



Rainbow Connection



Vol. 16 No. 4

Western New York Walk to Emmaus & Chrysalis

April, 2006

WNY Walk to Emmaus # 33

Springville First UMC
474 East Main Street
Springville, NY 14141

Men: October 5 - 8, 2006

Women: November 2 - 5, 2006

Reunion: November 18, 2006



Women's Walk #32

L to R, Row 1; Pat Morse, Karla Smith, Dawn Zimmer, Sarah Denny, Greta Crowell, Jean Heiss, Pastor Kathleen Danley, Britta McCarthy, Alethia Keiper, Darci Hoberg, Connie Finney, Chris Collins. Row 2; Pastor Brian Scharf, Sharon Zacher, Michele Malone, Guinevere Smith, Kathie Woika, Sharon Breton, Bridget O'Brien, Barb Conklin, Linda Fredenburg, Jessica White, Pat Corsette, Kellie Beechler. Row 3; Gail Walker, Vivian Slocum, Amy Goodison, Erma McCann, Pastor Emily Frank, Diane Taylor, Carol Ensell, Sharon Snyder, Phyllis McKinney, Brenda Deever, Karen Sellers, Kristin Jones, Christa Fathergill, Bob Fathergill. Row 4; Marj Earnhart, Connie Motsenbocker, Pastor Greg VanDussen, Pastor Nancy Bassett, Ruth Canham, Darcie Schwarz, Peg Wantuck, Judy Hutson, Nanette Polvino, Pat Blakeman, Nancy Vredenburg, Vickie Jones.

WALK #33 TO BE HELD IN SPRINGVILLE, NY

Men's Walk, October 5 - 8, 2006
Deadline for Men - Sept. 15, 2006

Women's Walk, November 2 - 5, 2006
Deadline for Women - Oct. 13, 2006

Reunion is November 18, 2006

These walks will be held at the Springville UMC. This is a beautiful facility and a wonderful place to experience a Walk to Emmaus. Even though it seems like a long time from now, please start praying to see who God may want you to sponsor. Also, please send in your registration forms as soon as you can. We need to get information to several other people for each Walk, so the sooner we have it, the sooner we can pass it along. Please double check your forms before sending them to make sure that all questions are answered (yes, there is a reason for each question), and that the forms are legible.

More From Pam and Bill ...

It's hard to believe that Walk # 32 is now but a wonderful memory. We feel so blessed to have completed our first set of Walks as your Registrars. We thank everyone for being patient with us and for all the help given by so many. We thank God for putting us in this position to serve.

It is never too soon to start thinking about the next set of Walks. The dates and location are listed in another location in this edition. We look forward to serving again. Please begin praying about who God may need you to sponsor.

In the past few months, we have had many requests for nametags / buttons. If you need one, please contact us at erie@frontiernet.net or 585.493.2751 (leave message). Let us know what name to put it and the gathering you attend, if applicable. We will be traveling until the end of April. Messages that await us upon return will be taken care of as soon as possible in early May. Praise be to God for all the blessings he bestows upon all of us.

Pam and Bill Wallum
Registrars - 585.493.2751
erie@frontiernet.net

Pat Morse, Women's Walk # 32 Lay Director

WNY Women's Walk to Emmaus #32 convened on Thursday, March 30th with 22 Pilgrims, anxious with either excitement or apprehension and concluded on Sunday, April 2nd, welcoming 22 joy-filled, new members of our Emmaus community, renewed in their faith by the Spirit of God in Christ Jesus. The intervening hours were filled with the very faith that fosters fondest friendship, especially among the table members. Many events of the weekend reaffirmed that Emmaus is truly God's work, no matter who or what seeks to disrupt it. To properly describe an Emmaus weekend, one would have to speak the heart and mind of God. Since that is impossible for us to do, we humbly and feebly do the best we can. God started planning and preparing Team and Pilgrims for Walk #32 long before any names were known. Once the weekend began, with calling the names of the Pilgrims, the presence of the Holy Spirit was so powerful that every participant yielded to it. God prepared everyone to ride the wave of the Spirit throughout the weekend.

