

Three Rivers Walk To Emmaus

March 2004

Important dates

Candlelights

Men's March 13 8:30
Women's March 20 8:30

Mini Gatherings

Men's Mar. 20 6 p.m.
Wurtenberg Church

Women's Mar. 26 7 p m
Ingomar UMC.

Gatherings

March 13 Camp Allegheny
7:30 Gather 7:45 Worship
(Before Men's Candlelight)

April 16 7:30
Dutilh Church

May 24 7:30
Dutilh UMC

November 2004 Walks

Men's Nov. 4-7
Women's Nov. 11-1

Inside Information

- Page 2 Spiritual Director
- Page 2 Agape Count
- Page 3 Pilgrim List
- Page 3 Sponsor Information
- Page 4 Teams
- Page 5 Fourth Day Corner
- Page 1/6 Opportunities
- Page 7 Accountability
- Page 7 Directions to
Camp Allegheny

I recently attended our regular Faith Connections Group. Faith Connections is our church's small group ministry, meeting about once a month. Some are fellow couples I know well and some not so well.

Currently we are studying a tape series by Dr. David Jeremiah entitled "Spiritual Warfare." It is about who Satan is, his role in this World as Prince of this Age and about putting on the Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20) to stand strong against him. Each month the hosting couple leads discussion and study. I was surprised when the host couple led into that night's study by showing the country music video by Josh Turner *That Long Black Train*. I had seen glimpses of this video before but hadn't realized it was a very direct Christian message about standing up to Satan, represented by "the long black train" with some of the characters standing successfully and some being taken away. Now I still associate music videos with things like MTV and I expect little Christianity to be portrayed there. However, I have come to realize there are other country videos with Christian messages like Dolly Parton's *Welcome Home* and Jessica Andrew's *Who I Am*.

I often perceive the moral nature of Christianity to be losing ground in our secular culture; then something like this pops up where I wouldn't expect and stronger than I could imagine.

Mankind, as influenced by Satan, may love the darkness but we also crave and yearn for the light provided only through Jesus as spoken about in John 12:45-50. WE, AS THE EMMAUS COMMUNITY, ARE ONE OF GOD'S REPRESENTATIVES OF LIGHT. Please pray for our upcoming walks as the pilgrims and the team enter into that light.

Rolen Burnette Walk 27 Table of Abraham

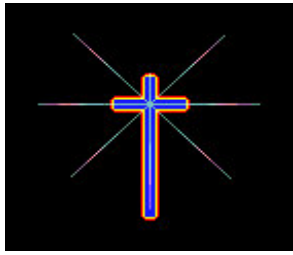
Servants Sought

Volunteer servants are needed to help with setting up and tearing down Camp Allegheny for both the upcoming Men's and Women's Walks. If you might be available to serve on **March 11** (Thursday set-up), **March 14** (Sunday tear-down), **March 18** (Thursday set-up), or **March 21** (Sunday tear-down), please contact Scott Robinette via e-mail at scott.robinette@comcast.net, or by calling (412) 477-5246.

THANK YOU!!

I thank everyone who volunteered to serve meals, clean bathrooms, bake and especially those who volunteered to sign the Prayer Vigil. Prayer is the most important part of the whole Walk to Emmaus. Even if you didn't sign the Prayer Vigil, I ask that you give some time to prayer. Pray for the Teams but especially pray for the Pilgrims. Once again, thank you and may this be an awesome weekend(s) for the pilgrims and may God pour out His blessings on everyone during the Walks! DeColores John Turnbull Fourth Day Coordinator.

From Your Spiritual Director



"Who's that fellow over there or who is the woman with so and so?" Ever ask that question when at a Gathering or Teaming?

My two churches are doing a study called 'Beyond

30 Seconds – Developing a Welcoming Congregation'. In this study we are learning what it is like to be a newcomer in the church and what we as the members can do to make them feel welcome. Remember what you felt like when you were new to the Community?

My friends, we need to be more welcoming in Emmaus. I have to admit that I haven't been as welcoming to new people as I should; it just seems easier to talk to the same people I know and with whom I am comfortable. If we truly follow the 'Way' Jesus showed us, then we should be at the business of getting to know the new people and helping them to get to know us. Remember "the Woman at the Well"? Jesus didn't wait for her to speak to him. Think of the times you could have spoken to someone you didn't know! Let's make it our mission every time we gather to speak to at least three people we do not know or don't know very well. I tried it at the last Gathering and it was fun. I met some nice people that I had seen around but didn't know. Join me and give it a try, won't you?
DeColores Barb Moore, Community Spiritual Director

AGAPE FOR WALKS

Can you remember your walk and how you felt when you received agape for the first time? What a wonderful outpouring of unconditional love from members of the Emmaus Community that was! Now you have an opportunity to do the same for the upcoming Men's and Women's Walks.

