Jackson Area Emmaus Affiliate Vandercook Missionary Church 511 E. McDevitt Jackson, MI 49203

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COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER June/July/August 2013

<u>Community Gatherings</u> 2nd Saturday of the Month - Brookside United Methodist Church (please bring a passing dish) **NO GATHERING IN JULY**

Board Meetings 4th Tuesday of the Month Brookside United Methodist Church - 6:30 PM

2012 Emmaus Walks

Women's Walk - TBA (Fall) Men's Walk - TBA (Spring)

From Our Community Lay Director

How do you sell Emmaus?

A couple of years ago a friend of mine that I sponsored on his walk shared that he had been disappointed in the results of his Emmaus walk. He said I and other Emmaus people talk about how our walk had solved our problems but his walk had not solved his problem. As the guy who teaches Sponsorship Training this really bothered me and gave me new insight into what I teach new sponsors. Problem solved, right?

Today (can you say Monday after the men's walk) a friend came to me to talk about a personal issue he was having. He is a co-worker but one I had never really spent time discussing my faith with. As I listened to him it came to me that he would really benefit from a fourth day group so I asked him about his faith and attendance in a Bible study. He goes to church and attends a Bible study when his family life doesn't get in the way but they really don't share and discuss personal issues.

So I started to tell him about the Walk to Emmaus and the concept of fourth day groups. I even invited him to come to my own fourth day group. As the conversation went on I began to wish he had come to me three weeks earlier because I was feeling like he needs a Walk to Emmaus and maybe God led him to me. So I offered to sponsor him on the next available walk.

When I got home tonight and was mowing the lawn I started thinking about our conversation and I realized I had done the same thing today as I had done years ago. I had started out with good intentions of trying to get him to go on a walk but as the conversation carried on we went from talking about the walk to talking about the great things the walk has done for people who have taken in it. In other words I had implied (or maybe even promised) it would fix his problem. The guy who harps on sponsorship all the time fell on his own sword.

The mission of Emmaus as published on the Upper Room website is:

The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip the local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work. Emmaus lifts up a way for our grace-filled lives to be lived and shared with others.

Participants are encouraged to find ways to live out their individual call to discipleship in their home, church, and community.

Through the formational process of accountable discipleship in small groups and participation in the Emmaus community, each participant's individual gifts and servant-leadership skills are developed for use in the local church and its mission.

No place in there or on the Upper Room website will you find anything about Emmaus fixing a pilgrim's problems. As a matter of fact, no place in the Bible does it say follow Jesus and your life will be easier.

So when you are talking to a prospective pilgrim stay away from all the wonderful things the walk has done to fix your problems or other's problems. Instead talk about the things you learned, the small group experience and the tools you now have to support you in your walk with Christ.

Randy Herrick

Greetings From Our Assistant Community Lay Director

Praise the Lord with Every Breath

Great Day to All! I had the privilege to be the Board Rep. for the 56th Men's Walk to Emmaus. What an amazing gathering of Jesus Freaks! A little after 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 2nd men started entering Cornerstone Christian Church. Most had the "deer in the headlight" look on their faces, wondering "what is this all about, why am I here, I'm a Jesus Follower." Some had been asked many times to attend and managed to "weasel" their way out of it, and taking a deep breath and a "WHEW" sigh, thinking that process was finally behind them – for some, behind them for the second and third time.

Let me mention this, in this community we have some people who are dedicated to being a pest for God. I THANK EACH OF YOU, and so does this community! By this persistency, many new men became changed men of God. When they entered Cornerstone on Thursday afternoon, many found out that the walk they were trapped in wasn't uncommon; holding thoughts, hurts, and guilt and not wanting to think about them, let alone mention them to family and friends. When these same men left on Sunday, these men accepted the fact that they could not correct what they were unwilling to confront, that "baggage" wasn't nearly as heavy – some left all that "baggage" never to pick it up again. Praise God, Praise God, Praise God!

Now these same men have new tools; us dudes have tool boxes full of tools, many we got and used one time never to pick it up again. Don't allow Satan in your new tool box, he is prying already. Stay attached, call a new friend. Please don't go back and try to handle it on your own, like we are used to doing. WE ARE ALL RENEWED, WE ARE ALL REFRESHED! Just because 29 men said yes! Thank You Jesus. Nothing but the Blood of Jesus!

