

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

Return Service Requested



**COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
Dec. 2012/Jan. Feb. 2013**

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

2012 Emmaus Walks

Men's Walk – May 2-5, 2013

Women's Walk – TBA

Deadline for the March/April/May issue of the Emmaus Newsletter is Feb. 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

During the women's walk I slept at home every night. On Friday morning on my way back to the church listening to the radio, 89.3 The Message was giving away a CD and devotional by Paul Baloche and I called in and won it. During the conversation the DJ asked me what my plans were for the weekend so since she asked, I gave her short synopsis of the Walk to Emmaus. I'm curious to know if anyone heard my radio spot. Anyway, that is not what I wanted to write about.

I have been working through the devotional one day at a time and this morning's devotional is based on Mark 6:1-6. I like Paul's paraphrased version:

"Then Jesus decided to go home, back to Nazareth, and His disciples followed. When the Sabbath rolled around, He made His way to the synagogue to teach and quickly gained an audience."

In one breath the crowd was off guard: *Is this Jesus? When did He get so smart?* But by the next breath they regained their composure: *a carpenter in the synagogue? C'mon, we know Him, this is Mary's son, brother to James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon and those sisters.* However, His belonging unnerved them.

Jesus said, *"You strain at the wonder before you because it looks familiar."*

They took Him for granted, so much so that Jesus's hands were tied; a handful of sick were healed, but that's all He could do. The hometown armor was impenetrable; their minds rolled up and closed long ago.

When I look back on the records of Jackson Emmaus I see that in the years before I took my walk we were having three or four full walks a year with people being turned away because they were full. Now we are down to one men's and one women's walk a year and we are having trouble getting the minimum to hold the walk, let alone being anywhere close to filling them.

This morning I am wondering: have we reached the point where Emmaus "looks familiar?" Has it lost its wonder to the community? Has it lost its excitement? Has the hometown armor become impenetrable?

I would suggest the excitement is still there for the Pilgrims. I still see the same excitement at closing I saw seven years ago at the first closing I attended as part of the community.

Each of us needs to look at how we view Emmaus. Do we see the excitement of the Pilgrims at candlelight and closing that we saw on our own walk or has it become the same old thing that we have seen so many times before? I think the answer is its both. The Pilgrims are still experiencing the same excitement I had on my walk. And, because of that we are hearing the same story over and over again. Personally when I hear the same story at each closing, it tells me we are still doing the same job we were doing 5 years ago, or 10 or even 15. It's just becoming too familiar.

Take off the hometown armor and see the excitement you saw on your walk.

Randy Herrick

I was asked today if I had recovered from the walk yet. I said, "No, I have not come down off the mountain yet." A confused stare was the response (she had never been on a walk). When I took my walk in 2005, I said at closing that I wanted to work auxiliary to pay back what the community had given me. Since that day I have worked in most areas of auxiliary and worked in the conference room four times. Seeing the Pilgrims and the impact Emmaus has on them brings such a rush that I find myself on the same mountain the Pilgrims are on, maybe not at the top but the summit is in sight. 😊



"Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in my immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we must be saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint. Therefore we must be saved by the final form of love which is forgiveness."

Reinhold Niebuhr



Greetings From Our Assistant Community Lay Director

Each of us is aware of the love that is showered on each of us: the love of His forgiveness, the love of His example, the love of His grace, and on and on. Just for a moment stop and try to think of the gifts He continually, without hesitation, puts in our lives. Those gifts are as many as the stars in the universe. Consider that. And tomorrow I will need another solar system of forgiveness as I venture into what I make this life to be. My thoughts distract me, my attitude persuades me, my ego (Edging God Out) buries me, and then in my time of need, I will talk to my Savior. He is always there reaching a hand to me; I don't even see the scars in those hands, yet I reach time and time again, and still miss it.

Can I please ask each of you to set your alarms ten minutes earlier each morning and take those few minutes to spend time in His Word? As we do this daily, not only do we honor Him, but we get to know Him better, and when we get to know Him better, we build a relationship with Him, and when we build that relationship, we build our love for Him, and when we love Him more, we live out of the overflow of that love that keeps us from the distractions that are thrown at us by the enemy. And soon we will want to set the alarm fifteen minutes earlier, then twenty, and so on, because we are being moved by the Holy Spirit and being fed, for man does not live on bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

We just voted and a choice was made. Not all agree with the choice but let me remind you that no vote we made on the 6th of November will change **the Plans He Has For You**. No man who walks this earth today can change The Plans He Has For You. I know each of you knows this but please just remember that it's all about **The Relationship**. Go change the alarm clock. "I AM" is waiting, "THE WORD" is willing and listening.

