



## Cultivating for a Great Harvest

Several years ago, prior to teaching the bible study “Secrets of the Vine”, I traveled to the Virginia mountains to see firsthand what was involved in caring for the vines that would produce such sweet fruit.

During these past few weeks, I have been reminded in countless ways of that trip and the images of the vines that were so painstakingly cared for until the harvest season. The grape vine was not just stuck in the ground by the farmer and left to grow and mature on its own. Instead the vine was intentionally grafted by hand to a strong root, and then placed in the fertile ground. It was lovingly cared for in order to produce the best possible fruit. Although there were many plants in the vineyard, each plant was individually propped up and guided to grow along a trellis. The leaves were cleaned and kept off the ground to prevent disease, the plant was pruned to ensure the maximum fruit would be produced, and right amount of water was provided. The cultivation process was individualized for each plant’s needs.

Cultivation in the dictionary is defined as “the planting, growing, and harvesting of crops or plants, or the preparation of the land for this purpose.” This past year, I have traveled up and down the roads of Pungo, watching the fields being prepared for soy, corn, wheat, and now strawberries. During each phase of the cultivating process, I find myself being excited for these farmers. As they work in their fields, they anticipate a harvest. I see the hours and days they spend in their fields as they care for their crops. I hear from them about the concern they have for too much rain during planting or at harvest time because they can’t get into the fields with their equipment, or when there is too little rain, it affects growth and yield of their harvest.

Cultivating is hard work, but there also is excitement along the way! I have witnessed this excitement watching the farmers prepare the ground and plant the seedlings. I have rejoiced as I watched fields come alive with acres and acres of green wheat and the flowering buds before the strawberries begin to form. I rejoice with the farmers when just the right amount of rain falls in the season. I find myself excited for the farmers, even though I am not the one working cultivating those fields.

Cultivating is an ongoing process, and each step builds upon another. Are you like me watching the fields and the farmers, excited for their labor, and feasting off of their harvest? Or are you the farmer, cultivating the land, planting the seedlings, tending the crop?

In the Tidewater Emmaus community, are we part of the cultivation of our community or are we just waiting for the harvest? So often, we like to come to the harvest and feast at the table on the sweet fruit, because we love the excitement of that part of the process. But, are we just as excited about cultivating the people of God for God's work in His world? Are we seeking the joy that can be found in the hard work that will bring a harvest pleasing to our Lord? Who are we cultivating in our relationships? Who are we tenderly loving, guiding, caring for, and even propping up? Who do we see that has the potential in our church to produce more fruit? Who are we inviting to reunion groups or bible studies in order to help them grow as a disciple of Christ? Who are we inviting to our churches?

As Christian and Fourth Day pilgrims who continue this journey here on earth, we are called to spend our Fourth Day cultivating and not just watching. It is an on-going process. It is hard work. Yet, there also is excitement in the process and a great joy when we come to the table to feast on what God has provided after the harvest. For our community, the harvest comes on Sunday afternoons in Wakefield, as we welcome former pilgrims into the Tidewater Emmaus community and encourage them to return to their churches to do the work of cultivating and preparing for the harvest also. For our Tidewater Emmaus community, the work of the farmers is vital for the harvest. In spite of the recent cancellation of a men's and a women's walk weekend, I am most optimistic about the future of our community as long as we are about doing the hard but satisfying work of cultivating. Begin to cultivating. Living out your fourth day remembering Jesus' words, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."* (Matthew 9:37-38)

DeColores,

Carolyn Robertson TW 49  
Community Lay Director TWE

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All Musicians: We still need your help with the November Gathering. Currently we are in need of someone to lead the gathering and musicians to play with the leader. Please email me if you want to help with Music or Lead the November Gathering!

Alan\_foster@verizon.net

Wishing you God's Grace!  
Alan Foster

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# In the Board Room

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## Tidewater Emmaus Board of Director's - Called Board Meeting: 25 Sept 2011

Present

Jon Bennett	N	Christy Kapko	Y
Stan Best	Y	Randy Leazer	Y
Barbara Edwards	Y	Arnie Lindblad	Y
Alan Foster	Y	Kim McConnaughey	N
MaryBeth Grambo	Y	Jack Meservey	Y
Don Gaines	N	Carolyn Robertson	Y
Peggy Jordan	Y	Larry Taylor	N

Communion was served by Rev. Tom Mercer.

CLD shared three documents pertaining to the number of pilgrims needed for a walk, *Low Pilgrim Count* and *Local Flavor* both from the Upper Room, and the Director's Manual, Guidelines on Pilgrim Count.

Director of Sponsorship reported that at the deadline for TW96, application submission there were less than the required numbers of confirmed applications. TW 97 had less than the required number of confirmed applications, but there are still two weeks before the deadline.

CLD afforded each person present to make a statement concerning the number of pilgrims needed for a walk.

A letter from HSD was read.

