

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

Return Service Requested



**JACKSON AREA EMMAUS
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
March/April/May 2012**

Community Gatherings

2nd Saturday of the Month - Brookside United Methodist Church (please bring a passing dish)

Board Meetings

4th Tuesday of the Month
Brookside United Methodist Church – 6:30 PM

2011 Emmaus Walks

Men's Walk – April 26-29

Women's Walk – Oct. 4-7

Deadline for the June/July/August issue of the Emmaus Newsletter is May 15th.
Submit articles to Nancy Gage, 7179 Greene's Dr., Jackson, MI 49201 or email
to: k_gage25@comcast.net.

From Our Community Lay Director

I just completed my first official act as Community Lay Director, telling the approximately 80 members who attended the gathering that Jackson Area Emmaus is in a financial crunch. If we pay our bills, which we are obligated to do, we do not have enough money to buy food and supplies needed for the upcoming men's walk.

I see two solutions to this problem.

One, we can ask the community to donate the money we need to operate. I believe there are enough generous people in the community that this would work. But I am not sure that is the correct solution.

Or two, we can get Pilgrims signed up for the walk. If we have enough Pilgrims (twenty four) to hold the walk then I am comfortable asking the team to pay their meal fees. With the meal fees from the team we then have enough money to buy food and supplies for the upcoming walk.

But, twenty four Pilgrims really doesn't cut it. I have looked at the numbers for cost of walks and general operating costs and with two walks per year we need to be sponsoring 32 pilgrims for each walk just to break even on the normal costs. This doesn't include unplanned costs or costs of replacing Emmaus property.

Basically, we need a full walk and we need the minimum for a walk now.

With all that said, the sponsor trainer in me is screaming to be heard.

We need Pilgrims, but we need the right Pilgrims. They need to be Christians attending a church regularly, a walk is not to bring someone back to Christ, it's to bring them closer. They should not be looking for another high (even though that is what they will likely find); they should be looking to draw closer to Christ. Please do not send people on the walk to fill the conference room, pray about it and then send people God is telling you to send.

Enough on sponsorship.

Please prayerfully consider your personal response to our current financial issues and take the actions you feel are best for the community.

Randy Herrick

Community Lay Director

From Our Assistant Community Lay Director

My name is Tom Fiero and I am the current Community Assistant Lay Director. I am continually in awe of Our Lord and Savior.

We are made to be the best (In His Image) and I continually fall so short of my capabilities and it is all because I see the possibilities thru my eyes and not the eyes of my heart. May we as His children change our focus and know that through Him all things are possible and that we would know that every step we take the Holy Spirit has our back. To walk hand in hand with Jesus - that is a privilege, and it is right there with every step He allows us to take.

In our daily walk Emmaus is secondary to our personal spiritual walk with Them (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). We are given all the tools and each of us know what an awesome God we serve, but then I fall short and concern myself with what my fellow Christian will think of me, or worse yet, what a non-believer's opinion is of me. When I have opportunity after opportunity to reflect, all I do is splash around in the mud with this world. We are different. I should act that way. I am constantly trying to improve, but rarely use the tools available. Will you please help me? It is my intention to start a fad (trend) that in all conversations and when I finish at the checkout, or wherever God puts me next, that the last words I speak to every person I come in contact with will be "God Be With You" and let Them (Trinity) know that I choose Them and expect the seeds that are planted to make a difference in this world. That is, "Christ I am counting on You" and I will Him to the streets in my heart, words and actions. And knowing that, when I make the right choices in this community of needy people, their response only matters when it glorifies God and not whether someone approves of me and my walk With Him.

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."

De Colores



On a Musical Note . . .



On March 31, 2001, I remember walking into the sanctuary at my Emmaus Walk. I wondered where the beautiful musical wall that sounded to me like a sea of angels was coming from. The

only difference was, instead of playing harps, these angels were playing guitars.

