



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM®

Minnesota Emmaus Community Organized 1991
April 2007 Newsletter
Website www.mnemmaus.org

Building Community

We are blessed to be challenged by God to continue to do his work through this program. I am blessed to be part of the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Community.

This Emmaus Community has many challenges as we enter 2007. We don't have all the answers, but we agree on many things. If this Community is to continue to exist beyond 2007, we need your help, we need your prayers, we need your commitment, and we need your continued support.

This year, we need to rally around the need to reflect, re-focus, reprocess, and re-energize. We reflect on the purpose of Emmaus, which is to renew the church as the body of the risen Christ in the world through the renewal of Christians as faithful and committed disciples of Jesus Christ. This is done not only during the three-day weekend, but also through participation in reunion groups, community gatherings, sponsorship, prayer, support of Walks, and service on teams.

As a Community, we must refocus again on the three parts of the Emmaus experience; the pre-Walk which includes good sponsorship and prayer, the Walk and support of the pilgrims during their weekend as well as your service on an Emmaus team, and the post-Walk including gatherings and reunion groups. If all we do is organize Walk weekends, then we become just another retreat organization with nothing following the retreat.

We've tried some things in the past that may have ultimately taken us away from being Community. We don't condemn the past, but we do need to work very hard, very fast to move things forward, re-process our thinking and seek ways to re-energize and bring the Emmaus Community back together, back into community. For Minnesota Walk to Emmaus to not just survive, but also thrive, our current direction has to change. We feel that we have started down this path with the selection of a Metro area Walk site at Camp Ihudhapi in Loretto. We pray that over time, all of us will find it to be a place we can call "home."

As a Board of Directors, a conscious decision was made to have only one set of Walks this year. As a Community, we needed to discern God's call for the Minnesota Emmaus Community. We are not moving backwards by having only one set of Walks; we are being disciples by listening and praying for direction for Emmaus here in Minnesota. Frankly, anyone can put on a retreat. An Emmaus weekend needs to be more than a retreat. This year, God is challenging us as a community, as the Body of Christ to THINK BIG.

The challenge is this:

1. Consider whom within your scope of influence you should sponsor. Sponsorship is the lifeblood of Walk to Emmaus and is the beginning of many life-changing experiences that occur on a Walk.
2. If you haven't worked on a Walk to Emmaus team, we would love to hear from you. If you've worked on a team but it's been awhile and would like to again, please let us know. We would love to consider you for the upcoming Walks.
3. Remember the feeling of seeing "Agape in the Flesh" during Candlelight? Come and fill the room with your love for the Pilgrims. Reconnect with old friends again and relive past Walk to Emmaus moments.
4. Bathe us in prayer. We continue to seek God's guidance for the Community. We continue to seek ways to bring the "community" in general together and look for your advice, ideas and above all, your help and support to make it happen.
5. Bathe the teams and pilgrims (God knows who they are) in prayer. Each person is called to bring his or her gifts and graces for use to God's glory.

The world needs community now more than ever. We need to have people we can count on; people that will keep us on the right path, people ethically and credibly on target. Community is a place you can call home. We hope you will find a home in the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Community. De Colores

Scott Chase, Chair – Board of Directors
Minnesota Walk to Emmaus



His Banner over me is Love

This song was one of my favorites at the church camp I attended as a youth, and it's one that resonated again in my heart during my pilgrim walk when the banners were hung around the conference room. The scene helped us really feel wrapped in the beauty and warmth of God's grace.

While the scene in my mind still plays in vivid color, the banners themselves are beginning to show their age. And while the love with which they were made with still shines through, the light is maybe a bit more like a candle than a beacon.

Here's the challenge: let's take an opportunity to enhance our banner closet with new banners. The board would like to be able to donate several to the Fox Valley Emmaus Community for their spring walks and we have about 6 months until our next set of walks in October 2007 to get some new banners made. One idea to make this more fun for everyone would be to host a banner party at your next gathering or reunion group. Another idea may be hold a special meeting to just make a banner, and some may decide to create one as a family or with friends. Our more talented folks may even take on the challenge themselves. I'm certain your group will find a way that will work for them.

