

# Lansing Emmaus Community Footprints

Number 07-1



February - March, 2007

Community Lay Director, Andrew Sass  
(517) 627-0452, [to4cc2me@comcast.net](mailto:to4cc2me@comcast.net)

Outreach Coordinator, Kathy Wilson  
(989) 862-5693, [kw543210@yahoo.com](mailto:kw543210@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Coordinator, Harry Wallin  
(517) 566-8452 [owltalker@centurytel.net](mailto:owltalker@centurytel.net)

My Aunt Shirl, not really my aunt, but my mom's neighbor when she was a child, and lifelong friend recently sent me an email about three of God's creatures. It talked about a buzzard, bat and bumblebee. It contained some facts about these animals. It told how the buzzard always takes at least 8 running steps to take off and fly, so will not even try to fly if it is inside a fenced area 10 feet in diameter. The message told of the bumble bee, which, if inside a glass or jar, will not try to fly up, but will continue to fly around and around, never moving up, so remains trapped. It also told how the bat, an extremely agile flyer, cannot take off from the ground, but must drop from some elevation, so if it is on the ground, it cannot fly. It concluded by saying how much we resemble these creatures, and that we need only look up to God, our source of life and all things good.

I liked the conclusion, but I saw several other ways in which my walk is like that of these animals. The buzzard always takes at least 8 running steps, so, even though the pen is open at the top, and the buzzard CAN fly, it won't even try. Freedom only takes the buzzard using the abilities that God gave it. I can imagine the buzzard thinking several things to itself: "I've always taken at least 8 steps before take off, so flying is impossible." "I'm safe and protected right here. There may be predators out there." "What if I try and hit the fence?" The buzzard has this amazing talent that God gave it – the ability to fly. Because it will not even try, it will stay a captive.

The bumble bee's problem is similar to the buzzard. It can fly, and is already flying! All it has to do is use its talent to go up instead of around and around to gain its freedom. The difference with the bumble bee is that it is already flying, and only has to go higher, which is easily

within its ability. Perhaps the bee is thinking to itself, "I know there must be an exit here somewhere, I must just have missed it." "If I keep going around here, I'll find what I missed." If I keep this up, something is bound to change." "At least I'm not stuck on the ground like the buzzard and the bat!"

The bat is stuck on the ground. Perhaps it wanted to see what it was like down there and got trapped, and now must endure what could be a very long and painful struggle to get back to the life in the air.

I see many similarities between these creatures and myself. How many times have I not even tried to use the talents that God gave me out of fear? How many times have I continued in a nice, level existence, cruising around and around on my God-given talents to go nowhere instead of using them and taking flight to live the life that He intended for me? And how many times have I done something stupid and been "grounded," causing myself and others agony?

One other thought was that I have abilities so that, with almost no effort at all, I could alleviate these conditions for each of these creatures. I could open the pen, tip the jar on its side, give the bat a flip in the air (with an EXTREMELY long tool). In relating that to my life, I asked myself, how many times have I failed to do something so simple as to offer a much needed word of encouragement, or offered an hour or so if my time to help another. I pray that God will open our eyes so that we can see the opportunities that He has provided for us, and give us the strength to do as He would have us do.

May God Bless and Keep You,  
Andy Sass, Community Lay Director <>

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Here's what you can expect  
to find.

- ✦ **Page 2:** Complete Board list; Walk 66 Progress Report, Men's Walk Coming Soon
- ✦ **Page 3:** Community Bylaws; Where is Your Treasure; Prayer Vigil Needs You!
- ✦ **Page 4:** Board Minutes
- ✦ **Page 5:** Where Does Our Money Go?; Emmaus Members In Mission; What's up with the Newsletter?
- ✦ **Page 6:** What's Up with the Newsletter, continued; Upcoming Events

