

Lansing Emmaus Community

Footprints



Number 05-04

<http://www.lansingemmaus.truepath.com>

July - August 2005

Enjoy Those Lazy Hazy Crazy Days Of Summer!

Hurray! It's summer! Nice long days to garden, swim, go on a great vacation or just stay home and swing in your favorite hammock. While your Board of Directors will try to enjoy summer activities with their families and friends, they sure don't have time to be lazy!

We are all involved in getting everything set for **the Women's Fall Walk that will be held October 13-16 at Eaton Rapids First UMC**. Our **REGISTRAR**, Pam Wyrick, has been processing applications for Walk #62, and for the Walks scheduled for February 23-26 and March 9-12. Don't hesitate on getting your applications in! You can download applications and get the latest LAE information at www.lansingemmaus.truepath.com

LOGISTICS Team Leader, Bob Pena, has the Auxiliary and Kitchen Heads in place for this Fall, and is already seeking folks to fill those positions in February and March. Please contact him if you would like to work in Auxiliary, even if you have indicated your interest somewhere, somehow in the past. We have found that even though we try to keep track of these requests to serve, we need reminders!

Another roster we would like to enhance is the one for folks interested in leading **MUSIC**, either on Walks or at Gatherings. Please contact our **Music** Team Leader, John Lord, if you would like to be part of our music team. John reported that on May 13th a new record of Community Members receiving Sponsorship Training was set! Well over one hundred Sponsor's were trained! WOW!

Michon Felton is busy planning the **GATHERINGS** scheduled at Pilgrim UMC for July 8th, August 12th and September 9th. The second Friday of October is during the Fall Woman's Walk, so we will not have a Gathering, but encourage everyone to bring a snack to share and fellowship with us before the **CANDLELIGHT** on Saturday October 15th in Eaton Rapids.

Joann McCrum and her team will be at the Candlelight in October, and at the Gatherings in November and December so you will be able to purchase LAE clothing and other treasures from our **EMMAUS STORE**, formerly known as the Book Table. LAE merchandise makes great thank you, birthday and Christmas gifts!

Our **OUTREACH** Team Leader, Kathy Wilson, has put together a great team, and they are working to help Community members form and maintain Reunion Groups (4th Day). You can help by contacting Kathy with your questions and requests. Another way you can help is to serve as an Emmaus Liaison - a person who shares information and answers questions about Emmaus in their home church. One great way to share information is for every church that has a LAE Community member to have an Emmaus bulletin board. There are several folks already maintaining an Emmaus Bulletin Board, and it would be very helpful if you would contact Kathy and let her know that you are already maintaining a board, or would like to!

Cont. Pg 2

In This Issue:

Here's what you can expect to find:

- 1) Lay Directors Report
- 2) Pastor's Paragraph - Are you energized?
Agape & Gathering Update
- 3) Board Members
- 4) Outreach (4th Day/Reunion Groups)
- 5) Insights from the Emmaus Handbook, Goodness
The ZZZZZzzzzz's Are Back
- 6) Upcoming Events

A Message from Pastor Becky

Are you energized? If we are to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world, we have to keep on.....keep on praying....keep on studying....keep on serving for the glory of God. Recently, I read the following in Homiletics magazine (1995).

If you've missed the battery ads featuring that perpetual-motion machine, the Energizer Bunny, you've been living on another planet these past few years. No matter how many obstacles are put in his path or how ingeniously the opposition plots against him, the Bunny just "keeps going, and going, and going, ..."

Have you ever wondered why the battery company uses the "Energizer," this intrusive, in-your-face, bass drum-beating, sometimes even destructive pink rabbit as its logo? According to the laws of physics, the more havoc this little fuzzy creature leaves in his wake, the more he truly is an energizer. De-construction -- breaking walls down, tearing apart boundaries, bursting bubbles -- always results in the release of energy. According to the laws of marketing, you need something to break you out of your sated, cynical, I've-seen-this-all-before stance. Just when you think this commercial is like a thousand others you've seen before,

there appears on your screen this smiling rabbit -- which forces you out of your routine, protected ways of looking at commercials and opens you to a new way of appreciating the message. Once again, deconstruction releases energy: hence "The Energizer."

