



**July 2010**

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### Who are we?

I'm always blown away by the fact that Tidewater Emmaus is just a local installation of the International Walk to Emmaus. What does this mean? It means that on any given Thursday night, there are Emmaus walk weekends beginning all over the world. On any given Sunday there are closing ceremonies at 4:00 where the pilgrims answer the same questions you answered: What has this weekend meant to you? What do you intend to do with the experience? Check out [www.upperroom.org/emmaus/](http://www.upperroom.org/emmaus/) and see how many weekends are taking place both domestically and internationally.

Isn't that amazing? We are part of something so much larger than just Tidewater Emmaus. We are part of an international movement that is changing the world one pilgrim at a time. We have all gone through the weekend together – but separate. How exactly does this happen?

For our brothers and sisters who are new to the Community or who have not yet participated on a team ... here is a bit of inside information about the Walk to Emmaus. There is a long history to this event. It actually began in 1949 in Spain. That program was called Cursillo de Cristianidad, or little course in Christianity. Makes sense right? Isn't that what the Walk to Emmaus is? Over time the movement spread and in the 1970's the United Methodist Church established what we know as the Walk to Emmaus. These weekends are executed by following a model that was established all the way back to the original Cursillo in Spain. A specific schedule of events, the sequence of the talks and when they are presented, the palatable events known as Dying Moments and Candlelight, are all placed at a specific time on the weekend for a reason.

Throughout the history of the movement many lessons have been learned by Emmaus communities and those lessons are fed back into the model to ensure it

continues to achieve the mission it ultimately wants to achieve: Develop Christian leaders who will strengthen the local church and community.

For our brothers and sisters who are seasoned teamers in the Community and who have often wondered why we follow the Emmaus model ... the model itself is God-directed and God enhanced with the execution of each weekend. Over the years, vast numbers of communities have played a role in sharing lessons they have learned through mistakes, or creative implementations, and those lessons are available to us in the model. Although no model is perfect, they provide a standard from which lessons can be learned and they provide a consistent methodology through which the Walk to Emmaus can be executed around the world. No matter where you go, no matter what Community Gathering you attend, the pilgrims have participated in an experience just like yours, but unique to their setting, speakers, and brothers or sisters present on the weekend.

So we started out with the question: Who Are We? We are Disciples of Christ. Educated and nurtured to be the face of Christ to everyone we see – including each other. We make up the Body of Christ. As we work together we make Christ real in the world. Amazingly, we have shared a very special and *unique* experience with thousands and thousands of people.



The Walk to Emmaus is so much more than a 72 hour experience, it is a family of believers that stretches literally around the world.

Fall walks are just around the corner. It's time to pray and listen to who God is asking us to add to this amazing family.

Praying that you have the heart of a Pilgrim.

--Lea Anne



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

## **Walk Pictures**

*Thank you so much for continuing to send us your walk pictures. God is good! If you have a picture of your walk along with the names of pilgrims and teamers, won't you please share so everyone can see "The Best Walk Ever".*

## **New Website**

A few months ago, a member of the Community named John Lape developed a website called All-Things-Emmaus. This site is rich with gifts ideas, information and the section I can relate to the most "Agape for Beginners". Please check it out as you might find the perfect gift for the pilgrim you sponsor on TW92 or TW93.

<http://www.squidoo.com/allthingsemmaus>

## **Reunion Groups**

Reunion groups are a way of staying in touch with your Emmaus brothers and sisters but more importantly staying rooted in the principles of Emmaus. The bonding experience is phenomenal

*There are several open groups listed on our website or if there are none in your area, start one.*

*If you need assistance or know of an open reunion group that is not listed, please contact the Continuity Director (training/reunion groups) ([jordanpeg62@yahoo.com](mailto:jordanpeg62@yahoo.com))*

## **Annual Regional Emmaus/Chrysalis Gathering**

I will be sending an e-mail to the community with information about Emmaus/Chrysalis by the Sea 2010 to be held Labor Day weekend (Sept 4-6) at St. Simons Island, GA. Don't forget to check your mail as this sounds like an exciting time.



