

TRWE - May 2017 Newsletter

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GO TEAM T.R.W.E!

The 7th and final game of this round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs is about to begin. So, how can I NOT write this article without including the fast-paced, hard-hitting, gut-wrenching game of ice hockey? NO – I'm not saying the Board of Directors is "fast-paced". It certainly isn't "hard hitting". Sometimes it might be "gut wrenching", but that is not what came to mind as I think about the game of hockey.

First, let me warn you that I am not a "die hard" hockey fan. Where I grew up in the Blue Ridge Mountains of eastern PA, we didn't even have an ice pond. We did have something called Field Hockey, but that was played by girls, on grass, wearing skirts and sneakers. I don't understand all the rules of hockey and I don't know a lot about our beloved Penguins. I think they have won a couple of Stanley Cup Championships and their captain is some guy named Bing Crosby. But, I may be mistaken.

One thing that seems VERY unique to ice hockey (besides being a game played on frozen water by people wearing steel blades and carrying long sticks who try to hit a frozen round piece of rubber), is how many play the game. When the game starts, there are 6 players, with a maximum of 1 goal tender. I know this because I looked it up in the infallible resources of Wikipedia.

Occasionally, one of the players does something they are not supposed to do. When this happens, they are awarded a penalty and they are allowed to go sit on a bench and rest for a couple of minutes. Maybe even 4 minutes. But....no one is allowed to take their place. The team must continue to play with one less player. The remaining players must continue to play the game, trying to achieve their goal (of literally scoring a goal), and to prevent the other team from reaching their "goal".

THAT is how the Emmaus Board of Directors is like playing hockey. The Board starts "play" with 16 team members. There are no penalties. Every Board member simply does their best to listen to God's direction and make decisions that are in the best interest of the Community, serve to accomplish the goals of Emmaus, and, most importantly, to serve the Lord.

But, every year, and some times even before the year ends, one or more Board members must leave the Board and rest. Normally, this is because their time on the Board (3 years) has reached its end. Sometimes, life happens and a member can no longer fulfill the responsibilities and decides to leave. When these vacancies occur, the "game" goes on... with 15 members, or 14, or, in the case of the start of a new year, 12 members. Those remaining on the Board must work harder and do more to cover the "holes" created by those missing.

Obviously, the Board of Directors for TRWE is NOT about playing a game of hockey, scoring goals, or winning a Stanley Cup. The mission of the Board of Directors is to be a guiding force in creating opportunities for individuals to grow spiritually, to grow in their leadership abilities at their home Church, to hear God's calling for serving in their Fourth Day, and to fellowship with other members of the community.

Currently, there is one open position on our team. Come July, we will need five MORE individuals to step up and fill those open positions. We need five laity and 1 clergy to put on their pads, dust off their skates and step out on to the ice. The going may be slippery. Sometimes you may fall down. But, in the end, YOU will be a part of a Championship Team. YOU will be a part of helping God change lives.

If the Holy Spirit is nudging you to say "yes", give me a call (412-657-8876) or send me an email (chub.dietz1@comcast.net). Join the team!

DeColores

Chub Dietz, CLD

PRAY, SHARE, GIVE FOR BOLIVIA

The new Emmaus Community of Bolivia will hold its first walks from July 5th to 8th and July 10th to 13th. Bolivia is one of 8 countries launching a new community—all within five years—as part of the "8 in 5" initiative. Kenya and Bolivia hold their first walks this year, while leadership teams in Bulgaria, Peru, Poland, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Chile are in various stages of formation.



Bolivia is counting on you to:

- **PRAY.** Add the Emmaus Community of Bolivia to your personal prayer list AND sign up for a prayer vigil by emailing lourdesmc@gmail.com
- **SHARE.** Write agape letters for the new pilgrims. Send your letters by June 23rd to irn_rodriguez@hotmail.com.
- **GIVE.** Launching healthy communities requires training and resources. Donations to the **Emmaus Gift** helped Bolivian leaders travel to established communities in neighboring countries to experience their first walks. [Click here to give to the Emmaus Gift today.](#)

ONLINE LEARNING

Make it a summer of spiritual formation! Emmaus pilgrims are invited to register for the online courses below—between the dates noted—to redeem a 20% discount with this code: **4thDay20**.