God Be With You Tom

"So glorify Me in all that I am about to do as you heed My call to expand yourselves in areas you've never walked in before and you will stand in awe of what I will do in and through you says the Lord your God."

From Our Community Spiritual Director

"Forbearance"

As you may be aware there were five clergy on the men's walk. What you may not be aware of is there were five other clergy that started the process of joining the team, I think one even gave his talk, and then had duties of their church pull them off the team. Ten clergy for one walk—what a blessing!

One of the big advantages of having this many clergy involved in a walk is it increases the chances of having a clergy that a particular pilgrim is willing to talk to about personal issues. It also means there are generally more clergy around to talk to pilgrims when they need someone to talk to. From early comments I have heard both of these were a big factor in the walk.

The one disadvantage (that I can think of) of this many clergy involved is there is more likelihood of one of them having a different theological bias than a pilgrim. Personally, I have felt that our diversity makes us stronger.

The question becomes, how do we deal with it on issues of theology? The answer to that is we agree to disagree. The New Testament calls this "forbearance." The literal meaning of forbearance is "holding back." We hold back on judging one another just as God has held back on judging us:

"Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine *forbearance* he had passed over the sins previously committed." (Romans 3:25-28, *NRSV*)

Emmaus is ecumenical. We are to lay aside our differences in ecclesiology and eschatology. It is not about when or how to baptize. It is not about our ideas on when the Rapture of the Church will take place or if there even is such an event described in the New Testament. It is about Christ. So, if we are not trying to bring someone into our church, does it really matter if we have a difference of opinion on a minor theology issue?

The purpose of the Walk to Emmaus is to renew the Church, strengthen congregations, strengthen Christian witness in the home, and get pilgrims involved in a 4th day group. And I cannot stress enough the importance of inviting pilgrims into 4th day groups be they accountability, Bible study, or fellowship groups.

What Emmaus is NOT:

It is not for Marriage Renewal.

It is not for persons dealing with stressful situations.

It is not a restful weekend retreat.

It is not the only way to spiritual growth.

It is not for non-Christians or inactive Christians.

I think there are three things we can all agree on:

- 1) Jesus is our Lord and Savior.
- 2) The greatest commandment is to Love God with all our heart, soul and mind.
- 3) The second greatest commandment is to Love our neighbor.

After those three, do any of the things that make us different denominations really matter? When the Day comes when we get to heaven none of these things will matter because we will be face to face with the One who loves us and has redeemed us! In the meantime, let us practice *forbearance* with each other.

Pastor Jim Hegedus, Community Spiritual Director



We are working on scheduling a women's walk in the fall, hopefully in October. We will publish date and location as soon as we have them. If you are interested in sending a man on a fall walk or our date for the women's walk does not work for your pilgrim, please consider sending them to one of the neighboring community's walks. Dates are listed below with their website so you can obtain an application.

Kalamazoo

http://www.kalamazooemmaus.org/ South Haven First Baptist Church Men's Walk October 17-20 Women's Walk October 24-27

Lansing Community http://www.lansingemmaus.truepath.com/ Clare United Methodist Church Men's Walk October 4-7 Women's Walk October 17-20



An Amazing Walk

"You were the first friend I ever had," wrote a teenage son. "I hope you learn a lot at your place. Love you. Big D," wrote a 9-year old.

Heartfelt words such as these brought tears of joy and affirmed a walk of purpose. When you're an Assistant Table Leader on a walk, you get to soak in the Holy Spirit as it bathes and cleanses the Pilgrims. And as we all know, if you get close to the fire, you'll feel the heat. For me – two years removed from my first walk in 2011 – it was a three-day journey that will change me and those around me forever. The 56th men's walk at Cornerstone Christian Church on May 3-5 began like most other walks. Weeks of prayer and preparation gave way to meeting my new best friend. And soon it was off to chapel where above the entrance were etched the words "Enter to Worship" and upon exit, "Depart

From pastors and new believers to twenty-somethings and men with many years, the message was clear – We bring our stuff and God meets us where we are. God loves us just the way we are, but not so much to leave us that way.

to Serve."

We were encouraged to give our "all" to Jesus. As Pastor Brad Smith, aka Zippy because he drove a scooter with his bum foot, said "All means all and that is all, all means." By Saturday afternoon and into the night, men were letting go and letting God. They were sharing and healing. The presence of Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit was active and on fire. Forgiveness was given and received. Hostility turned to humility. Selfishness gave way to selflessness.

