



Three Rivers Walk To Emmaus

May 2004

FROM THE COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR:

IMPORTANT DATES

FALL 2004 WALKS

- Men's Nov. 4-7
- Candlelight Nov. 6
- Women's Nov. 11-14
- Candlelight Nov 13

GATHERINGS

- May 14, 2004
- June 11, 2004
- July 9, 2004
- August 13, 2004
- September 10, 2004
- October 8, 2004

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The Gospel of Peace

Recently the words GOSPEL OF PEACE have taken on new meaning to me. Our faith connection group has been studying a Spiritual Warfare tape series by Dr. David Jeremiah. It was the fifth lesson before we got to 'The Gospel of Peace.' The prior four lessons were somewhat combative, speaking about the direct conflict in our world between Satan and Christ. I admit it was refreshing to move from spiritual combat to the Gospel of Peace.

This winter I have also been taking a class which presents the Bible differently than what I have previously experienced. Maybe the author's opinions and research presented are accurate and maybe they aren't, but it certainly caused thought, unrest and conflict in my heart.

These experiences, along with the struggles and uncertainties of every day life, have allowed me to experience anew the gospel of peace. How refreshing it has become to just simply read and focus on the gospels or on any portion of the Bible again such as the book of Hebrews that I just finished. If this was a commercial I would say something like: *I experience the fresh crisp cleanliness of a mountain brook flowing down the mountainside coming out of a background of pure white sparking snow.* And this description would be inadequate.

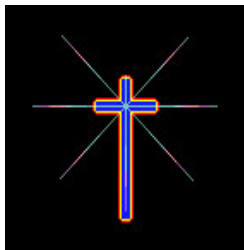
I went to my Bible concordance and found thirty-five scriptural references for *peace*. I scanned a few texts on peace and found two words that jumped out at me, *trust and obedience*. My experience is that peace comes from trust and obedience Has that been your experience also?

Nothing compares to the simplicity and the complexity of God's word. Please rejoice with me knowing that the word of God allows us to fail and still find peace in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Rolen Burnette TRWE 27 Table of Abraham

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FROM YOUR COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR



Emmaus Brothers and Sisters,

As I write this to you I am working at the 2004 General Conference of the United Methodist Church. I have found it fascinating at the connectedness of the United Methodists but more so at the connectedness of the Emmaus people.

Several times this week I have happened upon someone who had an Emmaus rooster pin or some other way to identify them as DeColores. It amazes me at how we as brothers and sisters in Christ can come together and share as if we were long lost friends. It is something that is part of who we are as an Emmaus Community.

Being connected is what we are supposed to be. As an Emmaus Community we should be connected to each other, our church and a reunion group. How is your Fourth Day going? Could you be more connected? Try it and see what difference it makes. I have found how good it is to be connected with other people in other countries and how connected I am to you as the community.

DeColores, *Barb Moore, TRWE # 8*

EVER WONDER HOW A TEAM IS SELECTED????

A committee that serves our community in the background is our Team Selection Committee. The committee is chaired by the Assistant Community Lay Director. In addition it is made up of two to three community members at large, the walk Lay Director, the Registrar, the Community Spiritual Director and the Community Lay Director. This committee meets at least 120 prior days prior to a set of Walks to initiate team selections. The Walk Lay Directors may choose to bring potential selections for team discerned through prayer or may depend entirely on the committee team selection process.

The most important factor in team selection is prayer-- who are the persons the Committee Members have discerned God to lay on their hearts. Some factors considered are Emmaus community and church involvement, reunion group participation and living the Christian lifestyle of piety, study and action. The model for progressive servanthood from the Emmaus handbook is followed. Armed with this information each Lay Director puts together God's team, coming back to the Team Selection Committee as needed.

What a team is not made up of is a Lay Director's friends and favorite people. In the early years of our 12 year old community, members often served our community by being on successive teams. Thanks to their commitment to Christian Service with their efforts and sacrifices, we have the community we do today. Now with a more mature community, the development of a healthy vibrant community commands that team participation be spread to reflect a cross section of **OUR** community, coming from different churches, different areas of Western Pa., different denominations, ages and experience levels. The result is seldom will any community members be asked to serve on consecutive teams.

When our community does a set of walks there is an invitation and a need for every community member to participate in some role of service.

Rolen Burnette Community LD TRWE 27 Table of Abraham



HOW TO BE A GOOD SPONSOR

You can share God's love with someone you know by sponsoring them for an Emmaus weekend. There are, however, a few things to keep in mind about the responsibilities that go along with sponsorship.

Who to sponsor:

The purpose of Emmaus is the renewal of the church as the body of the risen Christ in the world through the renewal of church members as faithful and committed disciples of Jesus Christ. Emmaus **EXPANDS** participants' spiritual lives, **DEEPENS** their discipleship, and **REKINDLES** their gifts as Christian leaders in their churches and communities. The Emmaus experience is for active Christians and members of churches whose renewal will mean new energy, commitment, and vision in the church and everyday environments. Emmaus is not intended for pilgrims to meet Jesus for the very first time – it is not a converting experience, but rather a confirming/reaffirming time.

