

Lansing Emmaus Community

Footprints

Number 1

February - March 2003

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A Winter Walk

I went out walking today. That's once in a row. I think the last time I went out for a serious walk was about a month ago. It was good. There was a sharp edge in the wind that reminded me that I wasn't just out for a stroll. It livened my step and my senses.

I became aware that my eyes and ears needed retraining. My powers of observation were rusty from disuse. As I walked, I became aware of tunnels where mice had burrowed under the snow to feed, safe from the eyes of hawks or owls. I became aware that the deer had been walking along the roadside far more than they crossed it. I heard the sound of an approaching car long before I could see it over the hill, and had plenty of time to step off onto the berm.

As I continued walking and my senses sharpened, I became aware that my legs and lungs were not accustomed to the pace I was keeping. At first I pushed to keep up the pace, then was forced to slow down. I eventually settled into a compromise between the pace my mind wanted and the pace my body could maintain.

What had kept me from walking more often? It was too cold, or too hot. It was raining, or snowing, or blowing. The wind chill was bitter. I didn't have enough time. It was too late in the day. There were other matters more pressing. I didn't have time before work. I didn't have energy after work. Does this begin to sound familiar? I suspect I'm not the only person to have this kind of experience.

When I decided to go out walking, it was cold. I probably didn't have enough time to do the walk I wanted and get back before sundown. There was a column for the newsletter I needed to write, and I had no idea what I was going to say. There was a meeting in the evening I needed to prepare for, and I had no idea what I was going to fix for dinner. I decided I needed to take a walk. It became the highest priority, and I walked. While I was walking, The Lord helped me put things in perspective. He gave me the inspiration for this column.

My body and my mind both reminded me that it had been far too long since they had experienced that type of exercise. I read recently that the reason so many people tend to have less of a sense of balance as they advance in years is that they don't practice balancing. Children think nothing of walking across a log over a ravine. They will even "walk the tightrope" on a crack on the sidewalk. How long has it been since you have done something like that?

Experiencing the love and power of God is like balancing, or observing nature, or walking. The more you have the experience, the

more you enjoy it. The more you enjoy it, the more you do it. It becomes a self-reinforcing cycle, a very positive one.

There is, however, another dimension involved, and we can learn from nature about this dimension too. When you think of clear, clean, cold water, I imagine you think of a rapidly flowing stream, or a crystal lake. For water to remain clear and pure, it must move. Motion agitates the water and adds oxygen which can help eliminate any impurities. When water stops moving, it tends to become less pure. A clear lake is likely to have an inlet and an outlet. The water flows through. A stagnant lake tends not to have an outlet. Take this example to the extreme and you have the Great Salt Lake, or the Dead Sea. Water stands and evaporates, and the dissolved impurities remain behind.

The experience of the presence, power, and love of God is like water. It needs to flow to remain pure and refreshing. If there is no outlet, it becomes stagnant. I trust everyone reading this has some memories of the power of the Holy Spirit from their Walk, Journey, or Flight. Some have the more recent experience of the blessings of working on a Walk, Journey, or Flight. However you let it flow, I strongly encourage you to find a place to allow the power of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit flow through you to others.

This brings me to an appeal. We need community members to become involved in Board committees. The people you see on the new Board list in this newsletter are each encouraged in their job descriptions to establish a committee to help them in their work. These jobs are too large for one person. If there is an area that draws your interest, please consider contacting that Board member and asking if there is room on a committee for you. I suspect you will encounter very few "no vacancy" signs.

If you have not worked on a Walk (or a Journey or Flight,) I encourage you to let a Board member know. Blessings you cannot imagine await you (but don't anticipate!) The Member at Large, the Team Selection coordinator, or the Data Manager would be people you might contact to get involved in a Walk. Of course, I'd be glad to help you too. PLEASE don't wait to be asked. If you are interested in blessing others through the Walk to Emmaus in the Lansing Area Emmaus Community, please take the plunge. C'mon in, the water's FINE!

