



Tidewater Area

February 2009

Volume 21, Issue 2



Ahhh...February, the month of LOVE!

As soon as the stores can legitimately put the "seasonal" merchandise from Christmas on sale the retail world transitions

from green and red to a swirling sea of pink, red, and white. There are Valentine's Day candies, clothes, cards, parties, and anything else you can imagine. Spending each day in an elementary school gives me the opportunity to even see Valentine fish "swimming" down the hallways. My job also gives me the chance to see how excited these little people are about Valentine's Day and how giddy they become just thinking about that day and "love". Their conversations range from the very serious such as who they love the most in their family and how many Valentine's Day cards they are going to share with their friends to the fun-filled topic of which Valentine's Day candies they love the most.

This unique window on the world provides me with much to think about as I watch the children's excitement grow in this month of LOVE. It causes me to stop and think about the impact of love and how important it is to all of us to be loved and to love. Take a minute and think back to the agape that we all received on our walks; we didn't even know the person who made it but we knew that it was made for us out of love and therefore very special. I had never been as excited about a clothespin in my whole life as I was when I saw my first "pass it on" clothespin waiting for me at my table! I still smile and have a warm feeling when I see them and the "warm fuzzy" we wear because I know someone made them with love. But you see that's the interesting thing about love; it just doesn't continue to provide those same feelings of happiness when we don't share it. Love is not

meant to be kept hidden away in some dark place in our heart brought out only for special times, occasions, and people. Love needs light and hope and to be shared because it only grows in us when we give it away. When we greedily keep it to ourselves it withers and dies but when we share it with others it is returned to us in abundance!

"Feeding and caring" for love, helping it to grow, and knowing how to share it with others is a simple task when we follow the teachings of our Father. For you see the Greatest Love Story ever written is not that of Rhett and Scarlet nor is it found on the silver screen in movies such as Titanic. The Greatest Love Story ever told is found in every chapter of our Bible. Page after page we read how our Father wants us to share this love and we find so many examples of God's unconditional love for us and His willingness to take us back each time we stray and to love us even more. So deep is that love for us that He would send His only son to earth to die for us who are sinners.

The Concordance in my Bible shows that the words "heart", "love", "loves", and "loved" are written 386 times. There are 365 days in a year (since it isn't leap year...) and by my calculations that is one verse for each day of the year with a couple to spare for special occasions! By reading just one verse a day we would be able to spend a whole year focused on the love our Father has for us and how He wants us to share that love with others. Just think, unlike the rest of the world who celebrates love for only one day a year, we can celebrate our Father's love everyday of the year when we walk with Jesus!

DeColores--Lynn

Sponsorship News

Contacting others about participating in the Walk to Emmaus weekend can be a difficult activity for some of us. For those who attended the January Gathering, I shared with you what works for me in contacting others. When sharing talking about Emmaus and sharing my Emmaus experience, I usually ask the person if I may provide them with some written general information on "What Emmaus is all about". Then, I hand them a hardcopy or I forward them an email copy of the below cited info. Once they have read the information, we then talk about participating in the "Walk to Emmaus" weekend. A MSWORD Copy is available by request at benlane1@cox.net

About Emmaus: Program Overview

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servanthood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all."

The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with a 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of fifteen talks by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church. The course is wrapped in prayer and meditation, special times of worship and daily celebration of Holy Communion. The "Emmaus community," made up of those who have attended an Emmaus weekend, support the 72-hour experience with a prayer vigil, by preparing and serving meals, and other acts of love and self-giving. The Emmaus Walk typically begins Thursday evening and concludes Sunday evening. Men and women attend separate weekends.

During and after the three days, Emmaus leaders encourage participants to meet regularly in small groups. The members of the small groups challenge and support one another in faithful living. Participants seek to Christianize their environments of family, job, and community through the ministry of their congregations. The three-day Emmaus experience and follow-up groups strengthen and renew Christian people as disciples of Jesus Christ and as active members of the body of Christ in mission to the world.

The Upper Room, a ministry unit of the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, sponsors the Walk to Emmaus and offers it through local Emmaus groups around the world. Although connected through The Upper Room to The United Methodist Church, **The Walk to Emmaus is ecumenical.**

Excerpted with permission from [What Is Emmaus?](#) by Stephen D. Bryant.

Structure and Organization

The Walk to Emmaus® is grounded theologically/institutionally in The Upper Room ministry unit of the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church.

However, **the Walk to Emmaus is ecumenical.** The program invites and involves the participation of Christians of many denominations. Emmaus is ecumenical not only because members of many denominations participate, but because Emmaus seeks to foster Christian unity and to reinforce the whole Christian community. This is one of the great strengths and joys of the Emmaus movement.

The fact that Emmaus is ecumenical does not mean it is theologically indifferent. On the contrary, The Walk to Emmaus is designed to communicate with confidence and depth **the essentials of the Christian life**, while accentuating those features that Christians have traditionally held in common.

