

# Lansing Emmaus Community Footprints



Number 08-2

January - March, 2008

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## WHAT A WALK!!

### COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR'S LETTER

The Lansing Area Emmaus Community's Men's Walk to Emmaus finished yesterday. Once again, God worked His wonders on the Walk, and His hands and feet were a huge part of that. The outpouring of love from this community was tangible during the Walk – I know, I was blessed to serve in the conference room. One of the men at the table where I served said he rededicated his life to Christ during the Walk, another said God gave him a direction for the next part of his life, and others said that they planned to make changes in their lives to live out God's will for them, their families, and communities. And that's just one table out of six that had Pilgrims!

This community recently went through some changes in relation to the Walks. We changed the cut off date to have the minimum number Pilgrims signed up (completed applications and initial payment in) for a Walk to go forward to a month before the walk. This community responded, and Pilgrims We had nearly a full men's walk, and there are currently 28 women listed on the website for the upcoming Women's Walk.

*[Editor's Note: 29 women finished Walk 70, see p. 6]*

I understand that there were over 40 people who took sponsorship training on Saturday, during the Men's Walk! From what I have seen and experienced, this community is taking the mission of Emmaus to Heart and trying to truly fulfill God's calling for this Community.

In that light, I would like to make some suggestions for furthering that goal.

If you have a Pilgrim in mind who is having financial difficulties, there is a scholarship available to help them. Do not let the fees stand in the way of a Christian leader who is ready for an Emmaus Walk.

One of the things, as Dave read during closing, is the silent servanthood of those who work behind the scenes on the auxiliary teams. I noticed that during the Thursday evening snack, that community members were greeting each other with questions like, "Are you working this walk?" "What are you doing on the Walk?" While the Pilgrims obviously know, and are even told during the Walk that these things are being done for them, perhaps we would show them agape love, and keep them more at ease, if we did not discuss those things in front of them?

Another matter that came to my attention during the walk is the form of the request for name/walk information. During the walk, we demonstrated love in making those requests, and there were even occasions where someone spoke, sat down, then stood up and introduced themselves, saying that they had just been reminded that they had not introduced themselves. At closing, there were a few shouts of, "NAME!!!" While this may be a fun way of picking on friends, while among friends, it may not be so fun for a Pilgrim. Consider that the Pilgrims are standing in front of their new community of brothers and sisters in Christ. For many Pilgrims this may be the first time in their lives that they are addressing such a large crowd of people. The Pilgrims probably only know a few people, at most, in the Community. They probably want to make a good impression on their new brothers and sisters. They may feel foolish or embarrassed for having forgotten to introduce themselves. To someone in that situation, the shouts may seem rude, or even be intimidating. To such a person, might it not seem as if this were a turn around from a community that had been showing them such love over the previous 3 days? Could it not tell some of the Pilgrims that the love shown during the weekend was nothing more than an act, and not the real nature of the community? I truly pray that we can find a kinder, gentler form of reminder, and continue to show God's agape love to the Pilgrims, and our brothers and sisters in Christ.

God Bless and Keep You,

Andy Sass  
Lansing Area Emmaus, Community Lay Director

## WHAT HAPPENED TO MY NEWSLETTER?

Profuse apologies to those who have been wondering why they have not gotten a newsletter. The redesign of the Community Database has proven much more complex than I had thought. I kept hoping that I would have the new list to work from, but have decided to go ahead with the old information and update it. If you know of someone who formerly got the newsletter and no longer gets it, please let me know (contact info. on p. 6.) I also forgot to put the bulk mailing permit back on after the November issue that was mailed first class. That resulted in some not getting their November-December issue. Those people will find their December - January issues included with this one. Please accept my assurance that all foreseeable problems have been solved, and you will be getting your newsletters on schedule. I have also resumed distributing the newsletter by e-mail. The current issue is also always available on our Website, see p. 6 for the web address.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Here's what you can expect to find.

✠ **Page 2:** Complete Board list; Emmaus Scholarships, The New Trailer  
✠ **Page 3:** Walks 69 and 70 - Lay Directors' Words

✠ **Page 4:** Board minutes  
✠ **Page 5:** Gatherings, Wedding Invitation  
✠ **Page 6:** Upcoming Events, Welcome New Community Members