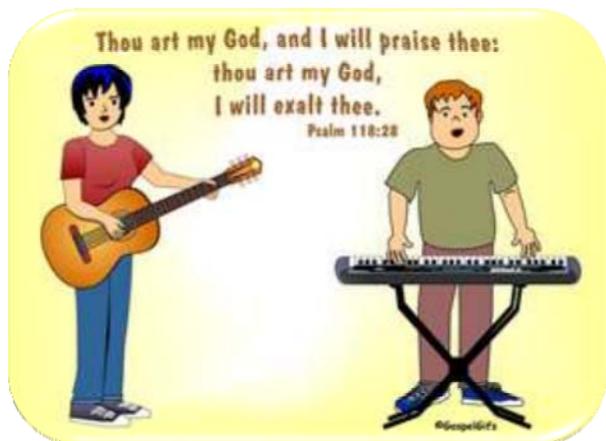
Last year, exactly ten years later, I was only one of two guitarists there to greet the men, as we all sang "Jesus Jesus." This was not the only time. Both times that Bert was the music director, the same problem occurred at both candlelights.

I believe we can do better than that at upcoming walks. Yes, I realize that musicians are probably the most overused people in churches but we are also the ones who help spearhead worship and we want to make sure that we always put God first.

One of my goals as a board member is to make sure that any and all guitarists, pianists and singers are used to their fullest potential within the limits of your time. Please send an e-mail to me at healing_song@tds.net if you're at all interested in participating in any way for the Emmaus Community as either musicians for the walks or gatherings and other special Emmaus activities. I will keep a record of those I hear from and will send out a note to you reminding you of events that are coming up.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Bea and Bert Furman,
Emmaus Community music directors.
Beatrice, Bringer of



JACKSON AREA MEN'S WALK TO EMMAUS April 26 – 29, 2012

Heart O'Lakes United Brethren Church
7301 Jefferson Road
Brooklyn, MI 49230

It's never too early to get the registrations in. At the gathering, on Saturday, February 11, there were 33 names put forth as possible Pilgrims for this walk. Please be in prayer for these and others to be in God's Plan for the Walk.

Sponsors: When you are helping your Pilgrim with his registration form, please be sure that **ALL** information is completed, especially the area which asks for **"Any Special Needs."** If there are **ANY** special needs, please, please, indicate them on those lines. It is very much easier to know and prepare for those needs ahead of time, than to wait until the night of registration, and try to scramble around to meet those needs. Remember, this weekend is for the Pilgrims and we need to make it as meaningful for them as our weekend was for us.

Grace and Peace,
Sue Keene, Registrar



Agape – Mail Room News



The next men's walk will be here shortly! Do you remember when you took your walk how you felt when you started receiving "Agape Gifts" on your pillows? Please start working on your agape gifts (36 gifts for Pilgrims and 60 for Conference Room).

There are many Christian website stores that you can order nice, inexpensive gifts. Perhaps you could ask a group from your church to each pitch in \$5 or \$10 to purchase something that costs more than one person could budget (such as coffee mugs or t-shirts). Prayerfully consider what you would like to give as a gift to our newest members of Emmaus.

Thank you.

Love Out Loud

Jennifer Whitford



And, More News From The Kitchen



Deuteronomy 16:17 – “Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee.”

It has touched my heart so, to see the blessings of our community at work. It awakens that feeling of unconditional love that was offered to me when I took my own walk 8 years ago. And I can clearly see HE lives in each of us!

I have watched the kitchen funds grow each month; the \$1, \$5, and full checks to cover the purchase of one entire roaster. I want to take this time to thank each and every person that contributed to the kitchen fund. **THANK YOU!**

I am pleased to report we have purchased the following items:

- 2 slice toaster
- 2 floor mats to help with old bones
- 7 - 9x13 pans
- 3 hand held mixers
- 4 slice toaster
- 4 - 12 cup muffin tins
- Water Test Kit Meat thermometer – digital
- Potholders
- Hot pads
- And generously donated was 2 – 12 cup Food Processors

I was not aware of the funds that were available to me, so I didn't have time to order the roaster until after the women's walk. But we have funds for 2 roasters at \$159.99, plus tax and shipping.

