



Minnesota Emmaus Community Organized 1991
November 2009 Newsletter
Website www.mnemmaus.org

FROM THE COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This may be my last article for the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Newsletter as Community Lay Director. Thank you for allowing me to serve. It has been such a pleasure to meet with so many followers of Christ. Below you will find my comments for this newsletter:

- We truly felt God's presence during the just-completed Walks #87 and #88. For the board members the real joy comes from watching teams being pulled together, pilgrims registering, agape supplies being delivered, the agape teams coming together, participating in candlelight, and hearing closing remarks by new members of our community. Pilgrim and team members' lives were enriched and positively changed. It was a blessing to have been part of these Walks.
- At one of the closings a pilgrim said, "The Walk to Emmaus (WTE) is one of the best kept secrets in the world." This made a lot of sense because WTE is all over the world but I hope our community helps spread the word the WTE really isn't a secret society but one that is open to all so the teachings of Jesus Christ are available to everyone.
- One of the best ways to keep Walk to Emmaus from being a secret is to sponsor pilgrims, and I particularly encourage our recent pilgrims to discover the joys of being a sponsor, serving on a agape team, becoming a conference room team member, and joining a reunion group to keep the "spirit" alive.
- At our recent Emmaus Board meeting we discussed fund raising within the Minnesota community. You should know that Minnesota Walk to Emmaus is alive and well. Our Walks are financed on a "break even" basis and generally we are successful in this effort. But, printing and mailing newsletters, web site expenses, insurance, scholarships for new pilgrims and team members, and other operating expenses are beyond the "break even" point. Agape "green" collected at candlelight and closing is most helpful but we could use more financial support. If WTE is important to you please consider sending some "agape green" to –Michelle Schober, Registrar—7001 Ximines Ln N, Maple Grove, MN 55369 or if you want to consider using PayPal on our web site at mnemmaus.org that will also work.
- Several members of our Emmaus board will be leaving us at the end of this year. One thing you discover when you work on teams or are involved in the board of directors is that Walks don't just happen. They take considerable effort, in supervision and experience, in order to remain true to the Walk to Emmaus guidelines. With this in mind I want to thank the following board members who will be going off the board January 1, 2010. They are Audrey Benjamin, Community Spiritual Director; Rick Phillips, Past Community Lay Director who held the community together during very difficult times; Don Putzier, Communication Director which means getting out the Newsletters, answering various e-mails, and seeing that e-mails keep us informed; Jack Uebler, Facilities/Site Selection Director who sees that setup and teardowns are arranged for and that our future sites meet our needs. We will be welcoming new board members before the end of the year and you will have an opportunity to vote on their names in the near future.
Our spring Walks will be at a new location, Koinonia Retreat Center, near Annandale. The Lay director for the men's Walk #89 (May 13-16) will be Lee Rainey and the Lay Director for the women's Walk #90 (May 20-23) will be Shirley Jackson. It is my prayer that these Walks will be full and even potentially have a waiting list, so get your pilgrims registered early.

Lowery Smith

Welcome New Community Members!

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

Walk #87

Rodney Ballard
Andrew Bergstrom
Ron Bogle
Charlie Brecht
Tim Carlson
Joshua Choi
John Elmgren
Greg Hildenbrand
David Huff
Keith King
Jack Neufeld
Rod Nord
Matthew Ortwein
John Piotrowski
Louis Porter
Owen Rasmussen

Walk #88

Helen Batchelder
Deb Brecht
Marjie Brodersen
Lynn Carlson
Coleen Ford
Marion Hansen
Nancy Hinds
Barbara Jones
Lila Kapping
Darcy Kies
Penny Lenzen
Angela Marble
Gladys Marzahn
Cynthia McKee
Janis Oakes
Nancy Odom
Chriss Page
Carolyn Piotrowski
Charlotte Plagge
Yano Reko
Adela Scherer
Marie Stockman
Stephanie Thomas
Arlis Wallace
Marie Grace Walter



Books Wanted for Walk Table

Thank you to all who have donated gently used books for the book table at our walks. Each walk has sold enough books to provide at least one scholarship. All proceeds from the book sale go for scholarships. The books are priced from \$1-\$5 as suggested donations. No one is excluded from receiving a book.

Our book supply is in need of updating. We are in need of more devotionals, good used bibles and books by well-known authors such as Yancey, Lucado, Joyce Meyer, Beth Moore etc.....

You may bring your used books to your Reunion groups or gatherings. You may also contact me directly or any of the board members. Thank you for your participation in this part of our Emmaus ministry.

Darlene Vandermyde, Education/sponsorship



Sponsorship—Invite someone to the Emmaus Experience!

