

IMPORTANT DATES

GATHERINGS

August 11th at Ingomar UMC

September 8th at Ingomar UMC

October 28th at Lutherlyn
Men's Candlelight

November 10th at Ingomar UMC

December 8th at Ingomar UMC

CHRYSALIS FLIGHTS

Family Resources Retreat Center

Boys 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

COMM.LAY DIRECTOR PG.1

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR PG.2

COMUNITTY NEWS PG.3

FOURTH DAY PG.4

BOARD NOTES PG.4

CHRYSALIS NEWS PG.5

KAIROS KONNER PG.6

.....
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

Three Rivers Walk To Emmaus

July 2006

FROM THE COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

I have been thinking a lot about sponsorship lately. I would like to tell you some of what our manual has to say about it. Sponsorship is the most important job of all. The quality of sponsorship influences the pilgrim, the health of the Emmaus Movement, and the church affected by the movement.

First, good sponsorship is the first act of agape before a Walk ever begins; the experience of the Walk for a pilgrim really begins with how we handle sponsorship.

Second, good sponsorship under girds the whole weekend with sacrificial love on behalf of each pilgrim. Sponsors use discernment in recruiting pilgrims, embody the personal commitment of the community to each pilgrim, and provide personal acts of agape during the three days for the pilgrim. These acts include prayer, agape letters, presence at candlelight, and closing, and follow up.

Third, good sponsorship is the foundation for a healthy, effective Emmaus Movement that is fulfilling its true purpose: the development of Christian leaders and the renewal of the church in ministry.

The aim of a sponsor should not be "to get all of my friends to go," to fill up the three-day event, to fix people's problems, or to reproduce one's own religious experience in others. The aim of the sponsor is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who in turn will bring new life and vision in the work place, congregation and community. The aim of sponsorship is to build up the body of Christ.

Emmaus is right for many people—but not everyone. The religious background or emotional condition of some people may make Emmaus an improper discipleship tool for them.

Pray about the people you think you want to sponsor. Make time to talk to them about the Emmaus Movement. Take them an application. Collect Agape letters. Support the Walk through your prayers during the 72-hour Prayer Vigil and your presence at Send Off, Sponsor's Hour, Candlelight and Closing. Support the pilgrim's family in whatever way you can. Anyone who has participated in Emmaus or any other three-day movement can sponsor another person for a Walk. It tells us in our manual that if you are sponsoring a pilgrim you should not be on team with them, so that you can fulfill your duties as a sponsor. If a person chooses to serve as team member, they should find others who will sponsor the particular person they would other wise sponsor.

Sponsorship doesn't stop when the weekend is over. It is very important to stay in contact with your pilgrim. Bring them to your sharing group or help them to start one. Bring them to Gatherings or sign up with them to serve meals on the next set of Walks. Keep them involved with other Christians.

The health of our Three Rivers Walk To Emmaus Movement depends on GOOD SPONSORSHIP.

DECOLORES
Linda Claypool



FROM THE COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Love Notes from Linda
Hit Recall

Here we all are in the midst of warm weather, family reunions, church picnics and moving (for some of us). Some days we feel care free and others we feel oppressed and worn out. On a good day, we manage smiles and grace for friends, family, and strangers, but on a bad day...perhaps I can help you with the bad days.

Hit recall and remember your three-day course in Christianity called the Walk to Emmaus. Let it refocus you – it’s not about you – it’s about God. It’s not about your life situation, it’s about being in relationship, and it’s not about being happy, it’s about being faithful; yes, even or rather most especially on those bad days.

As I prepare for my move to a new area with new churches, and new people, I sometimes feel overwhelmed. I feel incredibly sad when I think that in just a few more days, I must leave those whom I have come to love with commitment and passion. It is in these moments I remember YOU – my Emmaus family. I remember not only my walk and all of the love and commitment I experienced there, but I remember teaming and all of the love, kindness and undeserved, unmerited grace I received from each of you within the community. I recall when personal tragedy overwhelmed me, and you were there.

I know why you were there for me and are there for me now. Because you have learned what God has taught us through the sacrifice of His Son – it’s not about YOU. It is always about God, and when God is our focus, then it becomes about other! I have been “that other” for many of you, and I thank my God every time your names come to mind.

As we get stuck in the “rut of life” let us take a moment to “hit recall” and remember our Walk to Emmaus and the experience of our Triune God; let us remember the love which surrounded us, embraced us, and lingers still because it was not about the servants, but rather it was all about the pilgrims. And so God has once again ordered our lives, and we are grateful.

So our formula for peace in a chaotic world is: Hit Recall and experience once again the Love of our heavenly Father, the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit who lives and abides in us so that our joy may be complete.

Amen, praise the Lord and DeColores!

Linda Tunnell (big hug)



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 GO TO THE TRWE WEB SITE AND PRINT THE ORDER FORM AND SEND IT TO BARB MOORE.