The Energizer Bunny is a de-constructionist. When he comes on the scene, we know things are going to be different from what we have come to expect. His drum-banging, de-constructive presence is the sign of newness and change.

The purpose of the Walk to Emmaus is to develop Christian leaders for service in the local church. Whether you took your walk last month, last year or years ago...we are called to be "Energized" to serve Christ in new and exciting ways. Being energized only comes when we keep on.....keep on praying...keep on studying...keep on serving for the glory of God. Then God will use us to be de-constructionist as well to help break down barriers so God's love can bring about newness and change in the lives of those we meet.

God bless you as you continue to "Energizer" the world around you.

Pastor Becky

It is never too early to begin to think about those special Agape gifts for the next walk.

Remember how touched you were when you came back to the Conference Room, or entered the Dining Hall, or got ready for bed - and there were all those wonderful reminders of God's love. I am always amazed at your ingenious ideas. Those special verses that you have taken time to make into a "hands on" form.

Let's all get busy and make the Fall Women's Walk that much more special for those Pilgrims with your gifts of Agape Love. Remember the Upper Room Handbook states that only names of 4th Day and Reunion Groups are to be on the Agape - NO personal names please!

In Christ's love, Janet Ball, Agape Coordinator

LANSING AREA EMMAUS GATHERING UPDATE

Fellowship, Friends, Food, Fun, Worship, and Holy Communion always make for a great Emmaus evening. Our Emmaus Gatherings are on the second Friday of each month. The church is opened about 6:00 p.m., and we'll enjoy our Pot Luck at 6:30. In May, the Salem UMC was filled to capacity!! Many thanks to Salem for being such a gracious host and to all of the wonderful people who helped set-up and clean-up.

In July we return to Pilgrim UMC for our Gatherings. The dates are: July 8, August 12, & September 9.

Pilgrim UMC is located at 2965 W. Parks Rd. south of St. Johns. Be sure to mark your calendars for these dates! Remember, the web page has maps and the latest information. www.lansingemmaus.truepath.com

You are always welcome to help with table decorations, singing, giving a testimony, or doing a skit. If you would like to do any of this, please e-mail me at msfelton@pplant.msu.edu or call at 517-669-5687. See YOU there! Bring a FRIEND! and a dish to pass, your own table service and beverage. Michon Felton

Cont. From pg 1 **ACLD** and **TEAM SELECTION** Team Leader, Judy McPherson and her team have been doing double time forming lists for the Fall Walk, and nominees for the Fall Board election. Judy also provides helpful Emmaus Handbook training to the Board at nearly every monthly meeting. Fall Walk Lay Director, Doris Edgar, is busy calling folks from the list that Team Selection Team provided to build her Conference Room Team. Another Board member doing double duty is Cori Felpausch, our **SECRETARY** and **SUPPLY** Team Leader. Cori informed us at our June meeting that the trailer will be stocked, loaded and ready to go well before the next Walk.

LAE **TREASURER**, Eddy Shepherd has been working hard to keep our books in tip top shape, and Elnora Wallin, **PRAYER VIGIL** Team Leader and Prayer Chain Coordinator reports that we will soon be ready to get on line to sign up to participate in the 72 hour prayer vigil for the Fall Walk.

AGAPE Team Leader, Janet Ball, is constantly receiving and sending World Wide Agape letters and making sure that the Mail Room for each Walk is stocked with supplies and people!

Michele Childs is serving in two challenging Board positions as the **DATA / NEWSLETTER** Team Leader. The data base constantly needs updating, and compiling the Newsletter is a large, bi-monthly project. Michele welcomes articles from LAE Community members.

Becky Morrison, serving LAE as **Community Spiritual Director** has been busy seeking Walk Spiritual Directors for upcoming Walks, and she had a great report for us at the June Board meeting. ACSD Marty Cobb is our newest Board member, and a very welcome addition. I would like to thank Pat Skinner who recently stepped down as an ACSD, for all of her years of love and service. All of our pastors are true blessings to our Community!

The real LAE Community Leader is Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit is invited to attend and lead every meeting, Walk, Gathering and Candlelight. No matter what the season, Jesus Christ is our Savior, our power source. What joy it is to follow His lead!

Don't forget to invite the Holy Spirit along to share your Lazy, Hazy Crazy Days of Summer! Stay cool, and I'll see you at the next Gathering!