- [*Praying with Mandalas: A Colorful Contemplative Practice*](#): May 15–May 22
- [*Miracle*](#): May 22–June 5
- [*Christ Beside Me, Christ Within Me: Celtic Blessings*](#): June 5–June



**Make a friend.
Be a friend.
Bring a friend
to Christ.**

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

T.R.W.E Gathering

May 12, 2017



MANY VOICES SINGING PRAISES TO GOD

Emmaus favorites, "Our God Reigns," old hymns, "Victory in Jesus" and many others!

The men's quartet, White Noise, sang "Our God" for us and "Ten Thousand Reasons" with us. (How did they choose that name for their group? We learned the answer to that!)

The Women's group encouraged us as they sang, "It Is Well With My Soul."

Rooster Leadbelly and his partner Scurvy Burger, sang and then called for audience participation to hear just how that DeColores song came to be---before singing 3 verses, instead of the original 99!

HOLY COMMUNION



Kellie Wild noted the many references to music in scripture and encouraged us to use the musical gifts God has given us because, indeed, music is worship. Then she reminded us that Communion is what we receive, not what we *take*. With open hands we approached the table, celebrating the gift of Christ.

FELLOWSHIP AROUND THE TABLES



Before and after we gathered for worship, we reconnected with Emmaus friends

AND....

Remember when Jesus said: "Let the little children come?" It was pure joy watching Lois and Eli Dille's great-grandchild wave and clap her hands with us in praise! She danced and swayed to "Days of Elijah." Pure joy!

Maybe new Emmaus tradition...bellbottom rainbow pants worn by CLD – passing them on, right Chub? Will we see them at the July 8 TRWE Picnic, too?



DISCERNING GOD'S WILL

Emmaus continues to transform lives. How Emmaus continues to do this work is dependent upon us as the Emmaus Community, discerning God's Will. That discernment could come in the form of our willingness to serve on Team, to answer a call to serve on the Board, to reach out and sponsor a pilgrim, or attend Gatherings or events during the Walk weekends.

It would be great if each of these moments of discernment were attached to a vocal pronouncement from the Lord as to what God's Will is. However, we often find ourselves listening for a small voice in the gentle breeze, a feeling, or some other sensory perception. I believe that when we are attentive to those promptings we will find God's Will as easily as if there had been a vocal pronouncement. The problem is that the noise around us redirects our attention.

The noise around us comes in the form of busy schedules, travel distance, prior obligations and responsibilities, or otherwise focused attention. Things like this can and will override the promptings and direction of the Holy Spirit. When the noise is loud we will look more for the perfect time to serve, or the perfect opportunity to sponsor, or the ideal time to participate in other ways. That perfect time will never come.

I cannot think of any circumstance in Scripture wherein God called someone to serve, to lead, or to be in ministry at a convenient time, or the perfect time. I am left to think that if God has not done this in the past, then I wonder why God would begin to do so now. Serving when it is, let us say, inconvenient has attached to it a higher level of sacrifice. In that sacrifice we honor God even greater. In that sacrifice we find powerful blessings, and in that sacrifice we truly have the opportunity to reflect the love of God.

Please do not get me wrong. There will be times when we simply cannot respond to what has been asked of us. It is simply impossible. But, how many times have we allowed the noise around us to give us a humanly acceptable excuse?

Right now the TRWE Community is looking for persons to serve, sponsor, and support the community by gathering together in fellowship and celebration. I ask each of us to take a moment and push aside the noise and listen to where, when, and who God is leading us toward. It will not be easy. The noise can get loud and will grow in intensity as we approach its source.

I find it extremely helpful when I need to quiet the noise and listen for Spiritual Promptings to enter the sanctuary of the church (most church sanctuaries are unused during the week). I leave my phone, my keys, my wallet, and any other sources of distraction behind (or in a safe place in the sanctuary). I then find a pew, or go to the altar, and allow myself to get comfortable. I present myself before God, along with the need or question I have. I then sit there in the silence and wait. When thoughts or noise comes to mind I imagine myself putting it into a lock box and return to the silence of the moment. Sometimes I have to enter into this practice numerous times before I am convinced of the correct direction.

In the end I have found that the most profound ministries God has called me to enter have come at the most inconvenient time in my schedule, but the absolute perfect time in God's time and in the lives of those served. See if you can find that sacred, quiet, comfortable and peaceful place to connect with the Holy Spirit.

Scott Gallagher, Community Spiritual Director

A NOTE FROM THE REGISTRAR

We are happy to report 2 ladies and 2 gentlemen have been registered to attend Walks 101 & 102 as pilgrims!! Please begin praying for: **Joan Kriebel, Cindy Rumbaugh, Chett Schall and Tim Scherf**, as well as all the other pilgrims that God is calling to attend.