## LANSING AREA EMMAUS BOARD 2007

Name	Position	Phone	E-mail	Expires
Janet Ball	Secretary Agape Coordinator	(231) 972-7335	ljball6@hotmail.com	2007
Lyle Ball	Treasurer Supply Coordinator Site Selection	(231) 972-7335	ljball6@hotmail.com	2008
Rev. Andy Croel	Community Spiritual Director	(517) 646-6530	pastorandycroel@sbcglobal.net	2008
Terrie Eisenmann	Registrar	(989) 561-2578	terrieblue@power-net.net	2007
Rev. Charlie Farnum	Asst. Community Spiritual Director	(989) 772-4759	charlie.farnum@yahoo.com	2008
Russ Fries	Sponsorship, Candlelight, and Closing Coordinator	(810)625-5296	R.fries@mi.ftpd.us	2007
Judy Hazle	Auxiliary Coordinator	(989) 224-4260	hazle@ceicmh.org	2007
JoAnn McCrum	Emmaus Store	(517) 468-3480	mccrummjl@state.mi.us	2007
Rev. Becky Morrison	Asst. Community Spiritual Director	(517) 645-4526	pumcpastor@cablespeed.com	2005
Andrew Sass	Community Lay Director	(517) 627-0452	to4cc2me@comcast.net	2008
David Stinson	Gathering Coordinator	(517) 886-3753	stidvd@hotmail.com	2007
Elnora Wallin	Past C.L.D.	(517) 566-8452	owltalker@centurytel.net	2007
Harry Wallin	Data Manager	(517) 566-8452	owltalker@centurytel.net	2007
Kathy Wilson	Assistant C.L.D. Outreach Coordinator	(989) 862-5693	Kw543210@yahoo.com	2007

### PROGRESS REPORT ON WALK #66:

The Spring Ladies' Walk #66 will soon be here. It's scheduled for March 15-18 at Mason United Methodist Church.

We praise God for filling all of the conference room positions in a timely manner. They were not filled early but timed to teach me patience, not filled easily but challenging enough to help me understand perseverance, and not filled as my team but the right people in the right positions to form what is clearly God's team.

Our first training meeting was held January 27<sup>th</sup> at Alma U.M.C. We got acquainted, established prayer partners, and took a giant step in the process of bonding into one body joined together to serve our Lord. Three more training sessions are scheduled for us to preview talks, pray for pilgrims, share in communion and continue the process of growing into a strong functioning team.

Thanks for your interest in our preparations and for your prayers. We trust you will continue to pray for what the Lord will do on walk #66.

W.L.D. Walk #66, Mary Hammond

### **MEN'S WALK COMING SOON!!!**

As of March 1, there were 12 men registered for the upcoming Men's Walk. That puts us in excellent shape to make the minimum of 20 pilgrims by Thursday April 5 for the Walk which will take place Thursday through Sunday, April 19-22. Let's pray and work for a full walk of 36 men! Also, don't forget to sign up for the Prayer Vigil as well. It is accessible through our Website –

[www.lansingemmaus.truepath.com](http://www.lansingemmaus.truepath.com). If you don't have an internet connection, contact Dave Stinson (see Board Information, p. 2) We will also try to have computers available at Gatherings and at the Women's Walk candle-light for people to sign up. The internet site, [www.3dayol.org](http://www.3dayol.org), will also allow you to sign up for other Prayer Vigils around the world. As long as you're praying for one Emmaus Walk, why not find another that is happening the same weekend, and sign up for the same time slot.

## COMMUNITY BYLAWS

At the January 12, 2007 gathering, the community voted on the proposed bylaws that had been previously published on the website and in the newsletter. Votes were called by Judy McPherson, and indepen-

dent tallies were kept by Russ Fries and Andy Sass. The final vote was 44 in favor of adopting the proposed bylaws and 0 against adopting them. Final certification of the Bylaws was on the Board agenda for the February 13, 2007 meeting. They were approved unanimously.

## WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?

(A Word from our Spiritual Director)

...store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:20-21

These words from Jesus' teaching in Matthew come from the Sermon on the Mount, a great section of teaching from Jesus, and a very challenging section of scripture. Many times these verses above are connected with storing up monies or wealth or stuff here on earth as opposed to treasures in heaven. And, while this connection is a good one to make, I wonder if there isn't much more to it than that.

The Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday includes some portions of Matthew 6, namely verse 1-6 and 16-21. In these verses Jesus instructs his followers on things such as fasting, and alms giving. He is giving them basic instructions on piety, and he says in verse 1 that we should not practice our piety in front of others in order to be seen by them. In fact, he says, "beware" of doing that, because then you won't be rewarded by your Father in heaven. So, what is going on here? Is it as simple as God's not liking show-offs, so God won't reward you if you do? Perhaps, but that seems a bit trite I think. Maybe there is something else going on. These acts of piety are actually gifts to us, I believe. In fact, in the Methodist tradition, John Wesley viewed acts of giving, praying, and fasting as "means of grace". He believed that through these activities you tapped into a channel of God's grace that would transform you. This means that we are not fasting to impress God or force his hand to do something. That's a good thing, because how could you really impress God? Instead, it is a way for us to nurture and allow growth for that part of us that is in relationship with God. It is a way to develop our spiritual lives.

Lent has traditionally been a time of following Jesus into the wilderness and taking time to pray, connect with God, and grow spiritually. Perhaps, we won't be rewarded if we do these things openly because then we really aren't humbly working on our spiritual selves, but rather we're just trying to impress God or someone else. And if we are not opening ourselves up to these means of grace in an authentic way, then we find ourselves outside of the stream of grace that God is pouring out. Perhaps Jesus is telling us more about what it means to be humans in relationship with God than about a God who is a giant behaviorist, doling out rewards and punishments according to his whims.

So, we have a choice this season. We can ignore the call to develop our spiritual lives and do what we want. We can be pious so that all others can see it, and then really impress them. But both of those things have their rewards here and now. Those choices seem to feed our flesh or feed our pride. There is another choice, and that is to humbly deny ourselves of some things in order to focus on feeding that part of us that is growing in a relationship with God by his grace. At the end of these instructions on piety, Jesus then tells his disciples, don't store up treasures and rewards for yourself here on earth (those are temporary). Store up treasures in heaven. Use this time to make an eternal difference in your life and the lives of others. Remember this season, where your treasure is, your heart is also.

May God bless you on your Lenten journey.

Pastor Andy

## PRAYER VIGIL NEEDS YOU!!!

Please help us cover the Walk and the Flight with prayer. The Men's Walk has 133 out of 144 slots still available, so there are still plenty of prime times available. The Girls' Flight with Flight of Hope Chrysalis is March 22-25, and 69 out of 72 slots are still available. Come on prayer warriors, **WE NEED YOU!**

## YOUR EMMAUS BOARD

Did you ever wonder what goes on at a Lansing Area Emmaus Board meeting? We hope so. Here are the minutes of the last meeting to satisfy your curiosity, as well as to give you a better feel for what we do there. Please take the time to read it over. You may find an area that interests you. Board members all have at least enough to do. Many of them are actively seeking committee members to help them in their area of service. If you see something that intrigues you, please take the time to contact one of your servants, the Board members. Join us in service.

### LANSING AREA EMMAUS – BOARD MINUTES – FEBRUARY 20, 2007 PILGRIM UMC—St. Johns

**Opening prayer and devotion:** The Prayer to the Holy Spirit was led by Andy Sass.

**Secretary: Janet Ball.** Lyle moved to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2007 meeting. Dave Stinson seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasurer: Lyle Ball.** Balance reported \$5,193.49. Janet Ball moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented pending audit. Elnora Wallin seconded. Motion carried.

