



Minnesota Emmaus Community Organized 1991
March 2013 Newsletter
Website www.mnemmaus.org

FROM THE COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Spring is here, and we see signs of new life in God's wonderful creation. It won't be long before we are seeing flowers blooming, green grass coming up, and trees leafing out. These can be reminders of God's wonderful grace, and how He brings change and new life to us as well. As many of you know, the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus community is also undergoing some changes; we are in an exciting rebuilding phase, guided by the Holy Spirit. As noted in Nehemiah 2:20, "The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding. . ."

During the past 22 years, Minnesota Walk to Emmaus has involved many hard-working men and women in a variety of roles, allowing each of us to experience Christ in a new way during three-day weekends. We have held close to 100 walks in a variety of locations in Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Many people have been involved as members of conference room teams, committees, our board of directors, agape teams, and other walk-related groups and functions. Many of you have sponsored new pilgrims and have participated in various fourth day activities, such as reunion groups, gatherings, and support for your new pilgrims. A tremendous amount of hard work has come from many dedicated people, and I want to thank all those people for their services. Emmaus calls us to be humble servants.

In January, our board of directors and several other members of the community participated in Emmaus leadership training, conducted by Cathi Eberly and Pastor Carl Wiggins, regional trainers for Walk to Emmaus. The sessions were informative and educational, and also allowed us to examine ourselves and ask many questions about how we can strengthen our Emmaus community. While we have continued to support quality three-day weekends, we have struggled in filling our registrations for new pilgrims, in providing the best possible sponsorship for new pilgrims, and in emphasizing how important fourth day is. We want to continue to engage our community members in the lives of our local churches, and continue to foster ongoing support and growth for the Emmaus community so that more may experience the grace and love we have received.

After much prayer and analysis, the board of directors is looking at five major areas to work on to strengthen our community:

- Improving Fourth Day experience and sponsorship
- Improving our committee and board roles and structure
- Adhering to the Emmaus standards
- Improving communications
- Enhancing relationships within our community, with other three-day events, and with churches

In order to better accomplish our strategic planning and focus on the above areas, the board chose to postpone the fall walks for 2013. This was a difficult decision to make, but was felt very necessary.

I am very excited about the upcoming Walks in April, and I am also very excited and confident that our work this year will truly provide us with a stronger community and place us in a great position for holding two sets of walks in 2014. Please continue to pray for the pilgrims of the spring walks, and I look forward to your participation and support through sponsorship, attendance at candlelight, closing, gatherings, reunions groups, and fourth day events. Remember our purpose is to develop leaders for the church and to inspire, challenge, and equip participants for Christian Action in their homes, churches, and places of work. Emmaus lifts up a way for our grace-filled lives to be lived and shared with others. There is a lot of information in this newsletter, but don't forget **our focus is on Christ, and on being better disciples!**

Blessings and De Colores, Don Putzier

Welcome New Community Members!

The following men and women were pilgrims during the Walks in 2012. Let's all welcome them to the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Community.



Walk #97

Peter Bell
Andrew Bittner
Fred Blaisdell
Jason Brezina
Ron Dorendorf
Roger Fellows
Tom Grimes
Chris Gruber
Tom Guenther
Jesse Lee
Tim Lilla
Ted May
Paul Pieper
Bob Raade
Jack Reis
Tim Siemsen
Todd Anderson
David Woolley

Walk #98

Lois Abel
Margo Barstad
Rosemary Bock
Karen Braaten
Peggy Buchanan
Karen Clement
Jacqui Dikken
Kari Gleason
Connie Hedland
Karla Johnson
Anna Kohrs
Crystal Kyle
LeAnn Lange
Melanie Lee
Jessi Lenzen
Rhonda Maker
Yvonne Mangum
Cyndi May
Jeannie Miller
Karla Raade
Teena Racheli
Kayla Richey

Walk #98 (cont)