Emmaus shirts are here!

We are offering to everyone the opportunity to purchase a shirt with the new Jackson Area Emmaus logo. This logo pictured on the order form included in this newsletter, illustrates that **we are The hands & Feet of Christ to the World**. A minimum of \$2.50 per shirt will be returned to Jackson Area Emmaus.

Thanks, **Frank Drechnowicz**
517-937-8773



Explanation of Walk Fees

For the women's walk we raised the fee to attend the walk to \$90 but put in place two price breaks. At the women's walk I had a few people say they did not understand the price breaks so I will try to explain them better than what is on the application.

The fee for the walk is \$90 with \$30 due at registration and \$60 (call it the balance) due at the door.

If an application is turned in 60 days prior to the walk, we are giving a \$5 discount to the registration fee so the **fee** would be \$25.

If the balance of the fee is paid 30 days prior to the walk we are giving a \$5 discount to the balance of the fee so the balance would be \$55.

Depending on when applications and money are received the cost of the walk will be \$80 (pay both early), \$85 (pay one early), or \$90 (pay neither early).

Also, in addition to raising the fee for the walk we raised the meal price for the auxiliary and team to \$6 a meal or \$50 for the whole weekend. As a reminder volunteers, the Pilgrims are not paying for your meals, you are expected to contribute for each meal you eat.

If you have any questions on fees, please contact me or the registrar.

Randy Herrick

Bethlehem of Judea

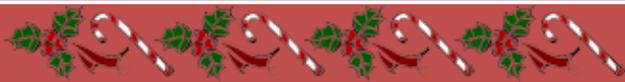


A little child,
A shining star.
A stable rude,
The door ajar.

Yet in that place,
So crude, forlorn,
The Hope of all
The world was born.



--Author Unknown



Caroling to our Community



It's that time of year again when everyone will be spending time thinking about what they can give their families? Well, how about giving to the greater community?

On December 8th, we will be going Christmas caroling after the monthly gathering. We will be singing at Jackson County Medical Care Facility and Ridge Crest. Please bring along plenty of Christmas cards to hand out at the nursing homes. All you need to write on the inside of the card is Jackson Area Emmaus or Jackson Emmaus Community. I would especially like to encourage those women from Walk 56 and their sponsors to participate in this.

Be prepared next year for at least two other events for us to work together as a community.

In Christ,
Bert and Bea Furman
Jackson Emmaus Community Music Directors



MEN'S WALK - MAY 2-5, 2013

Please be prayerfully considering whom you might want to sponsor for the upcoming Men's Walk in May 2013.

Think about this:

No Matter Who Won the Election –

1. The Bible still has all the answers.
2. Prayer still works.
3. The Holy Spirit still moves.
4. God still inhabits the praises of His people.
5. There is still God-anointed preaching.
6. There is still singing of praise to God.
7. God still pours out blessings upon His people.
8. There is still room at the Cross.
9. Jesus still loves you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him and God approves this message.

ISN'T IT GREAT TO KNOW WHO IS REALLY IN CHARGE?



From our Data Manager

John Williams,
jwilliams@albion.edu.

Welcome to our new members from Walk W-56 and other community members who have not tried IMS. IMS, or Internet Membership System, is an on-line database for our Emmaus community. To access IMS you must have Internet access and use Internet Explorer as your browser. (It is also possible to use Chrome. Email me for instructions.)

The web site is jaec.inetmember.com

Your userid is your email address if IMS knows your email address. Otherwise, it is first name.last name. Note that there is a period between the first and last names.

Everyone's initial password is `jaecjaec`. If you cannot sign in, send me an email, and I will reset your userid and password.

In IMS you will be able to access information about the community, your walk, newsletters, update your contact information, and say whether or not it should be visible to other members of the community. You will be able to volunteer for positions in the auxiliary and/or the conference room team and the prayer vigil for upcoming walks.

Once you are signed in, there is a blue bar near the top of the screen with the words: [Home](#) [IMS](#) [Common](#) [You](#) [Community](#) [Sign Out](#). Putting the mouse on one of these words, except [Home](#) and [Sign Out](#), opens a drop-down list. Clicking on an item in the list opens a web page or an additional navigation bar. The second item in the list under [You](#) takes you to a page where you can change your userid and/or password. The first time you sign in, you will be asked to change your password to something other than the default.



