



January/February 2007

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Encouraging and Inspiring the Members of the Mid-Michigan Emmaus and Chrysalis Communities to "Go Forth" on Their Fourth Day

☆ Attention Emmaus Community ☆

WINTER BLAST

Saturday, January 13, 2007

8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

**Midland First Baptist Church
915 East Sugnet
Midland, Michigan 48642**

Training will be available for all Emmaus community members. The focus will be on sponsorship, training for Chrysalis and Emmaus music leaders, spiritual directors, and more. A gathering will follow at 3:00 p.m. Mark your calendars today and bring your nametag and a sack lunch.

For more information, call or e-mail Matthew Price, community training chair, 989-385-0679 or trimeses6@gmail.com.

From the Community Lay Director

On the Road to ... Gladwin!

I believe that when we read scriptures, we should think about what it means to us in 2006. I think we need to try to apply it to our lives. Jesus often taught in parables, so maybe we should think in terms of parables when we read scriptures.

The people who were walking to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-35) could just as well have been two people walking to Gladwin [or Hale, Caro, Midland, Saginaw, or West Branch]. That road could have been M-18, M-30 or M-61.

One of the persons walking was named Cleopas. The unnamed person was probably a woman. Back then women weren't held in very high re-

gard, so it's not surprising that they didn't mention her name. Maybe we could think of them as Paul and Michelle walking down the road, or maybe they were strangers to Gladwin.

Jesus appeared to them on the road. Well, we all know that in 2006, Jesus lives in heaven. But we also know that Jesus lives in our hearts when we are Christians. Maybe a pastor caught up with the two walking near Gladwin and started talking about his church and some scriptures. My pastor has been studying scripture for 35 years,

Continued on page 4

Gatherings and Hoots

The next MME community gathering will follow the Winter Blast training event at Midland: First Baptist on **January 13** at 3:00 p.m.

For information about gatherings contact Kim Warner (limberkeys88@aol.com or 989-275-8889).

The next MMC hoot will be **Saturday, February 24**, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Meet first at Auburn UMC and then go sledding (if weather cooperates). The March hoot will be a Hawaiian luau: date and time are yet to be determined.

For information about hoots, contact Bethany Juen (BBGal622@yahoo.com) or Janelle Brown (goingbananas0713@yahoo.com).

Winter BLAST Training Event

Saturday, January 13, 2007
Midland: First Baptist Church
See details on this page.

Winter Chrysalis Flights

Auburn UMC

Girls' Flight #19

February 8-11, 2007
Bev Yorimoto, Lay Director

Boys' Flight #20

February 15-18, 2007
Bruce Pynnonen, Lay Director

Spring Emmaus Walks

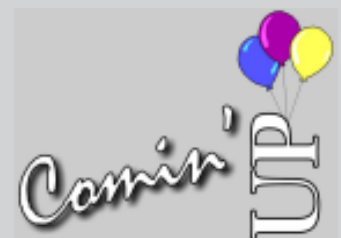
Saginaw: W. Michigan Ave. UMC

Men's Walk #41

March, 2007
Ray Karr, Lay Director

Women's Walk #42

March, 2007
Karen Emery, Lay Director



Hoots Build Healthy Relationships with God and Friends

Have you been to a Chrysalis hoot recently? If you haven't, you are missing out on some great fun! We had several exciting activities recently. Why don't you check it out? Those who come have a great time and are able to spend time with friends from their Chrysalis experience, and they rekindle a bit of the feeling they had on their flight. After all, that is the point of a hoot, is it not?

Recently we have had two spectacular hoots. The first one, held in November, was a "hoedown" at Auburn United Methodist Church. About 30 kids showed up for this western-themed event, clad in boots, hats,



jeans, and plaid shirts. We were taught how to square dance by a caller. He taught us how to do the moves, and then he called them out for us to execute. Although dancing was the main focus of the afternoon, it was not the only thing that we did. Because the dance only occupied two of the four hours of the hoot, there was plenty of time to socialize. We played cards, danced around, and just genuinely enjoyed each other's company. In the end, we all left happy and very tired.