Lisa Savoie
Heidi Schmid
Linda Taylor
Arlene Wetzell
Jessica Williams

Walk #99

Russell Jacobsen
Scott Norcross
Leslie Stelter
Randall Taatjes
Adam Wallace

Walk #100

Cathy Andela-Ruth
Wanita Chick
Cynthia Duchsherer
Joan Giese
Susan Holt Russell
Nancy Iverson
Leah Kinde
Dianne Mell
Ginny Norton
Marie Piette
Eleanor Schultz
Catherine Solheim
Sherrill Taatjes
Georgia Thometz
Kali Trukki
Elizabeth Whittier

***Minnesota Walk to Emmaus
Upcoming Walks
Luther Point Bible Camp & Retreat Center
11525 Luther Point Rd.
Grantsburg, WI
(715)-689-2347***

***For directions, go to
<http://www.lutherpoint.org/directions>***

**Men's Walk #101
April 18-21, 2013**

**Women's Walk #102
April 25-28, 2013**

Community Involvement



Every one of us is a member of the Emmaus Community. If you spent 72-hours in prayerful discovery and revitalization, you have experienced an event, hard to explain and yet priceless in value. Actually, you are the “community”. Getting the community involved means many things to many people. For the Board, we recognize that one of our responsibilities is to provide the resources for an active and vibrant community. Here are just a few:

Participate in a reunion. Reunions are nothing more than weekly (preferred) discussions among men and women separately discussing their faith journey. Many groups follow the order set forth in the small cards (*Group Reunion Card*) we all received on our 4th Day at the Walk. Others allow the opportunity to just talk about what has been happening in their lives since the previous reunion. Some encourage open discussion but at the same time, the reunion leader asks spiritually enlightening questions such as, “When in the past week have you felt closest to God?” Those are just a few examples of the conduct during a reunion. Some also call these groups accountability groups.

Participate in a Gathering. Gatherings are advertised in e-mail messages and on the website and allow members of the small-group reunions to journey to a central location for an evening of sharing, singing, and engaging the Holy Spirit. Gatherings are also a great place to rekindle friendships made during prior Walks. A main focus of the 4th Day is to keep the Holy Spirit alive and growing.

Form your own reunion group. In some cases, reunion groups require some distance to travel. Remember, when two or more are gathered, you have a reunion. The Board can help by providing names and contact information for others in your area that may have the same desire.

Be a Team Member during a Walk. Another set of Walks will be upon us in just one year. If you remember filling out the “Time and Talent” sheet, perhaps you didn’t indicate the desire to serve on team. Well now may be the time. There is a process in which we strongly encourage serving on the Agape team (working behind the scenes, which is very rewarding) during one Walk. At a subsequent Walk we’d like to move people to the conference room as an Assistant Table Leader. The next time, you may be called upon to be a Table Leader and presenter. Now speaking in front of a crowd may not be everyone’s strongest desire, so not presenting and still being a Table Leader is still possible. Another step, if you so desire is to become an Assistant Lay Director (ALD). After serving at least two Walks in the ALD position, you are eligible to be selected as a Lay Director (LD). The important aspect, now that you have been a pilgrim, is to show you what it takes to put on a Walk and further discipleship, which God calls us to do.

Participate During a Walk. As walks approach, participate by signing up for the prayer chart, making agape items, write a letter to a pilgrim, attend candlelight, sponsor’s hour, and closing. Community members are always welcome to come pray in the prayer chapel during a walk as well.

Join the Board of Directors. Every year the Board of Directors retires five members of a class and brings on five new Board Directors. This is an excellent time to get involved in the local governing Board. The Board meets monthly at Richfield United Methodist Church at 9:00 a.m. on the second Saturday of every month with some exceptions, and that often occurs during the Men’s or Women’s Walk.

Join a Committee. The Board has several chair members that are responsible for a committee. Some Board Chairs are a committee of one. The ideal situation would be to have a committee of three or four to work toward providing the ultimate spiritual experience for all pilgrims.