GLYASDI
Harry

IN THIS ISSUE:

Here's what you can expect to find.

✚ **Page 2:** Complete Board list; Join to Sing



Page 3: Site Selection, Agape, Community Spiritual Director

Page 4: Chrysalis News, 25th Anniversary Update, New Board Position



Page 5: Newsletter, Prayer Vigil, Board Highlights

Page 6: Registration; Upcoming Events

LANSING AREA EMMAUS BOARD 2003

Name	Position	Phone	E-mail	Expires
Roxi Bass	Agape	(517) 676-4495	rrb323@yahoo.com	2005
Carrie Bloom	Gatherings	(517) 646-8076		2004
Garnet Chappell	Training; Assistant Community Lay Dir.	(517) 646-8923	gmchappell@earthlink.net	2003
Michon Felton	72-Hr. Prayer Vigil	(517) 669-5687	msfelton@pplant.msu.edu	2005
Deborah Fennell	Treasurer	(517) 676-1887	dfennell@dartenergy.com	2003
Cheryl Galloway	Data Manager	(517) 882-5595	gallowayg@acd.net	2004
Bill Haggard	Assistant Community Spiritual Dir.	(517) 393-2211	billh5955@attbi.com	2004
Bruce & Diana Hug	Auxiliary	(989) 681-2975		2003
John Lord	Team Selection	(517) 676-0595	jalord1@juno.com	2005
Leon Martin	Member at Large	(517) 332-4816	leonhm@juno.com	2003
Becky Morrison	Assistant Community Spiritual Dir.	(517) 645-7701	pumc105@aol.com	2005
Bob Pena	Kitchen	(517) 482-7358	penar@michigan.gov	2005
Carla Prout	Music	(517) 645-2923	proutcarla@yahoo.com	2004
Andy Raymond	Book Table	(517) 663-6361	raymonda@michigan.gov	2004
Janet Sweet-Richardson	Community Spiritual Director	(517) 589-5581	bubbermom@aol.com	2003
Trina Roe	Site Selection	(517) 543-0867	trinaroe@voyager.net	2005
Bill Schmidt	Newsletter	(989) 682-4153	bjschmidt@core.com	2005
Jodi Schmidt	Secretary	(989) 682-4153	jodirschmidt@yahoo.com	2005
Darlyn Turner	Fourth Day	(989) 386-3704	darlynt@hotmail.com	2004
Harry Wallin	Community Lay Dir	(517) 566-8452	owltalker@centurytel.net	2004
Karen Weller	Registrar	(989) 875-4202	kweller@edzone.net	2003
Ned Weller	Sponsors' Hour, Candlelight, & Closing Coordinator	(989) 875-4202	nedweller@yahoo.com	2003
Bonnie Williams	Supply (Trailer)	(517) 694-9765	geochardan@yahoo.com	2004

“Come, Christians, join to sing!”

All members of the Lansing-area Emmaus Community are invited to participate in the fifth annual community musical worship service being sponsored by area churches this spring.

The ecumenical chorus will present “God In Us,” an hour-long program of music, narration, personal testimony and worship at 6 p.m. Sunday, May 4 at West Locke Wesleyan Church, Williamston, and at 6 p.m. Sunday, May 18 at Lakeside Chapel at Park Lake, Bath.

Through these services the chorus sings, speaks and testifies of our love of God, His Son and the Holy Spirit, and tells others of God’s unfailing love.

Parts practices will be held at 7 p.m. Monday nights beginning February 3 at Crossroads United Methodist Church, corner of Haslett and Zimmer Roads, Williamston.

Full chorus practices will be held at 7 p.m. Thursdays beginning in mid-March at West Locke Church, 2652 Haslett Road, Williamston.

Last year’s chorus, which presented a similar program entitled “God For Us,” included 53 singers from 12 churches representing the communities of Bath, Byron, DeWitt, Fowlerville, Haslett, East Lansing, Lansing, Mason, Okemos, Perry, Webberville and Williamston. More than 400 people attended the first program at West Locke church, and another 150 at Lakeside Chapel.

