

# Three Rivers Walk To Emmaus



## Twenty Years of Walking with Jesus

January 2012

### FROM THE COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

My name is Maxine Ellis and I went on the Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus, Walk #30 and sat at the table of Priscilla. I am your new Community Lay Leader, or Grand Poobah, or better known as where the buck stops. You know how everyone is always saying, "God doesn't call the qualified, God qualifies the called." Well I am praying God is right.

Actually, I have less authority than the other board members do because I only vote to break a tie. The next time you are at Gathering, a candlelight ceremony, or walk send off, look around for your board members and ask them what's on the agenda. Everyone on the board is there because they love this community and want it to grow and be better. If you don't know any board members or you do but there are none from your area, you should prayerfully consider being on the board. The community is always looking for a few good men and women, and (surprise!) we have snacks at the meetings. I promise to do my best to be led by the Holy Spirit in all the decisions that I make in this role.

Prayfully yours, Maxine Ellis



### FROM THE COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Finally, for this Yankee, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas." I've run my snow blower and the white stuff with accompanying cold has people bundled like snowmen. Irving Berlin would be proud. It brings to my mind my favorite Christmas Carol, "In the Bleak Midwinter." My wife doesn't appreciate that carol because each time we sing it the weather turns nasty. BUT, one of the verses, verse 4, shares my understanding of Christmas. It says, "What shall I bring him, poor as I am, if I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb; if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart." For me, that sums up Christmas and a lot more. My greatest glory in life is to give the Lord Jesus Christ my heart. That is a gift that I can give, my Christmas gift to our Lord.

"What I can I give him ..." What gift have you given the Lord this Christmas? I have no problem giving gifts to those I love; in fact my problem is more one of giving above my means. When I look at my gift giving for Christmas, I wonder how much those gifts have said I love you to Jesus. Jesus says, "As much as you have done it to the least of these, you have done it to me." The gospel of John says, "God so loved the world." Is it possible that the greatest gift I can give Jesus is my heart filled with love for his people? Not people who meet my standards; not even those who live the law, but the people searching for hope and open to the grace God so willingly gives to them.

So what does this have to do with Emmaus? Only everything. Christmas is the priority of God becoming our priority and working itself out in our piety, study and action. Christmas is God saying I love you and our sharing that love with God's world.

Christmas day is past but God's gift, through you, continues.

Love, Bill Saxman Community SD

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### GATHERINGS

February 10	7:30 Regionals
South	Meadowlands UMC
North	-Leesburg Presby
East	Murrysville UMC
March 9	Ingomar UMC 7:30
April 14	Lutherlyn (preceding
Candlelight)	7:30

#### SPRING WALKS LUTHERLYN

Men's Walk #81	April 12 - 15
Candlelight/Gathering	Apr. 14 7:30
Women's Walk #82	April 19 - 22
Candlelight	Apr. 21 8:30

#### Sept. 15 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!!

COMM. LAY DIRECTOR	PG. 1
SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR	PG. 1
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FOURTH DAY	PG. 2
EDAY	PG 2
20 <sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY	PGS 3 & 4
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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.

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

### **A Word From the Outgoing Community Lay Director...**

2011 was yet another amazing year in which God has used the Walk to Emmaus to touch countless lives. That impact occurs in many different ways, and for the most part, in ways that we may never even know about. For me the biggest realization last year was that each and every experience that God puts before us is an opportunity for us to grow. Regardless of where we are at in our faith walk, He always has more to teach us and ways to stretch us.

Fortunately, by staying connected, by being involved in supporting the Walks, by attending Gatherings and hearing folks share in their 4<sup>th</sup> Day talks, and by being part of a Reunion Group, we have opportunities to catch snapshots of some of those experiences.

I look forward to seeing how God plans to stretch and grow this Community in 2012 and beyond and I encourage each of you to find ways to stay connected and to

participate in that shared growth with our Emmaus family.

This is the time of year when we change one calendar for another, and readjust our wardrobes for the change in the weather, and we can choose to look forward to the future, to the adventure before us. I am reminded once again to re-read one of my favorite passages of scripture, this one from the NIV translation of Paul's Letter to the Philippians, chapter 4, v4-7:

*"<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

### **...and From the Incoming 4<sup>th</sup> Day Coordinator...**

Believe it or not, the Spring Walks will be here before we know it. The teams are still forming, and I encourage all to prayerfully and promptly follow up if you get a message on your answering machine or your email.

Besides teaming, there are many ways to be a part of these Walks. I'd encourage you to start praying for God to lead you in the ways He wants you to be involved, and to make a difference in the lives of the next group of Pilgrims.