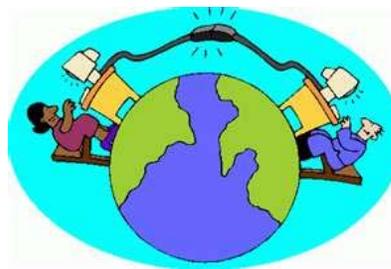
This was such a blessing to see the kitchen come back to life. But, we need more:

- 1 more roaster
- Oven mitts – 2 sets (one for the men and one for women, gently used is great)
- Potholders – 3 sets (gently used would work)
- 4 griddles that fit over 2 burners of a stove (gently used would work)
- 2 steel industrial racks that easily collapse and can be stored
- Kitchen Aid Stand Mixer (gently used would work)
- Steel mixing bowls – 1 set
- Tupperware Mixing bowl set - 2 sets, please
- Storage containers - variety needed

So if it is your desire to donate an item, please call Sherry Logan at 517-780-0674. Otherwise, please send your donation to the attention of Dean Page and remember to write **“KITCHEN”** in the memo section of the check.

DeColores!
Sherry

Jackson Emmaus and Social Media



Jackson Area Emmaus is slowly catching up with use of social media. Look for us on Facebook, we have a page and group. We also have a website.

On Facebook if you search for Jackson Area Emmaus you should be able to find our public page which has upcoming events and links to the volunteer form and pilgrim application.

Also on Facebook is a private group that you have to ask to be added to. You can find the group by searching for Jackson Area Emmaus Community. Any group member can add you to the group but we may not all know how. Wendy Waltz is the group administrator.

We also have started work on a website: www.jacksonemmaus.org. If you try to search for the website you will likely not find it because we have not setup the search parameters. But follow the link and watch us build the site.



Ten ways to love

- Listen without interrupting. (Proverbs 18)
- Speak without accusing. (James 1:19)
- Give without sparing. (Proverbs 21:26)
- Pray without ceasing. (Colossians 1:9)
- Answer without arguing. (Proverbs 17:1)
- Share without pretending. (Ephesians 4:15)
- Enjoy without complaint. (Philippians 2:14)
- Trust without wavering. (1 Corinthians 13:7)
- Forgive without punishing. (Colossians 3:13)
- Promise without forgetting. (Proverbs 13:12)

Me (in a tizzy): God, can I ask you something?

GOD: Sure.

Me: Promise you won't get mad?

GOD: I promise.

Me (frustrated): Why did you let so much stuff happen to me today?

GOD: What do you mean?

Me: Well I woke up late,

GOD: Yes

Me: My car took forever to start,

GOD: Okay....

Me (growling): At lunch, they made my sandwich wrong and I had to wait.

GOD: Hmmm...

Me: On the way home, my phone went dead, just as I picked up a call.

GOD: All right.

Me (loudly): And to top it all off, when I got home, I just wanted to soak my feet in my foot massager and relax, but it wouldn't work. Nothing went right today! Why did you do that?

GOD: Well let me see..... the death angel was at your bed this morning and I had to send one of the other angels to battle him for your life. I let you sleep through that.

Me (humbled): Oh...

GOD: I didn't let your car start because there was a drunk driver on your route that might have hit you if you were on the road.

Me (ashamed):

GOD: The first person who made your sandwich today was sick and I didn't want you to catch what they have, I knew you couldn't afford to miss work.

Me (embarrassed): Oh.....

GOD: Your phone went dead because the person that was calling was going to give a false witness about what you said on that call. I didn't even let you talk to them so you would be covered.

Me (softly): I see God.

GOD: Oh, and that foot massager, it had a short that was going to throw out all of the power in your house tonight. I didn't think you wanted to be in the dark.

Me: I'm sorry God.

GOD: Don't be sorry; just learn to trust me.....in all things, the good and the bad.

Me: I WILL trust you God.

GOD: And don't doubt that my plan for your day is always better than your plan.

Me: I won't God. And let me just tell you God, thank you for everything today.

GOD: You're welcome child. It was just another day being your God and I love looking after my children.

Scriptural References: II Samuel 22:31, Proverbs 3:5, Hebrews 2:13

"The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.. ." (Proverbs 11:25)

In all things give thanks. 1 Thes 5:18

Introducing Our New Board Members ...

Meet Tom Fiero...