The director again this year is Diana Smith of Williamston. To sign up, or for further details, you may contact Diana at 517/655-4114, or worship service coordinator Judy Marr of Williamston, 517/655-2348 (Lansing Emmaus Walk #50, October 2001, Table of Martha).

Site Selection

Hi! My name is Trina Roe and I attended my walk to Emmaus in October of 1998 at Mount Hope United Methodist Church, where I sat at the table of Esther. I'm brand new to the board and will be serving as Site Selection Coordinator. There has been discussion at the board retreat and meetings about getting together a list of minimum standards for all host churches and developing a covenant agreement that would be signed by both us and the church, so that we both clearly understand what rooms / areas / items (such as kitchen equipment, din-

nerware, etc.) will be available and any restrictions the church may have, so that there are no surprises on a walk weekend. If you have ideas about what needs to be included in the covenant agreement, or about minimum standards for a host site, please let me know. I can be reached at trinaroe@voyager.net. I'm especially interested in hearing from past Lay Directors and Auxiliary heads about some of the pitfalls and unpleasant surprises that have been encountered in the past that we need to be sure to address. Thanks for your ideas!

Words of Wisdom From Our Community Spiritual Director

One of our goals as Christian disciples is to bear fruit. But why is it that bearing fruit is so difficult? Perhaps the problem is that we are trying too hard. Maybe we need to stop trying so hard! What! That's right: stop trying so hard. Fruit bearing isn't so much about bearing fruit as it is about being connected. IT is all about being connected. A branch lying beside the tree produces nothing. The branch on the tree, however, can and will bear fruit with the proper care and nurture Jesus put is succinctly, "Without me, you can do nothing." Plain and simple, isn't it?

Why is it then that the church is not bearing fruit and our branches are so disconnected? It seems that many of people have no organizational attachment to Jesus. There are the church committees, Sunday School classes, women's groups, men's groups, youth groups, administrative boards and other organizations attached to the church. These are all groups connected to Christ in an organizational sense. For some people, these groups hold a deeper spiritual meaning. Yet for many people they are simply another meeting. This deeper spiritual meaning is what

should matter. We, as disciples, are called to more than a simple organizational connection. We are called to an "organic connection." This means that we are actually attached to Jesus and drawing strength and life from that attachment. Anne Graham Lotz puts it this way, "They are like Spanish moss that is so close to the oak tree and even clings to the oak tree, but doesn't belong to the oak tree because there is no organic attachment." It really doesn't take much to get attached organizationally to the church, we have made that too easy in many ways (I say this as a pastor). But what we need is organic attachment, the real commitment to draw "sap" from the tree of life (Jesus). This is why we read over and over again in the New Testament that we are to be "in Christ." Spanish moss can cling all it wants to the oak tree, but it will never be an oak tree. Faith too is not about clinging, it is connecting. This connection is made through the new birth and the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, fasting worship and meditation.

I hope that as we prepare for Lent and the upcoming walks that we will prayerfully consider our love relationship with Jesus and strengthen that attachment. He is our key to fruit bearing.

In Him,

Janet Sweet Richardson

AGAPE: Two "OLD" Make One New

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your votes! I was pleased to be elected to serve a new three-year term on the Lansing Area Emmaus Board. It is a real blessing to be working for you with this great group of servants. Last summer, after 18 months of "retirement" from the Board, I accepted an appointment to fill as Mailroom Coordinator when Kathleen and Bill Silvers had to withdraw. It's great to be back into the swing of things again!

The new 2003 Board had an exciting overnight retreat in Dimondale the second weekend of January, where we worshiped, networked, made some good changes to the Board positions and

then selected our jobs for 2003. Each Board member was asked to make some goals for the new year.

One of the changes was to combine two "old" Board positions, Mailroom Coordinator and World Wide Agape Coordinator, and name the "new" position **AGAPE COORDINATOR**. That is the position that I will be serving in for the next year. My goals include revising the Mailroom Manual and train and build a team of computer savvy mailroom workers.

