

Emmaus Newsletter

May/June 2004

From our Lay Director

The balloons have all deflated, the decorations have come down, the supplies are all packed away, and De Colores has stopped echoing through the hallways at Platte Woods. We are left with the memories from a great couple of walks.

But is that all? Certainly not! Hearts were touched by the Spirit, pilgrims were pointed back to following Jesus on their faith journeys, lives were changed. The purpose of the Walk to Emmaus is to equip leaders for our local churches, but that doesn't stop when Communion is served at closing. Walk 21 is over, but the community remains.

It remains, continuing to nourish church leaders with love. Love shown through dedicated service like that of Jennifer Dull and Mike Pilch, the Lay Directors for Walk 21. On behalf of our community, I thank you for your time, your effort, your sacrifice, and most of all, your love. I'm sure each of them are thinking as they read this "It wasn't just me. There was an entire team and it couldn't have happened without them." And that is true. The teams who served for these Walks, not just those in the conference room, but all of the behind the scenes teams as well, were fine examples of serving our Lord by loving our neighbors.

By the grace of God there were 49 pilgrims on these two walks. Again, on behalf of the Heartland Emmaus community, I welcome you. We are still here to serve, including helping you find ways to serve God. If you feel that service might come by serving in some way for a future Walk, contact any of the Board Members and we will be happy to talk to you about it.

De Colores!
Greg

From our Spiritual Director

An Experience in Prayer

I had been invited to open in prayer at a Call Center Expo put on by a local Kansas City company for call centers throughout the area. The owner of the company and sponsor of the event is an Emmaus friend, so I was excited and honored to be invited to do this for him.

After accepting over the phone, I received the invitation in the mail and glanced at the start time of 8:00 am, then simply entered it on my calendar. The morning of the event I started out about 7:15, which I thought would give me plenty of time to drive across Kansas City and arrive on time. Well, about 10 minutes into the drive on 635, I realized I was going to need a Moses Miracle, a parting of the traffic if you will, 635 was a parking lot and time was ticking away. I started to pray, "God I need a break here, I need you to make a way and part the traffic if I am going to make it on time." The traffic seemed to get slower.

It became evident to me that I might be late, so I became a little more fervent in my prayers as desperation set in. "God, it's me, going to pray, going to be a witness, I need a break." Still things went from bad to worse. I missed my exit, but I kept praying, "God I need a break here." Then fire trucks and ambulances came screaming by so traffic had to pull over and wait, (I did have a moment of sanity and prayed for whatever situation they were rushing to.) I kept praying, "God I need a break here." Red lights and slow traffic simply added to the delays and at 8:15 I resigned myself to the fact I was late and I could only hope my friend would be able to forgive me for my misjudgment in timing. At 8:20 I arrived at my destination. All I could do at this point was to humble myself and accept the fact I had missed my appointment. Needless to say I was a bit upset with myself for not realizing that traffic might be a bit busy at that time of day.

I went inside and straight to the receptionist to ask if my friend was inside so that I might apologize for being late. To my amazement and delight the receptionist informed me that 8:00 am was the networking time and the meetings did not start until 9:00 am. I was early!!!!!! Since I was early and could hardly contain my delight, I turned, went outside to my car to have a good laugh. All along I was praying for a break and God had it arranged, just not in the way I was thinking. I chuckled at myself for being so tense about arriving, and felt God laughing with me as well because He had answered my desperate prayer in a way I never thought about. All along the way, God was simply trying to slow me down because He knew exactly what I needed. I didn't need a break in the traffic, I needed to trust Him more.

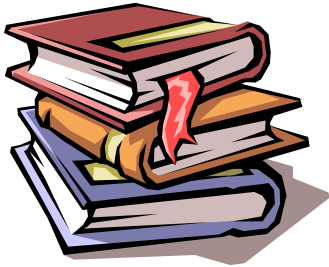
I learned some lessons that day through this simple event. I gained a little more faith that God is in control, I learned a little bit about traffic, and a lot about prayer. Sometimes as we pray and we ask God for what we think we need, if the answer is not coming, maybe God is going to answer in a different way. Maybe God knows something we don't and we need to slow down and trust Him with the outcome. Maybe we really don't need a break, maybe we simply need to trust.

