



January 2010

Volume 22, Issue 1

The Mission

Happy New Year! Welcome to your Tidewater Emmaus Community 2010. A new year, a new Board, and a renewed commitment to showing the love of Jesus to everyone we meet. If I haven't met you yet, my name is Lea Anne Nelson, I attend Great Bridge Presbyterian Church, I walked on TW75, and sat at Sarah's Sisters of the Sonshine (clap). I am your Community Lay Director for 2010.

In the busy-ness of the holiday season it seems you spend a great deal of time in your car. In one of several trips, I found myself behind a car that had one of those bumper stickers that says ...



It's the environmentalist's plea to save the world by starting in your own community.

It got me thinking about what we do through Tidewater Emmaus. Our mission is to equip Christian leaders and disciples of Christ so they may go out and strengthen the local church and community. The way I see it, we should have our own bumper sticker, "Think Eternally, Act Presently."

What have we done to work toward our mission in 2009? Tidewater Emmaus equipped 103 leaders and disciples of Christ. Tidewater Chrysalis raised up 46 youth leaders and disciples of Christ. We are so blessed to have had the opportunity to have walked with these folks who will go out and be the light of Christ to others. We look forward to seeing God's plan for each of you.

We are the Priesthood of All Believers and it takes a good lot of us to do the heavy lifting of bringing people to Christ. Why take on this task alone when we can share it with so many others? Each time we sponsor someone, we not only grow the Kingdom, we ultimately share the fun of growing the Kingdom.

Although sponsoring is the lifeblood of Tidewater Emmaus, we are not about filling butts in seats at Airfield conference center, or Triple R Ranch. If that is where we place our focus, then we are missing the picture. With each pilgrim or caterpillar we sponsor we are building His Kingdom, we are sharing His message, we are strengthening His church, and showing our communities the love of Jesus Christ. That is the goal - not numbers and lists and reservations.



As we look ahead at 2010 and the possible eight opportunities we have to strengthen His kingdom (four Emmaus and four Chrysalis events), what can each of us do to achieve our mission? We need sponsors, we need teamers, we need agape, and most importantly we need prayers. This is a team effort like no other. This is THE dream team and every one of us is on it. It takes no athletic ability whatsoever, just the love of Jesus and a servant's heart.

Collectively we can make an impact on the world by starting right here in the Tidewater area - think globally, act locally. For the love of Him and His people we have to stay focused on the mission...



De Colores,
--Lea Anne

Meet the Board

Each month we will be introducing several member of your Tidewater Emmaus Board of Directors (TWEB). Where possible, we will include pictures so you can match names and faces.

Your TWEB is here to serve the community and ensure all evolutions are conducted as professionally as possible and in accordance with Upperroom (Emmaus Governing Body) policies and procedures.

Stan Best - Director of Team Selection



I am Stan Best, who attends Hickory UMC, walked on TW-74, and sat at the "Sons of Thunder" Table. I continually thank God for the Team He had in place during TW-74 and have since found that Teaming is one of the best ways to pass on the gift we all received. As Director of Team Selection for 2010, I am honored to serve with God's help, as part of the selection process of the teams for the next walks. I can be reached at stanbest@verizon.net

Jon Bennett - Head Spiritual Director

An Open Letter to Pastors

Please remove this page and share it with your pastor



Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:2).

The way that the Apostle Paul greets church leaders with a blessing of "grace" and "peace" while brief, conveys a desire for unmerited favor and kindness upon its recipient. I pray God's *shalom* on you and your faith community.

I write as a witness to the wonderful ways that the Walk to Emmaus program and its lively community support the local church. I am a lifelong United Methodist and pastor for many years and have been a member of two Emmaus communities during my ministerial service. I walked as part of the Shenandoah Valley Emmaus community and currently volunteer as the Community Spiritual Director for the Tidewater Emmaus community. I am one of you- a local church pastor. I, too, seek ways to support the spiritual formation and growth in discipleship of members and constituents of my local church. I have used many programs and strategies that support the development of leaders in my churches. And there are many good programs that support that development. In my experience, few have been as thorough or as effective as The Walk to Emmaus sponsored by The Upper Room, a ministry unit of the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church. Its purposes are to deepen the faith of individuals, to increase the faith of congregations, and to bring Christianity to the world. Emmaus gives pilgrims the skills needed for leadership and invites them to make the commitment needed to build up the church for the sake of Jesus Christ. As our "walk weekends" conclude there are joyous (and sometimes tearful) words from the pilgrims that indicate their weekend has been life changing. As a pastor, I know of no other program that gives me so much satisfaction as the Walk to Emmaus. As a participant in the community, I too, am able to identify ways I am transformed and renewed. I ask that you support its work and encourage the growth and potential of future leaders in your church.

If you have been on an Emmaus Walk- then you know of its wonderful work and the way in which it supports the development of leaders in your local church. I only ask that you consider becoming involved in the Tidewater Emmaus community. We need you now.

If you haven't been on a walk, consider this as an invitation for further conversation. I am eager to share with you my observations about Walk to Emmaus. Please feel free to contact me.