'Going Fourth' Welcomes Your Contributions

GOING FOURTH is your newsletter. We welcome articles about experiences that have helped you grow in piety, study, or action.

Articles can be submitted as an e-mail attachment (preferred) or by mail on diskette or CD. Short typed articles can be sent to P.O. Box 1024, Midland, MI 48641-1024. All articles are subject to editing.

In December, we had a Christmas hoot at Pinconning United Methodist Church. This was a more low key hoot. We had a gift white elephant gift exchange, played board games, and ate many delectable treats. Because this was slightly smaller in size, those who were there were able to bond together. Sometimes small is good, but it would have been just as good, if not better, if there had been a larger crowd. If you could not make it to that hoot, there are many more planned for your enjoyment.

The next hoot is the post-flight hoot in February. It will be held Saturday, February 24 from 1:00 until 5:00. We will meet at Auburn UMC (where the February flights are held) and then head over to Western High



School (about a mile away) to go sledding, if the weather cooperates.

The hoot in March will be a Hawaiian luau. The date and time are yet to be determined. You will receive an email about it in late February or early March. Please make an effort to attend one, if not both, of these upcoming hoots. You will not regret it!

Making a Joyful Noise

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord . . .

—Psalm 100:1

Somewhere along the line in the history of the Mid-Michigan Chrysalis movement, the song, "Have You Seen Jesus, my Lord?" was modified by the addition of a rhythmic percussion element.

Was this modified version inspired by the Holy Spirit? I don't know. Do the youth involved in Chrysalis enjoy this little musical extra? Undoubtedly. If not, it would have disappeared. Does the rhythm element add energy to the song? Yes! Does the "banging" on the floor or the pew bother some of us? Certainly! Do some think it is just awful noise? Maybe.

But should we impose our views on others? I hope that your answer would be that we should not outlaw an expression of our youth's joy, love, and excitement about Jesus. I would cry, but not in joy, if I thought someone truly believed that excitement and joy in Jesus should be banished.

In trying to answer "What would Jesus do?," I referred to Acts 15. The early Jewish Christians wisely decided not to impose any unnecessary restrictions on the lives and actions of new Gentile believers. I believe we

need to set aside our own personal preferences and support whatever helps grow the excitement about Jesus Christ in any group of people.

So, I am making this plea: if you dislike the percussion addition to "Jesus, My Lord," smile and remember that it is only a short part of the song. Smile and be pleased that we have teenagers who love Christ and are "making a joyful noise unto the Lord."

But I am also making a plea to those who like the thumping rhythm addition to "Jesus, My Lord." That plea is this: please refrain from the additional percussion at Emmaus candlelights. It could detract from someone's weekend experience. We truly want the candlelight to bring the pilgrims closer to God, not distract them from God or lead them away from God.

And for those who don't even know what I am talking about, I would like to see you at the next Chrysalis candlelight. If I am not tied up on team, I will joyfully give you a hug and teach you this particular "joyful noise."

In His joyful (and maybe noisy) love and service,

—Bruce Pynnonen

Meet the New Chrysalis Lay Director

Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but be an example for the believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith, and purity. —1 Timothy 4:12 (TEV)

Mid-Michigan Chrysalis is the part of the Emmaus/Chrysalis movement that ministers to the youth of our area. I never cease to be amazed at the butterflies who emerge from their Chrysalis flights. I could say that these young people will be the leaders for Christ in our churches, our schools, and our families in the future. But that wouldn't be the whole story. Many of these young people are strong, active, and accomplished leaders in these environments *right now*. Our butterflies are being the examples Paul was exhorting Timothy to be. That is why I see the Mid-Michigan Chrysalis ministry to be vital.

