

Heartbeat Of The Heartland Emmaus Community

February/March 2004



Our Board Members

Greg Rackers
Sandra & Greg Rackers
Betty & Dave Devoe
Linda & Bill Fronk
Shirley & Dave Greenlee
Martin Slimmer
Cindy & Robert Bertoncin
Rita & Jeff Reed
Ann Sidwell
Lisa & Dave Taber
Bev & Scott Bird
Dorothy & Dick Emery
Tammy Simmons
Peggy & Terry Tingle

Mike Whitney

Lay Director
Sponsor hour & send off
Reunion Groups & Gatherings
Registration
Walk Locations & Treasurer (Dave)
Prayer tree, email & web site
Candlelight & Chrysalis (Secretary)
Prayer Room & Closing
Entertainment
Agape (Asst. Lay Director)
Snack agape and shirts
Book table & Ecumenical (training)
Child care
72 hour prayer vigil mail agape
Set up & clean up
Spiritual Director

From the Lay Director

It is with a great sense of awe and wonder that I begin this year. I am very thankful for the opportunity to serve the Community as Lay Director. I would never have envisioned taking on such a role before going on my Walk, but I have been on fire ever since that weekend.

While on our Walks, we all feel the fire of the Holy Spirit burning within us. For the remainder of our Fourth Days, what we do to keep that fire burning is up to us. Whether we work to keep it burning inside us, help to fan the flame burning inside others, or even to let it die down is a choice for each pilgrim to make.

We are at the time of year for resolutions, plans, budgets, and so on. What resolutions have you made – get in shape, lose a few pounds, stay on budget? What about resolutions for your spiritual life? Are you meeting faithfully with a Reunion Group to keep your relationship with God in shape? Are you going to drop some of the dead weight of anger, guilt or hate from your heart? Have you budgeted time in your calendar for God on a daily basis? What can you do to kindle your inner fire for God? More importantly, what WILL you do?

At my church, we are starting our second Alpha class. For those of you who may not have heard of it, Alpha is an introductory class for seekers who may not know Jesus, or who are in the early steps of their walk with Him. In our worship time at Alpha, there is a song we sing regularly. I'd like to share some of the lyrics with you:

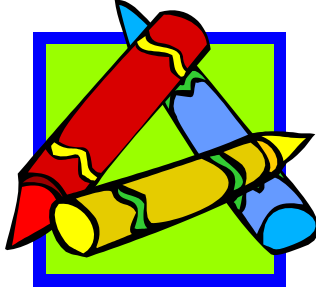
Light the fire
In my soul,
Fan the flame
Make me whole
Lord you know
Just where I've been
So light the fire in my heart again.

My prayer for each of you is that you make the time to get that fire the Spirit is burning inside you a roaring blaze. Now is the best time to refocus yourself on the real priorities of this life. If you need help doing that, visit any of the Reunion Groups that meet in our community. If you'd prefer one on one contact, any of the board members would be more than happy to meet with you.

Feed your fire.
De Colores!

Greg

FROM THE AGAPE ROOM



As we approach a walk it is time to color again. If you have a great need to color Roosters give me a holler at 913.441.2238, or DLTABER8@msn.com. I also still need some help for Friday on the Women's walk. As always Saturday is busy getting ready for the Banquet so if you would like to help set up please be there by around 10 or 1 a.m. **NOW** – the subject of LETTERS for the pilgrims. This has been very confusing trying to make the change on the last walk. We have come up with a system that we hope will be easier and yet let us apply the new rules.

1. Please place a “p” somewhere in the corner of the envelope for ALL personal letters. (This letter would be from someone who has a close relationship to the pilgrim.)
2. We will count all the personal letters each pilgrim receives, and whoever has the most will set the number of letters each pilgrim receives in the conference room on Sunday. We will use community letters to make up the number for the rest of the pilgrims.
3. All other letters will be placed on their tables in the conference room while they are receiving their crosses, so PLEASE make sure they are taken back to the tables before they go home.
4. To help with dropping the margin of error, please do not file pilgrim letters in the actual mailbox. Drop all letters in the tubs provided in the mailroom.

If you are a sponsor and are still unsure about the letter situation please feel free to contact me. Also if I have stored your agape I will be contacting you to let you know what and how much I have. PLEASE remember to have arrangements made to have your agape picked up after the walks, or at least leave me storage or throw away instructions.

You CAN put reunion and church names on agape.

From The Kitchen

De Colores Heartland Emmaus Family from the Kitchen, The walks are coming quickly,
April 15-18 for men; April 22-25 for women.