Thanks to all of you who sponsored a pilgrim for walks 87 & 88. You were and are a blessing as you provided the opportunity for these men and women to “come apart” and meet God in a new way. Sponsorship is a rewarding experience. It enlarges not only oneself but also the whole Emmaus Community by providing energy and vitality to all involved as we proceed on our 4th days in ministry.

My message is to all of us – new Emmaus community members as well as long-standing members – to prayerfully consider whom we may have the privilege of sponsoring for the Spring walks in May of 2010.

We have an excellent resource available to us for sponsorship training. Jim Rottinger has been specifically trained to provide information and techniques to groups on sponsorship. He is willing to meet with Reunion Groups and Gatherings to share this information. I encourage you as Reunion Group leaders to take advantage of this opportunity for sponsorship training. You may call/email Jim Rottinger directly or any board member. You will find the numbers listed in this newsletter.

Have a blessed holiday season. Be blessed and be a blessing to someone by your sponsorship.

Darlene Vandermyde, Sponsorship/Education

Nominations for the 2010 Board

It's time to put forth the names of candidates who have expressed willingness to serve on the Board for three years beginning in 2010. Now we ask for your Community approval or disapproval of this slate.

Here is an overview of what comprises the Board for the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus. This will be new news for recent Pilgrims, and a good reminder for all the rest of us.

Our Board is organized according to our By-laws. It is comprised of 15 members elected in **classes** of 5 members every year. Each class serves for a period of three years. The board may have 16 members in those years where the CLD is going off the board at the end of his or her term (e.g., Rick Phillips, Lowery Smith). In those cases, the CLD stays on the board as Past CLD - and that makes the 16th member. It happens often, but not always. Also - one of the five in each class is a clergy person. That allows us to maintain 3 clergy on the Board at all times. The classes rotate - each year one clergy and four lay persons join the board, and the same number retire. If a Board member resigns in mid-term, the Community Lay Director appoints a replacement. By the By-laws, replacements may be renominated when their appointed term expires. Also by the By-laws, those elected for a three year term cannot be renominated for the year following their term's end.

The five members retiring at the end of 2009 are Don Putzier, Rick Phillips (Past Community Lay Director), Audrey Benjamin (Community Spiritual Director), Jack Uebler and Molly Reko (both were appointed to fill vacant positions on the Board in mid-term. Lowery Smith is also in the class of 2009, but he will remain on the Board as the 16th member because he will be Past Community Lay Director. We are very grateful for their years of faithful service – many thanks to all these retiring Board members.

The following nominees are for the class of 2012. They will serve three years: 2010, 2011, and 2012. We are excited about the combined experience these nominees bring to the task, and we are indeed grateful to these servant leaders who have agreed to be nominated.

Lois Finseth of Bloomington, MN. Lois attends Richfield UMC in Minneapolis. She was a Pilgrim on MN Walk #6 in Oct 1993. She comes to this nomination with a wealth of Emmaus experience. Since her Pilgrim walk, she has served on eleven teams, most recently as Lay Director of Walk 88. She has been Table Leader 4 times, and has given six different talks.

Christina Oberle of Lonsdale, MN. Christina attends Hosanna! Lutheran, Lakeville, MN. Christina hit the ground running for Emmaus after her Walk #82 in April, 2008. She has served on an agape team, been an Assistant Table Leader in the conference room, and most recently served as agape leader for Walk 88. She says she has “a lot of energy for Emmaus”.

Anne Roberts of Bemidji, MN. She attends Bemidji UMC, where her husband John is pastor. Some of you may know – they served the church at Cambridge for many years and worked diligently to sponsor Pilgrims and encourage Emmaus within that area north of the Cities. Anne was a Pilgrim on Walk 46 in April of 2001. She has served teams twice as table leader, most recently on Walk 80. She has also served as assistant table leader and she has given three different talks.

Jim Rottinger of Apple Valley, MN. Jim attends Evergreen Community Church. Jim attended his Pilgrim walk in Cedar Rapids, IA, and has been involved with Minnesota Walk to Emmaus since its inception. He is very interested in taking information about Emmaus to churches in the state – indeed, he has even helped to start communities in other states. He has served on agape teams 9 times. (That is some kind of record, probably!) He has also given talks and been table leader in the conference room. He was Lay Director of Minnesota Walk 55, and he was Lay Director of the first walk in Eastern Wisconsin (MN Walk 73.) Some years ago, Jim also served on the Board, so this is a second time for him.

(Continued on next page)

Nominations for 2010 Board (continued from page 3)

John Roberts of Bemidji, MN, is clergy and pastor of Bemidji UMC.

John was a Pilgrim on Walk 7 in Mankato, Feb 1994. He brings much energy and love for Emmaus. He has been Walk Spiritual Director four times, and assistant spiritual director four times.

