

Lansing Emmaus Community

# Footprints

Number 10-6



April, May, June 2011

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## Fruit of the Spirit – Patience

By Pastor Paul Damkoehler, Assistant Spiritual Director

A month or so ago I attended a meeting in Lansing. As usual, it seemed I had too many things to accomplish that day and too little time to get them done. The meeting felt like an intrusion on time better spent on other projects. I showed up at the meeting, I discovered that there were only 3 of us there besides the chairman (there were supposed to be about a dozen of us). We accomplished very little that morning because it's supposed to be an interactive group.

As I left I was impatient, thinking of all the other things I had to accomplish that day and that I now had less time to get done. A short while after I left, I looked up in my rear view mirror and noticed lights flashing. I pulled over, thinking the officer was headed somewhere in a hurry. He stopped also and walked up to my car window. The officer asked me if I knew how fast I was going. I said no, I hadn't been paying attention to my speed. He told me I had been going 52 in a 35 zone. He asked me if I was in a hurry to get somewhere. Impatience got me in trouble, although the officer was polite and didn't give me a citation.

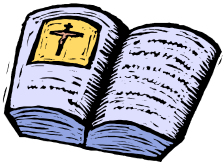
Probably a good definition for impatience would be a greedy tendency to want things *now* and to expect them *sooner* rather than *later*. God places a lot of stock in patience; as a matter of fact, it is one of the fruits of the Spirit. My favorite Bible text bearing with patience has to be one of Paul's; Ephesians 4:1-3 says "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with *patience*, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another in love! Do you see why they are important? They help us maintain the unity of the Spirit. We have been graciously called into the body of Christ and every member is important to God. When we are impatient with others, we deny the character of our heavenly Father. God longs to make a gift to each of us from His attributes, but all too often we place *ourselves* at the center of our own universe, denying the actions that the Spirit would have us display. Our wants and desires become primary and so we squelch the godly character the Spirit longs to develop in us. Without patience, our witness works against us. How long did God have to wait patiently for you to accept the salvation He offered freely through Christ Jesus?

An impatient person puts their own wishes and needs ahead of everyone and everything else. Doing this doesn't display godly character and love, just the reverse in fact. If I am the center of the universe, an action against me is an affront to my worth, and yet, is that how we see Jesus act? During His passion he didn't answer insults and abuse, except to forgive His abusers. Patience is allowing the Spirit to display Christ in us to the world. It comes in surrendering to the Spirit's leading, and isn't that where we all should be? Take a look at Paul's take on his own importance: 2 Corinthians 12:10 "For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong." That doesn't sound anything like my attitude that morning, in hindsight I was even more impatient than I realized! De Colores!

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What you will find!

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**God is good all the time!  
All the time God is good!**

By Mike Walker, Community Lay Director

I would like to say welcome and hello to the pilgrims of walk # 79 and walk # 80 and to the whole community. What a joy it is to see Christ working in our churches and in the Lansing Area Emmaus Community.

I stayed for sponsorship training after our last gathering, and some things that were said really hit home with me and I would like to share them with you. Church, fellowship, gatherings, sponsorship, working the walks, reunion groups, making snacks, agape and most importantly prayer, are like gas stations for us. You may be saying huh?

Well it goes something like this; If you were a car, you couldn't carry enough gas to travel life's journey. Your tank will only hold so much gas, 15-20 gallons. Life's journey will take thousands of gallons and you just can't carry that much. That's why we stop and get fuel. As Christians – we attend church, fellowship, gatherings, sponsorship, we work walks, attend our reunion groups, make snacks and agape for walks and most importantly we pray. So I say to you today, "Fill up! Don't wait for your tank to be on E, or get stranded on the side of the road, stop in and fill up." Don't forget to check the oil and tire pressure. Fill up with Christ's love and the agape love of fellow Christians.

Our fall walks will be here before we know it, Christ is counting on you. The date for the Men's walk is October 6-9, 2011 and October 20-23, 2011 for the Women's walk. Both walks will be at New Life United Methodist Church in Six Lakes.