I'm looking for folks interested in working in the Mailroom during Walks. If you would like to serve in the Mailroom, **PLEASE** let me know! Computer skills are not necessary for all mailroom workers, but we do need folks with some basic computer skills. Don't hesitate, contact me today! Ph: 517-676-4495 (evening calls are best!), by e-mail @rrb323@yahoo.com or 2348 Dobie Rd, Mason MI 48854-9472.

I hope to see you at the next Gathering!
Blessings,
Roxi Bass, Lansing Walk #28,
May of '96, Table of Deborah

Hello, my name is Steve Louthan and I went on my walk to Emmaus in Oct. 1990 in Sturgis, MI and I sat at the table of

Joseph. I am the Logistics Coordinator (Aux Head) for the upcoming Boys High School Chrysalis, March 28-30 at the Grass Lake UMC. I am looking for people that may be interested in serving on the Auxiliary Team. Please contact me at (517) 566-8304 or e-mail me at smlouthan@voyager.net. Also if people are interested in applications for the Girls (March 7-9 @ Trinity UMC, Lansing) or Boys High School Chrysalis (Soph, Jr & Sr in H.S.), They can contact my wife, Betsy, since she will be helping out doing the Registration for the Spring Flights.

Steve & Betsy Louthan

Presenting Our NEW Web Page!

If you are amongst those who enjoy "surfing" the internet, stop by our new and improved website. With special thanks to Carol Lanfear, who works at Central Michigan University, our website now has a new look and is easier to navigate. Please stop by and check it out at:

<http://members.christhost.com/lansingemmaus/homepg.html>

Thank you Carol

Walk to Emmaus Celebrates 25th Anniversary, Four-Day Event

Come join the celebration. We are assembling a group to register for Early Bird Group Registration to attend this outstanding conference. Savings will be substantial. If we register a group by April 1, the cost for conference registration will be \$150 per person. If we get a group of 12 or more to register by the deadline, anyone who registers later from our Community will get the same group price. The price increases by steps, until after June 1, the cost per person is \$275. If you are considering going, please contact Elnora Wallin for details (517) 566-8452 owltalker@centurytel.net or get a brochure and sign up at the February gathering. We will need payment by the March Gathering to assure that we will make the deadline. For an idea of what is happening, I have included the following, which is most of the Press Release sent by Sherry Elliott, The Upper Room, Director of Marketing.

"We look forward to a festive fellowship of people from around the world who have participated in the Emmaus movement," says Rev. Stephen Bryant, editor and publisher of Upper Room Ministries, which launched the program in 1978. "Worship, music, and dynamic presentations will resound as we celebrate the many colors of God's grace as they shine through The Walk to Emmaus."

Guest speakers at the silver anniversary event will be:

- ✠ Dr. Tony Campolo, renowned commentator and author known for his tireless Christian service developing and nurturing schools, literacy centers, orphanages, AIDS hospices, urban youth ministries and Christian service programs around the world;
- ✠ Larnelle Harris, winner of five Grammys and 11 Dove Awards;
- ✠ Michael Hingson, who escaped the attack on the World Trade Center with the help of his guide dog;
- ✠ The Rev. Ison Tlholwe and the Rev. Christopher Harrison, key leaders in the development of Emmaus in Southern Africa;
- ✠ Dr. Eradio Valverde Jr., pastor who helped establish the Emmaus Walks in Spanish-speaking areas including Puerto Rico and the Rio Grande Conference of the United Methodist Church;
- ✠ Dr. Mickey Griffin, director of programming for Kairos Horizon Communities Corporation, who developed a program for the children of inmates that resulted in family reunifications and restorations;
- ✠ Dr. Robert Pierson, whose church has experienced "extraordinary growth" attributed to strong lay involvement; and
- ✠ Bishop Graciello Alvarez, member of the team who brought Emmaus into Mexico and Cuba, and who continues to serve as an Emmaus spiritual director and local church pastor.
- ✠ More than 80 workshops support the theme, "Making a World of Difference", including:
 - ✠ Becoming effective Christian leaders through Emmaus and Chrysalis;
 - ✠ Developing and enhancing the three-day model for Emmaus and Chrysalis;
 - ✠ Examining leadership issues such as strengthening reunion groups, building effective boards, dealing with diversity, coping with challenges in sponsorship and cultivating Emmaus in multi-cultural or multi-lingual settings;
 - ✠ Strengthening the congregation through prayer and discernment;
 - ✠ Exploring Upper Room programs and resources designed for spiritual growth and renewal;
 - ✠ Learning more about Emmaus communities in Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe, Australasia, and North America.
- ✠ Additional workshops include time with Michael Hingson; a lively, musical sing along; a chance to exchange hopes and dreams for the future of Emmaus; and a field trip to The Upper Room Chapel and Museum in Nashville.