## 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
Troy Bongard	To be determined	(Not available)	at press time)	2010
Rev. Andy Croel	Community Spiritual Director	(517) 646-6530	pastorandycroel@sbcglobal.net	2008
Terrie Eisenmann	Registrar	(989) 561-2578	terrieblue@power-net.net	2009
Russ Fries	Sponsorship, Candlelight, and Closing Coordinator	(810)625-5296	R.fries@mi.ftpd.us	2009
Michelle Gillison	To Be Determined	(517)394-5196	michellegillison@gmail.com	2008
Becky Green	To Be Determined	(989) 386-4994	Rgreen4363@yahoo.com	2010
Judy Hazle	Auxiliary Coordinator Kitchen Coordinator	(989) 224-4260	hazle@ceicmh.org	2008
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 Prayer Vigil Coordinator	(517) 886-3753	stidvd@hotmail.com	2007
Clare Taylor	To Be Determined	(517)-394-4162	mirman@myexcel.com	2010
Elnora Wallin	Past C.L.D.	(517) 566-8452	owltalker@centurytel.net	2007
Harry Wallin	Data Manager Newsletter Coordinator	(517) 566-8452	owltalker@centurytel.net	2009
Kathy Wilson	Assistant C.L.D. Outreach Coordinator	(989) 862-5693	Kw543210@yahoo.com	2007

### EMMAUS SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Greetings to all! We are experiencing some economic challenges in our beautiful state of Michigan and many people are struggling financially. But we do not want money to be a stumbling block if God is leading someone to experience a closer walk with Him on an Emmaus Walk. We have \$55 scholarships available for those needing assistance with their registration fee. Names are kept confidential when requests are brought before the Board for a vote. If you have a pilgrim who needs help, please send an email to Registrar, Terrie Eisenmann at [terrieblue@power-net.net](mailto:terrieblue@power-net.net) or call her at 989-561-2578 to request a Scholarship Application.

### THE NEW TRAILER IS TRULY OURS

Good winter (and spring) to all.

In January I placed an end of year report in the news letter so all could get a feel for the true size of the work we do for the Lord. This month I am returning to let you know that as of Mid January the trailer is completely paid for including the license plates. Praise To God!!!

It is truly wonderful to see how God's people come together when there is a need. I wish to thank all who donated to the cause and if I missed anyone who would like a tax receipt please contact me soon and I will get them out to you.

Thank you again for the privilege of serving,

Lyle Ball

## **SURVIVED WALK #70 AND STILL THRIVING IN GOD'S GRACE!**

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ! My name is Renee Hahn. I attended Lansing Area Walk #19 in June, 1994 at Christ UMC in Lansing MI and sat at the table of Naomi. I had the privilege and honor of serving our community and our Lord as Lay Director for Walk #70 held Feb 21-24, 2008 at Ionia First UMC. Little did I (or any of us) know back in November of '07 what the Lord had in store for this weekend! I knew and trusted that the Lord would do a mighty work in the hearts of all our pilgrims and servants, and God continues to be faithful. Despite the outbreak of a nasty and quick spreading virus, sending 4 pilgrims and 3 team home early, the Lord's plan to move participants' hearts closer to Him prevailed! Go God!

It was plainly obvious during the closing testimony of our pilgrims how the Lord touched their lives. Through the selfless servanthood of the team and auxiliary (especially housekeeping who definitely had to deal with more than their fair share), the Lord was able to shine forth with great brilliance... So, on behalf of the Kingdom, thank you to all the faithful servants who gave of themselves to make this weekend happen.

We should not be surprised that opposition rears its ugly face for any Emmaus Weekend ... it can and should be expected anytime the Lord's people make a concerted effort to draw closer to Christ. Study briefly the life of Apostle Paul, and we'll recognize that every time he entered a town to preach the Gospel, opposition found him. However, GOD PREVAILS! God never said making disciples or growing our faith would be easy (or fun) ... yet, every Walk to Emmaus Weekend provides a ton of fun along with the hard work. And, God ALWAYS shows up in ways we could have never imagined!

To our new pilgrims ... WELCOME to the Lansing Area Emmaus Community! As you identify your Priority, recognize God's call of Prevenient Grace, choose to join with the Priesthood of all Believers, accept God's Justifying Grace (from dirt bag to cracked pot), live a Life in Piety, renew your minds as you Grow through Study, participate faithfully in the Means of Grace, step out in Christian Action, work through the Obstacles to Grace, dive deep in Discipleship, begin to make a difference Changing our World, allow Sanctifying Grace to move you closer into holiness, be the hands and feet of Jesus in the Body of Christ, Persevere in God's Grace despite circumstance or opposition, your 4th Day (the rest of your life) will have meaning and significance and God will choose to use YOU as an instrument of renewal in your family, your home, your neighborhood, your workplace, and your church. Don't worry how many times the Lord asks you to stop, turn and "recalculate" ... as long as you commit to the Lord your faith (even if it's only 8 watts), God's love will indeed SHINE through you.