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Don't forget to check out the summary of Board meetings on <http://www.tidewateremmaus.org>. It's on the home page under "Current News".

If you have other ideas or if you know someone who isn't receiving our newsletter, just send me an e-mail at: [bassai@cox.net](mailto:bassai@cox.net).

## **Board Activities**

One of the objectives of the Board is to ensure the Community is kept in the loop on all important decisions. Without effective, constructive communications, we can't grow as Christ would want us to grow. A sermon I recently had the privilege to hear talked about Christ's Hospitality. Something we all need to think about when new ideas are introduced.

When my heart begins to stray, I remind myself that Christian starts with Christ.

Jack

We want to share some of the recent activities and decisions that have been going on with the Tidewater Emmaus Board of Directors. First of all, if you didn't know it, the Board meets most months. We post a synopsis of our Board meetings on the Tidewater Emmaus web site. Our meetings open in prayer seeking God's guidance, and we close in prayer in hopes that we have done His will.

At our recent Board meeting we discussed lessons learned from our recent walks. We have also been looking at other communities and their practices and seeing if we can find a fresh idea or two.

Here's what we're doing:

We see team and sponsorship training events held by several communities on a monthly basis. This allows the Community to reach as many members as possible to teach them about opportunities to support the Walk to Emmaus. We have implemented team training and sponsorship training sessions in addition to our bi-annual Day of Deeper Understanding. Therefore, if you have not been able to attend a DODU, you can participate in the other team or sponsorship training sessions to learn the requirements and process for these activities.

We have a subcommittee that is looking into the possibility of online registration for teaming, sponsorship, and weekend attendance. Additionally we are looking at the possibility of credit card payment options for teaming, sponsorship, and pilgrim fees. Look for announcements as these ideas are followed up and come to fruition.

The Fourth Day packs that the pilgrims receive are ready to be reviewed and updated. We have Board members who are working through this and plan to have the "new and improved" Fourth Day packs available for the Spring 2011 walks.

Finally we have passed some decisions recently that we want to share with all of you: Based on the trend in pilgrim participation over the past 3 years, the Board has decided to reduce the size of the talk room to five tables (from six tables). This means there will be one less Table Leader and one less Assistant Table Leader. The current team size and table layout is set up to accommodate 42 pilgrims. We have not had more than 30 pilgrims in quite some time. Five tables can accommodate a pilgrim class of 35. When God decides to send more pilgrims, the table count will go back to six and the team will be sized accordingly.

After reviewing the Walk to Emmaus model, and finding ways to provide more opportunities to serve, the Board has unanimously passed a decision to move the Kitchen Coordinator and Chapel Coordinator roles to the Community Support Team (CST). These roles provide very little if any interaction with the pilgrims, however, currently the team members fulfilling these roles are required to participate in 8 weekend team training sessions and pay the higher teaming fee. The Chapel Coordinator typically interfaces with the CST throughout the weekend in the set up or rearrangement of the chapel, as well as engaging CST members as prayer partners for the talk room speakers. The Kitchen Coordinator will not be in the talk room during the talks or other activities. They will enter the kitchen at the conclusion of the talk to set out snacks and drinks. Since they will be part of CST this will enable them to use Chapel time to prepare snacks, and/or engage the assistance of other CST members in helping them prepare those calories of love.

Change is always a challenge to accept. What we ask is that we allow ample time for the Community to adjust to the change, give it a try first, and then develop conclusions about the new ways of doing things. We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing how God uses all of us to strengthen His church with the slight change in team structure and other actions we have put in place.

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## *Music*



We have been extremely blessed by the outpouring of Agape shown by the community. As a result, the cables have been purchased, a laptop has been procured and we are looking at a projector. The Spirit has definitely been felt and we are in awe.

*Randy and Alan*



## Sponsorship/Registrations

### More information on sponsoring a pilgrim for the upcoming Walks

As you think about sponsoring someone for the Walk to Emmaus, remember to pray before, during, and after contacting that person. As I say this, I think of Psalm 32:8, "*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.*"

An Emmaus weekend is an experience of grace, love and holy presence. You are living agape to your pilgrim - the hands, heart and face of Christ. So, when talking with the prospective pilgrim, be eager and ready to share any information and answer any questions about the Emmaus Walk weekend.

