

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

Return Service Requested



**COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
March/April/May 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 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

Ever felt like God is trying to tell you something?

The team for the upcoming men's walk had its first meeting on February 10. On Wednesday before the meeting I was waiting for a meeting to start at church and picked up a Bible, flipped it to a random passage and found myself reading Acts 10. This is the story of God telling Peter to preach to the gentiles. Before God even talked to Peter he started things in motion by having Cornelius send servants to find Peter knowing Peter would not get the first message. Then God talks to Peter in a dream (twice) and Peter doesn't get it. The servants talk to Peter and Peter doesn't quite get it, but he does see God's hand in this and goes with the servants. When Peter finally sees Cornelius' household (all gentiles) gathered together to hear God's message, Peter finally gets it.

On February 7th I was asked to pack an overnight bag for Friday and Saturday storm duty for work. This was going to be an issue for me as I was scheduled to do training for the men's team on Saturday morning. Thursday night and Friday morning mid-Michigan got one of the heaviest snow falls of this winter. I got up Friday morning fully expecting to spend at least two if not three days in the field chasing storm damage. When I arrived at work I discovered we had less than a thousand customers out of power. That meant no storm duty.

Saturday I went to the team meeting and related to the team that I was feeling like something special was brewing for this walk. Obviously, God wanted me at the team meeting more than he wanted me on storm duty and turned a major winter storm into a minor winter storm.

Saturday afternoon Jean and I left for the monthly gathering in the same car I drove to the team meeting. We never made it. In fact we went home in a tow truck. Obviously, God wanted me at the team meeting enough to keep my car running long enough to get me there but not much more.

Between God appearing to want me at the team meeting on Saturday and all the amazing things I have seen as this team formed I think there is something special in the works for this walk. Now all I need to do is figure out who God wants me to sponsor on the walk.

Randy Herrick

Greetings From Our Assistant Community Lay Director

Hi to all -

Well, let's hope we are on the right side of winter and that God will be coloring our lives with the petals of spring.

We all need His energy as we walk daily. Seems the sun has forgotten to shine. In these times energy is at the blah stage, so instead of the easy surrender to blah, let's dig deep in His Word, find a renewed energy, take the bull the horns, and glow.

We really need your help. We need Pilgrims for the Men's Walk the first weekend in May (May 2nd thru the 5th) at Cornerstone Christian Church. Let's have an avalanche in the next 6 weeks and get those applications in.

To Him Be The Glory.

Tom Fiero



Let God Love You

When my girls were little, I'd come home, shout their names and watch them run to me with extended arms and squealing voices. For the next few moments we'd roll on the floor, gobble bellies, and tickle tummies and laugh and play. We delighted in each other's presence. They made no requests of me, with the exception of, "Let's play, Daddy. And I made no demands of them except, "Don't hit daddy with the hammer." My kids let me love them.

But suppose they'd approached me as we often approach God. "Hey, Dad, glad you're home. Here's what I want!" "Whoa," I would have to say. "Why don't you just climb up on Daddy's lap and let me tell you how much I love you?" Ever thought God might want to do the same with you? How long since you let God love you?

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (I John 3:1)

Max Lucado

From Our Community Spiritual Director

Hi, I am Jim Hegedus. I am your new Community Spiritual Director. Some of you may know, some may not. I serve Jackson's First Presbyterian Church as Lead Pastor. I took my Walk to Emmaus in October 2000 at the Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church and sat at the Table of John.

Kris Hegedus and I were married on June 16, 1990. We have two children, Alex (20) and Stephanie (19).

It is my privilege to serve you for this year (it is one year, isn't it?) as the Community Spiritual Director. One of my responsibilities is to provide for the devotional and serving of Holy Communion at our monthly Community Gatherings held at the Brookside United Methodist Church on the second Saturday of every month at 5:00 p.m.

I have decided that when I offer the devotional talk that I will be sharing about the power of the different means of grace available to the Christian believer. I figure that my term will run out before I exhaust the means of grace that the Lord gives to all who follow him.

The *Means of Grace* talk is the longest talk of the entire Walk to Emmaus Weekend. That talk lists at least a total of 13 different means of grace! Do you remember them all? I bet that no one does...

God's means of grace are tools God uses to make God's desires into reality. God uses the means of grace for us, for the kingdom of God and for you specifically to be able to gain good things. We are called to open ourselves to God's amazing grace in a huge variety of ways.

One means of grace that the talk does not cover is *solitude*. Ruth Haley Barton in her book, *Sacred Rhythms*, writes about her experience in solitude:

“All things have already been reconciled in Christ—even those things and people that seem broken beyond repair. In solitude I know that even those things that seem irreconcilable are somehow reconciled in Christ. Everything is already one through the person and work of Christ in the timelessness that is God.” (page 42)

Dear Emmaus friend, give yourself some grace! All things have already been reconciled in Christ. Those gut wrenching losses that happen when a loved is taken from us far too soon have been reconciled in Christ in the timelessness that is God. One day when we experience that same timelessness that is eternity or heaven we will know.

