



Rainbow Connection



Vol. 16 No. 5 *Western New York Walk to Emmaus & Chrysalis* **May, 2006**

Sponsorship Announcement

We (Pat and Lynn Blakeman, 4th Day Coordinators) are excited to report that the Sponsorship Mentoring program is now underway. The purpose of the program is to assure that all new members of the Community understand the purpose of Emmaus and procedure for sponsoring. In this way, our new members are made aware of the grace the Lord affords us through 4th Day activities that help to foster a closer relationship with Him.

The first workshop for Sponsorship Mentors was held on May 15th at the UMC in Attica. We reviewed our responsibilities and each Gathering was provided with a packet of supporting information.

Please note that from now on in order to sponsor a new pilgrim in the Western New York Emmaus Community you will need to have attended a sponsorship seminar. This is not unprecedented within Emmaus. There are several communities throughout the United States (and likely elsewhere) that have this requirement. This should not discourage you from sponsoring a new pilgrim this fall. Sponsorship Mentors will be conducting a seminar in each of the Gatherings prior to the Fall Walks. If you are unable to make it to the seminar scheduled for your Gathering, please think about attending one at another Gathering near by.

Additionally, all first time or inexperienced sponsors will be assigned a mentor. The mentor will guide the sponsor so that they will gain the confidence and knowledge necessary to sponsor pilgrims in the future. This part of the program was implemented to allow pilgrims who just completed a walk to take advantage of the pilgrims “fire” that is commonly experienced immediately following the 72-hour weekend event. It was also determined that mentors should be made available to others including those who may have not sponsored before, those who may have not completed a successful sponsorship or those who may just need some reassuring assistance.

If you have questions, need help or know of a first time sponsor that needs a mentor, please contact anyone below:

<u>Gathering</u>	<u>Mentors</u>	<u>Gathering</u>	<u>Mentors</u>
Fairport	John and Mary Trowbridge Gary and Sue Clarcq	No. Mountain View	Rev. Greg and Jackie VanDussen Bud and Nancy Vrendenburg
Alexander	Jim and Lora Keiper Rev. Greg and Jackie VanDussen	Niagara Area	Bill and Sue Barber Keith Grinnell
Millville/Medina	Hal and Carol Goodwin Pat and Steve Morse	West Seneca/Buffalo	Pat Corsette Bob and Deanna Laurie
West Bank	Chris Collins, Sparky Hess Don Crawford, Carolyn Rickman	Hamburg/South Towns	Gary and Rose Caldwell Paul and Sue Gagne
Ionia	Jim and Ann DeRooy John and Ann Becker	Napoli	Bryan and Cheryl Kessler Bill and Alex Gage
Enchanted Mountain	Mike and Jan Mortimer Lynn and Pat Blakeman		

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, 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.

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. Praise be to God for all the blessings he bestows upon all of us.

Pam and Bill Wallum, Registrars

Community Lay Directors

Greetings Friends,

Mark your calendars! Every three years, every Emmaus Community is required to have a "Training Session", put on by a representative from the Upper Room. It is time once again for WNY Walk to Emmaus to have our "Session". We are pleased to announce that Greg Engroff, our North East Region Rep. will be coming to Western New York to conduct our training. Greg will hold an informal meeting with the Board of Directors on Friday, August 4, and then will meet with the entire Community on **Saturday, August 5, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.** Both meetings will be held in the Buffalo area, at a location to be announced. Please, make plans now to attend the Saturday session. We hope and pray for a good representation of the entire Community. Gathering leaders, make plans now to bring as many as possible from your area. If you are unable to be there for the entire session, come for as long as you are able. Watch future "Rainbow Connections" for more information as to place and schedule, but please **mark your calendars now!**

Please, look on the front cover in this edition for information on the new Sponsorship Mentor program and a list of Mentors. There are two Mentors, or Mentor Couples, from each Gathering, and the Sponsorship Seminar will be presented in each Gathering well in advance of the next set of Walks (#33). Plan on attending the Sponsorship Seminar when it is presented at the Gathering in your area. If you are unable to attend the Seminar at the Gathering closest to you, you might consider taking a "Road Trip" to catch it at another Gathering. The Board of Directors has approved this new program. We are hopeful that it will support and encourage everyone who wishes to sponsor Pilgrims. "Thank You" to those who have worked so hard on this program to improve sponsorship in Western New York. To God be the glory!