### The application process flows like this:

1. The Sponsor provides the potential pilgrim with the Pilgrim Application (available online at our website - <http://www.tidewateremmaus.org/>).
2. The Pilgrim fills out the application and returns it (along with a **\$50** Pilgrim reservation/application fee) to the Sponsor who reviews the application and fills out the Sponsor's section (*The Sponsor's fee is \$180 which is collected at Sponsor's Hour on Thursday night of the Walk*).
3. The Sponsor mails both applications (along with the \$50 Check/MO) to:  
**Tidewater Emmaus,  
P.O. Box 61485  
Virginia Beach, VA 23466-1485**
4. Once the applications are processed, the appropriate TWE Board representatives will contact both the Pilgrim and the Sponsor.
5. Dates for the Fall Walks are:  
**TW-92 Men's Walk: Oct 14-17, 2010 (Application Deadline = 30 Sept).**  
**TW-93 Women's Walk: Oct 21-24, 2010 (Application Deadline = 07 Oct).**

If you have any questions, email either of us.

Blessings, Carolyn Robertson, Sponsorship Representative (robertsoncar@yahoo.com)

Ben Lane, Registration Representative (benlane1@cox.net)

### **Training Event: Emmaus Sponsorship**

Has it been a longtime since you have sponsored? Did you miss Day of Deeper Understanding? Maybe you would like to learn more about the importance of sponsorship. This session will offer a brief overview of "Sponsorship" and the role of a sponsor. This is open to all members of the community.

Saturday, August 21 at 5:30 - 6:15 pm,  
**Charity UMC** in Va Beach prior to the Emmaus Gathering, Conference Room.

Thursday, September 9 at 7:00- 7:45 pm,  
**Great Bridge UMC** in Chesapeake,  
Room 112.

See you there  
Carolyn Robertson

# AGAPE

**Colossians 4:2** Continue earnestly in **prayer**, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving

These past few months I have watched with such tenderness an agape that is eternal... the Tidewater Emmaus Community coming together to pray. We have prayed for healing, strength, protection, comfort and hope. We have leaned on each other in prayer, holding our hands up to our Abba Father in hope that does not disappoint.

Prayer is our invitation to the Holy Spirit to come into our lives and our situations. A wonderful friend of mine said about something that happened to him: "the Holy Spirit through me". Exactly! Each weekend at Wakefield is completely about "the Holy Spirit through us"....not about us. Who invites Holy Spirit into every minute of that weekend? We do. The body of Christ that is the Tidewater Emmaus community and beyond.

Please consider signing up for the upcoming walks to pray. The prayer vigils are posted on the TWE website: [www.tidewateremmaus.org](http://www.tidewateremmaus.org)

You sign up for a 30 minute block to pray....30 minutes to reach up your hands to your Father in Heaven and make supplications for the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the pilgrims and teams of TW92 and TW93...30 minutes to worship, give thanks and give hope to the continued spreading of the gospel through the strengthening of the Christian walk of those on the road to Emmaus .....

Please choose to be a committed part of the only agape our pilgrims really need. Our prayers.

*I have heard many say, "well I always pray during the weekend" ...I encourage you to be specific in your prayer...I cannot begin to tell you how blessed you, the pilgrims and the team will be in your 30 minutes. Your prayer could be the supplication that changes a moment and brings a fellow believer into a deeper relationship with Christ.*

**James 5:6** The effective, fervent **prayer** of a righteous man avails much

Other AGAPE news: I will have placemats at the July Gathering! I am in need of some agape bags that the men can use, I have a lot of women's patterns, just need some that are less flowery for the guys! I had a GREAT response to the tissue holders and thanks to special agape sharing, we should be good for our tissue holders.

You can ALWAYS email me at: [mbsworld1@cox.net](mailto:mbsworld1@cox.net)

DeColores!!  
~ ~ ~ Marybeth

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## July Gathering



The July Gathering will be held 17 July 2010 starting at  
6:30 pm at  
Miles Memorial UMC, 9450 Granby St., Norfolk

[Get Directions](#)