All through the weekend, the words to a song written and performed by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir sustained my heart and spirit ... "God is gonna finish just what He started; Even though the waters got to be parted; Lift up your heads don't be broken hearted; God is gonna finish what He started in you" And, from Ephesians 3:20-21 (The Message Translation) "God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us"

DeColores!

## **ON THE ROAD AGAIN - FEBRUARY 11, 2008**

Good evening, this is Dave Bass reporting from the Emmaus Road.  
I'm traveling with 52 men and numerous behind the scenes production people.

As we continued on the fourth day of our journey, we observe two men walking rapidly from the town called Emmaus, heading toward Jerusalem. We walked quickly to catch up to them, and I was able to interview one of the walkers named Cleopas. I asked him why he was in such a hurry to get to Jerusalem.

Cleopas excitedly told me that three days ago they met a man on the Road to Emmaus that had explained the Scriptures to them. As this man spoke to them, "They found that their hearts seemed to be on fire with His love, compassion and understanding." As they neared the end of their journey to Emmaus, they invited this kind stranger to have dinner with them. Cleopas stated, "At dinner, He took the bread and blessed it, and when he broke it our eyes were opened and we realized that it was Jesus! As soon as we recognized Him, He disappeared." Cleopas added, "We need to keep going as we are on our way to tell others the Good News!"

As part of the Conference Room Team that God formed for Walk #69, I witnessed yet another miracle that only the one true God could perform. God chose a group of Pilgrims and support teams to travel on the Emmaus Road together. On Saturday, after giving up their sins, sharing a candle lit dinner, and later walking into the Presence of the Holy Spirit in the Sanctuary, I believe the eyes of 29 Pilgrim were opened to God's amazing grace and mercy. Who knows . . . maybe they caught a glimpse of Heaven, and truly felt God's incredible love for the very first time.

**News Flash!** Similar reports of other Weekends from across the nation and the world have been received. This news ensures us that we will never be alone on our Fourth Day Journey, Praise God!

Reporting from the Emmaus Road, this is Dave Bass signing off.  
Walk with God and live in Grace and Peace and have blessed travels in your Fourth Day.

I'll see YOU on the Road! De Colores!

## YOUR EMMAUS BOARD

Here are the minutes of the last meeting of your Lansing Area Emmaus Community Board of Directors. Please take the time to read it over. Come join us at our next meetings at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 13 and Tuesday, June 10 (at Pilgrim UMC). Board meetings are always open to any Community member who wishes to attend. Do you have concerns: Call or e-mail Andy Sass, our Community Lay Director, or any Board member and we'll be sure you get included in the agenda. Please prayerfully consider being a member of one of the Board Committees. Most Board members have committees to help them do the work. There really is much more than one person can do. Join us in service.

**Guests:** Tom and Lindsey Mason, Lori Randall

**Called to order** February 12, 2008

**Opening prayer and devotion:** Andy Sass offered the prayer.

**Secretary: Harry Wallin.** Moved by Lyle Ball, seconded by Russ Fries to approve the minutes. Motion carries.

December minutes - motion to approve minutes was made by Russ Fries.

**Board Representative Report:** Discussion included tightening up the schedule. The host / dining room schedule also needs more detail. Dinner conversation delayed the serving of dessert. Dinner took 1 ½ hours. It should have taken 40 minutes. Musician list for dinner needs to be tested and evaluated. A confirmed list of musicians needs to be established.

Dave Bass said he would be willing to come to the next Board meeting and present a verbal and/or written report.

**Wedding at gathering request** Pastor Andy sent an e-mail regarding the issue supporting the request. Planned date May 9. Tom and Lori are willing to help in promoting knowledge of any change of location. They also are requesting no gifts, but are suggesting donations to the Emmaus scholarship fund or to an organization called Remember the Children. There need to be some guidelines set for future reference. The wedding are two separate events, though they are in sequence. Michelle asked whether there is a guideline how far in advance a change of location needs to be established. There is not. There are other good reasons Moved by Lyle Ball, seconded by Terrie Eisenmann to move the May Gathering to Trinity U.M.C. Motion carries unanimously.

**Confirmation of e-mail votes.** See revisions on paper.

**Treasurer: Lyle Ball.** Moved by Harry Wallin, seconded by Becky Greene to approve the Treasurer's Report pending audit. Motion carries. Lyle sent via e-mail the balance of inventory of the Emmaus store.