May God Bless and Keep you all.  
De Colores

## Boys Chrysalis Flight

July 8-10, 2011

Hastings First United Methodist Church  
Hastings, MI 49058

Friday, July 8, 2011 - Registration 8:00 am.

Saturday, July 9, 2011 – Candlelight Service

Community Gathering: 7:30 PM

Candlelight: 9:00 PM

Sunday, July 10, 2011 - Closing: 4:00 PM

**There is still time to sponsor that  
special boy in your life.**

Applications for the flight can be downloaded  
from [www.flightofhopechrysalis.com](http://www.flightofhopechrysalis.com)

Early Registration ends Friday, June 17, 2011  
Cost is \$60.00

Late Registration June 18 – July 1, 2011  
Cost is \$75.00

If you have any questions, please feel  
free to contact Peggy Pirhonen at 989-292-0156  
or e-mail at [pjtravel@hotmail.com](mailto:pjtravel@hotmail.com).

### Community Reminder: Candlelight & Closing

Please keep in mind that according to *THE UPPER ROOM HANDBOOK ON EMMAUS* Candlelight & Closing are Community events. (Pg. 86 & 93) To be a member of the Community one must have attended a Walk or Flight or other sanctioned 4<sup>th</sup> day program. Please plan accordingly.

### Emmaus Store Board Chair Update

By Greg Maher

Emmaus store team is getting ready to launch an expanded product line. The store will have a variety of Emmaus, Chrysalis and many other items. If you would like to get involved with this outreach ministry, call Greg Maher at 517-676-0744 or email at [gregmaher@yahoo.com](mailto:gregmaher@yahoo.com).

## Data/Newsletter Board Chair

By Karen McLendon

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know help is needed in verifying member data for the IMS database. This system is the resource we have to connect with and keep track of our community members.

If you are interested in helping with this project, please let me know by phone at 517-648-1221 or by e-mail – [karen@mclendon.ws](mailto:karen@mclendon.ws).

Once a year we would ask that you check the contact information for the Emmaus Community members from your church. I will provide you a list with the information that needs to be verified. You can then send the changes to the Data Board Chair to update the IMS system.

Please prayerfully consider if this might be an area where you could serve. Thank you and De Colores.

## My Chains are Gone I've Been Set Free!!!!

My name is Deb Bongard and I took my walk in October 2002 at Trinity in Lansing. I sat at the table of Ruth.

I would like to welcome all the new pilgrims from walk # 80. What an awesome weekend. The Holy Spirit just filled Lawrence Ave UMC in Charlotte.

Remember that special song? I can't help but worship our Lord and Savior every time I hear the song *Amazing Grace/My Chains Are Gone*. The sanctuary on Saturday morning was filled with many voices singing that song and praising the Lord. We also learned that each one of us are special and the Lord makes NO JUNK!!!!

I would also like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Walk Lay Director of Walk #80. It was amazing to see God work in the lives of the pilgrims and team. I think I speak for the whole team when I say that we loved being part of your journey.

I hope to see each and every one of you at the monthly gatherings.

De Colores

## What Will *Your* Legacy Be?

By Ryan Cressman, Assistant Community Lay Director

One of my work duties involves funeral details. Attending, planning, or escorting processions, it seems I'm at a funeral at least once a week. Many of these are police officer funerals. Sadly, it also seems that the world is currently full of "good" people, as stated by many families, friends, and co workers at these services. I say sadly because God doesn't need more "good" people. He has called us to be more than "good" people. He calls us to a life of service for him, in Christ's name.

We are not called to simply be good, and to do a certain number of things as our life unfolds. We are called to live for Him in all that we do. Please forgive me, but I'm going to use this as an opportunity to point out a few things that I'd like you to know.

May 15th starts National Police Week. Did you know that America has far fewer police officers working since 9/11 happened? Michigan alone has trimmed down around 3,500 officers. We're "safer" according to our leaders? And, this year is on track to rival an all time high of violent deaths and injuries to police officers.

Anyhow, back to legacy. What will your's be? Will you be remembered as a "good" person, or someone who actively sought to promote Jesus to the world? As we've all heard, Emmaus is about strengthening Christian leaders. This doesn't mean just within your church walls. It means in all that you do!! Continue to do good deeds and to be a "good" person, but be bold and try to make sure you're doing these things in Christ's name.