All things have already been reconciled in Christ which also means stop beating yourself up for not being a perfect

Christian. Stop agonizing about past relationships that you may have messed up. Stop emotionally and spiritually whipping yourself for repeating the same old sin or bad habit you can't break.

Romans 5:10-11 says:

“For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.” (NRSV)

The *King James Bible* says “we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.”

“We were reconciled”—past tense, *fait accompli*, done deal. Take some *solitude* time and allow this truth to wash over you as a means of grace!

Pastor Jim Hegedus



Greetings, all

While the men's walk doesn't occur until May, I need to ask for human reassurance that I won't be up there alone, leading music for the community gathering and candlelight. This year, we have three of our best musicians working on the conference room team. So, over the next couple of months, I will be calling those who have signed up to do music on their volunteer forms to make sure that I will have a number of you to help me.

I will also be calling to talk about setting up a music committee for Emmaus, so that we can better pick the music director for the community in 2015. It is important for all of us to remember that God is at work on these walks and in our community. But, we also have to make sure that we do our part!

Bea Furman



A note on sponsorship

Discern – Verb - To
distinguish or discriminate.

As a sponsor we are called upon to discern who needs to be sponsored on a walk. Sometimes this discerning process is not easy.

We have friends who would find Christ if they would just take a walk. We have friends who are having problems in their lives and a walk will fix everything. We have friends who are grieving the loss of a loved one and a walk will fix everything. We have friends who are mad at the pastor and have left our church and a walk will change their mind.

Maybe a walk will fix these issues, but if you remember your sponsorship training, these are four of the groups of people who are highly recommended not to go on a walk. The reason being the walk rarely does fix the problems and the pilgrim goes away disappointed in Emmaus.

We need to discern who should go on a walk. Sometimes this means discriminating against people who do not belong on the walk at this time. All four of my examples above can be candidates for a future walk, but not necessarily this walk. We need to recognize when the right time is for a walk.

The best way to discern who belongs on this walk is to go to God in prayer. Do not pray for God to convince someone to go on the walk. While you are busy doing that, God is likely showing you who needs to be on the walk but you are too busy with your own agenda to see what He is telling you. Instead pray that God will show you who he wants on the walk, then open your eyes and see what God has in store for you.

Randy Herrick

KITCHEN HEAD NEEDED!!!

We are in need of a new Kitchen Head on our Board since Sherry Logan's term has expired. If you are a person who loves to cook and organize a kitchen, please contact someone on the Board. **God can use you!!!**

Men's Walk
May 2 - May 5, 2013
Cornerstone Christian Church
2395 West High Street
Jackson, MI 49203

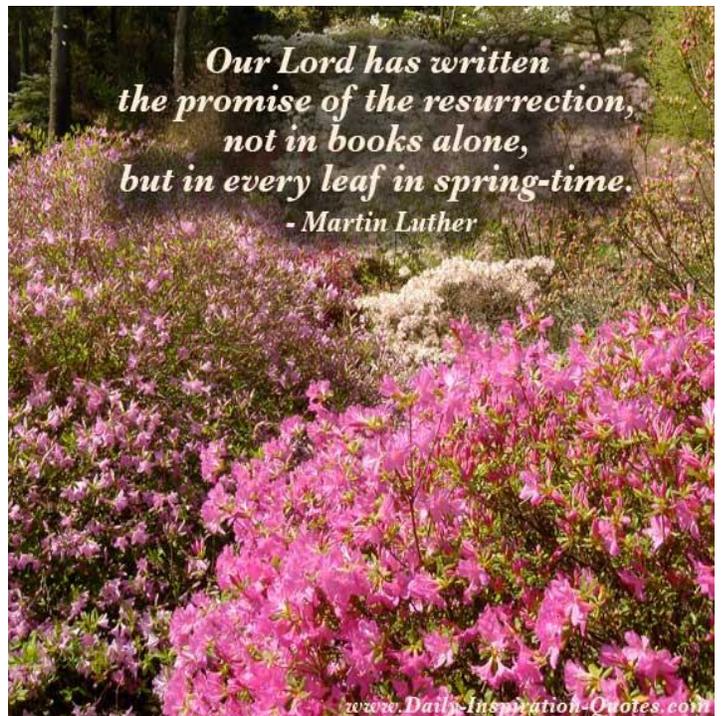
It is not too early to get registrations in for the upcoming Men's Walk.

The cost for the weekend is \$90, but by registering early, pilgrims can save \$10.

A non-refundable deposit of \$30 is required. If deposit is paid by March 2, 2013, the deposit is \$25. If the balance is paid by April 2, 2013, the balance is \$55. If these deadlines are not met, the total is \$90. **Early registration is a benefit to everyone involved.**

Please send registrations to: **Sue Keene, 10204 Rexford Road, Grass Lake, MI 49240. e-mail: srcik@comcast.net Telephone: (517) 536-4684.**

*Our Lord has written
the promise of the resurrection,
not in books alone,
but in every leaf in spring-time.
- Martin Luther*



Here is a thought...