No Ideas? No talent? No Problem!! There are many websites and books that are full of ideas from simple to complex. Use a favorite verse or lyric from a song. Cokesbury Resources or your local Christian book store will have books of patterns. Sunday school materials and clipart are also great idea generators! It can be as simple or complex as your group wants to make it. Many of the less complicated ones can be completed in one session. If you are really stumped, but still want to do something, just contact me for some ideas or direction. We may even be able to bring the supplies and layout to the gathering for you and have your group put it together - a banner in a box, so to speak!

So get your thinking caps on and let's revive the beacon of God's love through these banners!

Dianne Zimmerman,
Nominations Chair

Women - Don't Forget the Men!

We prayerfully write this in hopes you will share the wonders of your weekend with not only the women, but also the men in your life who love Jesus. We recognize in the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus that about 60% of our community is women. Women are usually pretty good at talking to each other about our emotional experiences, but how do we talk to the men?

The fact is, most men think logically rather than feel emotionally and faith is emotional - not logical. Describing what happened to your faith on your weekend will probably be very difficult, but try. Make sure that you back up your words with action or to them, and others, that's all it will be, just words. Act on what you have learned on your weekend weekend. When men notice the change, that is when the talking will really begin. They will want to know - WHAT HAPPENED?

Ask them this:

Do they understand the fullness of God's grace and the unending love He has for us? Do they want to know what it truly means to love as Christ has taught us? If you are married, do they want to know how to love you more deeply? How to honor you? How to realize how much you love them? Do they want to recommit and rejoice in this journey with you? Let them know that words are not enough. They need to experience this for themselves.

As women, we have been traditionally taught how to nurture. Men are probably very hungry spiritually and don't even know it. Feed them! Get them to understand that what they are using to fill this hunger will never be enough. Work, toys and the pursuit of money will never fill the emptiness and longings they have. Tell them of the love that never ends. God's love will fill them.

Man does not live on bread alone,
But by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

By all means invite the women in your life but do not forget the men. Their participation in any Christian community is vital! Receive the courage from our Lord to share and witness your experience to them. Make them see they are starving: starving for the fullness of God's love. Invite them to the feast!

De Colores,
Mary Kay Lenarz
MN Walk #6
Sponsorship & Education Committee
(For helpful Sponsorship Packets call: 651-771-3677 or
email craftyladymkz@comcast.net)

Welcome New Pilgrims

Let's all welcome the newest members of the Minnesota Emmaus Community!

Walk #77—Oct. 2006

Denny Anderson
Bob Aschenbach
Dean Ogg
Bill Scherer

Bruce Stemme
Jeff Ufkes
Paul Williams

Walk #78—Nov. 2006

Collette Baldwin
Karin Bartlett
Beatrice Brown
Theresa Canfield
Doris Champlin
Judy Droubie
Crystal Falk
Carolann Garber
Stephanie Goecke
Vicki Hunnicutt
Clarice Johnson
Rose Mary Kuehl
Judy Larson
Jennifer MacDonald
Judy McCann

Cim Melbye
Donna Miller
Kathy Niel
Ellen Ogg
Rosina Ortwein
Nancy Pfaffe
Helen Quist
Renee Rogotzke
Marj Schroeder
Cassie Schroeder
Mary Jo Suttie
Sherry Thompson
Karla Valiulis



Financial News

On behalf of the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus, we would like to thank you for your generous prayer, time, talent and financial support.

We had 6 Walks in 2006 with 119 pilgrims. Although we had wonderful walks (I hope you remember yours—I hope it was wonderful), we did not have as many pilgrims as we would like. The past few years have been difficult for the Board. We are trying to get back to the participation levels at the Walks we had in the past.

Because of some of these difficulties, we are having problems meeting our financial obligations. In the past we always had a scholarship program and extra cash to pay for the supplies we needed to buy for the walks. Some supplies were kindly donated. We thank you for those donations.

All team members and clergy on the Walks generously donate their time. Some pilgrims, team members and clergy, however, do not have the finances to pay for their participation on the Walk. Many scholarships are requested and we try to fill the requests, at least partially.

With the commitments to Camp Ihduhapi for next year, our checkbook balance is less than \$1,000. We need your prayers and financial support. If you are working for a company that matches donations, please request the matching donation.