De Colores
Mike

Book Table

The book table sold 49 books. A few still owe for their IOU's and we will be sending cards to those individuals. We got a report that more variety would be desirable and we'll try harder this fall. May God help you create a little space and time to dig into His word.

Dotty Emery



Prayer

A big thank you to all who participated in the prayer vigil for the spring 2004 Walks.

What a blessing it is to know you can touch the life of someone by praying for them. IF you were at a closing or candlelight service I'm sure you saw your prayers answered by just looking into the eyes of a Pilgrim. Please don't wait to sign-up to participate in the fall prayer vigil. Sign-up early and often! You can sign-up to participate at our website (www.heartlandmmauskc.org) or on a poster at a monthly gathering.



DeColores,

Terry and Peggy Tingle

Greetings & Salutations,

I would like to get some feedback from parents who used childcare during these past walks. How did it work for you? Were there any problems? Do you have ideas that would help us for future walks?

Please send your questions, comments, concerns, and ideas to tammiesimmons@yahoo.com. My goal is for the love, care & protection of our children; your thoughts are important to me.

DeColores!
Tammie Simmons

Candlelight

Thank you, Thank you!!

We just wanted to thank the community for the awesome turnout for candlelight this past walk. The great crowd for the both the men's & women's brought Platte Woods to life. We were told by many, that it was beautiful but it would not have been possible without the community's help. Bless you all! See you in the fall!

Decolores,

Cindy & Robert Bertocin





WHAT IS IT?

The objective of Chrysalis is to inspire, challenge, and equip local church youth for a closer friendship with Christ and for Christian action at home, church, school, and community.

What is Chrysalis to the average teen-ager? It is a three-day spiritual retreat that provides those that attend an opportunity to learn more about faith, to experience Christian love and support, and a chance to make new commitments in their faith journey. The three days focus on God's grace, how one experiences Christ as friend in the body of Christ, and how one is called into discipleship, giving love to a needful world.

Do you know a youth who wants to strengthen their friendship with Christ; who may have unanswered questions about prayer, study, and sharing their faith; are open to dedicating their everyday life to God in an ongoing manner? If they are a high school sophomore through College Freshman of any denomination then they can go through Chrysalis. It is open to 15 to 18 year olds.

At a Chrysalis Flight they will spend three days with other young people in worship, prayer, fellowship, recreation, singing and discussion. They will hear talks given by youth and adults. Five talks are given each day followed by discussion and reflection on how the messages can be helpful to their personal faith.

Cross Winds Chrysalis is a joint ministry of the Bread of Life and Sonflower Emmaus communities with loving support from the Heartland Emmaus Community and the Midland United Methodist Cursillo communities.

The next Chrysalis Flight will be held at **First United Methodist Church in Wichita, KS**. It will be Wednesday, July 7, 2004 through Saturday, July 10, 2004. If you would like any more information please contact us, Robert & Cindy Bertoncin at rbertoncin@kc.rr.com or you can go to the Chrysalis home page at www.crosswindschrysalis.org. You can also go to the Heartland Emmaus web page at www.heartlandemmauskc.org and click on the Chrysalis link.

If you know a youth that fits these criteria, please seriously consider having them go on this spiritual retreat. They will thank you in more ways than you can imagine.

Chrysalis is always in need of agape (about 120 pieces) or snack agape (anything they can dip in chocolate or ranch dressing will do). We are dealing with teenagers so they do eat! You can help by volunteering your time or even donations are greatly appreciated. Let us know & we will be happy to get with you .

Your friends in Christ,

Robert & Cindy Bertoncin

Fee increase

It is an unfortunate fact that the costs people pay for just about everything continue to rise. The amount we pay to churches for hosting our Walks has gone up, and while it is less than retreat centers such as Wilderness Retreat and Development Center (formerly called Camp Wilderness) charge, it is getting harder and harder to find churches that have enough room to spare on Sundays to allow them to host Walks. With the increasing difficulty in finding churches able to host Walks, and the increasing number of retreat centers available to us in the Kansas City area, the Board has decided to pursue the use of retreat centers for future walks.