Following are some guidelines that will help you and our Team members create a wonderful experience of love for our Pilgrims:

1. Agape must be completed before bringing it to the camp. All the Team members are very busy and will need every minute to prepare for the Pilgrims.
2. Agape should be brought to the camp on Thursday night if possible, but no later than Saturday evening before Candlelight. Please remember that bedtime agape for Saturday will be distributed around 7:00 pm. If there is any problem with getting your agape to the camp, please contact:
Jamie Zacour 143 Woodland Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15236 412-653-4634 Jcricket60@aol.com
3. Agape can be made for the following situations:

Pilgrims and Team	Men	56	Women	81
Pilgrims only	Men	20	Women	35
Conference Room	Men	44	Women	65
Dining Room	Men	46	Women	67
Pilgrims, Table Leaders and Assistants	Men	30	Women	49

Note: please try to add a few extra pieces for pilgrims who may register after we have gone to press.

4. Please label all agape with the following information:
 - Your name or reunion group name.
 - How many pieces and to whom they should be distributed (Pilgrims only, Team and Pilgrims etc.).
 - When you would like it to be given (bedtime Saturday, Conference room, dining etc.).

Unused Agape can be picked up at Sunday Closing for both walks or at the next gathering.

Please remember Snack Agape!!!! Veggie trays/fruit trays are good. Homemade foods, (some salty, some sweet) are especially appreciated! All snack agape should be dropped off at the kitchen area.

Agape letters for Sunday If you are a Sponsor and are dropping off letters for your Pilgrim, please make sure there are **12 letters bundled**. These letters should be family and closest friends. These are the letters they will read first. The envelopes should be marked on the lower left-hand corner with family or friend. If you have more than 12 letters, please give them to your pilgrim on the way home. Please also check before closing for letters still in the Agape room.

PLEASE REMEMBER Any gifts you may have for Pilgrims should be given on the way home. If you have a gift for a team member, it should be given when no pilgrim is around.

Thank you Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus Community for showing the Pilgrims on the Men's Walk #49 and the Women's Walk #50 the love of Christ through your gifts of Agape. God Bless Jamie Zacour Agape Chairperson



MEN'S WALK #49

Chuck Conway	Northway CC	Jim Miller	New Wilmington UM
DeWayne Craig	River of God	Rick Rackley	Christ UM Bethel Park
Chub Deitz	Ingomar UM	Keith Souders	Christian M & A Greenville
John Dulany	1 st Assem/God Waynesburg	Aaron Terracio	Wurtenberg UM
Steve Fodosick	Christ Comm Butler	Gary Wakefield	Slippery Rock UM
Michael Guyton	1 st Assem/God Waynesburg	Dean Wells	Cornerstone UM
Craig Hunkele	Ingomar UM	Chris Whitehead	Christ UM Bethel Park
Ernie Lopretta	Port Vue UM	Fred Whitney	Good Shepherd UM
Terry Merz	1 st McKeesport UM		

WOMEN'S WALK #50

Becky Allison	W. Liberty UM	Di Kuhn	Dutilh UM
Jenny Bienemann	Mt. Lebanon UM	Karen Miller	New Wilmington
Les Boone	Mt.Pisgah Presby	Sherri Miller	Claysville Presby
Cathy Brosnaham	1 st Presby Irwin	Donna Muders	Baden UM
Earla Clark	Christ UM Bethel Park	Terri O'Wade	St. Pius X RC
Autumn Colby	1 st Presby Greenville	Suzanne Rackley	Christ UM Bethel Park
Nancy Connell	John McMillan Presby	Dawn Reese	Liberty Presby
Donna Conway	Northway CC	Karen Roush	Mt Lebanon UM
Jenn Dent	Trinity UCC	Shirley Shipley	Bakerstown UM
Ruth Deitz	Ingomar UM	Becky Sloan	1 st Presby Irwin
Karen Eppelsheimer	Mt. Lebanon UM	Charlotte Sonne	Northway CC
Sharon Ewing	Mt. Lebanon UM	Sherri Sounders	Christian M & A Greenville
Maggie Foreman	Smithfield Trinity	Jenny Stoecklein	Christ UM Bethel
Dianne Hamerly	Dutilh UM	Wally Wells	Cornerstone
Beth Hunkele	Ingomar UM	Edie Whipple	1 st UM Warren
Patty Johnston	John McMillan Presby	Kelli Whitehead	Christ UM Bethel Park
Erin Keane	Northway CC	Jackie Whitney	Good Shepherd UM
Harriet Kistler	Christ UM Bethel Park		

ATTENTION SPONSORS In accordance with *The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus*, we ask sponsors to give only **twelve letters** for your pilgrim(s) for the Sunday packets. If you have more than twelve letters for your pilgrim(s), please give them to your pilgrim(s) Sunday after closing. Check with the agape room before Closing for any excess letters.