About 60 men singing from their hearts was pretty awesome. That same group singing the Golden Girls theme song was a bonding moment all in itself. "Thank you for being a friend."

I was convicted to give it all to God and live in victory rather than bondage with a sin that had a tight grip on me for many years. From speakers and men at my table to prayer, communion and worship, it was clear the time had come. And the cool thing is it won't just change me, I know God will use his grace through me to reach others – just as he did to touch my heart. I was definitely at the right table, with the right guys, in the right place at the right time. As one Pilgrim said at closing, "I met a lot of new friends and reconnected with an old one."

"The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." 1 John 4:4

P.S. A great way to spread God's love is to share your agape with children or loved ones. My kids love it.

Dan Gretzner Servant, Husband and Father



ARE YOU A NUT?

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of

your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will I s – His good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2

When you crack open the shell of any nut, the nut inside will always be conformed to the shape of its shell. The pressure of the shell on the outside shapes the nut on the inside into its image. In Romans 12:2, believers are commanded not to allow the world to form us according to its pattern. Instead, we are to be transformed from the inside out.

The pressures that we face each day are immense. Temptation is everywhere. The world beckons us to live for ourselves instead of for the sake of Christ. It lures us towards sensuality, greed, idolatry and complacency. If we are not careful, our lives begin to look like everyone else's. Suddenly, from the outside, Christians begin to take on the same form as non-Christians.

Transformation comes from the word metamorphosis. Have you ever seen a beautiful new butterfly (formerly a caterpillar), emerge from its cocoon? When it breaks out it look nothing like the tiny cave it has been wrapped in for weeks. Why? Because it has been transformed, not conformed. The cocoon is merely a temporary dwelling place while the real change happens from the inside. As the caterpillar's very makeup is changed, it takes on a different form. Bright colors and wings become visible. And all of a sudden, it is a butterfly.

Does a caterpillar decide to become a butterfly? Does it work to turn itself into one? Of course not. It merely allows God to do His work. This is a lesson for us today. Transformation is something that we cannot do ourselves. Amidst the pressures of this world, we must choose to be still and allow God to do His work I n us. We must allow Him to renew our minds daily through His Word. God promises that when we do this, we will be able to know His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Are you conforming, or being transformed? Nut or butterfly? Rest in God's presence today and allow Him to transform you from the inside out.

Father, there are so many pressures in this world. Sometimes the temptation to conform seems unbearable. But I know that it is Your will to transform me into the image of Jesus. Remind me to rely on Your strength today for whatever challenges I face. I praise You because You are enough. You are all I need. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Pastor James Merritt



Dirty Emmaus Laundry



This is a troubling article to write but I feel it needs to be written.

When I first took my walk one of the things that amazed me about Emmaus was how open and loving everyone was in the community. I was also amazed about how diverse a community we are. That diversity also extends into our theology.

Our love trumps our differences and we are better for it. We are accepting of everyone who graces our walks. We agree to disagree on our theology differences. Or so I thought.

There were several conversations that occurred outside the conference room on the recent Men's Walk that I feel fell short of our open and loving nature. The conversations were between individuals who I am sure felt there was nothing wrong with the conversation. The problem is in a busy building, like Cornerstone was all weekend, a casual conversation is rarely private and has the potential to be overheard by someone who might be offended.

Our community is large enough that when we speak negatively of someone (who is not even in the building) because of a medical issue, there is a good chance someone nearby is dealing with the same issue.

Our community is large enough that when we speak negatively of a religion or religious practice, there is a good chance someone nearby attends that church.

Our community is large enough that when we speak passionately about a political issue, there is a good chance someone nearby disagrees with you.

At closing one of our new members answered the "what will you do about it question" with "Love God." When we love God we follow his will.

Of course Jesus said it best.

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:36-40

Please remember our differences make us stronger, but they also make us vulnerable to idle comments. If while you are in a conversation and that conversation turns to gossip or damaging discussion, offer a prayer for the said topic and ask what we can do to help that person or each other. This is a great time to stop conversing and pray for all involved including those in the current conversation. God has created each of us to be and do so much more than judge or add insult to injury. Many of us are recovering from the many opportunities God has privileged us to be a part of; always look up as the dirt below is just that, dirt.