A motion was made: Tidewater Emmaus will adhere to the guidelines provided by the Upper Room that calls for a minimum of 20 pilgrims for a walk. It was seconded. The motion passed. A roll call vote was taken: Aye 10, Nay 0.

A motion was made: the fall walk, TW 96, will be postponed according to the guidelines of the Upper Room due to not meeting the minimum pilgrim count. It was seconded. The motion passed. A roll call vote was taken: Aye 6, Nay 3, and Abstention 1.

It was also noted that if the applications for TW 97 fail to make the minimum number it too would be postponed.

The meeting was adjourned.

**The Tidewater Emmaus Board meets several times during the year as required by the community By-Laws. Information regarding each board meeting and the business the board conducts on behalf of the community can be found on the web page [www.tidewateremmaus.org](http://www.tidewateremmaus.org)**

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## Tidewater Emmaus Board of Director's Nomination

### Yes Lord Send Me!

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The Tidewater Emmaus Community is currently accepting nominations from qualified candidates to serve on the Tidewater Emmaus Board of Director's. Board Nomination Applications must be completed and given to a board member or post marked on or before November 10, 2011. See Application for complete details.

Serving on the Tidewater Emmaus Board is a wonderful act of agape to the Community and one of several ways Community members can serve God and strengthen His kingdom. Board participation should be prayerfully considered before making the commitment. A board term lasts 3 calendar years. Board members meet periodically throughout the year with a minimum of six meetings. In order for the Board to do the work that must be done it is essential that the Board members are present at meetings. The incoming Community Lay Director assigns members to their roles on the Board. You must be prepared to serve as you are called. Your service may require you to store and distribute equipment, manuals, agape or other supplies; make several trips to the Walk weekend location during walks; lead the Community in song or prayer; interface with Community members, pilgrims, sponsors, and administrators at the walk weekend site. You will also be responsible for attending one of the Leadership Development meetings held regionally by regional leaders of Emmaus and Chrysalis Office during the first year on the board.

It is a blessing to serve on the Tidewater Emmaus Board and we praise God for your willingness and desire to serve Him in this way.

A Board Nomination form is included in this newsletter for your convenience. Please complete the form and send it to the TWE mailbox or to Carolyn Robertson at [robertsoncar@yahoo.com](mailto:robertsoncar@yahoo.com)

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# Board Nomination Form



## Board Nomination

Name and Walk: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Participation in some form of spiritual support group is required of all Board members. This participation can present in many forms include Reunion Groups or other similar forms of small groups. These spiritual support groups should desire to live a life of accountable discipleship and growth and encourage all Christians in their journey of faith.

Are you active in a reunion group? **Yes** or **No**

Are you active in your church? **Yes** or **No**

Describe your church service: \_\_\_\_\_

At least one teaming experience is required of all Board members. Briefly describe your teaming experience:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any particular skills that you would like to tell us about (i.e. computer skills, accounting skills, music skills, etc.)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why would you like to serve on the Tidewater Emmaus Board?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Completed application can be given to a Board member or have it post marked on or before November 10:**

Mail To:

Tidewater Emmaus  
P.O. Box 61485  
Virginia Beach, VA 23466-1485



# Sponsorship

## Sponsorship Challenge

At the last Gathering, our Community Lay Director announced a new requirement for pilgrim applications. We do not want to go through the disappointment and work of postponing another walk so late in the teaming process. As a form of agape to the members of the community and to the team, we must now have the minimum number of required pilgrims confirmed 11 weeks before the walk.

What this means for the Men's Walk scheduled for April 19-22, 2012 is that we must have 20 confirmed pilgrims before February 2. As long as we have the 20, the teaming process can start and applications will continue to be accepted until the deadline March 29 or until the walk is full. For the Women's Walk scheduled for May 3-6, 2012 we must have 20 confirmed pilgrims before February 16. If we do, then applications will be accepted until April 12.

There is a good possibility that God will bless us with two full walks this spring, so it is important to get those pilgrim applications in as soon as possible. We all remember how blessed we were to receive the gift of our walk. As we approach the giving season, let us make every effort to pass that gift on to those who God lays on our hearts.

If you have any questions, you can contact Stan Best (546-1818, [stan.best@verizon.net](mailto:stan.best@verizon.net)) or Kim McConnaughey, Director of Registration.

May God Bless You,  
Stan Best,  
TW-74,  
Director of Sponsorship

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## Team Selection



It is time to begin thinking about teaming and the team selection process for the 2012 Spring walks. Even though many of the team members from the cancelled 2011 Fall walks will be able to continue to serve in the Spring, there is a need for the upcoming spring walks and always will be a need for team members for future walks. Have you considered serving on an Emmaus Team? Do you want to know what serving on a team is like? To learn the answer you have to step out of the boat to find out.

“Lord, if it's you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus” (Matthew 14:28-29).