Blessings, Roxi Bass, Community Lay Director, Lansing Area Emmaus Community

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After reading Roxi's Lay Directors article, feel free to contact any of us. Also, you can get more information from the Lansing Area Emmaus (LAE) Website at:
www.lansingemmaus.truepath.com

* **Music, Sponsor's Hour, Candlelight, Closing, & Sponsor's Training**

Reunion Groups - Fourth Day Groups

There have been inquiries about Reunion Groups and how you become involved in one. The process itself is very easy although the question is not. Let me explain. The Lansing Area Emmaus spans over a considerable area. We have Community Members all the way from Grass Lake to Clare. We even have one new member in the U.P.! But even with this distance factor, there are members in Reunion Groups who meet weekly or bi-weekly.

It's not hard to start a reunion group, and I'm using this article to explain ways to do just that. The first thing you need to do is pray that God, through the Holy Spirit, will guide you to the 'friends in Christ' who could/should be in the group. Then consider starting a group with your new Emmaus friends whom you met on your Walk. Or you could ask others who live in the same area as you, if they would like to start a group. Or you could ask to join an already established group.

The set up a meeting with those who are interested in forming a group, and pray. Pray for what God would have happen in your lives and in the life of this group. Remember to bring either your Service Sheet or your Purple Book, which you received on your Walk.

After your prayer time the group can discuss when, where, what time, and how often you want to meet. After these questions are answered, now is a good time to go through your Service Sheet, or Purple Book (pages 46-48) together for the first time! It's all right if you feel a little nervous or uncomfortable, that's normal. Remember you are on a journey, God has a plan just for you, and this is another step of that journey. Then meet on a regular basis.

If you would like some help, ask your sponsor, someone in an already established group, a close Emmaus friend, your Pastor, or me. I am always available to meet with you. My e-mail address and phone number are at the end of this article. **I want all of you to remember one important part to all of this. A successful reunion group is not accomplished by human effort alone. It is only possible with the gift and help of the Holy Spirit, who is the presence of Christ in each of our lives.** These groups allow us to help each other to grow through the grace of Christ, to shape us and help us grow into the image of Christ.

Points to keep in mind:

It is recommended that your group consist of 4-7 people.

The group members do not need to have attended a Walk to Emmaus.

Confidentiality is very important. You and the others in the group must be able to trust each other.

It is always a good idea to have a clear starting and ending time, and perhaps an idea of how long each person should share on each question. That way everyone will have a chance to share.

Be on time for your meeting, that's another part of accountability.

Please let me know when a group has successfully started so it can be added to the group list. A committee is forming which will keep track of the groups and assist in helping to form new groups.

Again, I want to encourage all of you to participate in a reunion group if you have not already done so. They can be very influential in our lives. I would like to leave you with this quote from a member of the Reunion Committee.

"My Reunion Group has been there through all the stuff that has happened to me in the last few years. I don't know what I would have done without them. We are a very strong group and we sincerely care about each other."

This is but one of the many blessings that come from a Reunion Group!

DeColores! Kathy Wilson, Outreach Coordinator

Phone Number, 989-862-5693, E-mail Address, kw543210@yahoo.com

Insights from the Emmaus Handbook, written by Karen Weller, Team Selection Team, for Judy McPherson, Assistant Community Lay Director

The Spirit of the Walk to Emmaus: In Galatians 5:22-26, Paul lists characteristics of the Holy Spirit manifested in people's attitudes and behavior, which he calls "fruit of the Spirit". This fruit also represents the character of a team properly formed in the spirit of Jesus Christ. This is the fruit we want the pilgrims to feast on throughout the weekend.

GOODNESS . . .

A fruit being grafted to the true vine of Jesus Christ is the *goodness* of God's self-giving and sacrificial love. Jesus said, "No one is good but God alone" (Mark 10:18). Jesus embodied the fullness of God's *goodness* in selfless love and servanthood.

"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even on a cross" (Phil. 2:5-8).

Jesus, through his sacrificial love, gave up his advantage *over* other human beings in order to become an advantage *to* them; he surrendered his divine credentials so he could live without distinction as a human among humans, thereby bringing God's grace to them. Jesus, as a humble servant, called attention to God, not to himself. He accomplished what he did under authority; not of his own accord. He did not belong to himself; he was the healing hands and saving Word of God. His success was God's success; he found his reward in God's glory.

