over \$11,000 in 2010. Your donations to support

the Pilgrims helped to keep the deficit from getting worse. However, without a change to the Pilgrim and Team fees, TRWE would be bankrupt by the end of 2011. The Board addressed this issue during their December meeting and decided to raise the fee to \$200 per person. This level plus community donations will allow us to provide the three-day experience that you enjoyed on your Walk.

See you at Gathering, Candlelight, and/or Closings.
DeColores, Outgoing Community Lay Director
Larry Simmons, TRWE #55, Table of Matthew



The Emmaus Board



to retiring Board members **Janet Ruckel, Gary Wakefield, and Flo Willaman** for their service to our Emmaus Community! You served us well!

2011 Board and Positions

Comm. Spiritual Director to June	Jerry Belloit	Fellowship	Judy Grice
Comm. Spiritual Director July	Bill Saxman	Fourth Day	Gary Pennington
Community Lay Director	Mike Varner	Kitchen	Cindy Parker
Ass't Community Lay Director	Maxine Ellis	Literature	Ken Potter
Secretary	Mary Pellett	Music	Ron Hujik
Treasurer	Amy Dove	Outreach	Tom Gomola
Agape	Sara Dickey	Purchasing	Sophie Park
Communications	Lynne Johnson	Reunion	Tom Topar
Facilities	Larry Simmons	Webmaster	Mike Wild

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

Following is a brief outline of eight of the Board positions. (Other positions will be featured in the next newsletter.)

The **Community Spiritual Director** acts as Pastor for the community. The CSD recommends the Spiritual Directors for the Walks and oversees the scholarship program. All worship materials are approved by the Community Spiritual Director.

The **Community Lay Director** is the presiding officer, giving leadership to the Board of Directors and to community events. The CLD also presides over monthly Gatherings and Board meetings and is an Ex-Officio member of all committees. The CLD may represent the community at various functions.

The **Assistant Community Lay Director** guides Education Day, the Prayer Chain, and acts with and on behalf of the Community Lay Director as needed. The ACLD chairs the Team Selection Committee and assists the Lay Director in coordinating all committees and functions

The **Secretary** records the minutes, emails them to all Board members, acts as custodian for all official records, and corresponds at the request of the Board of Directors. The secretary is responsible for maintaining correspondence with other communities, churches, boards, etc., as necessary and/or requested by the Board. The secretary is also the custodian of to the next elected Secretary.

The **Treasurer** receives all income and counts all cash money with one other Board member, indicating the amount on an accounting sheet with the signature of the treasurer and other money counter. The treasurer also disperses monies as necessary with the coordination of the Board, Kitchen Coordinator and the Purchasing Coordinator. The treasurer provides a report of such actions at each monthly Board meeting and submits an annual report for audit by an independent auditor.

The **Community Agape Coordinator** trains the Weekend Agape Coordinators and coordinates the arrival of all agape room supplies and the set-up of the Weekend Agape Room. The CAC also readies the weekend information packets and sends general agape to other Emmaus type communities

The **Community Communications Coordinator** publishes and distributes the newsletter five times a year and distributes newsflashes by email for Gatherings, Candlelight, E-Day and at other times when expedient. A list of teams and pilgrims is published in the Newsletter. The CCC also aids the Fourth Day Coordinator by informing the Community when servants are needed on the Walks.

The **Community Facilities Coordinator** cares for the community's personal property and arranges for locations for all functions including Weekends, Gatherings, E-Day, and other events as requested by the Board. The CFC, with the help of Weekend Angels, coordinates the set-up, maintenance and tearing down of all weekend sites beginning on Thursday and ending on Sunday and oversees the storage of all property and supplies.

(To be continued next issue)

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@aol.com

Reunion Groups

"Reunion Groups are one of the chief values of the Emmaus Movement - one of greatest treasures the Walk to Emmaus contains. It is a way of persevering in the life of grace so that those things that are valuable to you during the weekend are not lost when you return to life in the world - the group reunion serves the life of the Emmaus Community."

from the booklet Day Four, The Pilgrim's Continued Journey

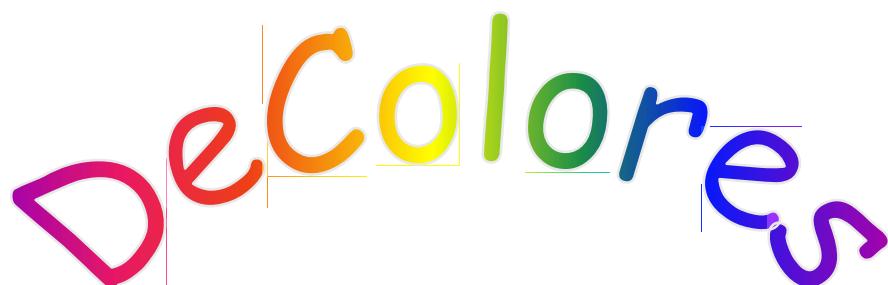
If you are not currently active in a Reunion Group, you are encouraged to consider joining one. The TRWE website (www.trwe.org) includes information on what groups are currently meeting. If you have questions, please can contact Rev. Tom Topar, our Reunion Groups' Coordinator, at dr.topar@yahoo.com.



TY from KO



To our dear friends of Emmaus ~ the Kairos Outside Advisory Council extends a big "Thank You!" to the community for the support you have shown. Your generous support of our meal tickets and bridal registry at December's and January's Gathering is genuinely heartwarming. Please continue to keep this ministry in prayer, remembering the first weekend coming up on June 24-26, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact us at KOWesternPA@gmail.com or KOWPA, PO Box 153, Harrison City, PA 15636



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