Randy Herrick with some advice from Tom Feiro



Prayers, prayers, and more prayers

It was my privilege to be used by God for his Purpose on the Men's Walk # 56 at Cornerstone Christian. We all know that Emmaus is based on Prayer to make it be what God wants it to be. My duties included escorting Speakers to & from the Prayer Room. This was such a Huge Blessing, while we prayed for the speakers, it was evident that God showed up – in a BIG WAY.

There were varying numbers of Emmaus Brothers & Sisters in Christ in the room for the weekend, without knowing exact count, I'd have to say we averaged 8-10 at all times, Sometimes more.

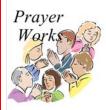
Just listening as each person prayed and invited God in was an awesome experience for the speakers. And then the rest of us were blessed by the talks, repeatedly.

I truly believe that I was shown this for a reason, while I'd not said anything publicly, I'd been struggling with why we could no longer have a Prayer Room ALD. BUT – was shown that God DOES NOT CARE about titles – He just wants us to Pray to Him & HE WILL ANSWER.

And HE DID ANSWER on this Weekend, OVER & OVER AGAIN.

GOD Showed me that He wants us to come together as a Community & Pray Without Ceasing !!!

Remember, GOD LOVES YOU & SO DO I Frank Drechnowicz



Dear Brothers and Sisters of Emmaus,

I am Kathryn (Kathi) Ames. I am humbled to say that I was elected by the Emmaus board just a few months before our awesome Mens' Walk 56 to the position of Prayer Vigil. As far as I

know of my responsibilities, one of the key ones is to collect and display a group of dedicated men and women to pray around the clock for the walk in all capacities. Let me briefly tell you about my family background where it comes to prayer. My mother, Kay Rocco, is a mighty prayer warrior...when any of my 4 children or most recently any of the older of the 6 grandchildren, has a prayer concern they will communicate to me their concern and then always ask that I ask "Gramma" to pray as well.

It was a precious perk I gained that I was not expecting when saying yes to Prayer Vigil. Many of you came to me sharing how you had prayed...one friend shared that she prayed for 5 minutes each hour of one day. Another told me about going to her garden and picking a beautiful bouquet of flowers and setting them on the table where she planned to pray but when she sat to pray at first prayer did not come...she reached for her daily devotion and there was exactly what she needed..the Lord speaking to her through the written word. We must be patient and quiet to listen...sometimes the Lord has something to say to us as well!!!!

Last night in preparation to write, words did not come...and then this a.m. I read my devotion..."Pray First... Keep awake and watch and pray (constantly), that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Mark14:38) Praying is probably the most important part of life preparation, yet so many people today ignore or forget this vital part of the process. I suggest you do not do anything without first praying. The Bible says we should acknowledge God in all our ways and He will direct our steps and make them sure. (Proverbs3:6) It's not enough to know that He's there. We must call on Him daily for His guidance and His strength.

I have been walking with God most of my life, and I am still learning the importance of not trying to do anything without praying. The Bible says to pray without ceasing. This does not mean that we do nothing all day except pray, but it does make the point that prayer is one of the most important things we can ever do. We need to pray our way through the day. Prayer opens the door for God to work in our lives, situations, and lives of our loved ones. God will enable you to do things that will frequently surprise you if you take Him as your partner in life. But you must start with prayer.

Lord, teach me to pray. Help me to bring You into every moment of my day and life. I need Your guidance and strength in all I do. Amen

Kathi Ames



Thank you to everyone who gave so selflessly during the recent Men's Emmaus Walk. These new Emmaus Brothers remind me of all of the new life beginning in springtime. The flowers, trees, new crops

are new beginnings, which by the grace of God, will grow into beautiful, useful things, as will the lives of the pilgrims, who began to open and blossom during that early May weekend. The flowers let us know that winter is ending, but they also remind us of the One who provides all the wonderful things which we so often take for granted. Let us not forget to thank Him every day of our lives.

Now it is time to move forward toward the fall Women's Walk, and pray for the early selection of the site and date for that event.

GLYASDI Sue Keene, Registrar



The annual Jackson Emmaus picnic will be held on August 10^{th} at Swains Lake County Park and Campground. Like any other gathering this will be a potluck followed by worship. Come anytime. Dinner will be at 2:00. Stay until dark.

Camping is available. More information is available at: http://www.co.jackson.mi.us/departments/Parks/parks_description/swains_lake_county_park_and_campground.asp

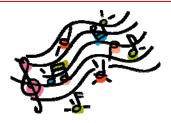


News from the Mailroom

The Mailroom is always a busy place to be during a Walk. Thank you to Todd, Karen, Wendy, Bea, Carolyn, Liz and anyone I forgot!