“Surely it is God who saves us. I will trust in Him and not be afraid. For the Lord is stronghold and my sure defense, and He will be my Savior!” Isaiah 2:6

DeColores

FOURTH DAY CORNER

When I completed my Walk to Emmaus back in the fall of 2001 little did I know that it would be the launching point to a period of time that brought me and taught me wisdom and peace that I never thought I would find. In December of 2001 I was given an opportunity to go back to school to obtain my Master's degree in Health Promotion and Education after being out 14 years, which for me is a major accomplishment being "academically challenged"! I thought at that time "I know what I would like to do after I am done with school, but I'm anxious to see how my ideas may change, or become more defined by the end of the program, as they are now at the beginning of the program.

My thoughts at that time were centered on my life and me over the next two years. I was focused on the future, and how my degree would allow me to make a difference in people's lives two years down the road. What I found out through this journey was that because I was going to school, God gave me the ability and the flexibility to make a difference now. Because I was going to school, and not working, I was able to take care of my 99 year old aunt; I was able to become "Ms. Mom" at home and relieve my sister from all the work around the house; I was able to take neighbors, church members, and friends, to doctor's appointments, make hospital visits, and be there for emergencies that had I been working would not have been an option. Before I knew it I was moving from "me, me, me" to "Shirley, it's not about you at all"!

What I learned and continue to learn is the more I moved from selfishness to selflessness, peace and trust in God rested in my heart. The fruit of the spirit became more natural, and the ways of the flesh began to upset my stomach! I graduated with my master's degree in December 2003, which is great and I am thankful, however I don't know if gaining that degree was God's goal for me, or not. I'll have to wait and see. What I do believe is that it may have been the means for me to learn a bigger lesson than I ever could have in a textbook! I just keep thinking about Isaiah 55:8-9. "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways." DeColores Shirley Pogue Walk #36



About a year after my Walk to Emmaus, I was at a candle light service for a women's walk on which my wife was an assistant table leader. The spiritual director who led the service said something that I will remember all my life. "It is easy to be a Christian when you are standing in a dark chapel, holding candles, surrounded by other excited Christians, and waiting for the pilgrims to arrive."

It was so true. I missed the love, attention, and shelter that I receive during my walk. Plus, I was surprised at the way that I felt because there had been no big climax or emotional high for me during the walk. I had listened to each talk carefully, participated in the activities, and ate all the snacks. I had been convinced (especially by the talk on priorities) that a change was needed in my life and time was running out. During the following days and months after my walk, I started to commit myself to Christ in ways that were difficult for me. I said "yes" when my church asked for help. I joined committees, took turns at preparing the adult bible classes, and accepted leadership roles.

Although I am more willing to speak about my faith even at my workplace, I am still cautious not to push myself on my co-workers. Slowly, I have been growing closer to Jesus, but I still have a long way to go. Yes, there are tough times, especially when I receive too many complaints about the cleanliness of the church or why isn't there more salt on the driveway (you see I am now a 3rd year Elder on the Building & Grounds Committee), but now I am not alone. I have Christ with me. Thank you, my Emmaus team for the wake up call. DeColores Rich Underwood TRWE # 35 Table of David





What is Chrysalis?

"Chrysalis" is the name chosen for the youth version of The Walk to Emmaus. Chrysalis "Flights" are for 10th- 12th Graders and Chrysalis "Journeys" are for Young Adults who are 19-24 years old. They are modeled after the Adult walks and include the agape, the letters and of course candle light! The 15 talks given on their three-day event are similar to the adult talks; but the topics are geared for their age group.

(Click on the butterfly when online!)

There are manuals and training available to hold Chrysalis Flights right here within the Three Rivers Community! We would like to know the level of interest within our community in order to decide whether to pursue bringing the Chrysalis Flights/Journeys here. If you would be interested in any way, shape, or form to help get this important part of Emmaus started here, please contact me ASAP. Thank you. Heidi Varner TRWE #44. Home phone 412-833-2944 Email hvarner@conwayes.com Address 491 Limestone Drive, Bethel Park, PA 15102