That wave took us to new, yet somehow familiar, places - my new best friend (beginning an Emmaus tradition that if you can't remember the interesting fact about your new best friend, you say she's an Olympic bobsledder), a period of silence (faithfully observed), talks and artistic responses (lively and actively involved), summary presentations (would you believe no playing, whatsoever, with name, walk #, table name & number, and church?), dying moments (with our robed clergy lending a special sense of solemnity and reverence to the moment), more talks and presentations, and candlelight (the warm glow of love extended by the hands of fellow believers). When it comes to the effect of the weekend upon the Pilgrims, it is always best to let their words at closing speak for themselves. Their words left us with the feeling that this closing was truly a beginning for these new members of our community. In this Easter season, we are reminded that we are truly an Easter people. To God be the glory, forever and ever.

With Thanksgiving, Pat Morse

Community Spiritual Director

Every one of the 15 talks is important, by itself and as part of the whole Emmaus experience. Each one lifts up a necessary part of a complete Christian life. Through them, God speaks in transforming ways to pilgrims and team alike. A talk may provide new information, new perspectives, new awareness of God's love, new energy for serving Christ, new joy in being a child of God - perhaps all of the above and more!

Through the talks, God speaks to the heart and mind of each listener, often *exactly* the Word that person needs to hear. Sometimes an Emmaus team is called to *help* a pilgrim discern the special Word God has for them - an awesome responsibility! It's possible for a pilgrim to miss what they most need to hear because for some reason their attention to another point is exaggerated and out of balance.

Perhaps one pilgrim needs motivation to Christian action, while another is already exhausted with action and needs a Word of grace and peace. One person needs prayer and solitude, while across the table someone needs inspiration to fully participate in the body of Christ. One needs to come to terms with sin, while another is having trouble accepting God's forgiveness. Someone is approaching the moment of justifying grace, while another is stalled along the road of sanctifying grace. This pilgrim is struggling with priorities, while that pilgrim needs a deeper experience of the means of grace. *All* of them need the overarching message of Agape love.

While God's Word and people's need - and receptivity - usually come together in a beautiful, mysterious way, some pilgrims may need help hearing the particular Word God has for them. There may be a preoccupation that needs to be addressed, or personal circumstances that block God's message.

Every team needs prayerful sensitivity to the areas of Christian life that need building up, or healing, or balance, or challenge, or acceptance. It may be that something we say or do during the Walk will speak to that need, or help that person listen for the Word they need to hear, instead of the one meant for someone else. Any one of us could be the instrument God uses to break through. This is a critically important ministry, one for which God provides the grace!

De Colores!
Pastor Greg Van Dussen

I am seeking someone to help produce the newsletter each month. Training and kind support is offered! Also, please direct all future notes to my new email address: jxmoody@gmail.com. Thank you.

Blessings,
Jim Moody, Editor, 585-765-9644

Evangelism

We have arrived home from our winter NOMADS mission! To promote Evangelism within our community, we ask for your support to identify persons or churches who are interested in hearing more about the Walk to Emmaus. We also seek help from those willing to give a presentation at various locations throughout Western New York. We can provide a video and/or written outline. This will assist in the growth of our community for years to come! Please contact us at 585-229-2366.

In Christ's Service,
Paul and Mary Lou Stark

Agape

We wish to thank everyone who made and brought agape for Walk # 32. The pilgrims were truly blessed and shown agape love through these gifts. A short reminder about agape, is that there should always be 60 pieces per Walk. Watch your newsletters for information on upcoming AGAPE PARTIES being planned.

DeColores,
Jesse and Cheryl Babcock
Agape Chairpersons

Community Lay Directors

Greetings Friends,

At the Closing for the Women's Walk #32, we had the privilege to announce the Lay Directors and Spiritual Directors for the Fall Walks, #33. The Lay Director for the Men's Walk is John Trowbridge and the Spiritual Director is Wilson Jones. The Lay Director for the Women's Walk is Lorrie Gammack and the Spiritual Director is Beth Kottemann. On behalf of the entire Community, we extend our congratulations to John and Lorrie and to Wilson and Beth. We ask that the entire Community keep them in your prayers as they begin the process of selecting the servants whom God will use on Team.