De Colores

Jonathan Bennett -487-1698

Ben Lane - Director of Registration/Weekends/Outreach

Hi There,

I am Ben Lane (TW-76), one of your returning board members. I usually go by "ben" or "ben jamin". My board assignments for 2010 are Pilgrim Registration and Weekend Coordination. Little Miss Brenda Lane (TW-79) is my wife of 41 years. Together with our dogs (Maui, Buxton and Sunny), we live and play at Sandbridge Beach; and, we belong to Sandbridge Community Chapel, UMC. At age 64 (Feb), I still consider myself an avid surfer and a somewhat reckless senior snowboarder.

In February 2005, I retired from civil service with 41 years service. With over 20 years under my belt at Tidewater Community College, I continue to teach as an adjunct Assistant Professor in the Engineering and Industrial Technologies Division.

During my Walk to Emmaus (Clown Communion, Dying Moments and Candle Light all got to me), I awoke from many years of spiritual hibernation with a zealous desire to seek and serve our Lord.

If you need or want to contact me, my home phone # is 757 426-7384 and my email address is benlane1@cox.net.



Cowabunga!ua,

ben jamin

Jack Meservey - Director of Communications.



My name is Jack Meservey and I attend Miles Memorial UMC. I had the privilege of walking on TW-70 and sat at the table of "Servants by Grace". My bride Sue (TW-73) of 34 years and myself have a blended family consisting of 5 children, 20 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren (3 more on way). We obviously started in our pre-teen years as we aren't that old.

Sue retired in April 2008 after over 30 years with the American Red Cross. I retired from the U.S. Navy as a Chief Warrant Officer about 100 years ago and retired from the "real world" last May as a Program Manager for a government contractor. I now devote most of my time to church, family, Emmaus and our Martial Arts schools.

The Lord has blessed me greatly over the years and one of the more recent blessings was my selection as Communications Director for the Tidewater Emmaus Community. This brings me tremendous joy as I have been asked to serve my Lord in yet another capacity.

Should you have any suggestions, comments or observations pertaining to the website or newsletter, please contact me at: bassai@cox.net or (757) 480-5282 and I will be more than happy to either answer or find the answers to your inquiries.

De Colores

Alan Foster - Assistant Director of Music

Alan Foster TW-84

Married to Jennifer Foster TW-83

Two daughters: Symphony & Angelique

Member Hickory UMC

Serve as the Chair of Staff/Parrish Relations Committee, Teach Sunday School, Teach Disciple II Bible Study, Sing in the choir, Certified Lay Speaker.

I currently own a packaging and shipping business but I also retired from the Navy after 24 years of service in 2006.

I have been asked to serve this year as the Assistant Music Director and I will be working closely with the Music Director to ensure that the Music for gatherings, DODU, Candlelight and Sunrise are always ready. I will also conduct the DODU training. As this is a new position on the Board, we have yet to complete all that this job will entail but Randy and I will do all we can to ensure that we are praising God and lifting up a joyful noise in all we do this coming year!

Alan Foster

Tw-84

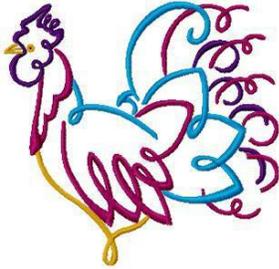
Marybeth Grambo - Director of Agape

Hello!! My name is Marybeth Grambo, appointed to be the Agape Director for Tidewater Emmaus. I am so excited about my position on the board and about being on the board! I walked on TW75 and have had the amazing opportunity to serve on a few teams since my walk. I love Jesus with all my heart and want to serve Him in whatever capacity He requests of me!

I live in Virginia Beach. My husband Dave (TW82) and I have settled here as he completed his 22 year service in the US Navy. We have two daughters, Nicole (20) and Katy (18). Dave is now retired and in civilian life. I work for an outpatient physical therapy group as the manager of front desk operations. I've been there for 11 years.

As you know, AGAPE is the unconditional love that the Lord has for us in giving us His Son as atonement for our sins. We use the term to describe gifts given with no recognition to represent that overflowing, amazing love God has for His people. If you walked, you KNOW your table blossomed with more and more and MORE agape....just like our love for God grows daily and His love for us is unmeasurable! I help coordinate collection of the many forms of agape...and make sure each walk is filled with the outpouring of love from the community and other Emmaus groups around the world.

Walks & Flights



Spring Walk Dates

Men's Walk: April 15th - 18th

Women's Walk: April 29th - May 2nd



Boys and Girls Chrysalis Flights

January 16 - 18, 2010

**Candlelight will be at 9:00 on Sunday,
January 17**

**Closing will be at 4:30 on Monday, January
18 at Triple R Ranch in Chesapeake, VA**

***Please be in prayer for the Teams, Pilgrims, Caterpillars and
CST.***



**The February Gathering will be held on 20
February 2010 at Christ UMC located at
1601 E. Bayview Blvd, Norfolk, VA 23503**

[Get Directions](#)