A while back I said I had found the best job on the walk – Board Representative. Well, I have now found the most difficult job on the walk – driving the Pilgrims to showers. They have recently come out of Dying Moments followed by lunch and are really up and talk up a storm about what is happening on the walk. Staying out of the conversation is next to impossible, not getting excited about what they are saying is impossible. Don't believe me? Volunteer to drive on the next walk.

Randy Herrick

Agape Reminders



Men's Walk – May 2-3-4-5 at Cornerstone Church, Jackson.

1. **Please, please** bring Agape early.
(When you wait until Saturday night – it is difficult to pass out all the Agape, because there is NO pillow Agape on Sunday.)
2. PLEASE get Pilgrim letters to the Mailroom by Saturday. Again, this makes things much easier for distribution.
3. Agape should be signed from a 4th Day Group or a church group – NOT an individual.
4. If you would like to work in the Mailroom for the Men's Walk – contact Jenni Whitford 745-1056 or jene@jacksonfirstpres.com

Jennifer Whitford
Children and Youth Christian Educator
First Presbyterian Church
743 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, Mi
49201
517-784-9175 x23



WANTED . . .

BOARD MEMBERS

According to the bylaws of Jackson Area Emmaus there should have been a ballot for election of new members to the Jackson Area Emmaus board included in this newsletter. It is not here. I guess you could say the board has not done their job by not publishing it and that would be true. The problem is there would only be one name on it to fill six open positions, and while that person is very talented they are not qualified to fill two of the positions and I doubt has enough time to do all four of the other positions.

The board currently has three open positions (site selection, assistant community spiritual director (times two) and has three serving board members (kitchen, prayer, registrar) who have served three years and are ready to move on. The people due to move on have done an outstanding job and deserve a chance to enjoy Emmaus without all the work of the board position.

The board has operated for the last year with two lay positions open and other members serving dual roles and only a community spiritual director (no assistants). We have survived the situation but have struggled at times to get the work of the open positions done.

A year and a half ago I attended an Emmaus Leadership Development workshop in Traverse City. On Friday night they had a "super gathering" inviting all members attending the workshop and the Traverse City community. Attendance was sparse. At the workshop the next day I was surprised to discover that attendance at the gathering by out of town people was actually quite good, close to 100% of those who came up Friday night, but the attendance by the local community was only those involved in putting on the workshop. While at the workshop I signed up to receive the Traverse City newsletter and for the next ten months watched their board struggle to find volunteers to fill open board positions and then close Traverse City Emmaus in February of 2012 due to lack of volunteers.

Jackson Emmaus needs some people to step up and say Emmaus is important to me and I will serve.

Please,
Randy Herrick

From the Emmaus Kitchen

MERRY CHRISTMAS  **Everyone!**

Just a short note from the Kitchen.

The last walk was a huge success, from the kitchen looking

out.  Thank you for all that volunteered time and donations.

Donations, ummm. Yes we accept donations. Below is a list of items the kitchen needs. If you wish to buy an item or two, it would be greatly appreciated. AND, please bring the item to the monthly gathering. It has come to my attention that the weekends are soooo busy, and items don't make it on the inventory sheets if brought to the weekend retreats. We want your donation to count, and stay in the community. 😊 Here's what we need:

“WET FLOOR” Sign (2)
 Turkey Baster (2)
 Meat Thermometer, digital please
 9 x 13 cake pans - Wilton Performance (need 6)
 Cooling Rack Grids (4)
 White 100% Cotton Floor Sack Dish Towels (4 doz)
 Ziploc Bags, 1 gallon size (5 boxes)
 Ziploc Bags, Quart size (5 boxes)
 Potato Brush - 2
 Green Scrubbie Pads - 3 boxes
 \$\$\$\$ to replace broken or worn kitchen items

As you can see, we still need a few more things.

I want to thank the community for building up the kitchen over the last few years. Your continued support helps us provide for the pilgrims. Individually we are one but together, we are a FORCE for GOD.

GLYASDI,
 Sherry Logan



OATMEAL CARAMEL APPLE COOKIES

1 cup butter
 1 cup brown sugar
 3/4 cup white sugar
 2 eggs
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 2 cups flour
 1 tsp salt
 1 tsp baking powder
 1 tsp baking soda
 3 cups old fashioned oats
 6 oz Kraft caramel baking bits
 1 1/2 cups honey crisp apples peeled and chopped

In a bowl combine the flour, salt, baking soda and baking powder.