***Is God asking you to make a phone call or start a conversation with someone? Be the hands and feet of Christ . TRUST US, YOU WILL BE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING!!!!**

Next set of Walks dates are:

Mens Walk #101 October 12-15

Womens Walk #102, October 19-22.

It's never too early to send in a pilgrim application ☺ Teaming starts mid-August. It would be **great** to have 25 pilgrims applications in for each Walk before teaming begins.

Especially since this is our 25th Anniversary Year!!



For a pilgrim application and/or sponsor information, please go to our www.trwe.org website. Our mailbox is open for God's business!

DeColores,

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

AGAPE

Hello all. It's really time to start thinking about what you will donate as agape for our fall walks.

Yes, I know, they (the walks) are not until October but, with summer coming, that time will fly by rather quickly.

Everyone who has been on a walk may send in agape for the pilgrims and the team (opt). Remember how you felt when you received your gifts of love on your walk? Let's give our new pilgrims that same feeling.

Gifts can be made or purchased. Look at some of your agape to get some ideas. They need not be expensive, just from the heart. Some folks order from orientalexpress.com.

It would be wonderful to see overflowing baskets in the agape room. The maximum number of pilgrims for a walk is 25. This number gives you a starting point for the gifts.

As a reminder, no personal names are to be on the gifts. You may use your initials (J.X.S. TWRE #60) or group name. You can even form a group of friends who have been on the walk and give yourselves a name (the Clucks).

Hope you all have a wonderful summer. God's Blessings to you all.

Madeline Rainey
Agape Co-Ordinator



HAVE YOU EVER ASKED GOD WHY?

I recently read a devotion online by Cindi McMenamin. I used it for our May TRWE Board Meeting devotion time and was asked to share some of this devotion with you all.

Isaiah 55:8-9 ESV “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Admit it. You have lots of WHY questions for God, don't you?

- *Why am I going through this situation?*
- *Why did YOU let that happen?*
- *Why didn't YOU allow me to experience that blessing?*

It is human nature to question and try to find the reasoning behind God's ways; however, most of our “why” questions result from ignorance about WHO GOD is or a lack of FAITH in what HE is doing.

If God were to speak audibly to you, perhaps HIS answers to your questions would be:

(All based on Scripture and in no particular order.)

1. **Trust me. I have My reasons.**
2. **So you will grow.**
3. **You never asked.**
4. **You're asking for the wrong reasons.**
5. **So you'll rely on Me.**
6. **Just Wait.**
7. **I have something better in mind.**
8. **I'm protecting you.**
9. **I'm making you more like Jesus.**
10. **Because I love you.**

Will you trust God on whom you have piled your questions? Say a prayer from your heart, as a way of letting Him know you are His and you trust Him with whatever He has in mind.

DeColores, Judy Grice TRWE#40

INTO OUR FOURTH DAYS...

Piety...Study...Action – Talks during the weekend, Reunion Group topics to cover, a life-style for the growing Christian.

How are you doing with that?

The Study piece seems to be the easier one for me. Whether I'm reading a book on my own or for our Growth Group at church, it seems I can find principles and thoughts that were parts of one of those 15 talks we heard...and it seems God is convicting me, to have what seems to be a personal Dying Moment so that I can give up what is holding me back from living into the image of Christ.

Recently our Growth Group studied *Not a Fan* by Kyle Idleman. Would highly recommend it – filled with the challenge of being more than a fan of Jesus, living as a follower of Jesus – done with personal examples – humorous at times.

Let me share 2 concepts from that book that continue to challenge me...

1. A man whose story is told, how he transformed from fan to follower and he said – “I raised my son in the church, but I did not raise him in Jesus Christ.”

I realized I **could say that**. My kids were in church with us, but did I ever talk with them about my relationship with Jesus so that they could see my faith as relationship with Christ and not just church attendance and service?

2. There was a section on keeping Christ first in your life – kinda reminded me of the Priority talk. And there were lists of things that could keep you from having Christ first. Didn't take long to find the one that convicted me – What do I think about? The example that a troubled relationship **constantly on your mind is actually putting Christ second** hit me square in the face.

I realized I was actually living that out at the moment I was reading it. How can I say I trust God if I'm always thinking about someone else and trying to figure out what's going on?