DeColores,
Hal & Carol Goodwin
Community Lay Directors

Newsletter

Hello everyone,

I pray this note finds you well. The current version of the newsletter is available online at www.wnyemmaus-chrysalis.org by the last day of every month. Prior editions can be accessed on the website, as well. If you would like to begin retrieving the newsletter electronically and stop your hardcopy receipt, please let me know.

This is my least year as Editor. I ask for your prayerful discernment to consider this role beginning in January, 2007. The commitment involves about 5 hours per month, plus your service to Board of Director meetings and other Emmaus events. All training and materials are happily provided! Please contact me with questions or suggestions.

Blessings,
Jim Moody, 585-765-9644
jxmoody@gmail.com

Community Spiritual Director

Real Christianity After the New Testament

The Da Vinci Code, uses ancient writings (mainly Gnostic) outside the Bible to attack the credibility of Scripture and Christianity itself. Philip Jenkins' book *Hidden Gospels* points out similar attempts, fiction and non-fiction, over the past 200 years. The motivation for such books is always to find ancient support for contemporary causes. Dan Brown and his predecessors use Gnostic Christian literature from the early Church era to criticize the Bible and the Church.

While Gnostic writings are very old, they are much newer than the New Testament and they represent a very different religion. What many don't realize is that after the New Testament, *real* Christianity produced many writings that carried on the New Testament tradition. Far from undermining Scripture, these books and letters applied Christianity to their own time, beginning around the year 100AD. Some explained Christian teachings, while others argued against false teachings, like those of the Gnostics. For example, while some writers pictured a Jesus who only *appeared* to become flesh or to die and rise again for us, St. Ignatius of Antioch reminded Christians that Jesus "was really born, ate, and drank; was really persecuted under Pontius Pilate; was really crucified and died.... He was really raised from the dead." (*Letter to the Trallians*).

The Didache (Teaching) describes an early Communion service and sketches the outlines of a Christian way of life. Justin Martyr explains Christianity to Romans who misunderstand. *The Letter to Diognetus* echoes Paul as it powerfully describes Christian life in a on-Christian world during a time of persecution:

"They (Christians) love all men, and by all men are persecuted. They are unknown, and still they are condemned; they are put to death, and yet they are brought to life. They are poor, and yet they make many rich...They are dishonored, and in their very dishonor are glorified; they are defamed, and are vindicated... And all the time those who hate them find it impossible to justify their enmity."

There are many good editions of these early Christian writings. I encourage you to check them out and find inspiration in them. Amazon.com and other sources make it easy & inexpensive to get your own copies of collections like Cyril Richardson, *Early Christian Fathers* (Westminster paperback), Andrew Louth & Maxwell Staniforth, *Early Christian Writings of the Apostolic Fathers* (Penguin paperback), or Henry Bettenson, *The Early Christian Fathers* (Oxford paperback). Perhaps *The Da Vinci Code's* popularization of ancient false teachings will encourage us Christians to discover *real* Christianity after the New Testament!

Greg Van Dussen

JUNE GATHERING TIDBITS

Alexander: A sponsorship seminar will be held at 7:00 PM on June 17th at the Alexander United Methodist church on Route 98. This is open to all in the Emmaus community who are interested in learning more about sponsoring a pilgrim for a walk, including those sponsoring for the first time. If you have questions, please contact Jim & Lora Keiper at 585 591-3121 or jimlorakeiper@aol.com.

West Bank: Will not meet in June. Please consider attending or supporting the Women of Faith conference in Rochester on June 10th!

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

Emmaus Board of Directors

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
2006	Newsletter	Jim Moody	(585) 765-9644

Gathering Schedule

Fairport Gathering:

Hosanna Junction UMC - 2nd Sunday 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 (JUNE MTG. CANCELLED):

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 - 3rd Saturday of month
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 716-537-9524

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, 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 UMC
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 - 716-938-6800

Newsletter Deadline June 20, 2006

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