



Grace Emmaus
Community of KY

The Walk to
Emmaus
for the development
of Christian leaders

March 2005

From the Lay Director

Greetings:

I pray this finds you well and with God. I hope you are getting as excited about the upcoming walks as I am. Jeremiah 29:11 says "I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

When I read this, I can't help but to think that is what God is saying about our blossoming Emmaus community. When you look back just a few months ago we were just a handful of people. Now we are embarking on a time when we are about to become a full-fledged community. God has led us here in many ways. One is by sponsoring other people on their walk. Have you allowed God to "prosper you" yet? Is there that one person out there that God wants you to sponsor? Why haven't you asked them yet? That is how God gives us our future. So go ahead ask them.

DeColores

Gary Stephenson

Coming Events

It's Gathering time again. We will meet on the fourth Saturday of each month at 1st United Methodist Church in Corbin. We will be meeting March 26 in Corbin. In April, we will be meeting at Eagle Heights Church in Somerset. Directions will follow.

The schedule of events remains the same: steering committee meets at 5 p.m. followed by worship and fellowship at 6 p.m.

Bring some snack agape to share and be ready for a great time together with our brothers and sisters.

Fred Petke
Newsletter

From the Men's Lay Director

Numbers 1 and 2 are scheduled May 12th for men and May 19th for women. The Corbin Grace Community is still dependent upon the generous love, prayer and support of many friends in Christ at the Campbellsville Community. The four outreach walks in 2004 produced an outstanding core group from this region ready and willing to serve. Let's continue to encourage, invite and pray for new pilgrims for the upcoming walks. I believe the Walk to Emmaus demonstrates how many faith traditions can come together as one body to grow in our faith and together build God's Kingdom.

Thanks to all team members who have made commitments to serve on the upcoming walk. Formations meetings are scheduled March 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church next to the post office in Corbin. This will provide a time together for prayer, song, worship, fellowship, talk preview and food. We will

have our second formation meeting on April 16 at the same time and location, First Baptist in Corbin. The third and final formation meeting will be May 7 from 9:00 a.m. until finished at the First Methodist Church at Corbin. This meeting will provide time for final talk previews, team commissioning and getting familiar with the walk facility.

We have much to do in the final days of planning and preparation but the most important thing is prayer. Pray for the teams and pray for the pilgrims. Many have prayed for the Emmaus Community to come to this region and look what God has provided. Christian men and women who love Jesus and want to serve Him through the walk to Emmaus experience can make a difference in the world, one pilgrim and a time, one walk at a time. I am thankful to be a little bitty part of this experience.

DeColores, Dennis Wood, LD

Reunion Groups

Are you in a reunion group? Why not? Groups are forming all the time including:

-Covenant United Methodist Church in Middlesboro on Wednesdays. Contact Gary or Vicki Stephenson at 337-7969.

-SWANS, Thursdays in Corbin. Contact Julia Rollins at 523-9481.

-The Chinese Reunion Group, alternating Friday noon at Wah Weng in Corbin. Contact Fred Petke at 528-6818.

-London area men's group. Contact Josh Smith at 864-0830.

-Somerset women: Friday 8 a.m. at Baxter's coffee House (north). Contact Mary Ann Callarman at 677-6768.

-"The Faith:" Thursday 1 p.m. at John Carwell's, 962 Hwy. 219, Wallins Creek. Contact John Carwell at 664-7622.

Email meeting times, location and contact person to the newsletter and it will be shared.

Steering Committee Members

¥Lay Director - Gary Stephenson, ¥Spiritual Director - Jim Savage ¥Treasurer - Ginger Richardson, ¥Secretary - Karen Dial
¥Registrar - Suzie Savage ¥Team Selection - John Richardson ¥Kitchen - Ginger Richardson ¥Facility/Set-up - Susan Elkow
¥Music - John and Stacia Carwell ¥Kitchen - Ginger Richardson ¥Candlelight - Craig Dial ¥Newsletter - Fred Petke¥
At-Large - Josh and Tracy Smith,

From the Spiritual Director

We're gearing up for two of our best Walks yet! You say, "That can't be so, my Walk was the best ever." Well, you are right. Each of us feel that "our Walk" was the best Walk ever. I have found, though, that each Walk that I am a part of could be our very best. And rightly so...

Paul continually reminds his readers, and us, that we are to give God our very best because God gave His very best for us. And so, it is our prayer that each Walk is our very best giving each of them to God. I am always amazed at how God then turns that gift into a blessing for all who attend.

As I said a moment ago, we are gearing up for two Walks this spring. The men's Walk is May 12-15; the women's Walk is May 19-22. We are now accepting registrations for each of these Walks.

Our lay directors will be Dennis Wood, for the men's Walk; and Christy Woodall, for the women's Walk. The spiritual director for the women's Walk is Rev. Joel Patton; and I will be the spiritual director for the Men's Walk. The teams are almost put together and I am excited to see the outcome.

I would like to take a few moments

though to encourage each of you. While the Walk that you attended was great, it is only a part of the Walk to Emmaus Experience. I want to encourage you to become a part of the fourth day portion of the Walk to Emmaus. Take time each month to be a part of a Gathering. This is a great time of worship and fellowship each month and also a time of reunion with others on our Walk. Also be a part of an accountability group - what we call a reunion group. In a reunion group you will hold one another accountable to growing in Christ and becoming more Christ-like. This group meets once a week and prays together and hold each other up in many emotional and spiritual ways.

My group is made up of three pastors and is one of my favorite times each week. I look forward being with my brothers each week as we love one another and pray with and for each other.

Another very important part of the fourth day experience is to be involved in the ministry of your local church. Walk to Emmaus is not a church and is not to replace your obligations to your local church. To be obedient to Christ,

to be faithful to the Walk to Emmaus experience and to uphold your vows of church membership; you must be involved in your local church's ministry.

I encourage you to be a part of the fourth day experience. While the experience is not necessarily the only way to grow spiritually, it is the only way you can be a part of a team to work on a Walk. It is a requirement for all team members to be a part of the fourth day experience, actively.

It is also a requirement for all board members to be a part of the fourth day experience, actively. It is also a requirement for a sponsor to be a part of the fourth day experience.

Why? Because Walk to Emmaus is a structured community that is designed for all of us to grow in our Christ-likeness and has found that this is the most effective way for us to grow in the Emmaus community.

Please, get involved in fourth days. Be active in your Church's ministry. And it is my prayer that this will be our acceptable sacrifice to God.

Jim Savage
Community Spiritual Director

CHECK IT OUT!!

The official website of Grace Emmaus Community is on line, thanks to John Carwell. You can find the website at www.graceemmausky.org. Information, upcoming dates and registration forms will all be available online.