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TRWE - January 2017 Newsletter

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A NEW BEGINNING

As we enter the beginning of a new year, our Emmaus community has so much for which to be thankful. 2017 is the dawn of the 25th year in which dedicated servants of Christ have led 100 Walks to Emmaus. During the last 100 walks, 769 men and 1252 women have taken this spiritual journey, have grown closer to our Lord, have grown in their leadership of their Churches, and have become a part of the TRWE community. YOU have played a vital part in these transitions through your prayers, your financial support, serving on team, or providing 4th day support. God is smiling upon you.



2017 will bring several "new things" to our community. These include one set of walks in the fall, a new camp to host our walks, and some new board members. Please recognize the service and dedication of those board members who will not be returning to the Board (at least not in 2017). I know our Canon stresses that we serve not for our own glory, but for others, so I know these individuals do not want or expect any recognition. However, it is with much gratitude that I say "thank you" to Ernie Deluca, Ken Gryger, Lynn Keener, and Mike Schmidt. These individuals have devoted three (and in Ken's case – four) years to serving the community in one form or another on the TRWE Board of Directors. I can attest to the fact that this is a rewarding and fulfilling opportunity, but nothing of value comes without effort. Ernie, Ken, Lynn and Mike have devoted many hours toward serving God and serving the community. On behalf of the entire TRWE community, THANK YOU and may God continue to bless you in your 4th day.

I also want to introduce our newest Board members: Lynn Bussey, Missy Davies, Tyanne Saxman, and Heidi Walker. Lynn will be filling the role of Music Director, Missy will be the Director of Outreach, Tyanne will lead Fellowship, and Heidi will take over the Purchasing responsibilities. Please join me in welcoming these servants to the Board and I ask that you continue to pray for all of us that we may follow God's direction in guiding our community.

With change comes apprehension. With new things comes a desire for the comfort of the old. As we start our new journey in 2017 to a new camp, new teaming formats, having one set of walks, and the beginning of a new quarter-century of bringing ALL OF US closer to Christ, I ask that you hear and respond to the words of Isaiah: "I am doing a new thing....do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness...." How will YOU be a part of the new things that God has in store for our community?

The Board has much more to share with you over the upcoming months concerning the camp, teaming, and our 25th Anniversary. As you ponder the new beginnings facing our community, I ask that you search your heart and listen for the Spirit's guidance in how YOU are being called to serve in this wonderful mission.

I pray that you and your family will have a blessed and healthy new year and that you will always feel the presence of the Spirit in your 4th day journey.

God Bless!
Chub, CLD

A NOTE FROM THE REGISTRAR

Even though the next set of Walks is not until the fall, it's never too early to send in a pilgrim application. For a pilgrim application and/or sponsor information please go to our www.trwe.org website. My mailbox is open for God's business



NEED A CHARGE?



Happy New Year! January 1st, Monday morning, New School year, Mulligans, Clean sheet of paper. God has built into our lives opportunities of new beginnings, fresh starts and the time to get it right.

Do you remember the burning excitement you felt when God claimed you as His own? Think back to your Emmaus walk and the closeness you felt to God and your table-mates. Now is the time to get involved. How is God leading you?

I challenge you to get plugged in this month. Are you being called to a small group study? Is God using you to help

Remember that God has richly blessed YOU, so that YOU can be a blessing to others!! Pass it on.

DeColores,
Judy Grice TRWE #40, Sharon Gallagher #72
and Lisa Wahl TRWE #54



another? Are you listening for direction?

Is there someone who you need to sponsor on their walk? What does God have planned for you in 2017?

The next Regional Gathering will be held February 10th at Leesburg Presbyterian, Murrysville UMC and Bethel Presbyterian in Prosperity. Fellowship starts at 7:00 pm and the meeting follows at 7:30pm.

Please plan to attend and start the New Year out right. You have been blessed to be a blessing!