I remember that I came to the kitchen to help the weekend after my walk just to try and catch a glimpse of Karla on hers. But the look on her face was not the only joy I received that evening.

Just being there rekindles the feelings from your own walk. By being there you will see and participate in all the things you had no idea were going on behind the scenes.

Those of you that always come to help, please continue, but our hope is to see some new faces also. This is YOUR Heartland Emmaus. The only way it will continue is if YOU get involved. God will lead you in the direction to help. It may be in set-up & clean-up, prayer, agape, snacks, candlelight or yes, maybe even kitchen.

Whatever moves you just get involved. The 2004 Spring and Fall walks will be it for Karla and I in the kitchen, if you are being tugged to serve the Lord by feeding his sheep please come and get the experience. It makes the transition very easy if you have been through it once. It's really been one of the most fulfilling things I done in my life.

You can contact us via e-mail/ Jaworth57@wmconnect.com kworth1@hallmark.com

Or by phone 816-734-8705

To schedule when you would like to serve (and receive). Or if you are moved at the last moment just show up we'll find something for you to do.

Thank You & DeColores
Jeff & Karla Worthington



Is God calling you to service?

The Heartland Emmaus of KC board is still needing a community member who is ready and willing to serve on the board. We need someone to fill the position as committee chairperson of Setup/Cleanup. While this can sound like a huge job (and the whole job of setup and cleanup is), the committee chairperson is responsible for organizing the help, not doing the whole job personally. Everything about the Walk to Emmaus is a team effort, and this is no exception.

The board has already found someone to help haul the trailer, so one big piece is already taken care of.

I ask that you prayerfully consider this need. Take some time to listen for that still, small voice. Are you the one God wants to fill this role?

If you think you might be, or you aren't sure, but you're willing to find out more, please contact Greg Rackers at grackers@excite.com or 816-415-4712. Thanks!

Behind the scenes actors needed!

As you know, much of the work in putting together a Walk to Emmaus happens behind the scenes. Community members offer their time and talents in acts of agape love to the pilgrims. Help is needed starting Wednesday night at setup, through the weekend helping the Agape, Snack Agape, Kitchen, and Prayer Room teams, all the way through cleanup at the end of closing.

The next Walks are coming up in April at Platte Woods UMC. The dates are listed in the newsletter. Reserve time on your calendar today to come and offer service to God through acts of love to pilgrims who will be spending their weekend wrapped in the arms of God's love, which the Heartland Emmaus Community provides.

From The Web

Been to the web lately?

As some of you have found out, the Heartland Emmaus web site (<http://www.heartlandemmauskc.org>) has a new feature on it - you can now view and sign up for PRAYER SLOTS! For the upcoming weekends, you can visit the site and view those slots that are still available for Prayer Times. Once you've viewed what's available for the Men's and Women's weekends, you can sign up for your OWN time slot! This is a popular feature of the website, as prayer slots are going fast! And after you sign up, take a look around the site for a few minutes - there are applications, newsletters, and additional information that's worthy of your time. Requests for prayer slots are not (yet) immediate, but are posted behind the scenes - - so the slots are on a first come basis, although we will let you pray at the same time as someone else. So take a look around, and enjoy your time on the web!

Your friendly neighborhood web-master,
- Martin Slimmer
mslimmer@cerner.com

CHRYSALIS UPDATE

There was a Chrysalis Flight held at Platte Woods UMC during the Christmas holiday. There were 31 girls and 17 boys that went on the flight. The Emmaus Community would like the new Butterflies to know that they are welcome into the Emmaus Community with open arms. We would like to create a database of all that have gone through the Crosswinds Chrysalis or any other Chrysalis group. If you have been through a flight or you know of someone who has been send your name, flight #, church affiliation, phone #, and address to Robert & Cindy Bertoncin at rbertoncin@kc.rr.com and we will get it compiled. We can also put you in touch with other Butterflies in the community and you could start a re-union group if you would like to. We are trying to create this database so that those that have gone through Chrysalis can contact each other.

Yours in Christ,
Robert and Cindy Bertoncin

**SPRING WALKS ARE APPROACHING
ARE YOU READY TO SPONSOR?**

RECRUITMENT:

To all of our friends in the Emmaus Community: The Spring Walks will be here before long. It is important to begin focusing on appropriate candidates for the Walks. It may surprise some of you to learn that not every person is an appropriate candidate – that is the reason that Sponsors play such a critical role. For each Emmaus Walk to be successful, Sponsors need to start by praying BEFORE recruiting their candidates. Sponsors need to ask questions like – Is the person I am considering spiritually ready for the Christ encounter? Is this a good time in their life to introduce them to this life changing event? God knows the answers to these questions, but we must listen to learn who He would ask us to recruit. If we do that recruiting is EASY. It gets HARD when we aren't listening. But recruiting is only the beginning...then comes the important paperwork and continued prayer. Please be prepared to properly do the Sponsor's work if you sponsor.