A reminder - some pilgrims got **A LOT** of mail. We had to "guess" at which Agape Letters were most important to the pilgrim. Please, please, please mark your letters: either friend/family/pastor/VIP - something that indicates the importance.

We had enough Agape to gift at least 3 things each Agape drop time. Thank you!!!!
Jenni Whitford



MUSIC NOTES

De Colores! May our voices be lifted in song to proclaim the goodness of our Lord Jesus

Christ!

First of all, I would like to welcome all of the new members to the Jackson Emmaus Community. If any of you are interested in supporting the Emmaus Commuity with your gift of music, please make sure you either fill out a volunteer form or that you email me at healingsongcmt@gmail.com and I'll pass along the information to our data manager to make sure you're put in the database.

I want to thank all of the community for raising your lovely voices in song at Candlelight for the pilgrims to hear. I remember how it was when I took my walk in 2001. I had been told that because of my blindness, I might not get a lot out of the Candlelight and the Wedding feast of the Lamb on Saturday. How false that proved to be. I know that when I walked into the room where the feast was being held, I could feel the presence of God and his Angels in the form of the people who served that evening, and the music at my feast reminded me of their harps and voices raised in song. At candlelight, I could hear the sea of God's voices in you, the community, raised in singing "Jesus Jesus," as I know the men who were pilgrims and team members experienced on the last walk. Don't ever doubt your gift of making a joyful noise to Him. Sing gladly, knowing that He is the Center of who you are and who you've become.

I would like to invite all the community to a couple of events that are coming up.

On June 3rd, any and all of you who would like to share your talents in music and hospitality, we are putting on the "Gimme Shelter" concert at the Jackson Interfaith Shelter located at 414 S. Blackstone in Jackson. If you would like to share a scripture that means something to you, or a song, please email me at healingsongcmt@gmail.com and I'll put you on the schedule for the evening. The show goes from 7:00-9:00 p.m. If you want to bring finger food to share with each other and the residents, along with your voices or instruments, please feel free. I plan on picking a lot of praise songs that most of you would know. So don't worry about not having song sheets. We'll do the best we can.

On July 13th, the date that we normally would have gathering, Bert and I will be playing at 2:30 at the Jackson County Medical Care Facility. We discussed this morning inviting any and all of you to come and listen and spend time with the residents there. The facility is located at 524 Lansing Ave.

Finally, we hope to see some of you at the Emmaus Community picnic on August 10th!

Sincerely,

Bert and Bea Furman, Community Music directors



In Their Image

"You shall have no other gods before Me."
Exodus 20:3

Pastor Chuck Smith once told a story about a Papua New Guinea tribe that had a widespread birth defect. Everyone had one leg shorter than the other. Interestingly, the idol they worshipped also had one leg shorter than the other. They had created a god in their own image.

I believe this is the same direction America is going. When people say, "I am spiritual, I am just not religious," it is code for "I'm making it up as I go."

People effectively make a god in their own image when they say things like, "My god would never judge a person" and "My god would never condemn two people of the same sex living together in a committed relationship." But they just made up their own god. And their god, essentially, is them.

What is the first of the Ten Commandments? "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:3). What is the second commandment? It is related to the first: "You shall not make for yourself a carved image" (verse 4). Idol worship is putting anyone or anything in the place of God.

I read an article in <u>USA Today</u> about the fastest growing spiritual group in America, which claims no affiliation with any faith. The article states, "This group, called 'Nones,' is now the nation's second-largest category only to Catholics, and outnumbers the top Protestant denomination, the Southern Baptists. The shift is a significant cultural religious and even political change."

It has been said, "When a man stops believing in God he doesn't then believe in nothing, he believes in anything."

We can't edit the Bible. We can't say, "I like this part of the Bible and not that part." If we do, then we will end up with a god that is not the God of the Bible.

Greg Laurie	

Prayer:

Don't give God instructions, just report for duty!

Twinkies and Root Beer

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of root beer and he started his journey. When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old man. He was sitting in the park just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old man looked hungry, so he offered him a Twinkie. The man gratefully accepted it and smiled at the boy. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer. Again, the man smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word. As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old man and gave him a hug. He gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? He's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

The walk to Emmaus is filled with many God moments that are easy to see. But after the walk, after we come down from the mountain top, there don't seem to be as many God moments. Some days there don't seem to be any. I think in reality they are there all the time, more visible on a walk because we are looking for them, but there all the same. The thing we often forget is sometimes we are the face of God to someone else, so we don't see God.