To cover the higher costs of retreat centers, the Board has voted to raise fees (for the pilgrims and the team members) to \$110, starting with Walk 22 this fall. This fee level will be in effect for Walks 22 and 23, and starting with Walk 24 (fall of 2005), the fee will be \$120. As part of this increase, we will also be increasing the deposit to \$30. Any pilgrims who paid their fees or deposits by April 26th of this year will only be charged the original fee amount.

Scholarships will continue to be available to anyone who needs help with paying their fees.

Greg Rackers

Treasurer's Report – April 2004

Checking Balance 3/31/04	\$5,218.73
April 2004 Income	\$4,586.16
April 2004 Expense	(\$4,026.98)
Checking Balance 4/30/04	\$5,777.91
Scholarship Fund (included in balance)	(\$391.00)
Available Balance 4/30/04	\$5,386.91

Treasurer's Projected May Activity

Checking Balance 4/30/04	\$5,777.91
<i>Projected</i> May Income	\$438.00
<i>Projected</i> May Expenses	(\$4,844.93)
<i>Projected</i> May Checking Balance	\$1,370.98
Scholarship Fund (included in balance)	(\$391.00)
<i>Projected</i> Available Balance 5/31/04	\$979.98

As of 5/17/04, *projected* income for May includes money from Walk #21's Book Table, shirt sales, registrations and donations. *Projected* expenses include remaining Walk #21 expenses, \$358 refund for Book Table books returned to the bookstore, trailer storage rental, and the deposit to Wilderness Retreat and Development Center for upcoming Walk #22. Praise God – He has equipped us for His work!

From The Agape Room

I would like to thank all our help we had on the last walks. Platte Woods was spread out more than other locations and we wouldn't have been able to do it all with out your help. For all those that helped decorate for the Banquet thank you very much. Both nights looked fabulous. I can always use help decorating for the Banquets and I am open for ideas on designs. As always the amount of agape was great. I am sure the Pilgrims felt loved.

We did have one mishap with letters again on the men's walk where one gentleman didn't get his second bag of letters. Because this keeps happening we are going back to **ONE** letter drop in the conference room on Sunday during the normal time of letter dropping. I have re-read the manual from the upper room concerning this and there is a sentence that may help us. It suggests that the sponsor concentrate on acquiring **8 to 12** quality letters from those that would mean the most to the pilgrim and marking a **p** on the lower corner of the envelope to identify it as such. All letters collected for each pilgrim including community letters will go into their bag and delivered at the same time.

Still on the subject of letters, please put the **first and last name on the envelope**. If you have collected letters from their children please double check to make sure the pilgrims actual name is on the envelope. **WE HAVE MORE THAN ONE MOM OR DAD ON EVERY WALK.**

I had a person ask me a great question during the walk. She wanted to know what the theme for each day was so she could make agape accordingly. Here is a run down.

Thursday: no agape

Friday: First appears at dinner. Roosters, God, Justifying grace, God calling us, caterpillars.

Saturday: Chic's, Hens, Rainbows, Jesus, Dying moments, cocoons, love, growth.

Sunday: Hearts, balloon's, butterfly's, changing the world, Holy Spirit, discipleship, perseverance.

We have also noticed that there hasn't been as much agape for the pilgrims to wear as before. This is always a nice touch when they can wear it to Candlelight and closing. Again thank you to everyone who helps and even though this walk just ended it is time to start for the next one at Wilderness. For all the new pilgrims if you are looking for a place to work in the fall give me a holler. DLTABER8@msn.com or 913-441-2238.

Lisa and David Taber

Our Board of Directors

Sandra & Greg Rackers (Lay Director)
Lisa & David Taber (Asst. Lay Director)
Cindy & Robert Bertoncin (Secretary)
Shirley & Dave Greenlee (Treasurer)
Mike Whitney
Bev & Scott Bird
Betty & Dave DeVoe
Dorothy & Dick Emery
Linda & Bill Fronk
Rita & Jeff Reed
Valerie & Bill Rowe
Ann Sidwell
Tammy Simmons
Martin Slimmer
Peggy & Terry Tingle
Karla Worthington

Sponsors hour & send off
Agape
Candlelight & Chrysalis
Walk Locations
Spiritual Director
Snack agape and shirts
Reunion Groups & Gatherings
Book table & Ecumenical
Registration
Prayer Room & Closing
Set up & clean up
Entertainment
Child care
Prayer tree, email & web site
72 hour prayer vigil, mail agape
Kitchen

Gathering Dates for 2004 –

All gatherings are on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 7:00 PM.