We are excited in looking forward to the fall walk at Camp Ihduhapi. We are thankful for the blessings and challenges God provided to us in 2006. Your support is an integral part of His plan for us. We pray that you, in turn, will be blessed abundantly for what you will sow into His Kingdom.

Donations can be sent to: Joan Phillips
5325 Meadow Drive SE
Rochester, MN 55904

Your 2007 Board of Directors

Scott Chase	Community Lay Director	612.869.8244	thechasegang@msn.com
Rev. Duane Sarazin	Community Spiritual Director		dsarazin@comcast.net
Craig Wilson	Past Community Lay Director	952.435.7176	cwilsoncpa@frontiernet.net
Joan Phillips	Treasurer	507.289.3466	jmp@bismark.com
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Mary Kay Lenarz	Education/Sponsorship	651.771.3677	craftyladymkz@comcast.net
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Dan Zei	At Large Director	715.212.2233	daniel.w.zei@gmail.com

All Dressed Up And Nowhere To Go

I am so pumped up! I've just been on a hike and have been to the top of the mountain. I just can't wait to share my adventure with others. I heard there were parties I could go to and let others share in on my experience. I got all dressed up and then Where's the party?

When we're still "coming down from the mountaintop", most of us have a strong desire to give back some of the experiences we received during our hike. Some people immediately find ways to share. Some of us look for ways to get involved in another hike up a mountain. This hike we've been on is the Walk to Emmaus.

So where has your hike taken you? Have your Fourth Days been filled with more personal contact with fellow Christians? Have you gotten more involved in the life of your local church? Or have you filed away your weekend experience, and fallen victim to the daily goings-on of the secular world?

The Christian life is strengthened and deepened by sharing with those who also have a vision of a life directed wholly to God through Christ. You cannot achieve this life on your own; you need the right kind of support and fellowship that can only come from other Christians.

There are many opportunities to get more involved, to get dressed up and join the party. You can do this by joining a reunion group, attending a monthly gathering, supporting future Walks through prayer and attending Candlelight, making agape, and serving on an Emmaus team.

If you have never been in a reunion group or are currently not in one, find two or three people and get one started. These small follow-up groups assist pilgrims' helping keep the spark alive and help us in our daily walk with Christ. Anyone who has a desire to live a life by the virtues of God's grace is welcome. Invite non-Emmaus members of your local church to your reunion group meetings. This may get them interested in attending a Walk. If you are a member of a reunion group, ask a new pilgrim if he or she would like to become part of yours.

Reunion groups have a common purpose: To help us in our daily lives through grace. The group provides support, encouragement and accountability. The groups meet at regular times, usually weekly for an hour. The meeting consists of people sharing the stories of their walk with Christ during the past week. Group members listen to one another, celebrate the grace of God in each person's life, and reinforce each one's commitment to living in union with Christ in all facets of daily life.

Let's be sure that every Pilgrim gets connected with a Reunion Group and invited to a monthly Gathering; not just once, but several times. If you cared enough to sponsor a pilgrim, get him or her connected. If you're not part of a reunion group, check the reunion group listing in this newsletter. If a reunion group doesn't exist in your area, start one.

But most of all, remember the individual who sponsored you. Return the favor and become a sponsor yourself. Make sponsorship your personal commitment. Invite a friend to take a hike up the mountain.

If you would like more information about reunion groups, gatherings or know of a group not listed, e-mail Rick Phillips at rphill4525@bismark.com or call him at (507) 289-3466.

Contacts for Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Gatherings

Don DeFor	Austin, MN	507.219.1947	d4d2002@yahoo.com
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Linda Duehn	Buffalo Lake, MN	320.848.2637	
Constance Anderson	Lake City, MN	507.289.3419	
Audrey Asp	Lamberton, MN	507.752.7809	
Don Putzier	Mankato, MN	507.345.1553	drdcp@hickorytech.net
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Roger A. Parks	Perham, MN	218.356.7420	pastorparks@pdume.com
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Marilyn Weedman	Sanborn, MN	507.648.3707	
Kathy Tape	Colfax, WI	715.962.3383	
George Sorenson	Cumberland, WI	715.434.2723	gnps@chibardun.net

Keeping the Flame Lit

The Minnesota Walk to Emmaus hosted this great event at Villa Maria Retreat Center in Frontenac, MN March 15 to 18 and March 22 to 25. Members of the Emmaus Community and friends enjoyed a time of relaxing, reconnecting, and re-igniting. A Marriage Enrichment program, as well as other workshops, worship, and communion, were part of the weekend fun. Those who attended had the opportunity to relax in this beautiful setting, and enjoy quiet time to reflect on God's work. This will be the start of an annual event to reconnect and re-ignite Community members.