It is not too soon to be praying about those persons whom God may be leading you to sponsor for the Fall Walks. Remember, sponsors should not serve on Team for the same Walk as the Pilgrim(s) they are sponsoring. If you are called to serve on Team, and you intend to sponsor, you should have someone else sponsor those Pilgrims or you should decline to serve on Team for that Walk. Serving on Team and sponsoring Pilgrims are equally demanding and rewarding. They should not be done at the same time. Additionally, if you are sponsoring for the first time, there are Sponsorship Mentors available from each of the Gatherings to assist you. Check the "Rainbow Connection" for additional information.

Finally, we extend our personal "Welcome" to the newest members of the WNY Emmaus Community. May God bless you in your "4th Day." We look forward to seeing you at future Emmaus events, and trust that God will make each of you a blessing to your local church, your family, and your local Emmaus Gathering. Never forget, God loves you, and so do we. To God be the glory!

DeColores,
Hal & Carol Goodwin

"Sing a New Song!"

"Sing to the Lord a new Song", says David in Psalm 96:1 and 2. Often times in Emmaus, we sing the same songs over and over again. And as a musician, sometimes that can become very trying. After all, how many variations on a musical theme can we play? But the scripture I quoted has a different meaning to a Christian.

You see, I believe God was referring to more than song. I think He was referring to the melody of our life. Let me explain. At Easter morning breakfast, after the sunrise service, another musician and I were discussing "long" songs. These are those songs that tend to go on and on and, quite frankly, become a bit tedious. One of the tricks to make these songs come to life is a key change, moving the entire song up a few notes so that it challenges our ear and our voice. Doing so refreshes the song and makes it much more appealing.

As a Christian, God asks the same thing of our lives. He takes a tedious and "old" life and makes it new through the transforming power of Jesus Christ. We become written in a different key. We offer our lives as sheet paper while God composes. And in so doing, the master musician allows us to become a "new song". However, this "key change" does not come easy. As with music, every key change in our lives is a challenge and has the potential to cause great struggle and even discord. The familiar is left behind. There is also the possibility of mistakes and fear of our ability to make the change.

However, the rewards are so wonderful! When our lives reflect the new song that God gives to us, we cannot help but sing praise to His name and pay tribute to the great author, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This Spring, let your life sing a new song to the world!

DeColores,

Bill Lang
Musician Board Representative

4th Day

He is risen! He is risen, Indeed! May the joy of Easter be with you this season. Spring is upon us and good weather is here. Time for activities and well deserved vacations!

As we approach summer we encourage Gathering Leaders to keep meetings going. It is easy to use the summer as an excuse for not having a meeting. We attended a Gathering the other day where there were less than 10 people present and yet it was a meaningful experience. Remember that *“For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them”* (Matthew 18:20). Last month Pastor Greg challenged us to pray for our Community; for potential pilgrims, for sponsors, for community members who may no longer be participating, for those in need of healing and for our Gatherings. Have you been praying for strength and blessings for your Community and Gathering? Please lift up these concerns in prayer at each of your meetings and in your everyday devotions.

DeColores!
Lynn and Pat Blakeman

From Dean Perry, Men’s Walk # 21

Ed. Note: As part of his personal testimony of faith, Dean shares this excerpt about his Emmaus experience. Thanks to Dean for allowing us this glimpse of how the Walk to Emmaus has touched his life.

“A milestone in my walk with Jesus occurred in October of 2000 during my 72 hour Walk to Emmaus (at Christ United Methodist Church, Olean, NY). It was, while on this spiritual journey, that our Lord literally transported me over two thousand years, and I found myself kneeling at the foot of His cross. It was there that I finally understood what He had accomplished on our behalf. He showed me the full extent of his torture and suffering because of my sin, and at the same time, the full measure of His love in forgiving me. It was also during this journey that I was convicted to pursue an intimate, daily relationship with Him and that He must be first and Lord of my life.