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

Community

Ralph Sprang, Fellowship, TRWE board of directors

Remember what we said at your closing? "Pilgrims, welcome to the Emmaus community". As your walk ended, we welcomed you into the Emmaus community. Every person who has experienced a Walk to Emmaus or similar three-day weekend is a member of our community.

A community is like a family – we can all contribute, and the community is enriched by the participation of every member. God has given each of us gifts to contribute to the community – every one of us can do our part to help build the community.

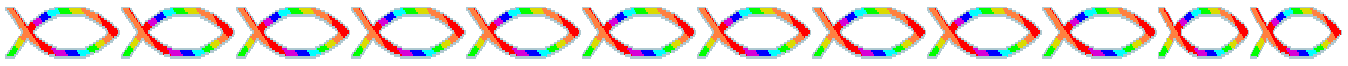
We build the community through participation – by attending gatherings, E-day, serving as Fourth Day help on walks, serving on team, sponsoring pilgrims, to name a few. Sometimes we are called simply to say "hi" to a person who sitting by themselves at gathering, or to really **listen** to what someone said when we asked, "How are you"? Each of us has a purpose in this community and a contribution to make.

The board of directors is making a conscious effort to follow the Emmaus Model more authentically. The model has been developed by the Upper Room to ensure a consistency between weekends in different communities and to help ensure that all pilgrims have the opportunity to have the full Emmaus experience. The model urges full participation in the Emmaus community, and suggests that the Team Selection Committee carefully consider service and activity in the community in their discernment process.

If we don't fully participate in the community, we can't get the full benefit of the community. We all can and should do more to participate and support our community. We do appreciate all the participation you have offered to the community, but we also have unmet needs. Here are a few opportunities to participate:

- Bring food for gathering fellowship time. The snacks we share each month are provided by the community. Please consider bringing healthy snacks, low carbohydrate snacks, cookies, cakes, pies, snack food, or other refreshments to share. Some in our community have food allergies, so it's helpful to label snacks that contain nuts, etc. Those on special diets may feel particularly cared for if we make an effort to provide snacks they can eat. (note: we have a lot of chips and pretzels left from prior walks, so please consider bringing something other than chips)
- Set up and clean up for gathering fellowship time. Sign up on the clipboard to set up for fellowship and clean up afterward.
- Give a Fourth Day talk. A fourth day talk is a talk of 20 minutes or less about your faith walk. Any topic and length of talk is fine (up to 20 minutes). By sharing your fourth day with the community, we get to know you better and you receive support and encouragement. In addition, the board counts fourth day talks toward the participation requirements during team selection.
- Prepare communion elements for gathering. We need someone to sign up to provide and set up the communion elements (bread and juice) for gatherings. We would prefer that someone agree to do this for a six-month period.
- Clergy – sign up to do the communion service at the monthly gatherings.

Thanks for helping your community!!



Fourth Day Corner

Our God is an awesome God! I recently had the privilege of serving as an adult table leader on Boy's Chrysalis Flight #4. It was one of the most meaningful and rewarding experiences of my life. During those three days I felt closer to God than ever before. It was wonderful to see God's hand transforming everyone throughout the weekend. These young men were an inspiration to me, and they give me great hope for the future.

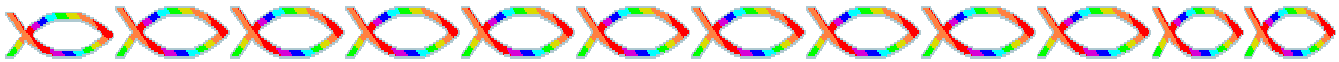
Serving on team solidified my belief that the blessings we receive while serving far outweigh what we contribute during our service. This Chrysalis Flight gave me the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the youth and gave the youth the opportunity to make an even greater difference in my life. I still have not completely processed everything that transpired during that weekend, but I am sure that I will reap the benefits of my experience for the rest of my life. I am hopeful that the caterpillars that were transformed into butterflies will reap the benefits for a lifetime also.

One of the most amazing experiences of my life occurred during the prayer time after the candlelight service. At first, pairs and small groups prayed together. Then individuals moved about to form new pairs and groups. The power and spirit of God's presence was evident. After a while, I joined a particular group of three or four young men. As we prayed, the circle grew one person at a time. I felt and said that I could feel God's love for us growing by the moment. Slowly but surely the circle grew until everyone present joined the circle with our arms around each other. We all then took turns praying out loud. God's presence and spirit filled the room and my heart like never before. It was one of the most amazing and powerful moments in my life.

The weekend was filled with God moments. I had the privilege of seeing the lives of our future leaders being transformed from caterpillars into butterflies right before my eyes. I learned a great deal from this gifted group of young men. They were an inspiration to me and will be tremendous role models for their peers and all adults as well. I was inspired by their spirit, strong faith, and commitment to Christ at such a young age. These young men kept the weekend full of life with their energy, creativity, sense of humor, their strong desire to grow in their faith, and their ability to enjoy everything they did. I was abundantly blessed by my Chrysalis experience, and serving on team gives me great hope for our future. Our God truly is an awesome God!