**Community Spiritual Director: Rev. Andy Croel** [absent] see e-mail report.

**Assistant Community Spiritual Director: (none).**

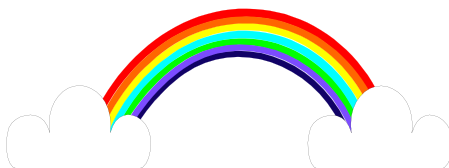
**Assistant Community Lay Director: Russ Fries.** No report

**Assistant Community Lay Director: Becky Green** Becky will contact Lori Randall regarding rescheduling the planning retreat.

**Community Lay Director: Andy Sass.**

**Training:** none tonight.

**Agape – Troy Bongard:** no report. Terrie suggests minimum of 65 agape. There were problems at this Walk.



**Auxiliary / Kitchen – Judy Hazle:** Indicated by e-mail that she would not be able to attend; report sent by e-mail

**Data Manager / Newsletter – Harry Wallin:** see written report. Moved by Russ Fries seconded by Michelle Gillison to authorize up to \$300 to make the necessary upgrades on the Emmaus desktop computer. Passed unanimously. Harry will coordinate with Troy Bongard regarding this matter.

**Emmaus Store – Clare Taylor:** Clare will get into the management of inventory over the next month. Tom Mason ran it at the past Men's Walk, and it went well.

**Gatherings – Michelle Gillison:** The Joy of the Lord is the theme for March. Barb Moss will take care of the music. Michelle will have everything arranged, but cannot be there. Everything is coordinated through Pastor Andy.

**Music – Michelle Gillison** Some new people (Lyle Griffith) are coming into the Community from Grand Rapids to help with Closing on Sunday night. See e-mail report.

**Outreach – Becky Green** How does one get hold of new tri-fold Emmaus brochures? Lyle Ball provided an order sheet for Emmaus materials. Becky will keep a log of churches, addresses, e-mail addresses, etc. She is working on establishing liaisons at churches.

**Prayer Vigil – Terrie Eisenmann:** Terrie will set up the Prayer Vigil for the Fall Women's Walk online at [www.3dayol.org](http://www.3dayol.org)

**Sponsorship / Candlelight / Closing – Russ Fries:** 46 people were trained at the last candle light. The majority were from the Grand Rapids Community, and he will follow up. Candle-light and closing went well at the Men's Walk. Sponsors' hour also went well. There seems to be an idea with the Community that they can get Pilgrims in to the Registrar and then get training at the Walk. We need to reinforce the Sponsorship Training rule.

**Registrar / – Terrie Eisenmann** One has cancelled today; 33 are there for the Women's Walk. Lyle gave his cell phone number for emergency contact for the Pilgrim who has a special needs

**Supplies / Site – Lyle Ball:** Fall Walk Women at Alma is established and for October Spring 2009 Walk target dates at Trinity UMC are as follows: Men - March 12-15; Women - March 26-29

**Team Selection – Andy Sass / Elnora Wallin:** no report

Scholarship request moved by Russ seconded Clare \$55.00

**Other Business: all tabled.**

- Training Saturday / long range planning / strategic planning
- Other: Smooth transition of board positions; Music books

The meeting adjourned with prayer.

In Christ's Service, Harry Wallin, Secretary

## LOOKING AHEAD TO GATHERINGS

Remember that the May Gathering (May 9) will be held at Trinity UMC in Lansing, MI  
Gather at 6pm, Potluck at 6:30, Worship at 7pm, Sponsorship Training at 8pm  
May Gathering Theme: The Wedding Feast (See invitation, below.)

Monthly Gathering Themes will go as follows: (subject to change)

The following will be held at Pilgrim UMC

**June:** The Table Is Ready, Come

**July:** Come to the Cross

**August:** Anonymous Servanthood- what that looks like

**September:** If You Want To Walk On Water, You've Got To Get Out Of The Boat

**October:** Women's Walk ( Saturday Candlelight )

**November:** Cracked Pots

**December:** Gifts and Talents To Share

*Editor's  
Note: Trinity United  
Methodist Church is located at  
the corner of Creyts Road and St. Jo-  
seph Hwy in Lansing. The address is  
7533 W. St. Joseph Hwy, Lansing,  
MI 48917.*

We are looking forward to seeing each of you at any or all Gatherings. It is our prayer that God will speak to you through the music, readings, the Message or through an individual who speaks about their 4<sup>th</sup> day reunion group. May you be encouraged to spread the love of Christ as we gather together to Worship Him.

### *Please be our Guests*

At a typical Walk to Emmaus, most participants remember they are invited to be the Bride of Christ. So, a wedding at an Emmaus event is not really a new idea. Only this time, you're invited to be a guest at a real wedding celebration.