**Community Spiritual Director: Rev. Andy Croel** No report.

**Assistant Community Spiritual Director: Rev. Becky Morrison/Rev. Charlie Farnum.** No report.

**Assistant Community Lay Director: Kathy Wilson.** No report.

**Community Lay Director: Andy Sass.** CLD attended the first meeting for the Women's Team. He has received and reviewed the Covenant Agreement from Emmaus. This will be signed by the LAE Board of Directors at the March Gathering. Andy has met with Team Selection for assignments of talks for the women's walk and to get potential names for men's walk conference room. Andy has transferred information, etc. to Judy Hazle (Aux/Kitchen Coordinator). He has also checked the bylaws regarding meeting attendance by board members. Information on the LAE website has been updated and the walks have been added to the 3dayol.org website. Andy has contacted Jeff Shultz (Men's LD) and Jeff will begin getting his team set.

**Agape – Janet Ball:** Women's walk mailroom is full, but still need some help for the Men's walk. There is a need to get some of the cover sheets colored, planning on getting them out to 4<sup>th</sup> Day Groups.

**Auxiliary / Kitchen – Judy Hazle:** Eric Harger is the Kitchen Head for the Women's walk. Auxiliary Heads are making calls and getting positions filled.

**Data Manager / Newsletter – Harry Wallin:** Harry has spent considerable time getting the mailing list updated and ready to go for this mailing. Tom Mason is working on setting up a data base for the community. Harry will be setting up an e-mail mailing list, hoping to cut the cost of the newsletter postage. The February - March newsletter will be a bit late, but the April - May one will be as close to on time as possible. The desk top computer needs servicing. Harry will check into this after the spring walks.

**Emmaus Store – Joann McCrum:** No report.

**Gatherings / Prayer Vigil – Dave Stinson:** The March and April Gatherings will be at Pilgrim, but the May Gathering will be at New Life UMC, Six Lakes. There will be a computer on-line and ready for people to sign up for both prayer vigils at the next Gathering.

**Outreach – Kathy Wilson:** Kathy has revised the sign-up sheet that will be used at the Gatherings. The more detailed one will be

used at the first Gathering after walks to insure the information is correct and can be added to the data base.

**Sponsorship / Candlelight / Closing – Russ Fries:** Sponsorship Training was conducted at both the January and February Gatherings. Russ has Ray Francis helping with this training. Russ will be using Ray at both walks – to help with the training, candlelight and closing. *Andy Sass will contact Ned Weller about obtaining any Emmaus information that he may still have that could help Russ and Ray.* There was a discussion about when to have Sponsor's Training at the Gatherings. Holding it after the communion service makes it a very long night. Suggestions were taken and Russ may try something new next time.

**Registrar – Terrie Eisenmann:** There are 7 men and 10 women registered at this point. There was a Scholarship Request by a woman. Russ Fries moved to grant this scholarship. Harry Wallin seconded. Motion carried.

**Supplies / Site – Lyle Ball:** Supplies are set. Various churches were mentioned for the fall women's walk site. *Lyle will continue to make calls.*

**Team Selection – Elnora Wallin / Judy McPherson:** The new Team Selection team is Judy McPherson, Sue Neff, Gordon Galloway, Renee Hahn, Judy Goudie, Alex Goudie and Elnora Wallin.

#### Other Business:

1. Lyle Ball moved to approve the amended LAE bylaws. Harry Wallin seconded. Motion carried.
2. *This was the first meeting that was held after having members e-mail their reports out to the board. It was decided to do it again next month.*
3. Janet had updated the Board Members Duties/Responsibilities information. ***The major change was to delete "Music" from the titles, as that job is now divided among Team Selection, Gathering Coordinator and Candlelight and Closing Coordinator.***
4. There was an appeal from an Emmaus family doing mission work in Mississippi for funds from the area. ***It was decided that the Board of Directors could not send Emmaus funds for mission work.*** It was suggested that there be a column in the newsletter informing the community about Emmaus people doing missions here and around the world, which could include contribution information.
5. Andy had received an application for an International Lay Director for the Emmaus/Chrysalis movement.
6. *A discussion was held on placing some of our funds in a short-term CD or other investment opportunity. This was tabled for the March meeting so members could do some fact finding.*
7. There is a concern that the board lacks communication with the local church Emmaus liaisons. Ideas were discussed, but no action was taken at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm with prayer.