We are made in the likeness and image of God. Go out and be God to someone today!

Randy Herrick Community Lay Director

A worried woman went to her gynecologist and said:

'Doctor, I have a serious problem and desperately need your help! My baby is not even 1 year old and I'm pregnant again. I don't want kids so close together.' So the doctor said: 'Ok and what do you want me to do?' She said: 'I want you to end my pregnancy, and I'm counting on your help with this.'

The doctor thought for a little, and after some silence he said to the lady: 'I think I have a better solution for your problem. It's less dangerous for you too.' She smiled, thinking that the doctor was going to accept her request.

Then he continued: 'You see, in order for you not to have to take care of 2 babies at the same time, let's kill the one in your arms. This way, you could rest some before the other one is born. If we're going to kill one of them, it doesn't matter which one it is. There would be no risk for your body if you chose the one in your arms.'

The lady was horrified and said: 'No doctor! How terrible! It's a crime to kill a child!' 'I agree', the doctor replied. 'But you seemed to be OK with it, so I thought maybe that was the best solution.' The doctor smiled, realizing that he had made his point.

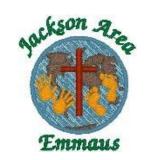
He convinced the mom that there is no difference in killing a child that's already been born and one that's still in the womb. The crime is the same!

We don't change the message, the message changes us.



Clothing Order Form

A portion of all proceeds benefit Jackson Area Emmaus



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	65/35	Light Blue	4 XL		\$23.00		
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		Black	2 XL		\$20.00		
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	50/50	Light Blue	4 XL		\$21.00		
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3

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Please use your Board. We are here to serve you. If you are unable to contact a Board member, feel free to email, write, or call me. I'll be glad to help in any way I can. Randy Herrick, Community Lay Director

Good Habits

"So let us go on to grown up teaching. Let us not go back over the beginning lessons we learned about Christ." Hebrews 6:1

I like the story about the little boy who fell out of bed. When his mom asked him what happened, he answered, "I don't know I guess I stayed too close to where I got in."

Easy to do with our faith. It's tempting just to stay where we got in and never move.

Pick a time in the not-to-distant past – a year or two ago. Now ask yourself a few questions. How does your prayer life compare to then? How about your giving? Have both the amount and the joy increased? What about your church loyalty? Can you tell you've grown? And bible study? Are you learning to learn?...

Don't make the mistake of the little boy. Don't stay to close too where you got in. It's risky resting on the edge.

Max Lucado

My apologies to Nancy for messing with her outstanding editing, but I had two things that needed mentioning and forgot to give them to her for inclusion in this newsletter. So after she finished it and sent it to me to mail out I added this page. So if you do not find it up to her normal high standards blame it on the Community Lay Director.

Board Positions

We still have three positions on the board we need to fill.

The first is Kitchen Head. Sherry Logan has done an outstanding job of leading our efforts in the kitchen for over three years now and would like to step down. If you enjoy cooking and are good at organizing a kitchen people please step up and take on this position on the board. You can contact Sherry directly for more insight into what the job entails.

The second position is Assistant Spiritual Director (actually we need two). Jim Hegedus attended the annual Leadership Development Workshop and found out just how much work he is supposed to be doing. Done right the community spiritual direction is a lot of work. If we were to have three spiritual directors to share the work it could be done right without excessive burden. If you are a clergy please consider joining the board and helping with the duties.

Kitchen Trailer

We own a great trailer for storing and hauling most of our property. But all the kitchen equipment is stored in a storage locker, loaded onto a trailer, and hauled to the site for the weekend. At the end of the weekend we load it back on the trailer haul it back to storage, and store it for the next walk.

What was not included in that list of steps was we first unload the trailer we are borrowing from a generous soul (not an Emmaus member) and after we are done it is reloaded. The other complicating factor with the trailer is it is used for a business. So far we have been lucky in that it has been available when we need it. Someday it may not be.

Does someone in the community have trailer that could be used to haul the kitchen supplies? The one we use is a 6'x12' enclosed trailer. Something similar in size would work great but since everything is unloaded, something smaller could work with multiple trips.

Please pray over each of these requests and let God lead you to where you can serve the Jackson Emmaus community.

Randy Herrick

Community Lay Director