Sponsor a Pilgrim. Some Emmaus communities have waiting lists to attend Walks, and others do not. Arranging for pilgrims to attend a Walk is only part of sponsorship. Sponsorship is very important to continue to pass on the grace and further the experience for other church members to thrive in their local churches. To date we have over 1600 members in our database who have attended a Walk, either in Minnesota or another State. Among those members are those who have participated in Tres Dias, Cursillo, Unidos en Cristo and some other 3-day events. The ideal situation would be to have everyone on our list sponsor a pilgrim. One aspect of our “reorganization” is to have the members of the community provide the pilgrims for each Walk. The Board can and will provide all the help possible.

The best resource for getting in touch with a Board Director or to seek further information would be the Minnesota Emmaus website at www.mnemmas.org. In addition feel free to e-mail us at emailmnemmas01@gmail.com. This is your invitation to get involved with the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus.

Pete Schenck, Board Secretary

The Definition of Insanity

Perhaps Albert Einstein said it best when he said that the definition of insanity is “Doing the same things over and over again and expecting different results”. That is not a bad quote to remember.

In January, Cathi Eberly from the Upper Room met with Board members and other attendees about the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus. Her training opened eyes. We found that the board was having difficulty filling the four annual walks to a recommended total of 20 or more pilgrims. That is right; the board was having difficulty. As Cathi pointed out, it is the responsibility of the Emmaus community, not the board, to fill walks and the Board participates with one board representative per walk. Cathi suggested that we get that corrected quickly.

After much prayer and heart-felt discussion, the board concluded that in order for us to get to where we need to be, we, as a board should not be responsible for filling the walks by ourselves. We need the community to step up to the plate and actually to take the leadership role in filling the walks to over-flowing. We can do this!

There is a process in all of this and it is a very important process for everyone to understand. Like most process, there is no overnight fix. The process involves the entire community getting involved. It requires discussion and reflection but more importantly, a lot of prayer.

Postponing the 2013 Fall Walks was controversial in the Board meeting and in the community. It was a necessary step. There was even some discussion of cancelling all Walks in 2013 but that was voted down by a narrow margin. As a Board, we needed time to re-invent ourselves and to find where we drifted away from the Emmaus model set before us. More importantly, we needed to find how to get back to the Emmaus model.

The good news is, our Walks follow the Emmaus model fairly well, but where we fail to meet that model, the Board needs to take some corrective action. There is more good news. By taking corrective action and returning to the model that Emmaus has established for the Board, the community will become more involved. We will describe more about community involvement in the article titled “Community Involvement” in this newsletter.

In May the Board of Directors will be gathering at a retreat center in southeast Minnesota to put all of the research accomplished together to formulate a plan. The two-day event may not provide all of the answers but it will provide a positive direction.

Communication is very important. Our current communication director has a very busy task, and assistance is welcome. Community members who have skills in website management, newsletter compiling and writing, or marketing techniques are very welcome to assist. The Upper Room tasks us with providing a quarterly newsletter. This newsletter is being written and compiled by several members of the board and is one step toward improving our communication with the community. What other changes will come out of the Board’s actions will be forthcoming in the summer edition of the Minnesota Emmaus newsletter.
Pete Schenck, Board Secretary

4th Day Gatherings

4th day celebrations are a tradition of the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus intended to introduce you, the pilgrims, to other MN WTE community members in your area.

Area	Location	Contact	Date & Time
Mankato	Hilltop United Methodist Church 108 South Manitou Drive, Mankato, MN 56001	Don Putzier 507-345-1553	Tuesday, April 30th, 6:30 PM
Twin Cities	Bethlehem Covenant Church 3141 43rd Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55406	Lowery Smith 612-722-3339	Friday, May 3rd, 6:00 PM
Lake City/Red Wing	Lake City United Methodist Church 213 North Oak Street, Lake City, MN 55041	Greg Sprick 651-764-2428	Sunday, May 5th, 12:30 PM
Northwestern Wisconsin	Faith UMC Superior, WI	Pete Schenck 612-791-3356	Thursday, May 2, 6:00 PM