Decolores and Fly with Christ,

Rick Rackley TRWE #49



Board Notes



Team members can only draw a scholarship once per year



You are able to serve on team only once per year (exception is Lay Director in training)



There is a 4th day chapel on the walks/flights to pray-in 4th day help



A word from The Flight Lay Directors...

Q: What do you get when you cross 31 phenomenally dedicated Christian men and women with 18 teenaged boys?

A: A whole lot of fun, and miracles, miracles, miracles!

Short of speaking in tongues, it's kind of hard to describe exactly what happened on TRC Boys' Flight #4. Let us share two events from the weekend that will (hopefully) give you some idea of just how blessed it was.

1. Saturday night (after Candlelight) The Community has gone. After about a minute of absolute silence, one young man got up and went to the kneeler before the Cross. A moment later, two more come forward. As the kneeler is already occupied, rather than wait, these two prostrate themselves before their Lord on the cold, damp brick floor of the Barn. A short time later, several other young guys come up, lay hands on those already praying, and begin praying themselves. Before long, those groups of twos and threes turned into groups of fives and sixes, then groups of tens and twelve's, and before any of us knew how it happened, we were in a huge prayer circle—the whole crew—lifting up prayers to God. This ended with one of the Butterflies stepping into the center of the circle with his Bible, with all of us laying hands on the Book while this extraordinary young man led us in a concluding prayer.
2. Sunday afternoon. Tim Spence (if you don't know Tim, make it a point to meet him—talking to Tim is as close as you'll ever come in this lifetime to speaking directly to the Holy Spirit) requested permission to address the Conference Room. In front of the microphone, Tim said, "I just want you guys to know that, even if I never see any of you again—and I hope I do—I love each and every one of you very much and I will never forget you." There was dead silence in the room for about ten seconds. Then the room exploded into a spontaneous standing ovation. Two guys came up and hugged Tim as he was walking back to his seat. This, in turn, led to a group hug by the entire room. (And remember, gang, we're talking about teen-aged boys!)

Lord, be glorified. Thank you for allowing wretches like us to experience the power of Your Love on Your weekend.

Bill Korbel, Lay Director of Three Rivers Chrysalis Flight # 4

Girls Flight #5 Lay Director

Thank you God for sending 18 beautiful young ladies for Chrysalis Flight #5, and for the wonderful loving team that you provided to support them as they transformed from the caterpillars they were when they arrived to the truly beautiful butterflies they were when they left on Sunday. Please be with each and every butterfly and team member as we all go forward in service to you Lord.

In Jesus name,
Bonnie Wiegand

FLY WITH CHRIST!



KAIROS KORNER

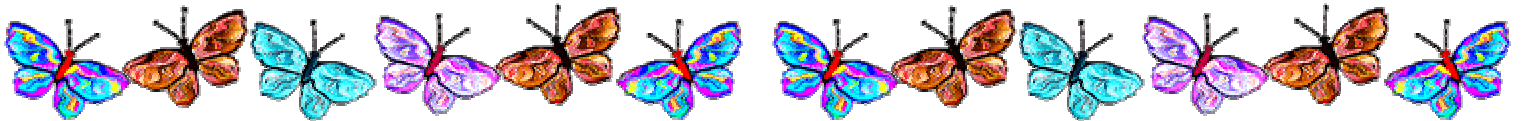
The Group Reunion is universally stated as the single most important lifeline available to participants who have attended any Fourth Day Renewal Movement weekend, regardless of what it was. Speaking personally, I know that my group is very important to me, and I would be lost without it. I have to tell you, though, that statement is nowhere more true than in a prison setting.

We are coming up on three months since K-1 at SCI Greene. Of the thirty-three residents who pioneered the movement there, twenty-five still continue to come on Friday nights for the Prayer/Share grouping (that's what Group Reunion is called in Kairos). Praise God. In the "Fourth Day" or "Next Steps" talks I've heard or given in the past, it is said that Group Reunions are "more blessed" than the weekends. In the prison setting, that statement is absolutely true. These men put not only their faith, but their very lives, on the line to reach out in that environment to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They all realize that they need the spiritual power of a community that can only come through that kind of venue. Listening to them talk together as they strengthen each other is just . . . well . . . mind-boggling.

I have to share this. I was recently Lay Director on the TRC Boys' Chrysalis Flight. When I went back to the Prayer/Share group the following Friday, they told me that they had organized a prayer vigil for us. (They did another one for the Girls' Flight, too). It made me cry.

Teaming for K-2 in November will begin sometime soon. If you have a heart for prison ministry and would like to serve on this team, please e-mail me at WKorbel@state.pa.us and I'll get you some information.

Bill Korbel, TRWE 31, Table of James



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.