Special workshops tracks designed for personal retreat will also be available for those seeking a time to enhance their prayer life, to practice spiritual discernment, to become more aware of God's grace, and to exercise the disciplines of piety, study, and Christian action.

Throughout the four-day celebration there will be opportunities for praise and worship, music and singing, and fellowship with Emmaus pilgrims from around the world. Pilgrims are encouraged to bring their community banners and stands for a Silver Anniversary parade that opens the Silver Anniversary festivities on Thursday night.

A Note from the Editor

Editor? Well actually my position is called Newsletter Coordinator. My name is Bill Schmidt and I took my walk in September, 2000 at Mount Hope United Methodist Church in Lansing and sat at the table of Luke. Although I am new to the board, I feel as if I am a veteran. I joined the board as 4th Day Coordinator last summer to fill the vacancy left when Tom and Terri Bentley moved. As Newsletter Coordinator, I have very difficult shoes to fill. Harry and Elnora did a fantastic job at the newsletter last year and I will be trying to continue that same quality. In order to provide a newsletter with meaningful data, I need everyone's assistance. If you look at the large newspapers, they have many people who contribute articles for the paper. That is where you the community comes in. If you have any articles or information that should be placed into our newsletter, please contact me via e-mail at bjschmidt@core.com, by phone at (989) 682-4153, or in person at any of the gatherings or walks. With your help, I will be able to continue the quality that you have come to enjoy with our newsletter.

I look forward to serving you this year and am anxious to see what God has in store for me in the future.

God Loves You And So Do I,
Bill Schmidt

Prayer is such a simple thing to do, yet it is so powerful. How did you feel when you knew someone was praying for you for your whole 72 hour walk? Amazed? Grateful? Loved? Humbled? Can't physically help at the walks? You don't have to be present to pray. All you have to do is contact me at (517)669-5687 or e-mail me at msfelton@pplant.msu.edu and I will sign you up.

Keryx Walk #13 at Boyer Road Correctional Facility in Carson City Feb. 14-17.

Men's Walk #55 at Central Free Methodist Church in Lansing March 13-16.

Women's Walk #56 at Eaton Rapids UMC in Eaton Rapids April 3-6.

G.L.Y.A.S.D.I.

Michon Felton

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Anne Spalding

August 27, 1946 - December 28, 2002

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

We have already had 3 meetings of the Board of Directors so far this year.

The first meeting was a two day retreat to discuss the different positions on the Board and to assign new positions for the upcoming year. Each Board member made a list of goals to be accomplished during this year. Some positions were combined to create one, one was deleted, and a new one was created. Those to note are the new Agape position which combines Mail Room and World Wide Agape into one position which was filled by Roxi Bass. A brand new position to the Board is the Training coordinator. Garnet Chappell will serve as our Training coordinator for this year.

At our first regular board meeting in January, our new Community Lay Direc-

tor, Harry Wallin led us through his first meeting since being appointed this position only 3 days earlier. The Board position, Setup/Tear-down, was officially assigned under the Board Auxiliary Coordinator after it was deleted as an official position during our Board retreat.