~Missy Shaw Davies – Outreach Board of
Director – missyldavies@gmail.com

A MINISTRY CALLED KAIROS

Hello, this is Heidi Walker, the Kairos Ministry Liaison for our TRWE community. On an Emmaus fall weekend, I first learned about Kairos Prison Ministry International, a prison ministry. Intrigued, I immediately became involved and have served at SCI Greene in Waynesburg as a support team member. Assisted in the Cambridge Spring women's prison for an Emmaus type weekend. Worked a Kairos Outside weekend in Pittsburgh for women whose life has been impacted by incarceration of a loved one. And now another facility, State Correctional Institution or SCI will have their first Kairos weekend. This facility is SCI Fayette near Brownsville, PA.

By participating in the Emmaus and Kairos ministries, I have grown in my faith and service. There are many opportunities- I followed my desire and left my fears at home. The residents are SO appreciative. Recently, I attended a gathering of the Kairos Outside community, and saw many former guests bring their family members to meet their new Kairos family and the fellowship that we had was amazing! I can say this ministry WORKS!

With so many communities, we are in search of a few GOOD men and women. It takes a lot of committed people to serve in these 4 areas. SCI-Fayette K1#1 weekend leader is Joe Gorecki. He can be reached at dodi_923@yahoo.com Teaming begins Jan 21, in Greensburg. The first weekend being March 23-26, 2017.

The #22 SCI Greene weekend in Waynesburg, PA will be led by Ian Lindsay and the weekend is being scheduled for November. Ian follows Sean Newport as Weekend Leader and the residents are thankful to have some young men volunteering to serve them. Ian can be contacted at ilindsay88@yahoo.com. With two male prisons locally participating in Kairos, it will require many new volunteers. Please accept this blessing from GOD to have 2 prisons asking for Kairos and join us in meeting this need.

Kairos Outside2017 weekend will be held on Oct 27-29, 2017. This year the Weekend Leader will be Sally Wood, a TRWE Emmaus alumni. Feel free to contact me if you are interested in reaching Sally to serve in any manner. The weekend is held at St Paul's Retreat Center on the South Slopes in Pittsburgh.

Cambridge Springs, a women's prison holds a Kairos weekend every year in October. Teaming occurs near Erie, PA and they offer women and female clergy an opportunity to go inside to minister. There are also many needs for men and women to support the weekend without going inside. Feel free to contact me at mountygirl571@verizon.net for additional information.

DeColores!

FROM THE ASSISTANT COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

Happy New Year to one and all! Often a new year signifies changes we make in order to make our lives healthier or more productive. And so it is with Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus. If you haven't read the important messages from the Board of Directors on our website yet (trwe.org), I encourage you to do it now. Go ahead, I'll wait.....

So, as you should now be aware, the Mens' Walk #101 will be held on October 12-15 and Women's Walk #102 will be held on October 19-22 at Mt. Chestnut Nazarene Retreat Center in Butler, PA. Our lay directors will be Bob Morgan and Flo Willaman. Team selection will begin at our board meeting on March 4th.

If you have recently turned in a "*Willingness to Serve*" form and are not contacted, please don't be discouraged. There are only so many spots to fill. But there are many other ways you, the Fourth Day, can serve the community during a walk. This info will follow in another newsletter.

What I would like to stress is the teaming itself.

If Bob or Flo contact you about serving on team, please prayerfully consider before answering. Teaming is a, if not the, critical portion of the walk process. It is a time of learning what your role on team is, how to perform your role, and how that role fits in with all the others. It is also a time of bonding – of becoming one body with one

purpose. Because of this it is crucial to attend every teaming session. This continuity in attendance is something our community needs to improve. We usually have only four (sometimes five) teaming sessions. Missing one is at least 25% of the total teaming time. It doesn't matter if you've never been on team before or if you have served on many – each teaming experience is unique.

One change we are exploring to teaming is to separate the conference room and the outside part of the team. According to Nashville (the national Board) these are not required to meet together all of the time. As our board continues to meet we will clarify how this will take place.

So I guess what it all comes down to is priority. On teaming days how will you spend your time? My hope is that your priority is to serve the pilgrims the best way possible – to take teaming seriously and to attend all of the teaming sessions.