Dust 'Em Off—A Message from Your Spiritual Director

A boy saw his Grandpa on the porch one day, doing something that he rarely saw the elder doing: reading the Bible. "How come you're doing that, Grandpaw?", asked the youngster. Replied the Grandfather, "Cramming for finals." That's an old one. But the application is still there. I guess that if you think that you are going to meet your Maker for sure in the near future, then reading the Bible is a good bet. On the other hand, intelligent Christians discover early on in their walk with the Lord that Bible reading reveals truth that is unbeatable for the long haul too. Emmaus Pilgrims have all heard the "Study" talk; and probably made some decisions to really get into the Word.

New Year's Resolutions

We're in March now, and New Years resolutions have come and gone for many. But what hasn't just "come and gone" is our need as followers of Jesus to be marinating in the Word of God on a daily basis. How are *you* doing? Opinion polls (Barna, Gallup, etc.) reveal that even dedicated Christians can get pretty lazy when it comes to Scripture reading. When that happens, people can lose the edge against sin, against ignorance and against apathy.

An Invitation

Therefore, I want to invite you, dear Reader, to join me and other Emmaus folks to read the Bible daily (or as close to daily as you can get) in 2007. Dust off your favorite version (a modern language version like "The Message" or the "New Living Translation" are terrific) and let's get reading. You miss a day, don't obsess about it. Just get back at it the next day. If you can't do 30 minutes, do 15; can't squeeze in 15, do 5. But DO something. Don't let the Devil guilt you into paralysis. What's at stake here is your soul, your mind, your spirit; your *effectiveness!* If you want to challenge yourself to get through the complete Bible in one year's time, start now. For a format, go online to the "Read The Bible In A Year" website (<http://www.bibleinayear.org>) and they will email the full readings to you every day—*free of charge*.

I picked up a copy of the *Men's Devotional Bible* this past December, and gave a copy to two of my younger male relatives; there's also a Women's version. Along with Bible

readings there's a modern, pithy, gender specific devotional for every day of the year. It's dynamite! Just a suggestion; not a necessity. Let me know if you plan to participate in daily Bible reading: email me or drop me a line via "snail mail"; and I'll put you all on my prayer list for strength of resolve to follow through.

So, DUST 'EM OFF, those Bibles of yours. You will be blessed beyond your imagination, especially knowing that many others will be journeying with you.

De Colores,

Duane Sarazin, Community Spiritual Director
dsarazin@riverhillsumc.org

Agape—An Act of Love

Greetings Community:

Good News. For you who don't know, Agape used to be a selected team just like the conference room team. The agape team will be returning to team meetings. This will unite the whole team (bind them together) into one unit. We believe this will make for a much smoother weekend.

Do you provide Agape for the walks? If you do I would like to hear from you. Would you like to serve on a team in the Agape position? Would you be interested in serving on a committee that would get together 2 to 3 times a year to work on Agape issues?

Please contact David Bunnell @952-758-3261 or e-mail debanddjb@yahoo.com

DeColores,
Dave Bunnell

Don Putzier
Communications Director
Minnesota Walk to Emmaus
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Mankato, MN 56001

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Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Upcoming Walks

**Men's Walk
October 25-28, 2007
Camp Ihduhapi
Loretto, MN**

**Women's Walk
November 8-11, 2007
Camp Ihduhapi
Loretto, MN**

August is Walk to Emmaus Month

**Raising awareness
Sponsorship
Connect with your churches
Watch for more on this!**

Help Wanted!

The Minnesota Walk to Emmaus currently has two openings on the board of directors. If you would like to help make a difference in our growing community, please contact Scott Chase, Community Lay Director, at thechasegang@msn.com