So now I am reading another book by Kyle Idleman entitled *Grace is Greater*. I am reminded again of the grace that is mine every day – greater than how I raised our kids, greater than a troubled relationship, great enough!

Learning how to share that grace into my fourth day...

Lill Griffith, CLD Emeritus

GOT FLAME?

A friend's husband was a guest speaker at a church I used to attend regularly. It would be the first opportunity for us to worship together. I was able to worship with my church family and with my friend, who felt warmly welcomed.

Everyone always gets quiet and still when the altar candles are lit. It signifies the beginning of worship and is always done by a child wearing a white robe.

The young girl started the procession holding a standard brass candle holder. She walked up to the altar and carefully lit the candles, then turned around and walked softly down the aisle to join her family.

The choir sang a wonderful song, the children's message coincided with the sermon, and then came the closing hymn.

It felt so good to sing with my friends! During the last verse, the little girl once again carefully made her way up to the altar and lit the wick that was on the end of the brass candle holder, then snuffed out the altar candles, one by one in a slow, methodical manner.

This is the moment that tugged at my heart. The child looked up at the flame she was holding. Her gaze was intense, nothing in the sanctuary mattered but that flame, "the light of Christ".

Nothing distracted that little girl, not her family, not the large crowd that was in the sanctuary, nothing. She carried the light of Christ with a sense of purpose and a pure heart.

I was in deep thought about that very last moment of the worship service on the way home. I knew it was a nod from above to check myself, to see what I needed to do to make sure I was carrying "this little light of mine" with a sense of purpose and a pure heart.

I am so, so glad I went to church that day. I received warm hugs, soul soothing music, and a message from a child who didn't say a word. In the same way "Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Go light your world,

Pam Walter
TRWE #42,
Table of Rachel

This Little Light of Mine



John 8:12-20

GO LIGHT YOUR WORLD

written by Chris Rice.

There is a candle in every soul
Some brightly burning, some dark and cold
There is a Spirit who brings a fire
Ignites a candle and makes His home
Carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the helpless, confused and torn
And hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world
 Take your candle, and go light your world
Frustrated brother, see how he's tried to
 Light his own candle some other way
See now your sister, she's been robbed and lied to
Still holds a candle without a flame
So carry your candle, run to the darkness
 Seek out the lonely, the tired and worn
And hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world
'Cause we are a family whose hearts are blazing

So let's raise our candles and light up the sky
Praying to our Father, in the name of Jesus

Make us a beacon in darkest times
Carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the hopeless, deceived and poor
Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world
Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world

PROMISED INFORMATION on the TRWE Board of Directors...

As promised in the March 2017 newsletter, following is more information on the TRWE Board of Directors! It currently consists of sixteen TRWE community members (a mixture of laity and clergy). There are four positions that are decided internally by the Board – Community Lay Director, Assistant Community Lay Director, Secretary, and Treasurer. The past Community Lay Director remains on the Board of Directors for one additional year to assist the current Community Lay Director, if able. The Community Spiritual Director also sits on the Board of Directors. The Board is also comprised of ex-officio Registrar and Tech positions. The remaining members of the Board hold Coordinator roles. Below are the descriptions of the current Coordinator roles.

- **Agape** – guides the flow of agape in support of TRWE Walk weekends, sends and receives Community Agape letters, provides training, supplies, and guidance to the Agape team for the weekends.
- **Communications** – disseminates pertinent information to the community in a timely manner for publishing in the newsletter or newsflash.
- **Facilities/Kitchen** –arranges for locations of all functions and is responsible for food service operations for the weekend and other community functions.

- **Fellowship** – recruits laity and clergy for participation in community Gatherings.
- **Fourth Day** – provides a one-stop service for Emmaus members to volunteer service in the community
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- **Literature** – responsible for keeping all Board and Team manuals complete and up-to-date, maintains inventory of Emmaus literature for distribution and/or sale at Gatherings and community events.
- **Music** – coordinates our music life.
- **Outreach** – disseminates information about the Emmaus movement to others.
- **Purchasing** – cares for the community's personal property, purchases the Conference Room supplies, and approves other community purchasing needs.
- **Reunion Group** – follows up on community participation in the Emmaus way of life.

More information on the above roles can be found at <http://trwe.org/Board.htm>. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please contact Katy Selzer, Fourth Day Coordinator, 4thDay@trwe.org.

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

June 9, 2017 @ 7:00pm - Fellowship

7:30pm - Gathering

North – Clarion First UMC

East - Murrysville UMC

South - Meadowlands UMC



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