Some have been waiting for someone to ask them to team just as Peter asked Jesus to tell him to come. Is Jesus calling you to leave **your** comfort zone? Are you willing to be stretched by God by serving on an Emmaus team?

I read a sermon recently about servanthood called "I Doubt God Can Use Me", by Jonathan McLeod from Forest Hill Fellowship Baptist Church. At the end of the sermon he talks about the personal application to serving.

*"When you're about to step out, a voice will say, "You're not good enough, etc." At that moment you will know that you are the exact person God can use.*

*Are you willing to take a spiritual risk? Are you willing to leave your comfort zone? Are you willing to be stretched by God?*

*Ask God to give you:*

- *Eyes to see what you didn't see yesterday (the needs of others)*
- *Hands to do what needs to be done*
- *Ears to hear what is not being said (encouragement)*
- *A mouth to say what needs to be said*

*What is God calling **YOU** to do?*

*What is the **NEXT STEP** God wants you to take?*

*You have to **STEP OUT** to **FIND OUT**"*

Yah, teaming is like that. What are you waiting for? Submit your application today! The more community people we involve in the walks, the healthier our community will be.

Try it, you'll like it!!!

Larry Taylor – Team Selection



## From the Director of Weekends

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As Director of Weekends, it was my job to inform Wakefield 4H Center that we were not holding either the Men's or the Women's Walks this fall. They were just as disappointed as we all were. Tidewater Emmaus is a source of revenue for Wakefield and we have developed a great relationship with them over the years. They have done everything we have asked to accommodate us and our special needs. Their facility is so special to our community with all our memories of the BEST WALK EVER! I truly believe this is a temporary situation and that we will again have enough Pilgrims to hold walks in the future.

I am praying for God's guidance for sponsorship. If I cannot find a friend to sponsor, I will donate to the Bill Baker Scholarship Fund to allow someone else's Pilgrim to walk. Are you praying about sponsorship? Have you printed out the Pilgrim application for your friend? Don't delay.

Your in His Service,

Barbara Edwards



That's what it's all about....AGAPE is demonstrative love....showing someone that you love them....without expecting anything in return. It is how Abba Father loves us....He gave Jesus...who said **yes**....to die and take our sins....Our Holy Father and His Blessed Son showed us what AGAPE really is. We can't return God's favor.....we can only love as He loved.

*Love as you have been loved.* At Emmaus, we do that through little tokens we call "AGAPE" ...gifts that we don't want credit for, don't want to be paid for and don't want the recipient to return, to us anyway 😊

As we prepare for our upcoming walks....PLEASE consider showing love through:

- ❖ Making items for the tables, dining room or beds
- ❖ Praying
- ❖ Coloring placemats (yes, I have more!!)
- ❖ Praying
- ❖ Buying Tissues for our beautiful tissue holders
- ❖ Praying
- ❖ Giving on the "Just Give" option on the website
- ❖ Praying.....

I thank you all dearly, for your abundant gifts that you give in the name of Jesus. I know that is who you serve as you give.....you are His hands and feet of love in everything that goes on at Wakefield. I thank God for you daily and pray for you all. I am blessed to know you and blessed more when I get to meet new faces and meet more of the body of Christ.

Please send me a note, even if you just want to talk.....I love you, I know you love Jesus....let's show that Love to these pilgrims who God *is* calling....

DeColores!!

Marybeth Grambo

TW75

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# Calendar of TWE Community Events:

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**November 5** - Tidewater Chrysalis Teaming begins

**November 10** - Board Nomination Forms Due

**November 19** - Gathering at Deep Creek UMC at 6:30  
*Including election of new board members and dedication of both Chrysalis Teams*

[Get Directions](#)

**December 8** - Caterpillar Application Deadline for January Chrysalis Flights

**December 17**- Gathering at Mount Pleasant UMC at 6:30

**December 17**- Teaming Applications Due for Spring Emmaus Walks

**January 14-16** - Tidewater Chrysalis Flights at Triple R Ranch

**January 15** - Tidewater Emmaus and Chrysalis Community Gathering at 7:30  
*Including Candlelight Service*

**February 2** - Required "Minimum" number of confirmed pilgrims for Men's Spring Walk Deadline

**February 16** - Required "Minimum" number of confirmed pilgrims for Women's Spring Walk Deadline

**February 18** - Day of Deeper Understanding at 3:30 and a Gathering at 6:30, Foundry UMC

## **Walk to Emmaus Pilgrim Application Deadline:**

The Director of Sponsorship receives applications throughout the year for those interested in attending an Upper Room Walk to Emmaus weekend. Completed applications must be received three weeks prior to a walk weekend. A completed application includes Pilgrim and Sponsorship Applications and deposit. Space is limited on each walk weekend. If space is not available for an applicant on a current walk weekend because a walk is full, the sponsor will be notified. If you have any questions please contact the Director of Sponsorship, Stan Best at [stanbest@verizon.net](mailto:stanbest@verizon.net)