DeColores!
Ron Hujik





A NEW DAY

Psalm 118, in very general terms, tells of the incredible journey of the psalmist. From the recognition of God's mercy, through God's presence in times of trial, to God's glorious creation of each moment, and toward an amazing future.

The most remembered part of this Psalm is verse 24, "This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it." As powerful as this verse is, there may be something more illuminating if we take the entire Psalm into account.

As 2017 gets underway, we may have found ourselves resolving that this is the year we are going to _____. Whatever fills in the blank will quickly reveal to be harder than it seems to accomplish. Surveys show that most New Year Resolutions are disregarded by mid-month. Maybe it is because we look to the end without focusing on the journey to get there.

The psalmist has a journey to travel before the declaration of verse 24 can be uttered. When reflecting back, there is no denying that each of the days along the journey, even the hardest, were also days the Lord had made and been present through. So as we embark on this New Year, and look to the resolutions we have (or may want to make) remember that we are resolving to embark on a journey with the Lord, knowing that together all shall be accomplished.

As the Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus community, we too are facing new things in 2017. We resolved to walk along this journey with God into the newness of the day. Like the psalmist, before embarking we recognize, as individuals and as a community, that God's mercy endures forever and we surrender ourselves to the direction of God. And, like the psalmist, we will experience bumps and obstacles along the way. But, when the Fall comes and we celebrate walks 101 & 102 we will certainly declare, "This is the day the Lord has made." And, "We will rejoice and be glad in it."

As a community I invite everyone to make this Psalm part of your daily devotions and allow the Lord to speak to us through it.

DeColores,
Scott Gallagher

THE CALL TO SERVE - TEAM OR COMMITTEE?

Not to worry! The decision to only have one set of walks per year doesn't have to reduce your opportunities to serve the Emmaus Community. Each of the areas of service needs volunteers to help all year long on an infrequent basis. You can choose from the 10 areas below.

Area	Board Member Contact	Email
1. Agape -	Madeline Rainey	Ferrets6@aol.com
2. Facilities -	Janet McKibbon	Gram7times@comcast.net
3. Fourth Day -	Katy Selzer	Kah100@sips.uakron.edu
4. Kitchen -	Janet McKibbon	Gram7timed@comcast.net
5. Music -	Lynn Bussey	lmbussey@yahoo.com
6. Outreach -	Missy Davies	missyldavies@gmail.com
7. Purchasing -	Heidi Walker	mountygirl571@verizon.net
8. Registration -	Judy Grice	Judygrice74@gmail.com
9. Reunion Groups -	Merle Timko	revmtimko@gmail.com
10. Literature -	Bob Dove	drbobdove@aol.com

What would you do? Well, that depends on the needs of the area. An example for Literature (my area) would be helping to update manuals, replacing old manual tabs to conform with the new chapter headings, show up at Regional Gatherings to set up the literature table with Emmaus pamphlets for sale. Maybe help with the collection, storage and distribution of manuals for walks. It would be helpful to have at least one committee member from each Regional Gathering location to facilitate literature distribution and sales.

Consider how you might contribute to the community and serve the Lord in ways that you haven't thought of before. Contact the appropriate board member if you have questions concerning how you might help. Opportunities abound in 2017!

DeColores!
Bob Dove

IMPORTANT DATES

FALL WALKS @ Mt Chestnut Nazarene Center

Men's Walk #101, October 12-15, 2017

Women's Walk #102, October 19-22, 2017

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

February 10, 2017 @ 7pm

North - Leesburg Presbyterian


East - Murrysville UMC

South - Meadowlands UMC



TRWE

Chub Deitz
Community Lay Director
355 Pine Creek Rd
Wexford, Pa. 15090
412-364-3613 
CLD@trwe.org

Scott Gallagher
Community Spiritual Director
700 Greenleaf Drive
Monroeville, Pa. 15146
412-372-4765 
CSD@trwe.org

Judy Grice
Registrar
1105 Vista Valley Rd
Washington, Pa. 15301
724-225-7806 
registrar@trwe.org

Ed Saxman
Newsletter Editor
3936 State Route 417
Cooperstown, Pa. 16317
814-676-0959 
communications@trwe.org



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communications@trwe.org

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