If you're looking for ways to serve, we are looking for you to do that. This community will continue to grow if we can keep people involved. Unfortunately, our process of getting you involved is not perfect. I encourage you to speak up and keep letting us know that you'd like to serve. (Thanks for letting me write about this topic, I felt called to honor those that have died this year while protecting us...)

De Colores

## Gathering Board Chair Update

By Karen McLendon

We welcome Paula Damkoehler as the new Gathering Board Chair. Be sure to let her know we are glad to have her and will support her as she takes over this important position.

If you are interested in serving on the Gathering Team, please contact Paula by e-mail at [quiltintwin@yahoo.com](mailto:quiltintwin@yahoo.com) or you can phone her at (517) 775-5424.

The Gathering for the month of May was held at Pilgrim United Methodist Church. The theme was "Grow Where You Are Planted". Pastor Greg Buchner provided the music for worship and Pastor Susan Poynter gave the message about growing in faith and service no matter where we live.

Mike Walker, Community Lay Director and Ed Milam, the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Speaker, reminded us we are a 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community. It is important that we work and encourage our community members to be in a 4<sup>th</sup> Day accountability group. Those community members that have connected with a 4<sup>th</sup> Day small group know the benefits of staying accountable to one another as we walk together on our faith journey.

### Upcoming Gathering – June 10, 2011

Where: Pilgrim United Methodist Church

St. Johns, MI

Time: Gather at 6:00 PM

Potluck Dinner : 6:30 PM

Worship: 7:00 PM

Sponsorship Training: 8:00 PM



## Agape Board Chair Update

By Amy Clouse

The Board recently had the opportunity to attend the Upper Room Emmaus Training Event for our region. We learned many new things to help us lead the Lansing Area Emmaus Community better.

One thing that was brought to my attention is copyright laws. We need to be very careful to not break any copyright laws when making and distributing Agape gifts to our new Pilgrims. For instance, perhaps a Reunion Group would like to use the famous "Footprints in the Sand" poem written by Mary Stevenson. The group may copy the poem and distribute it as part of their Agape gift. However, this is an infringement upon the copyright held by that author and is punishable under the Copyright Law.

An alternate way for the Reunion Group to distribute this poem would be to purchase a bookmark and then distribute the bookmark as an Agape gift. This distribution of the poem is not a copyright infringement because the group has paid for the use of the poem.

Please pay special attention to copyrights when making Agape. All Agape brought to future Walks will be carefully monitored for Copyright issues and any Agape that appears to be in violation of this law will be returned to the Reunion Group without being distributed to the Pilgrims.

De Colores!

### IMPORTANT NOTICE: JULY GATHERING

The July, 2011 Lansing Area Emmaus Community Gathering will be held as follows:

Where: Hastings First United Methodist Church

When: July 9, 2011

Why: Boys Chrysalis Flight Candlelight Service

Time: Gathering – 7:30 PM Candlelight – 9:00 PM

Address: 209 W. Green Street, Hastings, MI 49058

### SOCIAL MEDIA VOLUNTEER POSITION

The Data Board Chair is looking for a person interested in serving in the area of Social Media such as Facebook updates. If you are interested, please contact Karen McLendon at 517-648-1221 or at [karen@mclendon.ws](mailto:karen@mclendon.ws)



*“Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord all the earth! Sing to the Lord a new song! Rise up and praise the Lord!”*

### **Greetings sisters and brothers!**

By Kathy Dobie

My name is Kathy Dobie and I took my Walk to Emmaus, Walk #59, in the Lansing Area Emmaus Community at the Charlotte Lawrence Avenue United Methodist Church in April 2004 where I sat at the Table of Rebecca. Today it is my humble privilege to serve this community on the board as the Music/Entertainment Chair.

Music is a universal language. We are incredibly blessed to have many gifted and talented musicians and vocalists in our Emmaus community who are willing to serve in a variety of capacities. Whether it be on the walk weekends leading music in the conference room for the pilgrims, or behind scenes leading music for the community as they gather together for candlelight; or at our monthly gatherings when we come together for worship, the music team never fails to inspire, encourage and bring glory to God in a special way.