DeColores!!! My brothers and sisters in Christ, one of the most touching and moving aspects of life in an Emmaus community is the

chance to worship together. Music is a way for us to enter into worship and express ourselves to the God of the universe. God has blessed the Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus community with musical talent and gifts that we use in our worship. When the Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus community held its first walk, we had been blessed with the gift of songbooks from the East Ohio Emmanuel Emmaus community. These books have served us well. It is time that these books are updated and revised. The board of this community has blessed me with the opportunity to be a part of the songbook project. Please don't misunderstand me,

the songbook we have is filled with wonderful songs and most of these are going to continue to be a part of the new songbooks, but there are so many songs of worship and praise that are a part of worship, that we must include new songs for worship in the songbooks as well as those favorites from the songbooks we have. So, very soon, you will notice a new songbook at gatherings. Music is such a wonderful part of the Emmaus tradition, and we will be blessed to continue in that tradition. If you have prayerful and thoughtful comments about the songbooks as they are introduced, please e-mail me at ljsing@zoominternet.net. The wonderful thing about the new songbooks will be our ability to include new songs as time goes on. I look forward to worship with you all.

In His Love, Lori Slagle Music Coordinator

United Methodist General Conference 2004 – will be held in Pittsburgh from April 27 to May 7, 2004.

Volunteers are needed--and you don't need to be Methodist!!

The General Board of Discipleship needs help in hosting their display area during the General Conference. They will need about 5 people a day for 10 days to assist in this ministry. If you can

only work one day, that is fine. It will be a wonderful opportunity to dialogue with delegates and share our amazing resources, such as Emmaus, Lay Speaking, Devotions, Congregational Development Evangelism, age-level resources. They will certainly provide on-site training for the volunteers. If interested, please contact Tom Kendig at 412-364-3486 or tkendig@nauticom.net Thanks. Tom Kendig

Community Accountability

One of the lessons of the Walk to Emmaus is the significance of accountability. Though our reunion groups are fertile ground for fellowship and fun, the primary purpose of a reunion group is to foster accountability among disciples of Jesus.

This idea that accountability within a group is critical to the spiritual life of an individual believer isn't unique to Emmaus. In Chapter 10 of Hebrews we read, "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up on meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...."

And just as individual believers should be accountable to their spiritual community, so too is the Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus Community accountable to the greater international Walk to Emmaus movement. To continue our local Board is required annually to enter International Emmaus Office. The Board and the community.



For example, through this conduct Walks in accordance with

Handbook on Emmaus. The Board agrees that the TRWE will invite interdenominational, interracial and international participation, foster a spirit of Christian tolerance and unity, and encourage mainstream theological balance in all Emmaus activities. The Board also agrees to maintain the Emmaus focus on sponsoring pilgrims who are actively participating in a local church.

Over 1,000 pilgrims have taken the Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus, and as witnesses and disciples, we should be accountable to one another. Over 500,000 pilgrims worldwide are members of the Walk to Emmaus movement—by agreement, our local community is also accountable to that greater body. Anyone interested in reading the 2004 Letter of Agreement with Upper Room can contact Scott Robinette via e-mail at scott.robinette@comcast.net.

ministry as an Emmaus community, the TRWE into a Letter of Agreement with the Upper Room Letter sets forth guidelines for the business of the

Letter, the Board agrees that the TRWE will the most recent edition of *The Upper Room*

Directions to Camp Allegheny

From Interstate 79 Take Exit 96 to Portersville. Follow Route 448 West into Portersville. At Route 19, turn right. From R. 19, take the first road to the left back onto 488 W. Follow for about six miles to the Slippery Rock Creek bridge. Before crossing the bridge, make a sharp right turn at the Triangle Sporting Goods store onto Van Gorder's Mill Rd. Follow this road for about a mile to the camp entrance.

From I-76 (PA Turnpike) Take Exit 2 to Rt. 18 North. Turn right onto 351 E at Al's Citgo. After crossing the railroad tracks, 351 will make a left turn at the stop sign. Continue on 351. After crossing a long cement bridge, the road will curve sharply to the left again. Continue on 351 into Ellwood City. At 5th Street, make a left. Follow 5th St. to the second light and make a right at McDonald's. This road will become 488 East. Follow 488 out of town. You will cross two steel bridges and a cement bridge which spans the Slippery Rock Creek. Immediately after crossing this bridge, turn left onto Van Gorder's Mill Road. Follow this road for approximately 1.5 miles. After you cross a steel bridge, the camp is just up the road on your right

From Route 60 (Toll Road) Take the Exit 17 for Rt. 351 (Ellwood City). Follow signs for 351 East. After crossing Rt. 18, follow directions from above.



PRAYER CHAIN If you have a joy or concern that you would like lifted in prayer by the Emmaus Community, please email your request to botrwe@aol.com.

Do you know someone who is ready for the Walk to Emmaus? For information contact Peg Nicholas at Pjnich@bellatlantic.net 412-264-3458