How to sponsor:

First, pray for a new vitality for your pilgrim's faith. Make an appointment to talk to both husband and wife if married. Explain the walk as best you can. You don't need to tell every detail, but keep no secrets. Mention the singing, the times of fun, times of worship, the talks on Christian life, and the relationships you made at your walk with God and other Christians. Bring a copy of the registration form and encourage them to fill it out while they are thinking about it. Sometimes the walks fill up early so sending the registration form and \$25 deposit to the registrar is important.

Your responsibilities will include: staying in touch with your pilgrim before and after the walk; informing them of what to pack for their weekend; collecting 12 letters from people close to them; providing transportation for them to and from the walk; getting them set up in their cabin upon arrival at camp; attending send-off, candlelight service, and closing; and praying. It is highly recommended that you have your name on the prayer vigil for your pilgrim's walk. As a sponsor, you should also provide agape. If you come to camp as a fourth-day volunteer, give your pilgrim space to experience his or her own emotions – keep your distance. Be cordial, but save the hugs for after closing. After closing, gather up all your pilgrim's belongings, and give them a chance to talk on the way home. Make sure you encourage them to join you at the mini and monthly gatherings and continue to pray for them.

A word of encouragement

Ultimately, God calls pilgrims to the Emmaus Walk. If you invite someone and they don't immediately share your excitement, don't be too discouraged. God's timing is perfect, but it doesn't always fit into our human plans. Pray for discernment and trust God to choose the right pilgrims for each walk.

DeColores

Fourth Day Corner



It seems like a long time since I made my walk # 7 and yet I remember it quite well. I didn't question a lot about my walk because I knew my sponsor and trusted his judgment. When I look back it seems I missed a lot on my walk and that is why it's so important to have been on team to pick up and reinforce the things I missed or that didn't sink in. My walk was quite an emotional experience but as time went on the love of the Lord took on a much deeper meaning, love became much more of an action word and I see it in a lot of other Emmaus people that I have come to know.

I love the people of Emmaus and what they bring to each of their respective churches. I have never been in groups before Emmaus where we share our concerns, our families and our lives in such a way that I never have before experienced and in those times of joy it's like experiencing a little piece of heaven.

What Emmaus has done for me is to make me more aware of what an awesome God we serve and the challenges He puts in front of me and as long as I keep my eyes on Jesus, trust in him and be obedient to Him, He will always carry me through the tough times ahead for all the rest of my fourth days. **DeColores – Rob Dangel TRWE #7 Table of Zephaniah**



FOURTH DAY OR FEBRUARY 2ND?

You know how Bill Murray kept experiencing *Groundhog Day* over and over again in that movie? That's what my Fourth Day life has been like. And it's because of the Three Rivers Community that I can relive those precious days of surrender and love—day in and day out. My walk taught me about surrounding myself with Christians, finding a strong spiritual leader and the *importance* of learning more about Christianity. My Reunion Group is a rock for me to build upon—and my home church is a mountain of that solid rock.

God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit were so-o-o present at my Walk...that I decided to keep them around. I'm much more able to accept the fact that I have unconditional love from God. And I realize I am worthy of His forgiveness. So now when I need to, I just toss the bad stuff I want to live without to the cross, as we did at dying moments. I can pray with confidence that my prayers are heard and understood; but I know that the answers will come in God's time and in God's way. I didn't have to change my personality...why would I? God gave it to me so that I would be the person He wants me to be. However....Surrender is easier. Patience is closer. Repentance is humbling. Loving is a treasure. Serving others to glorify our Lord and Savior is a privilege.

Speaking of privilege, would you believe that just moments after the old back stopped aching from scrubbing toilets on Fourth Day, I felt privileged that I was able to scrub-a-dub-dub! God is so good! You see, Fourth Day isn't just what happens at home. It's something we can all give back to each group of new Pilgrims on every Walk. Being a volunteer, I was able to experience the love of my own Walk all over again. Amen to that!

So I guess the most meaningful thing about Fourth Day is that I am so blessed to have had days one, two, and three to teach me how to appreciate all blessings in all things, good and bad. Thank you to the whole Community for welcoming me "home" among you! *Groundhog Day* starts in 24 hours! **DeColores Carla Rizzi TRWE #46**





EMMAUS FAMILY PICNIC AND E-DAY!

Circle Saturday, July 17 on your calendar for the Emmaus Family Picnic at Camp Davis in the North Hills. We are making plans for a fun day for the entire family! You will also have a chance to learn how the Community functions and how you can become more involved. We hope to have entertainment which means that all of you talented people need to get in touch with me! Or, if you would like to be part of the planning committee, please let me know. The time has not been set but that will be forthcoming as the plans are finalized.



If you would like to help in any way, please call me at 412-824-7061.
Bonnie Wiegand Assistant Community Lay Director



If you have a prayer concern that you would like lifted in prayer, please send your request to send to BOTRWE@aol.com

PEANUT BUTTER RECIPE!!!

5 pounds peanut butter 2 pounds butter 1 cup honey Mix well!! Enjoy!

We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future. There is only one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and there is only one God and Father, who is over us all an in us all and living through us all. Ephesians 4:4-6 Life Application Study Bible.

THE ONENESS OF ALL BELIEVERS

Believers are one in body

Our unity is experienced in

**Body
Spirit
Hope
Lord
Faith
Baptism
God**

**The fellowship of believers—the church
The Holy Spirit who activates the fellowship
That glorious future to which we are all called
Christ, in whom we all belong
Our singular commitment to Christ
Baptism—the sign of entry into the church
God, who is our Father who keeps us for eternity**