In Christ's Service,

Janet Ball  
Secretary

Have you wondered where our Community's money comes from and where it goes? Our treasurer, Lyle Ball answers those questions for us.

Cash Flow 1/1/2006 through 3/1/2007

**INFLOWS**

Uncategorized 0.00  
 Auxillary fees  
 Mens 1,015.33  
 Women 2,108.00  
 TOTAL Auxillary fees 3,123.33  
 Book table income 2,786.96  
 Buttons 12.00  
 Conference Team Fees  
 Mens 740.11  
 Womens 1,955.00  
 TOTAL Conference Team Fees 2,695.11  
 Donations  
 scholarship fund 75.00  
 trailer fund 390.11  
 undesignated 235.10  
 TOTAL Donations 700.21  
 Gift Received 1,000.00  
 Other Inc 166.69  
 Pilgrim fees  
 mens 2,483.12  
 womens 4,632.83  
 TOTAL Pilgrim fees 7,115.95  
 Replacement Crosses 5.00  
 Returns, walk expense checks  
 Auxillary

mens 16.82  
 womens 330.00  
 TOTAL Auxillary 346.82  
 Food  
 mens 234.73  
 womens 5.30  
 TOTAL Food 240.03  
 TOTAL Returns, walk expense checks 586.85  
 TOTAL INFLOWS 18,192.10  
  
**OUTFLOWS**  
 Uncategorized 59.71  
 Agape 114.83  
 Bank Charge 54.55  
 Board expense 632.19  
 Book table supplies 2,851.47  
 Church Reimbursement 375.00  
 Computer 1,445.84  
 Conference Room Team Supplies  
 Women 25.98  
 TOTAL Conference Room Team Sup plies 25.98  
 Dues and Subscriptions 960.00  
 Fee Refunds  
 Pilgrim 95.00  
 TOTAL Fee Refunds 95.00  
 Gatherings 94.31  
 Licenses and Permits 101.00  
 mats 1,840.00  
 Newsletter 1,410.87  
 Postage and Delivery 93.79

Registrar 253.03  
 Replace lost check 303.38  
 Trailer  
 registration & insurance 497.00  
 TOTAL Trailer 497.00  
 walk supplies,  
 Auxillary  
 men 463.61  
 women 1,471.76  
 TOTAL Auxillary 1,935.37  
 candle light 146.81  
 Dining room 179.34  
 food  
 mens 854.88  
 womens 3,325.64  
 TOTAL food 4,180.52  
 house keeping 326.74  
 kitchen 336.67  
 mail room 227.86  
 Snacks 95.52  
 supplies 367.72  
 unused money  
 Other walk supplies, unused money 486.12  
 TOTAL unused money 486.12  
 Upper room 1,591.22  
 TOTAL walk supplies, 9,873.89  
 Web Server 85.53  
 TOTAL OUTFLOWS 21,167.37  
  
 OVERALL TOTAL -2,975.27

**EMMAUS MEMBERS IN MISSION**

The purpose of Emmaus is to renew the Church and to make church members into active disciples. Praise the Lord! It's working. As I started assembling the list of people who either are now on mission, or have recently returned, the list kept growing, and I'm sure there is someone I have forgotten or didn't know about. If there is someone who is or has been on a mission trip, please help complete my information. I'd love to have more names to list, and plan in future issues to feature more information about what people have done and how you can support them if you choose.

Peter and Estella Hudy-Velasco are serving in Bolivia. The Hudys serve the Rio Colorado Agricultural and Technical High School in the Amazon forest of Bolivia. The school is jointly operated by the Bolivian Methodist Church and the Bolivian government and provides a quality education to 200 students. The Hudys may be contacted by mail at: Peter and Maria Estela Hudy-Velasco, Colegio Rio Colorado, Casilla 8347, LaPaz, Bolivia, South America.

