



The State of Emmaus

Someone recently sent me an email expressing their concern over the decline in Gathering participation. Evidently in the *old* days the host church was bursting with people donned in tie-dye and clothes pins, but not so much anymore. So what's happened? I'm not sure of the exact cause, but one could conclude that small pilgrim classes will yield smaller Gathering participation, and less sponsors, and less first time teamers.

The Upper Room (the governing body of the International Walk to Emmaus) says this about low pilgrim count:

Many, if not most, communities feel they "must" have walks every season as they always have. Years ago this was not a problem, but now it is most definitely a problem as more and more communities are struggling with low pilgrim count and having to make very hard decisions about holding a walk.

The 20 pilgrim minimum has a two-fold principle backing the Upper Room guideline that says not to go forward with less than 20 pilgrims. First, you do not want the number of team members to overpower the number of pilgrims. If communities are not careful, the walk goes forward for the benefit of the team because of "all the hard work done in training". Second, you cannot in most cases, justify the expense of a walk with less than 20 pilgrims.

You don't have to have walks at all. You can gather as a fourth-day community until such time as you do have enough pilgrims. It may even work to your advantage to cancel or postpone a walk from time to time in order to get the attention of the community about their failure to sponsor.

We recently had a walk with 21 pilgrims. I cannot bear the thought of the tough decisions that may lie ahead, but these are the times in which we find ourselves, so what do we do? As one of my colleagues on the Board put it, "the vitality of the community is the responsibility of the community."



This is a wake-up call folks. Tidewater Emmaus is an important resource to our local churches and communities. The work we do to develop Christian leaders has a direct impact on our places of worship, work, and our very own families.

We need to seriously pray about sponsoring and act on it. Pilgrims will not simply "fall from the sky". We need to harvest pilgrims, with tender loving care. We have an excellent resource to help you explain the Walk to Emmaus, check out the wonderful 10-minute video on www.Tidewateremmaus.org -- select What is Emmaus? Simply sharing a brief story about how your walk weekend impacted your faith journey conveys to potential pilgrims all that they may need to know in order to make a decision. This is a relational ministry. It works best when you discuss Emmaus with one or two people or small groups of individuals.

This all being said, there is happy news here too. Let's not forget that at some point in the past 89 walks we have also helped to stand up two additional communities: Peninsula Rainbow and the Eastern Shore. Other Fourth Day communities, such as Presbyterian Pilgrimage and Kairos are emerging in the area as well. Once upon a time we were the only Fourth Day community this side of Richmond,

but as more communities pop up, it shifts the pilgrim population around. The churches up on the Peninsula, on the Eastern Shore, in regional prisons, as well as in Tidewater are being strengthened, and in some way TWE has played a part in all of these communities. We all have a stake in ensuring these communities continue to thrive. After all, we are His hands and feet and we are here to serve Him and build His church.

Instead of looking back at what used to be, we need to focus ahead on all of the possibilities God is giving us. Perhaps He is encouraging us to think outside of the box.



Sponsoring opportunities are everywhere. If it seems nobody at your church is called to walk, what about your neighbor? How about your kid's coach? What about your golfing buddy?

Our mission is to strengthen ALL churches, not just our own.

We are all busy, but can we take just one or two weekends this spring and remember what a beautiful gift Emmaus is and experience the joy of sponsoring a pilgrim? Watching someone blossom with the love of Jesus is the gift God gives to each sponsor. Perhaps sponsoring is the exact thing you need to re-ignite your own faith and ministries.

The teams have started training. Applications are starting to trickle in. God is doing His work among us. We've got that giddy feeling growing within the Community, please join us in the excitement of the season.

Praying that you have the heart of a pilgrim,

--Lea Anne



"On the web" provides you with a snapshot of the changes that are taking place on <http://www.tidewateremmaus.org/>

The TWEB Assistant Music Director continues to prepare a list of those who are musically inclined, please contact him (alan_foster@verizon.net) or go to our [facebook](#) page for more information. Thank you to those who have already responded.

We also desperately need to replace old and worn-out musical equipment (including laptops). An inventory of much needed equipment and replacement cost is being prepared and will be available to the community shortly. Pray and let the Lord lead you to help. Contact either the MD (rancar81@cox.net) or AMD for more information.

We have quite a few walk pictures for our Photo Album but we still need more. If you have any walk pictures/team/pilgrim lists that can be helpful and bring back the heart of a pilgrim in you, please share.