If you have a desire to serve using your musical talents, please send me an email [gddkld@aol.com](mailto:gddkld@aol.com) or see me at a gathering.

God loves you and so do I.

**REMINDER:  
NO JULY, 2011  
BOARD MEETING**

## **Fall 2011 Walks**

Team Selection Update

**Men's Walk** October 6-9, 2011

**Women's Walk** October 20-23, 2011

The upcoming Fall 2011 walks are going to be held at the New Life United Methodist Church in Six Lakes, MI.

The Conference Room and the Behind the Scenes Teams are being formed right now. Walk Lay Directors have been selected and team meetings have been set. Please pray, pray, pray for the Conference Room and Behind the Scenes Teams as they prepare for the fall walks to serve the pilgrims.

Start now to prayerfully consider whom you can sponsor. God already knows the individuals He wants there. As you pray, He will lay the right people on your heart.

The training we received from the Upper Room in May encouraged us to approach sponsorship prayerfully and with purpose. Purposeful sponsorship includes sponsoring individuals that are:

- Church Leaders
- Dependable Church Members
- Less Active Members, but still a member of their local church
- Christians hungry for “something more”
- Christians who want to grow spiritually
- Members and leaders representing a cross section of the church and society.
- Respected laypersons and clergypersons.

Make sure you have had sponsorship training within the past two years if you plan to sponsor a pilgrim for the Fall Walks!! If you need sponsorship training, you can come to a gathering or a candlelight service. If you are unable to attend a gathering or candlelight service and need sponsorship training contact Ned Weller at the following e-mail address: [ndwaccess-TeamSelection@yahoo.com](mailto:ndwaccess-TeamSelection@yahoo.com) for possible alternative training options.

# Upcoming Events

**June 10, 2011 *Lansing*** Gathering, Pilgrim United Methodist Church, St. Johns. Gather at 6:00 PM, Potluck at 6:30 PM, Worship at 7:00 PM, Sponsorship Training at 8:00 PM.

**June 14, 2011 *Lansing*** Emmaus Board Meeting 7:00 PM Pilgrim United Methodist Church, St. Johns.

**July 8-10, 2011 *Boys Flight of Hope Chrysalis***. More details to come. Start thinking of a young man you can sponsor!!

**July 9, 2011 *Lansing*** Gathering, **Hastings First United Methodist Church, Hastings**, Gather at 7:30 PM, Boys Chrysalis Flight Candlelight Service at 9:00 PM.

**July, 2011 - NO BOARD MEETING IN JULY.**

**August 9, 2011 *Lansing*** Emmaus Board Meeting 7:00 PM Pilgrim United Methodist Church, St. Johns.

**August 12, 2011 *Lansing*** Gathering, Pilgrim United Methodist Church, St. Johns. Gather at 6:00 PM, Potluck at 6:30 PM, Worship at 7:00 PM, Sponsorship Training at 8:00 PM.

**September 9, 2011 *Lansing*** Gathering, Pilgrim United Methodist Church, St. Johns. Gather at 6:00 PM, Potluck at 6:30 PM, Worship at 7:00 PM, Sponsorship Training at 8:00 PM.

**September 13, 2011 *Lansing*** Emmaus Board Meeting 7:00 PM Pilgrim United Methodist Church, St. Johns.

**October 6-9, 2011 *Lansing*** Men's Fall Walk, New Life Church, Six Lakes, MI.

**October 11, 2011 *Lansing*** Emmaus Board Meeting 7:00 PM Pilgrim United Methodist Church, St. Johns.

**October 20-23, 2011 *Lansing*** Women's Fall Walk, New Life Church, Six Lakes, MI.

## Newsletter Deadline for Next Issue

If you have an idea for an article or would like to write an article, please let me know by August 1, 2011 and your article will be considered for the newsletter. Contact Karen McLendon at [karen@mclendon.com](mailto:karen@mclendon.com) or call me at 517-648-1221.

## Visit our Website:

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

**IMS Database:** Link from our Website using Internet Explorer.  
LAE Community Home Page: Select "Community Access" and Log In to sign up to work a walk.

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

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