June - Calvary Bible Church in Bonner Springs

July - Hamilton Core Group: PICNIC

August - Leawood UMC

September - Ottawa Church of the Brethren

October - Liberty UMC

November - Good Shepherd UMC

December – Christmas party at Church of the Resurrection

Reunion Groups

Day	Time	Location	Contact	Group Name	For	e-mail
Mon	Noon	Platte Woods UMC, Library	Sharon Horton 816-741-1128	Wings	Coed	shorton2@kc.rr.com
Mon	7:30 PM	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church	Robin Musgrave 816-468-6018	Babe Chicks	Women	robbinmusgrave@aol.com
Weds	7:30 AM	Platte Woods UMC, Parlor	Coby Gaulien 816-741-5543	SON Worshippers	Men	coby@kc.rr.com
Weds	11am	Platte Woods UMC, Parlor	Kathy Hopper 816-741-8598	Wildflowers	Women	hopnel@hotmail.com
Thurs	8:00 PM	Zimmerman Home	Suzanne Zimmerman 816-858-2655	Soul Sisters	Women	sznnzimm@aol.com
Thurs	11:30 AM	Bank of America 1200 Main, 14th floor	Sam Adams -816-587-2596	Downtown Disciples	Coed	samuel.adams@bankofamerica.com
Thurs	Noon	Various restaurants in Midtown area	Greg Rackers 816-714-2627	Midtown Men	Men	grackers@hrblock.com
Thurs	4:30 PM	Platte Woods UMC	Sonja Buttron 816-741-0577	BG's	Women	gebskb@earthlink.net
Thurs	5:45 PM	Good Shepherd UMC Room B2	Melony Wood 816-694-7859 Robin Ewy 816-734-1673	The Good Shepherds	Coed	billwooddvm@hotmail.com
Thurs	6:15 PM	Gashland UMC	Darlene Burton 816-468-9670	Grace Seekers	Women	peteburton@juno.com
Thurs	6:30 PM	Taber Home	David & Lisa Taber 913-441-2238	Bonner Believers	Coed	dltaber8@msn.com
Fri	7:00 AM	Hy-Vee 135th and Antioch	Bruce Chyka 913-851-0732	TBD	Men	brucechyka@sprintmail.com
Alt Fri	6:30PM	Dvorak Home	Mary Dvorak 913-782-7575	TBD	Coed	dvorak5@sbcglobal.net
Fri	6:30 PM	Homes of Kuhn & Reed	Jeff & Rita Reed 816-941-2208	COR Family	Coed	reedmtn@yahoo.com
Fri	7:00 PM	Aldersgate UMC	Bill & Valerie Rowe 816/246-7499 Warren & Janet Miller 816/966-8972	Southside Servants	Coed	warfisher@planetkc.com
Fri	7:30 PM	Homes of Pease & Hummel	Pease 816-741-2850 Hummel 816-420-9596	TGIF (To God in Faith)	Coed	EPEASE1@kc.rr.com
Sat	7:00 AM	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church	Phil Brandis 816-587-1615	Roosters	Men	rtbangel@aol.com
Sat	7:00 AM	Gashland UMC	Jim Colwell 816-468-8618	Hounds of Heaven	Men	Jcolwell1@kc.rr.com
Sat	7:30 AM	Liberty UMC	Mike & Cara Pilch 816-781-8887	Liberty Angel Wings	Coed	diaduit@swbell.net; mpilch@swbell.net
Sat	8:00 AM	Burger King in Cameron	Leslie Cook 816-583-4031	Pumpkin Sisters	Women	cookclan5@hotmail.com
Alt Sat	9:00 AM	Winstead's 435 & Nall	Tamara Smith 913-906-0336	COR-Footsteps	Coed	kstamiam@hotmail.com
Sun	5:00 PM	Leawood UMC Room 226	Delane Cohen 913-381-5004	Steadfast LUMC	Women	rickdelane@hotmail.com