Steve and Lezlie Anderson are continuing to serve at God's Katrina Kitchen in gulf coast Mississippi, the other disaster zone you hear so little about. Steve and Lezlie's son, Abe is also spending as much time as possible down there, working around his classes. There has also recently been a group from Lakewood United

Methodist Church, mostly associated with the Grand Rapids Emmaus Community that has done a work project in the area.

Reverend Kay and Reverend Merlin Pratt are working as a team in Haiti, as many of you know. We periodically get newsletters from them and forward them via e-mail to those who have requested to be put on that list. Anyone interested in being kept up to date on their missions should contact Harry or Elnora Wallin. [see Board Information page]

Rev. Mike Loenshal at press time, has been on a dental mission in Honduras with a dentist from his area. We have received word that he has been hit by a motorcycle and has been hospitalized. Please pray for his full and speedy recovery.

There are many others who have been on mission trips recently, and many are planning to go again. Henry Bontrager and family have made several trips to Guatemala. A group centered at New Hope United Methodist Church in Mecosta traveled on a mission trip to Haiti. Sue Neff went to Africa. You never know where Bob Peña is going to be off to. Ask him what he's been up to if you can catch up with him.

Thank God for all the people who go on missions, and all the people who support them.

Harry Wallin, Newsletter Coordinator

**WHAT'S UP WITH THE NEWSLETTER**

This issue of the Newsletter is a little overdue. In January, there was a transition. The person who had been doing the Newsletter for a couple of years went off the Board. In some ways it has been a challenging transition. Between updating the mailing list and getting all the information needed, it has taken far longer than I anticipated it ever could to put this issue of the newsletter "to bed." I'm off and running now, though, and I encourage any of you who has any contribution to make to send it to me via postal mail (8772 W. Mt. Hope Hwy, Vermontville MI. 49096) or via e-mail at owltalker@centurytel.net. I'd love to have so much good material that I have to make hard choices.

When I took over the Newsletter, I was surprised to learn that we were no longer distributing it by e-mail to anyone. I would like to re-establish that procedure, and to add one more. We post our Newsletter on our Web-

site, and so do many Emmaus Communities. Several of them also send e-mail notifications that the Newsletter is posted on the Website, and is available for download.

If you would like either of those options: (1) the newsletter sent to you by .pdf file, or (2) notification that the newsletter is posted on the Website and available for download, please let me know by e-mail. Please also let me know which option you would prefer. Either of the digital options saves your Emmaus Community the cost of duplicating and mailing the hard copy newsletter.

If you want to keep getting the newsletter in the mail, you don't have to do a thing. If you would be interested in helping compose, address, or mail the Newsletter, please let me know too. I would love to have a committee of people working together. It is a job, but many hands make light work. If this is an area you have skills or talents in, please prayerfully consider joining the Newsletter Committee.

Also, PLEASE, if you're changing e-mail address, include me in your notifications. It's a disappointment when e-mails "bounce back," because we know someone is not getting valuable information.

In Christ, Harry Wallin, Newsletter Coordinator.



**Newsletter Deadline for Next Issue**

April 1, 2007      Contact Harry Wallin  
(517) 566-8452      owltalker@centurytel.net

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

Address Service Requested

**Upcoming Events**

- Mar. 22-25** *Jackson* Men's Walk, Jackson Free Methodist Church.
- Mar. 23-25** *Flight of Hope Chrysalis*, Girls' Flight, , Portland U.M.C.
- Apr. 13** *Lansing* Gathering at Pilgrim U.M.C. 6:30 P.M.
- Apr. 19-22** *Lansing, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo*, Men's Walk: Lansing Men's Walk at Mason First U.M.C.; Grand Rapids at Hope U.M.C. Hastings; Kalamazoo location not listed.
- Apr. 26-29** *Kalamazoo* Women's Walk
- May 3-6** *Grand Rapids* Women's Walk, Hope U.M.C. Hastings.
- May 11** *Lansing* Gathering at New Life U.M.C. 6:30 P.M.
- June 8** *Lansing* Gathering at Pilgrim U.M.C. 6:30 P.M.

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S.. Postage  
St. Johns, MI  
Permit #16