The team and Emmaus community should manifest the same spirit of selfless love and humble servanthood on the Walk. In fact, team membership and community support responsibilities for the Walk should be understood as spiritual exercises in selfless love and Christian servanthood. Team members' own need for affirmation and attention is real but should be cared for as much as possible during team meetings prior to the Walk and during the nightly team meetings during the Walk. Team members need to be free to serve the pilgrims during the weekend without their egos getting in the way.

Egos can become stumbling blocks along the way when team members find themselves calling attention to their own or each other's giftedness or sacrificial goodness or acting out of a personal need for recognition. Egos become stumbling blocks whenever team members make themselves the center of attention with their humor, their presumption of authority, or by displaying their gifts, rather than using gifts to turn the pilgrim's attention to Jesus Christ and to building up the community.

There is no place in the Walk to Emmaus for personal or team glorification. Every part of the method and the manner of the Walk should put Jesus Christ at the center, call attention to Christ's *goodness* and not the team's, and foster Christian community among all pilgrims on The Walk to Emmaus.

- Excerpts from the Upper Room Handbook, Chapter 8: Spirit of the Walk (pages 68-70)

The Lansing Area Emmaus Classifieds, Or Ways YOU Can Help!

Do you remember those ZZZZZZZZZzzzzzzzz's from the May-June Emmaus Newsletter?

Well, They're Back, at least the for the Mattress Fundraiser.

You see, our sleeping mats are wearing out, and we have an opportunity to replace them. But, in order to do this we need to raise \$1,700.00. We are 1/3 of the way towards this goal, and that's good, but we need your help to reach the finish! Several of you have already made contributions to this special fund. And we believe that more of you want to. You can make a tax deductible check out to Lansing Area Emmaus and send it to our Board Supply Coordinator, Cori Feldpausch. Her address is 11780 State Rd. Eagle MI 48822, her phone number is 517-627-6957. You may also make a donation in memory or honor of someone, just include this information with your donation. Thank you again for your help and support!

Pilgrim U.M.C.
Lansing Area Emmaus
2965 West Parks Road
St. Johns, MI 48879

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Upcoming Events

- July 8 *Lansing* Gathering, 6:30 PM at Pilgrim UMC
- July 12 *Lansing* Emmaus Board Meeting 6:30 PM at Pilgrim UMC
- Aug. 9 *Lansing* Emmaus Board Meeting 6:30 PM at Pilgrim UMC
- Aug. 12 *Lansing* Gathering, 6:30 PM at Pilgrim UMC
- Sept. 9 *Lansing* Gathering, 6:30 PM at Pilgrim UMC
- Sept. 13 *Lansing* Emmaus Board Meeting 6:30 PM at Pilgrim UMC
- Oct. 11 *Lansing* Emmaus Board Meeting 6:30 PM at Pilgrim UMC
- Oct. 13-16 2005 *Lansing Emmaus Women's Walk at Eaton Rapids UMC in Eaton Rapids AND THE OCT. Lansing Candlelight Gathering is on Oct. 15, 7:30 PM at Eaton Rapids UMC in Eaton Rapids***

PLEASE NOTE:

When we gather together for Candlelight, on Saturday night during a Walk, we call it a "Candlelight Gathering held at 7:30 pm"—no potluck.

- Oct. 28-30, 2005 Chrysalis Girls Flight (ages 15-18)
- Nov 11-13, 2005 Chrysalis Boys Flight (ages 15-18) Both Flights to be held at the Second Reformed Church in Kalamazoo
- The Chrysalis Registrar is Becky Wolfinger
Her phone number is 517-522-4165

2006

Looking Ahead!

- Feb 23-26, 2006 *Lansing* Emmaus Men's Walk
- Mar 9-12, 2006 *Lansing* Emmaus Women's Walk
- Both Walks to be held at the New Hope UMC in Mecosta

GOD LOVES YOU AND SO DO WE ! DECOLORES

See more Walk dates, maps and other news at the Lansing Area Emmaus (LAE) Web Site:
<http://www.lansingemmaus.truepath.com>