The years following my Walk to Emmaus have had their share of ups and downs. There have been times when I feel like I am in the very center of His will for my life, and times when He seems far and distant. I have learned though that my relationship with Jesus is not based on how I feel. It is based on faith, and He continues to hold me up through it all.”

Emmaus Board of Directors

Contact the Board Chairs

Questions, concerns and comments are always welcome:
Hal & Carol Goodwin
310 Park Avenue
Medina, NY 14103
(585) 798-4593
email: carolhal@lakeplains.net

Term	Position	Name	Phone
2008	Chair	Hal & Carol Goodwin	(585) 798-4593
2007	Sprt. Dir.	Greg VanDussen	(716) 652-3791
2008	Agape	Cheryl & Jesse Babcock	(585) 589-7413
2008	Facilities	Bill & Sue Barber	(716) 689-2093
2008	Clergy	Nilla Owen	(585) 584-3329
2008	Registration	Bill & Pam Wallum	(585) 493-2751
2008	Evangelism	Paul & MaryLou Stark	(585) 229-2366
2006	4 th Day	Lynn & Pat Blakeman	(716) 373-6470
2006	Supplies	Jim & Donna Coleman	(585) 385-1296
2006	Library	Jack & Kathie Woika	(585) 343-3813
2006	Wknd Coord.	Allen & Alethia Keiper	(585) 591-0502
2006	Clergy	Carol Sierk	(585) 591-2410
2006	Team Select	Norb Fuest	(585) 591-1198
2007	Music	Bill Lang	(585) 591-0477
2007	Kitchen	Bob & Christa Fathergill	(585) 387-0928
2007	Secretary	Judy Hunley	(585) 377-0894
2007	Treasurer	Bill & JoAnn Arnett	(585) 798-1224
2007	Newsletter	Jim Moody	(585) 765-9644

GATHERING NEWS
Fairport: Will meet May 13 (Saturday) at 6:00 pm instead of May 14 (Sunday).

Gathering Schedule

Fairport Gathering: (SEE MAY CHANGE INSIDE)

Hosanna Junction UMC - 2nd Saturday of the month
357 Fairport Road (Rt. 31F)
6:00 P.M. - Meeting (child care upon request)
Bob and Christa Fathergill 585-387-0928

“West Bank” Area:

Grace UMC - 2nd Saturday of month
8:30 A.M. - Continental Breakfast
9:00 A.M. - Meeting (call ahead for child care)
Debra Wolfe - Child Care Contact 585-458-3166
Chris Collins 585-227-1519

“Niagara” Area:

Lockport Emmanuel UMC - 2nd Saturday of month
6:00 P.M. - Meeting
Dave & Janice McKinney 716-434-5471

Alexander:

Alexander UMC
7:00 P.M.- Meeting (child care as needed)
Kathy Wessel & Bob Neamon 585-547-9221

Northern Mountain View Area:

Holland UMC - 3rd Saturday of the month
9:30 A.M. coffee - Meeting: 10:00 A.M.
Please call ahead for child care
Ruth Zimmerman 537-9524

Enchanted Mountain (Olean):

Christ UMC - 3rd Wednesday of month
7:00 P.M. - Meeting
Jan Mortimer 716-373-2237 <mortimer@localnet.com>

Ionia:

Ionia UMC Last Saturday of the month
7:00 P.M. - Meeting
Lee and Ruth Packer 585-367-3827

Buffalo Area:

Seneca UMC Church, 2846 Seneca St.
3rd Saturday of month - 9:30 A.M.
Pat Corsette 716-826-6840

Hamburg/Buffalo Southtowns:

Hamburg UMC - Methodist Meeting House
3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 P.M.
Gary Caldwell 716-649-3889

Medina/Millville:

Millville United Methodist Church
Last Friday of the Month - 7:00 P.M.
Jeff and Char Smith 585-798-3831

Napoli:

Napoli UMC
4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30 P.M.
Rick Peters - 938-6800

Newsletter Deadline May 20, 2006

Rainbow Connection
c/o Jim Moody
P.O. Box 452
Lyndonville, NY 14098