A sub committee was established to make suggestions on how to use the funds that we may receive from the newly established Mary Anne Spalding Memorial.

Leon Martin was appointed to be our Chrysalis liaison. Leon will contact the Chrysalis Community and will be attending their meetings.

Much discussion ensued about who should have access to our "Community List". It was decided that only those forming walk teams or other Lansing Area Emmaus Community projects. The "List" is not available for general distribution. To clarify the Boards position, a statement will

appear on the "List", registration forms, and the newsletter. You can see this on the back page.

In our February Board meeting, Harry updated us on the current registrations for the 25th Anniversary Celebration. We currently have 10 people registered. We still need at least two to register prior to April 1. If you are interested, please contact Harry.

We voted to have the web pages that Carol Lanfear has developed to go live to the general community. See more about this on page 4. Thanks go out to Carol for an excellent website.

The teams for both the men's and women's walks have begun meeting to prepare for the walks. This is a very important part of the preparations for a well run walk. Please continue to pray for both teams.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

OUR WALKS ARE NOT YET FILLED!

**There is still plenty of room.
Register your Pilgrims Today.**

Registration is always open. We currently have four registered for the Men's Walk, March 13-16, 2003 at Central Free U.M.C. in Lansing and seven for the Women's Walk, April 3-6, 2003 at Eaton Rapids U.M.C. If any one needs registration forms they can call Karen Weller, Registrar at 989-875-4202 or e-mail kweller@edzone.net. We can also e-mail forms to those who have Adobe Acrobat reader. There will be "Sponsorship Training" at most gatherings for those who would like to take it.

The Lansing Area Emmaus Community Board of Directors (LAECBOD) considers the "Community List" proprietary information. It is customary however, for the LAECBOD to provide name, mailing address, phone number and e-mail address information on a very limited basis to persons forming walk teams and LAEC projects. The list is not available for general distribution.

Trinity U.M.C.
Lansing Area Emmaus
7533 W. St. Joseph Hwy
Lansing, MI 48917
February 2003

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 27-Mar. 2** Men *NE Emmanuel* Vanderbilt Community Church, Vanderbilt, MI.
- Mar. 6-9** Women *NE Emmanuel* Vanderbilt Community Church, Vanderbilt, MI.
Men *West MI* Shelby U.M.C., Shelby, MI.
- Mar. 7-9 *Chrysalis* Girls, Trinity U.M.C. Lansing
- Mar. 9** *Lansing* Gathering, Trinity U.M.C. Lansing, 7:30 P.M.
In conjunction with the Chrysalis candlelight.
- March 13-16** Women *West MI* Shelby U.M.C., Shelby, MI.
Men *Lansing* Central Free Methodist Church, Lansing.
- Mar. 20-23** Men *Kalamazoo* Sturgis First U.M.C.
- Mar. 27-30** Women *Kalamazoo* Sturgis First UMC
Men *Mid-Michigan* Bay City First Presbyterian Church
- March 28-30 *Chrysalis* Boys *H.S.* Grass Lake UMC
- March 29** **Deadline for Newsletter items for Next Issue**
Contact Bill Schmidt at (989) 682-4153 or by e-mail.
- April 1** **25th Anniversary International Emmaus Celebration registration early bird deadline.**
- April 3-6** Women *Lansing* Eaton Rapids U.M.C., Eaton Rapids
Women *Mid-Michigan* Bay City First Presbyterian Church
- April 12** *Lansing* Gathering, Trinity U.M.C. Lansing, 4:30 P.M.
Both Men and Women Walk follow-ups and 4th Day.
- April 24-27** Men *Superiorland* Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Negaunee, MI.
- May 1-4** Women *Superiorland* Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Negaunee, MI.
- July 24-27** 25th Anniversary International Emmaus Celebration.
Nashville, TN.
- Please Note: Lansing Spring Men's Walk date change. It was March 6-9, and now is March 13-16.**

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