Now, it is time for you Community members to vote your approval or disapproval of this slate. You may do this in one of four ways:

- ◆ Drop a postcard or letter with your name, vote, and comments, to Molly Reko, 809 Hilltop Road, Mendota Heights, MN 55118, or....
- ◆ Call Molly at 651-454-2208. If no one answers, you can leave your name and comments on the message machine, or.....
- ◆ Email your vote, name, and comments directly to mnemmaus01@comcast.net, or....
- ◆ You will also find a voting form on our web site at <http://www.mnemmaus.org/nominations.htm>. It will allow you to submit your name, vote, and comments to be emailed automatically.

However you choose to vote, please include your name and email if you have one. We don't want to accidentally count someone's vote twice.

It is not too early to begin thinking about people you would like to nominate for the Board for the class of 2013. (And, don't forget yourself! You may be just the Board member we need!) Most Board positions have supporting committees. It is a good way for you to serve and to learn more about what is necessary to maintain a strong community. If you have names to put forth for either nominations for next year or committee involvement this year – you may include this information in your voting comments. This kind of input is welcome all year long. You will find the name and email of the nominations Board member on our webpage if you get ideas later.

Thank you so much for your continued participation in MN Walk to Emmaus.

Molly Reko, Nominations

“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord. . .

— Ephesians 6:7a

Your 2009 Board of Directors

Lowery J Smith	Community Lay Director	612-722-3339	lowery@ag-line.com
Audrey Benjamin	Community Spiritual Director	651-698-3034	grandma__b@msn.com
Barb McKewin	Clergy	320-289-1491	bjmckewin@prodigy.net
Rick Phillips	Past Community Lay Director/ Gatherings/Reunion Groups	507-289-3466	rphill4525@bismark.com
Wayne Tomlinson	Secretary	763-755-8366	waynetom1@yahoo.com
Ralph Carter	Treasurer	952-935-2693	cart0077@yahoo.com
Don Shannon	Bookkeeper/Marketing	763-783-5898	donaldshannon1955@yahoo.com
Darlene Vandermyde	Education/Sponsorship	612-781-9839	d_vandermyde@yahoo.com
Julie Ufkes	Agape	320-833-9915	ju-l-s@mchsi.com
Michelle Schober	Registrar	763-425-0794	mschober4597@yahoo.com
Don Putzier	Communications	507-345-1553	drdcp@hickorytech.net
Jack Uebler	Facilities	651-731-0440	jamar4441@aol.com
Mary Ann Smith	Team Selection	612-722-3339	smith310@umn.edu
Molly Reko	Nominations/Followup	651-454-2208	mollyreko@comcast.net
Bruce Schroeder	Music/Worship	715-962-4687	bruce346@centurytel.net

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

In being a small part of the last two Walks, I have been reminded over and over again how often the words: community, communion and communication are a part of our time together. In the Emmaus “community” we are people who have shared a common experience. We have spent three days together, laughing, talking, listening, sharing, making posters and hearing one another’s joys/sorrows and encouraging one another—all healing activities. What we did was build community. Community of a common experience does not just happen. It is built.

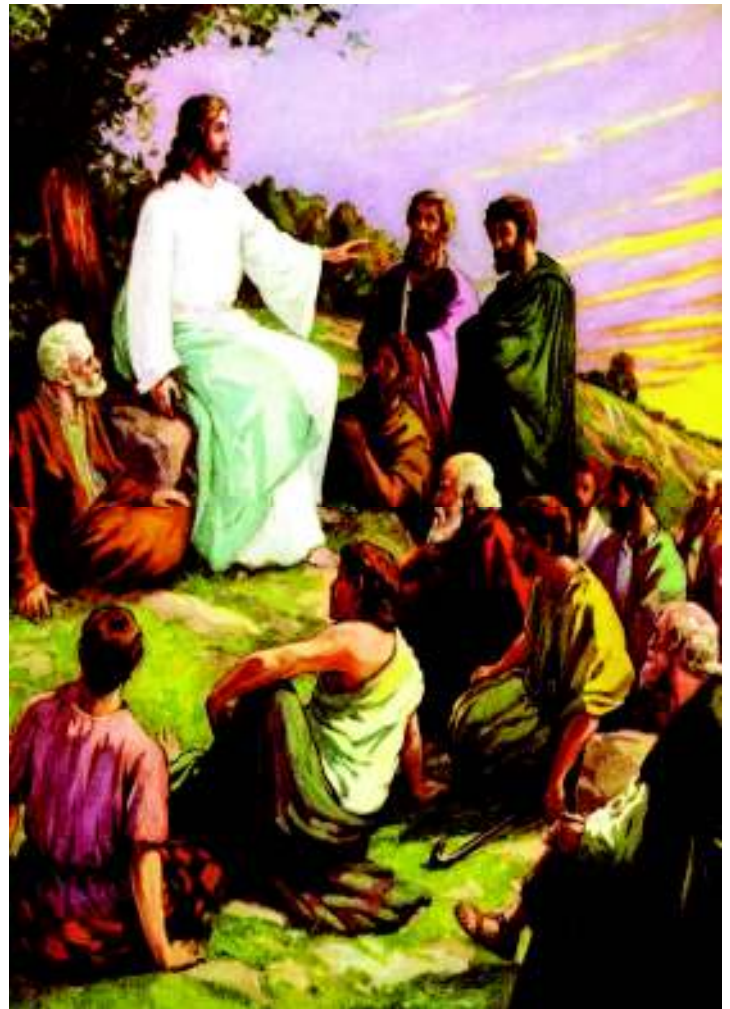
Then there is “communion.” Holy Communion is the act of sharing as a body of Christians our one faith. It is a fellowship together of faith sharing. In the case of Walk to Emmaus, it is the fellowship together around the table both in making posters and eating, and then in partaking of Holy Communion. In Emmaus the community shares (Holy) Communion each time it gathers. By doing so, we are saying: I remember what the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is all about; and I remember the support both community and communion give me.