Place the butter and sugars in a stand mixer and beat 2-3 minutes.

Add vanilla, then eggs and mix for 2-3 minutes more. Scrape down the sides of the mixing bowl with a spatula.

Pour in the flour mixture, then the oats and combine just until blended. Mix in the apples and caramel baking bits with a wooden spoon.

Place in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 350F. Line a cookie sheet with a Silpat or parchment paper. Scoop dough onto the baking sheet leaving 1 1/2 inches between dough as the cookies will spread.

Bake until golden brown 12-15 minutes. Place on a rack to cool.

These were served at the Thursday night dinner on the last Women's Walk and were a big hit!!



Clothing Order Form



A portion of all proceeds benefit
Jackson Area Emmaus

“Be the hands and feet of Christ to the World”

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

ITEM DESCRIPTION	COLOR (Circle One)	SIZE (Circle One)	QUANTITY	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
 <p>Women's Polo Shirt Material is 65/35</p>	Red	S M L XL		\$19.00	
	Banana	2 XL		\$20.00	
	Black	3 XL		\$22.00	
	Light Blue	4 XL		\$23.00	
 <p>Men's Polo Shirt Material is 65/35</p>	Red	S M L XL		\$19.00	
	Black	2 XL		\$20.00	
	Banana	3 XL		\$22.00	
	Light Blue	4 XL		\$23.00	
 <p>Crewneck Sweatshirt Material is 50/50</p>	Ash Grey	S M L XL		\$18.00	
	Black	2 XL		\$20.00	
	Maroon	3 XL		\$21.00	
	Light Blue	4 XL		\$21.00	
 <p>Hoodies Material is 50/50</p>	Ash Grey	S M L XL		\$21.00	
	Gold	2 XL		\$24.00	
	Black	3 XL		\$25.00	
	Purple	4 XL		\$26.00	
			SUBTOTAL		
<p><i>Add \$6.00 per item shipping for home delivery only. You may also choose to pick up your merchandise.</i></p>			SHIPPING		
			TOTAL DUE		

Please make checks payable to Golden Touch Embroidery.

5620 Juniper Dr. • Jackson, MI 49201 • (517) 764-6250
 Prices include the cost of embroidery and sales tax.
 Thank you for your support of Jackson Area Emmaus.

2013 Jackson Area Emmaus Board of Directors

Community Lay Director:

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

Asst. Community Lay Director:

Tom Fiero (517) 395-5674
tefiero@rocketmail.com

Community Spiritual Director:

Pastor Marty Cobb

Asst. Spiritual Director:

Open

Secretary:

Shiela McEldowney
smfowler65@comcast.net

Treasurer:

Dean Page (517) 768-1362
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
healingsongcmt@gmail.com

Newsletter:

Nancy Gage (517) 536-8164
k_gage25@comcast.net

Prayer Vigil:

Rosie Worthey (517) 780-0395
rosieworthey2@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

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

Bum Deal At Christmas?

Once in a while at Christmastime I catch myself complaining- about little things, inconveniences, mainly. "I don't need this now," I mutter, and wonder, "Why does this have to happen to me? Is God mad at me?" Then my thoughts turn to Mary and Joseph. Face it. Their story doesn't center on sugar cookies and egg nog.

- Joseph was off work for weeks because the government made him travel to a distant town to fill out some stupid registration papers.
- You can bet the Nazareth biddies hounded Mary about her pregnancy. Have you ever been called "slut"?
- Can you imagine taking a four-day donkey ride to Bethlehem at full term? Of course, if Mary didn't want to ride, she could always walk ... or waddle.
- Think about a camping trip with winter winds whistling through your tent. Or do you have a tent?
- How about being in labor in a dirty cattle barn? One whiff was all Mary needed.
- And then, in the middle of the night after a grueling labor, there's a herdsman banging on the door.

Why, of all things, did God let His own Son be born under those conditions? Was God mad at Mary and Joseph? Of course not. Maybe God allowed the stable so we could see His glory backlit amidst life's humbling experiences.

Life does have its downside, its reversals, its annoyances. And where is God when we despair? He was with Mary and Joseph every moment, working out His plan, just as He is with you and me right now.

I guess Christmas reminds us look to beyond our aggravations. God is doing something. You know, if we'll lift our eyes above Bethlehem's hovels for a moment, we might even catch a glimpse of the Christmas star.

By Dr. Ralph F. Wilson