### *at a Wedding Feast ...*

ber fondly the Saturday evening "wedding feast" where Emmaus event is not really a new idea. Only this time, you're

The May gathering will include the usual 6:00 p.m. gathering time, 6:30 potluck and 7:00 Emmaus service with communion. The theme for that night will be "The Wedding Feast" focusing on Jesus as the Bridegroom and the church as His bride. Following the usual service, there will be a music interlude ... and then the real wedding of Tom Mason (Walk #53 September 2002) and Lori Randall (Detroit Emmaus, July 1998). The Emmaus community and wedding guests are then invited for wedding cake and fellowship after the wedding ceremony.

"Why did we decide to combine our wedding with a gathering of the Lansing Area Emmaus community? For us, it was an obvious and easy choice," explained Tom and Lori. "Our walks were life-changing events that brought both of us to a deeper relationship with God and a close fellowship with many friends in the Emmaus community. Involvement in Emmaus was also significant for both of us in choosing a marriage partner – it spoke volumes about where we each are in our spiritual journey, we immediately knew that we shared the same faith and marriage values, and we quickly realized that we have many long-time, valued friends in common."

"The messages of unconditional love and being chosen as the bride of Christ are important in the Emmaus community. So, the monthly gathering seemed a logical place to hold a wedding ceremony. We can't imagine a better place and a better community to stand before as we voice our marriage vows to God and each other."

Please join us at the May gathering to celebrate God's love and our wedding ceremony. (Watch for further details at the April Gathering.)

Tom and Lori

# Upcoming Events

**April 10-13 *Mid-Michigan*** Women's Walk, Markey Community Baptist, Roscommon

**April 17-20 *Kalamazoo*** Men's Walk, Buchanan Faith U.M.C.

***Southeast Michigan*** Men's Walk, Fenton UMC.

**April 24-27 *Kalamazoo*** Women's Walk, Buchanan Faith U.M.C.

***Southeast Michigan*** Women's Walk, Fenton UMC.

**May 9 *Lansing*** Gathering at Trinity U.M.C. ***Note Location Change*** 6:00 Gathering, 6:30 Potluck, 7:00 Program and Communion. *Tom Mason*

*and Lori Randall's wedding will follow, see p. 5*

**June 13 *Lansing*** Gathering at Pilgrim UMC, St. Johns. 6:00 Gathering, 6:30 Potluck, 7:00 Program and Communion.

**July 31 - Aug. 3 *Traverse City*** Men's Walk, Location TBA

**August 7-11 *Traverse City*** Women's Walk, Location TBA

**October 9-12 *Lansing*** Women's Walk, Alma U.M.C.

**October 11 *Lansing*** Women's Candle Light Alma U.M.C.: 7:00 PM Sponsorship Training, 7:30 Candle Light Gathering, 9:00 Candle Light Service.

**October 12 *Lansing*** Alma U.M.C. 4:30 PM Closing.

**March 12 - 15, 2009 *Lansing*** Men's Walk, Location TBA.

**March 26-29, 2009 *Lansing*** Women's Walk, Location TBA

## WELCOME

### NEW COMMUNITY MEMBERS

If you see any of the following people at a Gathering, please give them a special welcome.

**Walk 69 Men:** Joe Ancona, Jeff Anderson, Thomas Armstrong, Duane Bair, Rob Brown, Randall Carey, Chris Churchill, Paul Clouse, John Coblenz, Joe DePotty, Ghanghus Goins, Dennis Graham, Casey Hunt, Joel Koetje, Rich Mead, Eric Iversen, Phil Marcotte, Rick Mickelson, Rusty Morgan, Greg Perkins, Jon Pohl, Pete Ragsdale, Kermit Ramey, Anthony Rocco, Rod Russell, Marc Schroeder, Tim Tindall, Don Volz, Duane Warren, Dave Wearsch.

**Walk 70 Women:** Nancy Bannen, Adrienne Barclay, Amy Clouse, Mary Ann Coblenz, Kristi Cordray, Jaimee Dorian, Peggy Englerth, Pam Etter-Maxam, Heather Gibbons, Peggy Graham, Nancy Helminski, Mary Hicks, Lora Mae Higbee, Melinda Joy, Sandy Koch, Karen Melson, Ann Morris, Vicki Nelson, Judy Nickelson, Nancy Nielsen, Bonnie Reed, Elaine Russell, Margaret Salyers, Chris Schroeder, Linda Snyder, Cassandra Thorp, Dolores Tompkins, Nancy Wilderom



### Newsletter Deadline for Next Issue

If you have an idea for a story, please let me know.  
April 28, 2008 Contact Harry Wallin  
(517) 566-8452 owltalker@centurytel.net

### VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[www.lansingemmaus.truepath.com](http://www.lansingemmaus.truepath.com)

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