The Board

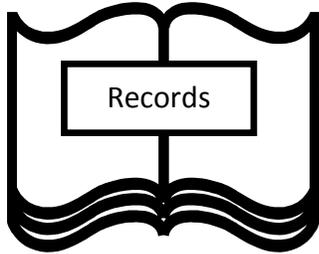
Meet Arnie Lindblad - Director of Records



My name is Arnie Lindblad and I am serving the Community as the Director of Records. Currently we are re-constructing a number of data bases, updating the roster, and compiling various lists that have been generated by the community. I attend Hickory UMC with my wife Marcy (TW 79). I have two fantastic daughters, Andrea and Lisa (TW 79) a great son-in-law Jeff (TW 84) and two exceptional grand-sons, Jeremy and Robbie. DeColores

Community Roster Update

2010 is the year of the census and we are doing just that. In order to make sure our records are up to date, we ask that you send an e-mail to me (arniel@verizon.net) with the following information:



Name
Address
Phone number
Church affiliation
Walk ... (if it is not TW, please write out the name)
E-mail address
Any position you have held with the community

If you filled out a card at either of the last two gatherings, I already have you in the system. DeColores, Arnie

Don't forget to check out the latest summary of Board meetings on the TWE web site. It's on the home page under "Current News".

If you have other ideas, just send them to me at: bassai@cox.net.

In moments of despair and depression, if we believe in Christ, we are never alone.

With His patience,

In His service,

Jack



The Tidewater Emmaus By-Laws are being updated. The Community will vote to accept the by-laws at the March gathering.



sponsorship/Registrations/Weekends

Good to Know Registration/Sponsorship Information

In today's economy, we know things are rough. Please do not allow \$\$\$\$ (or lack of it) to be the cause of not sponsoring! Consider dual sponsorship with another person or couple; or, consider the Bill Baker Scholarship fund, which is an available resource for those who need assistance. Please note that there is a required but discreet application process to use the Bill Baker Fund. Pre-approval is required before acceptance of the pilgrim. POC for the Bill Baker Fund would be the 2010 Sponsorship Board Rep, Carolyn Robertson (roberstoncar@yahoo.com), or myself (Benlane1@cox.net).

The applications are on the website under the Weekend Applications Link. Plus, there is a great 10-minute video under the "What is Emmaus" link titled "*An Introduction to the Walk to Emmaus*". I recommend that sponsors view this and use it as a resource when discussing Emmaus with others.

The website is (http://www.tidewateremmaus.org/twe_apps.html).

Walk dates for the Spring 2010 Walks.

Men **TW-90** = April 15-18, 2010, application deadline is 01 April 2010.

Women **TW-91** = April 29-May 02, 2010, application deadline is 15 April 2010.

A Comparison of Triple "R" and Airfield

The Board has spent some time this last year comparing costs of Triple R (TR) in Chesapeake versus Airfield (AF) in Wakefield. Initially the cost per person at TR was approximately \$139.50 per person. This was somewhat misleading as there is an additional \$1700.00 for use of the Hall and for having the community onsite for Candlelight, Sunrise, and closing ceremonies. In addition, the linens and Talk Room Round tables would also have to be rented. The price per person now becomes approximately \$175.00 per person. Ironically, this is the initial price per person charged at WF. Additional concerns with TR included community parking when affected by rain (parking in a field), large bunkrooms (pilgrims per room) and collective showers (semi-private). The Board felt that rooming and showering scenarios would be a big "negative" for our older pilgrims (both men and women). Bottom line is that after a comparison review, the TW Board has decided to reserve our typical space/dates for 2012 with Airfield (Note: to get the desired dates, TWE reserves space/dates two years out).

Cowabungalua and DeColores,
YBIC, ben lane, Pilgrim Registrations & Weekends

Agape

We are in full swing with AGAPE for the upcoming TW Emmaus walks. I was brought to tears at the last gathering by the outpouring of love this community has for Christ, and their willingness to “pass it on”....We’ll meet again at 5:30 on March 20th to make warm fuzzies! Never made one? We’ll teach you how if you come to the AGAPE HOUR at 5:30 before the gathering. I’ll also have placemats at the gathering for people to pick up for coloring.

PLEASE remember the MOST important form of agape to our pilgrims is PRAYER. We have an online prayer vigil set up for both the Men’s and Women’s walks. You can get to the prayer vigil on line either on the TW Emmaus website www.tidewateremmaus.org. You can sign up for your time AND receive an email confirmation of your time slot. The weekends are so blessed because this community falls to its knees in prayer for the journey of the pilgrims and teamers. Please join us in praising God and lifting our brothers and sisters in prayer. I’ll have the paper sign ups too at the next gathering (they will be laid out better too.....the last set was a bit confusing!!) so you can sign up EITHER way...

The TW Emmaus board also sends TWE AGAPE letters to other communities around the worldat the April “gathering” we will have a new, unique opportunity for the whole community to sign a letter to these pilgrims around the world. Please look for more details in the next newsletter and at the March gathering.

Please remember that I would LOVE to hear from you! mbsworld1@cox.net I am so blessed to have an opportunity to meet so many of you and to see the body of Christ in its entire splendor!

DeColores!

Marybeth TW75

Next Gathering



The Next Gathering will be held on 20 March 2010 at Ivy Memorial Baptist Church located at 2200 Coliseum Dr, Hampton, VA 23666 (757) 838-3170

[Get Directions](#)