And then, there is “communication.” Communication is the act of making information known. For Walk to Emmaus, communication is our way of increasing in numbers as we offer new growth experiences for others. As we communicate our experience of community with other believers, and enjoy the blessing of celebrating Holy Communion together, we live before others our desire to live in community the example Christ has given us.

The Emmaus experience is for each of us personally, however, it is too good to hold onto too tightly – it is best when shared! What will you do today to communicate with someone you know what the Walk to Emmaus experience means to you? Sponsor sheets for the Spring walks are available! Team selection continues for the Spring 2010

Walks – have you filled out a Talent Sheet? Or perhaps you are being led to start a reunion group! Share the Good News of your Walk to Emmaus experience!

Audrey Benjamin
Community Spiritual Director



More about our Walk sites in Minnesota

Koronis Ministries, formerly Lake Koronis Assembly Grounds, is a year round Conference and Retreat Center with Camp Koronis for a summer camp experience. Located just 90 miles from the Twin Cities, Koronis Ministries sits on 190 acres of one of Minnesota’s most beautiful lakes. Koronis Ministries lodging and retreat facilities house about 420 people during the summer months, 240 in the spring, fall and winter. There is buffet style food service, an historic Tabernacle with an Assembly Hall, and a quaint Chapel. Koronis Ministries is a Mission of the United Methodist Church. More information may be obtained at http://www.bunk1.com/template/home.asp?form_camp_id=7155

Koinonia Retreat Center is a hospitality ministry of the Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Koinonia is 120 acres located on the north end of Lake Sylvia in west central Wright County. The Koinonia property consists of Lake Sylvia shoreline, native prairie and Minnesota Big Woods. Even the casual observer will be amazed at the variety of wild life that can be observed. Koinonia offers dining, lodging, and meeting accommodations for individuals and groups of up to 120 people. More information may be obtained at <http://www.koinoniaretreatcenter.org/>

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

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Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Upcoming Walks

Men's Walk #89
May 13-16, 2010
Koinonia Retreat
Center
Annandale, MN

Men's Walk #91
Oct. 7-10, 2010
Lake Koronis
Paynesville, MN

Women's Walk #90
May 20-23, 2010
Koinonia Retreat
Center
Annandale, MN

Women's Walk #92
Oct. 14-17, 2010
Lake Koronis
Paynesville, MN

Do you want to keep getting this newsletter by mail?

Please contact Don Putzier at drdcp@hickorytech.net or return a note to him by mail if you would like to stop receiving this newsletter by US Mail, or if you wish to be taken off all mailings. The newsletters will continue to be available on line via our website.

From the Communications Director

For the past three years, it has been a tremendous pleasure to serve as your communications director. Through various contacts, e-mails, messages, and participation in various Walks, I can see just how large the Body of Christ really is! It is so touching to receive messages from sisters- and brothers-in-Christ from all over the world. At the time of this writing, I do not know who will take my place. I know God's helping hand will be with those who continue to carry on with various Board duties.

We are also in the process of cleaning-up our mailing lists for postal mailings and e-mailings. Please bear with us as we update listings. Thanks to those of you who have requested to be taken off the postal mailings to save postage. Newsletters are available on our website.

I encourage everyone to stay involved with Emmaus activities, serve where you can; but most importantly, serve your local church so that the Good News is spread!
Don Putzier