I was watching television news footage of a picket line of church people screaming at this little teenage girl. She was running through a gauntlet of angry people and holding a newspaper over her head as she tried to enter an abortion clinic. I did not see love, I saw condemnation. I saw a frail statistic weaving her way thru catcalls. All those behind-the-back whispers had turned into full-frontal screams.

I muttered, half audibly: "Those were the last fifty believers that girl passed by on the way into that clinic to kill her baby, and that's what they had to say to her: "YOU'RE A MURDERER FOR KILLING YOUR KID!" I thought, "*You know, we're putting all the weight on this girl to live right when she's not equipped to live right.*"

Yes, the girl was making a terrible choice, an abomination in God's sight. Yes, she was willfully taking a human life formed by God. (Psalm 139:13-16) But, no, I don't believe our venom is the answer.

The whole scene left me with some questions. If the Church had been living for Jesus in front of her beforehand, would she have been in such a predicament? How many ingrown churches did she drive by when she was deciding whom to date? How many silent Christians did she sit beside in the lunch room when she was deciding where to go with this relationship with this guy? How many of us were around her at one time or another and didn't have an opinion or anything to say about her life until she did something on our bad list, and then it was time for us to say what we think? Is this not an upside down way to thinking?

Second Chronicles 7:14 came to mind. Bill Clinton was in the White House, the courts were upholding abortion rights and getting friendlier with gay rights, and Christians were united by grumbling and sitting on their hands. It seems everything I heard was, "What's wrong with this world? It's the government's fault that this is happening. The schools are doing this and the politicians are doing that." The government, the schools and the media are always the problem. They're easy targets and we've proven it by pounding on them.

I'm all for speaking the truth, but we seem to forget one obvious truth: they're lost. Lost people sin. That's what they do. There is no compass in them telling them anything else to do. We, however, have a compass that points to true north. So 2 Corinthians 7:14 casts a different light on these issues.

I read it and think, "*Maybe it's us.*"

Maybe it isn't the rest of the world all of the time. Maybe the big, bad wolf isn't the big, bad wolf after all. Maybe if we would just follow just one verse, I wouldn't see this girl so often:

If my people...who are called by my name...will humble themselves, and pray...and seek my face...and turn from their wicked ways...then I will hear from heaven...and will forgive their sin...and heal their land.

Look at God's promises. He will hear our prayers. He will forgive our sins. He will heal our infirm nation. He reveals all these promised blessings, and yet we're constantly praying that God will cause those very changes. We're saying, "God, heal the land. Feed the poor. Bring revival to this country. Why aren't You moving, Lord? Why is all this stuff happening?" And we've forgotten the first half of what He says. It's an if/then statement. It's conditional. He says, "If MY people..." God is calling His people to follow Him, strip of all the facades, and lay aside all of the sin, including the "pet" ones, and start loving Him with our lives.

Do you want revival in the land? Do you desire a nation after God's own Heart? Then make sure your heart is the first in line. Ask Him for revival, but ask Him to start with you.

Mark Hall



Clothing Order Form



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	Banana	2 XL		\$20.00	
	Black	3 XL		\$22.00	
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	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	
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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 Jim Hegedus 517-740-2240
jimh@jacksonfirstpres.com

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:

Kathryn Ames 517-262-1014
nurseames@hotmail.com

Registrar:

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

Site Selections/Building/Tear Down:

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

Sponsor's Hour/Candlelight/Closing:

Chuck Tuckey
CRTuckey@aol.com

Supplies/Trailer Coordinator:

Sue Miller
ml1rt1me@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

GOD'S WHISPER

Not long ago I heard a story about a young man and an old preacher. The young man had lost his job and didn't know which way to turn. So he went to see the old preacher.

Pacing about the preacher's study, the young man ranted about his problem. Finally he clenched his fist and shouted, "I've begged God to say something to help me. Tell me, Preacher, why doesn't God answer?"

The old preacher, who sat across the room, spoke something in reply—something so hushed it was indistinguishable. The young man stepped across the room. "What did you say?" he asked.

The preacher repeated himself, but again in a tone as soft as a whisper. So the young man moved closer until he was leaning on the preacher's chair. "Sorry," he said. "I still didn't hear you." With their heads bent together, the old preacher spoke once more. "God sometimes whispers," he said, "so we will move closer to hear Him."

This time the young man heard and he understood. We all want God's voice to thunder through the air with the answer to our problem. But God's is the still, small voice . . . the gentle whisper.

Perhaps there's a reason. Nothing draws human focus quite like a whisper. God's whisper means I must stop my ranting and move close to Him, until my head is bent together with His. And then, as I listen, I will find my answer. Better still, I find myself closer to God.

Author Unknown