The Upper Room Walk to Emmaus is a tightly designed event that is conducted with discipline according to a manual that is universally standard. Emmaus is offered only with the permission and under the guidelines of The Upper Room. This ensures a proven format and a common experience that should be trustworthy from weekend to weekend wherever Emmaus is being offered.

Each community is administered locally through its local Board of Directors. The program is administered globally through the International Emmaus office in Nashville, Tennessee, USA.

Excerpted with permission from [The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus](#) by Stephen D. Bryant.

About the Name "Walk to Emmaus"

The Walk to Emmaus® gets its name from the story in Luke 24:13-35, which provides the central image for the three-day experience and follow-up. Luke tells the story of that first Easter afternoon when the risen Christ appeared to the two disciples who were walking together along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Like Christians and churches who are blinded by preoccupation with their own immediate difficulties, these two disciples' sadness and hopelessness seemed to prevent them from seeing God's redemptive purpose in things that had happened.

And yet, the risen Christ "came near and went with them," opening the disciples' eyes to his presence and lighting the fire of God's love in their hearts. As they walked to Emmaus, Jesus explained to them the meaning of all the scriptures concerning himself. When they arrived in Emmaus, Jesus "took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them," and their eyes were opened. They recognized him as Jesus, the risen Lord, and they remembered how their hearts had burned within them as they talked with him on the road. Within the hour, the two disciples left Emmaus and returned immediately to their friends in Jerusalem. As they told stories about their encounters with the risen Lord, Jesus visited them again with a fresh awareness of his living presence.

However, the story of Jesus' resurrection does not conclude with the disciples' personal spiritual experiences. Jesus ascended to the Father, and the disciples became the body of the risen Christ through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. The disciples were sent forth by the Spirit to bear witness to the good news of God in Jesus Christ. They learned to walk in the spirit of Jesus, to proclaim the gospel to a disbelieving world, and to persevere in grace through spiritual companionship with one another.

The Walk to Emmaus offers today's disciples a parallel opportunity to rediscover Christ's presence in their lives, to gain fresh understanding of God's transforming grace, and to form friendships that foster faith and support spiritual maturity. While Emmaus provides a pathway to the mountaintop of God's love, it also supports pilgrims' return to the world in the power of the Spirit to share the love they have received with a hurtful and hurting world.

Cowabungalua, Ben Lane, Your Sponsorship Board Representative

Here are just a few of the walks happening around the country.
Please be in prayer for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

February 12 - 15, 2009

Men's Walk
Idaho Emmaus, #53
Idaho

Women's Walk
East Texas Emmaus, #90
Texas

Men's Walk
New Horizon Emmaus, 30
Texas

February 19 - 22, 2009

Men's Walk
Northeast Louisiana Emmaus
Community, Walk # 12
Louisiana



Women's Walk
Nebraska Emmaus, # 108
Nebraska

Men's Walk
Emmaus of the Midlands, # 33
South Carolina

February 26 - March 1, 2009

Women's Walk
Channel Island Emmaus, 40
California

Women's Walk
Central Alabama Emmaus, 116
Alabama

Meet Your Emmaus Board

God is so good,

Hello everyone, my name is Randy Leazer. I walked on TWE-53, I attend Bay Lake United Methodist, and Grace Bible both located on Shore Drive, My table name was the "Saber Bearers". I was born and raised in southeast Iowa; Later in 1977 joined the navy and retired after 20 years. 1981 the Lord blessed Carlena and I in marriage, we have two children, my oldest, Brittany, is married to Jonathan Morton, and my son Brian who is still in College at ODU. I am blessed beyond words to serve our lord and savior as Community Music Director. I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and empower me as this year 2009 continues to unfold. May our awesome God bless all of your days.

Randy "Pookey" Leazer



Calling all Creative Community Members



We are looking for your creative talents to find a way to illustrate the love and commitment to Christ that Tidewater Emmaus embodies.

So what are we really saying?... We want to create a logo for Tidewater Emmaus and we're looking to you all for ideas and talents.

Please email your design for a Tidewater Emmaus logo to lanelson@cox.net by Saturday, February 28.

We will place all logo designs in the March Newsletter and seek votes from the community on the logo they feel best defines our mission to strengthen local churches, bring us all closer to Christ, and hold each other accountable for following His steps and sharing the great news about Jesus Christ with others.

We will vote on the logo designs at the March 21 Gathering at Ivy Memorial Baptist Church.

The Logo will be used on the Tidewater Emmaus web site, announcement slides for Gatherings, and all correspondence sent to local churches, Fourth Day speakers, sponsors, and pilgrims.

We've seen some of your very creative outfits that you have worn to Gatherings. We've seen some wonderfully inventive agape. We cannot wait to see what you come up with as a logo.

The sky is the limit. The only catch is we have to be able to use it in electronic format. Pray about it and create what God leads you to do.

De Colores brothers and sisters!

Gatherings Goings On

It was wonderful to see everyone at Sandbridge Community Chapel on January 17. If you weren't there, you missed an amazing Fourth Day talk by Marybeth Grambo and a fantastic spread of delicious food agape. Thanks so much to SCC for hosting our celebration of Jesus and making it so special.