Our website, [www.trwe.org](http://www.trwe.org) has on-line signups for the Prayer Vigil. Sign up now, they're wide open.

There's also on-line signups for meal servers, cleaning help and those amazing folks we know as Thursday and Sunday Angels.

Part of the adventure of serving in our 4<sup>th</sup> Days is the opportunity to get to know some new folks and to re-connect with some old friends. Think of an Emmaus friend you haven't seen in a while. Why not give them a call and see if you can't work out a time to come up and serve together? I hope to see you soon. Blessings until then!

**DE COLORES!!**

Mike Varner, TRWE #43, Table of Mark



### **E-DAY**

**August 11, 2012**

I know it's cold and snowy outside but summer will be here before you know it.☺ Please mark your calendars **now** for our Annual Emmaus Education Day. It will be

held at the **Fresh Air Camp** in Cranberry. We'll enjoy a **delicious** picnic lunch, **great** fellowship and take a **Fascinating** behind the scenes "**Virtual Tour**" of an Emmaus Weekend.

Judy Grice TRWE # 40 Table of Elizabeth

## Hey Community!

*We are on the hunt for potential new camps to hold the weekend.* We are considering several locations in an annual rotation to accommodate our vast geographical area. Does anyone have any ideas for possible locations? We are looking North, South, East and West.

Things to keep in mind for camp selection:

- Must support 75 – 100 people.
- Comfortable sleeping accommodation (not too rustic)
- Able to be cloistered.
- We can do the cooking or not.
- It can be a public or private camp

If you have any camp ideas that may suit the community. Please pass them on to me, or any board member. Ginny Spindler 724-469-0196 Ginspin7@gmail.com

# SAVE THE DATE



SEPTEMBER 15, 2012

**20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION,**

**“Commemorating who we are and what GOD has done through us.”**

Christ UMC, Bethel Park beginning with Fellowship @ 5:00 p.m., followed by a catered dinner @ 5:30 p.m. and an evening of **“EMMAUS STYLE” PRAISE & WORSHIP** 😊

**(WE’RE IN THE BEGINNING PLANNING STAGES, SO IF YOU’D LIKE TO HELP OUT IN ANY WAY, CONTACT JUDY GRICE 724-225-7806 OR [grice3@hotmail.com](mailto:grice3@hotmail.com) . WE’LL BE MEETING AGAIN IN MARCH.)**

Mark your calendars **NOW!!** More information will follow in the coming months. **DeColores!!**

(Be sure to check out Lil Griffith’s request for your Favorite Emmaus Memory. See next page for details)

***“They began telling each other how their hearts had felt strangely warm as He talked with them....”***

Luke 24:32

Do you remember your ride home from your Walk to Emmaus? What did you do in the car, over the next several days and possibly weeks? You probably told many people about how your heart had been warmed, maybe even without using words ...

The committee for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of TRWE would like to put together a booklet of memories of those heart-warming experiences. Our goal is to print up all of your stories and have the booklets available at the celebration dinner next September.

To help you get your thoughts together, look at the questions below. You need not answer all of them, just use them to jog your mind about the one memory of your TRWE experience that is most meaningful.

You might think you have lots of time to do this, but please don't wait. We need time to organize and get the printing done. We are ANTICIPATING a great response!!

## **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE EMMAUS MEMORY??**

*Is it from the time.....*

*you were a pilgrim?.....you first served on team?.....you first sponsored someone?*

*Is it something from....*

*one of the talks?..... a Communion meditation at a Gathering?*

*a fourth day talk?*

*Is it a song that you sang for the first time...or one that challenged you?*

*Is it something from your Fourth Day?*

**PLEASE GET ALL MEMORIES TO LILL GRIFFITH BY MAY 1.**

**DeColores**

Provide your answer (with your name and

Walk #) in 50-100 words or less and email to

Lill Griffith at [ddglrm@gmail.com](mailto:ddglrm@gmail.com) or send

it by US mail to 218 Maple Drive

Karns City PA 16041

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### **Scholarship Fund**

During the past few years, there has been an increase in the requests for scholarships. These requests have been from both Pilgrims and team members. The amount given out for scholarships has been greater than contributions into the fund, resulting in a decrease in the fund balance. The demand for scholarships is expected to remain strong in the coming year.

For those of you who are able, please consider making a contribution to the scholarship fund so that others may experience the joy of being a Pilgrim or being a member of the team.