SPONSORS RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 1) Be in continuing prayer for your candidate.
- 2) Be sure your candidate gets his/her Pilgrim Application turned in to YOU and that YOU read through it to check for missing information. (85% of the applications from Candidates are missing information.
- 3) Be sure you fill out the Sponsor Application and return BOTH applications along with a \$20 NON_REFUNDABLE check to Heartland Emmaus of Kansas City, P.O. Box 901636, KC, MO 64190.
- 4) Be certain to let your Candidate know that you are in prayer for them and that you will be their contact if they have any questions. (Candidates are always free to call the Registrar but even though they have questions many of them do not call us. It is easier for them to talk to someone they know.
- 5) Be sure to read over then list of Sponsor Responsibilities that each Sponsor receives when their candidate has been accepted as a Pilgrim for the upcoming Walk. If you have any questions, or you know that you cannot meet some of the responsibilities, call a community member to fill in for you. Christ not only works through the Emmaus Walk Team, but through the SPONSORS of each walk!
- 6) Keep in touch with the candidate/Pilgrim until the Walk begins and let the Registrar know immediately if your candidate/Pilgrim cannot attend the Walk. (It is not unusual for a waitlist to have 12-15 people as candidates and when they are notified there is a spot on the Walk for them some say they cannot attend.)
- 7) Please remind your Pilgrim that \$75 will be due when he/she registers the night of the Walk. Bring YOUR checkbook or cash in case your Pilgrim forgets!

**ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY SPONSORS AND
CANDIDATES:**

Who can sponsor a candidate to be a Pilgrim on the Emmaus Walk?

Anyone who has completed an Emmaus Walk, Cursillo, Cairos Torch or Chrysalis Flight and is willing to fulfill the responsibilities of the Sponsor can be a Sponsor.

My candidate sent in his/her application months ago. Why isn't s/he assured a spot on the Walk?

In most cases they would be. However, and this is especially true with the Women's Walk, if we have a large Wait List and we get some wives of clergy who sign up and/or wives of spouses who have attended the Walk earlier, they would have precedence over someone who did not have these connections. (These are the rules from the governing Emmaus body that we are, as a community, required to follow.)

What are the cut off dates for accepting applications for the spring Walks?

Men's Walk – March 12, Women's Walk - March 19, 2004.

Why can't we take candidates who apply close to the Walk dates?

A properly run Walk is a large undertaking. Food preparation is an especially intensive job. We often have candidates who are on special diets and need special food considerations. Gearing up for these at the last minute is difficult. But even more importantly, Sponsors need to have enough time to notify the candidate's friends and loved ones about writing the agape letters. A huge part of the Emmaus experience is lost if those letters are not appropriately solicited and everyone contacted.

What happens when a candidate is on the waitlist and does not make the Walk s/he requested?

Unless the candidate notifies us to the contrary, s/he will be automatically rolled forward and placed on the top of the waitlist for the next Walk. If the candidate cannot go on the following Walk, s/he will again be rolled ahead automatically. This will happen automatically four times. If the candidate has not taken the Walk by this time, s/he will be taken off the waitlist assuming s/he is not really interested in attending a Walk. Their money is not refunded. If the candidate and/or Sponsor notifies the Registrar or extenuating circumstances, they can be kept on the waitlist longer. (We not have two people on the waitlist who have been there for some time. One has an ill spouse and the other is taking Chemotherapy treatments.) When either of their circumstances permits them to attend a Walk, they will obviously be at the top of this list. This article is not meant to be an exhaustive essay on registration or sponsorship. While this is a serious article about a serious subject, your Registrars are friendly, not so serious people, who would love to talk to you if you have questions. We can be reached at 913.897.4289, or by e-mail – ladynclay@aol.com or wefronk@aol.com. Our fax number is 913.681.5512, which will work if you need to get us an application fast.

ONE CAUTION – a candidate's application alone cannot get him/her on the waitlist. It must be accompanied by a check for \$20, and it is NON-REFUNDABLE. Only Christ is perfect – certainly NOT your Registrars! Please, if you have questions or know of a problem that we can help you or your Pilgrim with, notify us.

*Please check the Heartland Emmaus website at hearlandemmauskc.org for candidate and sponsor applications, dates and locations of the upcoming Walks. For those of you who do not have web access contact the Registrars at the above number.