We are still looking for a Fourth Day speaker for our July 18, 2009 Gathering which will be held at First Presbyterian Church. The community is also looking for host churches for our 2010 Gatherings as well as Fourth Day speakers. Please contact Lea Anne Nelson (lanelson@cox.net or 410-0611).

Please join us for a lively Gathering on February 21 at Christ United Methodist Church. The Gathering will be lead by our Chrysalis community. Don't miss the opportunity to listen to a Fourth Day talk given by one the Lord's up and coming servants. Chrysalis is the future of the leadership of the church and our own little Emmaus community. Come out and support Chrysalis and get to know our most recent butterflies from the flights just held in January. See you at 6:30 for the Gathering.



Is anyone up for a pre-gathering agape party? Bring agape supplies and connect with other community members at 5:30 to exchange ideas, creative energy, and maybe even a snack or two while you work on some trinkets of love for our pilgrims and teamers on TW86 and TW87. If you are looking for ideas for agape for the ladies and gents, please contact Jean Lederle: jeankl@cox.net or 423-4347.



See you at the next Gathering - Saturday, February 21 at Christ UMC at 6:30. Please bring food agape.



MATTHEW 18:20 – FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED TOGETHER IN MY NAME, THERE I AM IN THE MIDST OF THEM.

Lea Anne Nelson (TW75)
TWE Gatherings

Train Talk

Hello! Again my name is Jack Meservey and I am honored to serve as Board Training Representative for the TWE community.

As we all know, the Lord calls us to serve in many capacities within this community and there are very few positions more challenging than Lay Director and Assistant Lay Director. In order to assist with the “Spiritual Speed Bumps” associated with these tasks, I have asked some very dynamic former LDs to be available to answer questions, present scenarios and share lessons learned during the teaming evolution for TW-86 and TW-87. Should this prove to be a beneficial program, other Emmaus Professionals will be asked to assist on walks TW-88 and TW-89.

I wish to extend a heartfelt Thank You to the Lord for speaking to the hearts of Bill Champion, Leo Matuszak, Carlita Leazer and Jean Lederle.

Training 101, which my predecessor instituted, is in my opinion an excellent tool for learning more about the innards of our community. With this in mind, I present this month’s.

Training 101

Table Leader Notes (Part 1)

The following items are just suggestions to assist table and assistant table leaders.

1. If Pilgrims bring instruments to play in the Praise Band, they should be encouraged to participate but only commencing Saturday afternoon to allow them sufficient time to get acclimated into the weekend routine.
2. Get to know all table and assistant table leaders (excellent focus group to assist in getting through some hard spots)
3. Take notes on every talk during the weekend. This sets an example for the pilgrims to emulate.
4. Learn to judge pilgrims’ reaction by observing them through eye contact. Utilize peripheral vision and occasional glances to avoid staring or creating nervousness.
5. Table Leader points out items of interest within the talk for later discussion. Be honest, “Do Not Know”, “That is not my area of expertise, but I’ll find out”, “hold onto that thought and we’ll get back to you” are all acceptable responses.
6. Ask general questions and answer questions with questions to invoke responses from pilgrims.
7. Go with the flow. If pilgrims gravitate towards the Asst Table Leader, inform the Table Leader. Asst should never undermine the Table Leader’s authority. If there is a difference of opinion, save it for an appropriate time away from the pilgrims.
8. Be tactful and in control.
9. Use names at all times.
10. Remember as much about each pilgrim as possible. This will help to develop a bond.
11. Make copies of the applications. The Table Leader and Asst Table Leader both need copies and only one will be provided.
12. Make posters about current talk.
13. General conversation is reserved for table chapels or outside
14. Don’t let one person dominate table conversation. If unable to control, request assistance from the LD or ALD.
15. Don’t get into arguments or disagree with pilgrims. This could result in a divided table and possibly undermine the whole weekend experience.
16. Write each pilgrim a personal note. Sat afternoon or evening. Do not write the notes ahead of time as you want them to be personal. Both the Table Leader and Asst need to write separate notes.

Assistant Table Leader Notes

1. Asst Table Leader sits with back toward front of the room (unless table leader is absent) and turns chair around during talks and skits.
2. In the absence of the Table Leader, the Asst moves to Table Leader's position at the table.
3. Asst Table Leader is the silent partner and does not start conversations. His/her role is one of servitude.
4. Food and table agape are Asst Table Leader's responsibility.
5. If pilgrim has to take nap or medication or is on a special diet, it is the Asst Table Leader's responsibility to keep track of these evolutions.

Final note: If you "Don't know Jack", introduce yourself at the next gathering.

Spring Walks

Men's Walk is April 23rd – 27th
Pilgrim Application Deadline is April 9th

Women's Walk is April 30th – May 3rd
Pilgrim Application Deadline is April 16th



Gathering

Saturday, February 21st @ 6:30
Christ United Methodist Church
1601 East Bayview Blvd.
Norfolk, VA

Please bring food agape!

Please use www.MapQuest.com for directions from your home.