Contributions may be sent to: Bill Saxman 1181 Route 949 Sigel, Pa 15825

DeColores Wes Kindelberger TRWE #53

## PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends in the Lord,

My wife and I are fairly new to the area having moved to the south hills of Pittsburgh in the fall of 2010. We come with many years of blessed experience in the fourth day movement called Tres Dias. We have served as spiritual directors on many weekends and have seen the hand of God transforming lives right in front of our eyes! We look forward to being a part of the Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus and look forward to meeting many of you.

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I am Sr. Pastor of Bethany Presbyterian Church in Bridgeville. My wife, Melany, is currently Temporary Associate Pastor at Bethany, as we await the arrival of our long term Associate. We are enjoying the Pittsburgh area and know we will be blessed as we meet you.

God bless you,

Pastor John Hamilton

## BOOK TABLE MEMO:

Remember the Book Table from your Walk? How after the "Growth Through Study" talk, you were invited to look over books of interest and purchase them at a discount fee. **Would it not be great if these books were FREE!!!!** On the last two walks we started something new. Rather than purchase new books we took donations from the community. We had a great response and would like to do it again for the Spring walks.

**Do you have new or gently used books that you have read and enjoyed and now don't know what to do with?** If so,

.....

bring them to the February or March Gatherings or get them to any Board Rep. or any Walk team member prior to the Spring Walks.

If you're giving a Talk and refer to a book, maybe you could purchase a few for the Table and donate them as agape. The possibilities are endless☺

Any questions, please call or email me @ (724) 469-0196  
ginspin7@gmail.com

May God Bless your giving,  
Ginny Spindler Board Rep. for Walk #82

## AGAPE 101

Is your reunion group looking to donate agape for the upcoming walks but you don't know the difference between a glue gun and a shoe horn? Is your group all thumbs when it comes to crafts? Never fear, the answer is here!

Why not donate some \$ to help supply the communion elements or that famous Three Rivers peanut butter? The cost for the ingredients to make the peanut butter is \$30-\$40 (which includes enough !

delicious peanut butter for both the men's and the women's walks.) \$25-\$35 will cover the communion elements for both walks as well. All you have to do is come up with the money and we'll do the rest- no buying anything, no mixing up that delicious butter!

It's that easy!! Talk with your group and contact Cindy Parker if you are interested/want more information! Thanks .  
[revcindyparker@gmail.com](mailto:revcindyparker@gmail.com)



## The Emmaus Board



to retiring Board members **Sara Dickey, Amy Dove, Tom Gomola, and, Larry Simmons,** for their service to our Emmaus Community!  
You served us well!

### 2012 Board and Positions

Comm. Spiritual Director	Bill Saxman	Fellowship	Bryan Pass
Comm. Spiritual Dir. Emeritus	Jerry Belloit	Fourth Day	Mike Varner
Community Lay Director	Maxine Ellis	Kitchen	Cindy Parker
Ass't Community Lay Director	Judy Grice	Literature	Wes Kindelberger
Secretary	Mary Pellett	Music	Ron Hujik
Treasurer	Sophie Park	Outreach	Ernie DeLuca
Agape	Janet Stewart	Purchasing	Gary Pennington
Communications	Lynne Johnson	Registrar	Bill Wiegand
Facilities	Ginny Spindler	Reunion	Jim Markley
		Webmaster	Mike Wild

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. Rev. Bill Saxman

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. Maxine Ellis

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. Judy Grice

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 all official documents. Mary Pellett

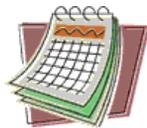
The **Treasurer** receives all income and counts all cash money with one other Board member, indicating the amount on an accounting sheet with the signature of the treasurer and other money counter. The treasurer also disperses monies as necessary with the coordination of the Board, Kitchen Coordinator 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. Sophie Park

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. Janet Stewart

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. Lynne Johnson

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. Ginny Spindler

(To be continued next issue)



## Gatherings

### Mark your calendars now!

February 10 Regionals  
March 9 Ingomar UMC  
April 14 Camp Lutherlyn  
May 11 Regionals  
June 8 Ingomar UMC  
July 6 Ingomar UMC

August 11 E Day Family Retreat Center  
September 15 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner  
Christ UMC Bethel Park  
October 12 Regionals  
November 3 Lutherlyn  
December 7 Ingomar UMC

## 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).



The Emmaus Community is missing a projector. Please, when you are cleaning out garages or storage room, if you find this projector, let someone on the board know. Thank you.

## 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](http://www.trwe.org)) includes information on what groups are currently meeting. If you have questions, please can contact Rev. Jim Markley at [markleyumc@gmail.com](mailto:markleyumc@gmail.com).

DeColores

DeColores

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