Tom is the new assistant lay director, and looking forward to serving this great God-serving community. I am married to Shirley and we have 3 sons and 9 grandchildren. Shirley and I both took our walks in 2010. Shirley and I have served in the snack area, in the dining room, luggage hauler, set-up and tear down, assistant table leader and other ways.

You know I look back to the last hour of my walk when it was my opportunity to hold that cross, the symbol of never ending love, forgiveness, strength and oh so many more blessings. I am so encouraged daily by those memories, but in my heart know I can do so much better. Let us all through God's strength and those memories keep this community growing not only in numbers but in acts of kindness especially to love those whom we have judged not deserving, for who are we to say.

Remember at all times those three nails, the anguish of that horrible death, and in HIS last moments He gave life and forgiveness to all who mocked and killed HIM.

"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". "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".

Meet Nancy Gage.....

Nancy is our new "Newsletter Editor" and she took her Walk to Emmaus in Feb. of 1997 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. She attends New Hope Missionary Church and is the wife of Ken and mother of Traci (39) and Katie (25). Neither of her children are married but she has hope that someday they will marry and give her grandchildren. Nancy is a retired admin. assistant at Univ. of Michigan Health System. She has served on walks in the dining room, mail room, snack room, bathroom bunny and in the conference room as table leader, assistant table leader, and assistant lay director. She looks forward to receiving many news articles from the community!

Meet Jenni Whitford.....

Jenni is the new "Agape-Mail Room" coordinator. Jenni works at Jackson 1st Presbyterian as the Director of Christian Education. She is wife to Chris and mom to Talore (18), Hudson (15), Austin (16) and Megan (12). Jenni took her Walk to Emmaus in 2006 at Ganson St. Baptist Church. Jenni has served on several walks as a table leader, an assistant table leader, bathroom bunny, Saturday night server and dishwasher. She is looking forward to serving on the Emmaus Board and serving the Jackson Emmaus community.

Meet Bea Furman.....

Bea Furman is the wife of Bert Furman. She took her Walk to Emmaus in 2001 at Grass Lake United Methodist church and Bert took his walk to Emmaus in 2000 at Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church. They attend Bethel Baptist Church. Bea has served as a music team director twice in 2008 and 2011. She's also worked as a table leader and as an assistant table leader. Bert has been a music director 3 times.

2011 Jackson Area Emmaus Board of Directors

Community Lay Director:

Randy Herrick (517) 262-3332
senior@herrickmi.us

Asst. Community Lay Director:

Tom Fiero (517) 812-7442
tefiero@rocketmail.com

Community Spiritual Director:

Pastor Marty Cobb
pastorcobb@gmail.com

Asst. Spiritual Director:

Open

Secretary:

Shiela McEldowney
smfowler65@comcast.net

Treasurer:

Dean Page (517) 768-1367
Dean.page@ATT.net

Auxiliary Head:

Shiela McEldowney
smfowler65@comcast.net

Computer Records/Data Manager:

John Williams (517) 629-6768
jwilliams@albion.edu

Fourth Day/Gatherings

Jan Austin (517) 782-1167
janaustin49@yahoo.com

Kitchen:

Sherry Logan (517) 780-0674
sherrylogan08@yahoo.com

Mailroom/Agape:

Jennifer Whitford (517)745-1056
jene@jacksonfirstpres.com

Music:

Bea & Bert Furman
healing_song@tds.net

Newsletter:

Nancy Gage
k_gage25@comcast.net

Prayer Vigil:

Rosie Worthey (517) 780-0395
rosieworthey@att.net
rworthey@caajh.org

Registrar:

Sue Keene (517) 536-4684
srcik@comcast.net

Site Selections/Building/Tear Down:

Jennifer Whitford (517) 745-1056
jene@jacksonfirstpres.com

Sponsor's Hour/Candlelight/Closing:

Open

Supplies/Trailer Coordinator:

Sue Miller
m1lrl1me@hotmail.com

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

Emmaus Walk Weekend Help!

We are in need of your help! If you are willing, we would love to have you work on the next walk!

If we have not called upon you to work...CALL US! It takes many hands behind the scenes for successful Walks to happen!
Come and be blessed!