Because I feel that this ministry is vital, I am truly humbled to be called to help in carrying out the nurturing of our young people in mid-Michigan through the Chrysalis movement. This is an awesome responsibility, and I have no expectation that I have the abilities to fulfill the needs. Fortunately, we have an awesome God who equips His servants "for all good works." I will rely on Him and on many people in the Emmaus/Chrysalis movement to move forward in service. I don't feel qualified to serve as lay director, but I accepted the call because I respect those who called me and I respect Him who called me.

I made my Cursillo weekend in the Episcopal Cursillo movement. In April 1991 I sat at the table of Joshua for ECDM #28. Since then, I have been growing in piety, study, and action. I have grown a lot, simply because I had so far to go. Back in 1991, my Bible had more dust than bookmarks. It had no notes in the margins. In fact, I probably didn't know where it was. In the last 15 years, I have studied God's word almost every day, and have tried to serve God at work, at home, and on renewal events such as Cursillo weekends, LVCCM weekends, Emmaus walks, and Chrysalis

flights. I view all of these communities as members of one large family.

My wife, Francine, was on the steering committee that started Mid-Michigan Chrysalis. Both of our sons have made Chrysalis flights. Eric made his flight in the Detroit Conference, and Curt was on Mid-Michigan Chrysalis Flight #6. Both Eric and Curt have served on multiple MMC flights. For our family, Cursillo, Via de Cristo, Emmaus, and Chrysalis have been a family affair. It has been a blessing to see our family members serving others for Christ.

In trying to use the gifts God gave me for service, I have given talks (stretching me because, although I can talk about technical things, talking about anything close to the heart is difficult for me), I have cooked (twice for Emmaus and once for Chrysalis), worked in auxiliary or logistics, and served on the Chrysalis board as the music/candlelight chair, and as the treasurer (I am good at working with numbers, so this part was easier).

For those who don't know, one gift I enjoy using is an ability to work with young people (I mean very young people—infants and toddlers who are screaming in the nursery because Mom or Dad just left). My gifts with teens are less solid, but I am trying. In trying to develop gifts, I need to ask for help in moving forward with Chrysalis. We need you, the greater Mid-Michigan Emmaus/Chrysalis community to support our efforts. We need clergy as spiritual directors. We absolutely need young people (butterflies) to serve other youth by participating on teams. And we need you; yes, I am talking to you, the one who is reading this. We need you to serve on teams—by being in the conference room, helping cook, playing music, or by attending our candlelights and closings (the attendance at our candlelights and closings for the last pair of flights was significantly lower than we would like to see). And above all, we need your prayers.

We also need your input. We need your suggestions. We need (may not like, but need) your criticism. I pledge

to respond to all of this by evaluating everything and trying to make every decision in light of these priorities:

1. Is it consistent with God's Word?
2. Will it best serve Jesus (what is His will), [see #1]?
3. Does it fit the Chrysalis guidelines and model?
4. Will it best serve the butterflies?
5. What will best serve other servants or team members?
6. Finally, last of all or not at all, what is in my will?

I ask you all to hold me accountable according to these priorities. Feel free to challenge me if you think I am doing anything out of order according to these priorities.

I am accessible! You can contact me by phone (989-631-1317 (H), 989-636-0145 (W), or 989-430-4291 (C)), e-mail (pynnonen26@yahoo.com) or snail-mail (2604 Manor Dr, Midland, MI 48640) to volunteer, guide, or criticize.

Please drop me a line with your ideas, suggestions, or complaints. The board cannot serve the community to the best of our ability unless we have input. Even better, call to volunteer to be a servant on or outside a flight. You will bless others and you will be blessed by God. And please pray for me. This ministry is too important for me to not have the support of your prayers.

God loves you and so do I,

—Bruce Pynnonen
Episcopal Cursillo
Diocese of Michigan #28
Table of Joshua

Don't Forget!

INFORMATION FOR "GOING FOURTH" should be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. For example, information and articles for the March/April 2007 issue will be due by February 15th.



Election Results Are In

The results of the recent election of board members was that all six candidates were elected. Those elected to three-year terms in the class of 2009 include:

- Michelle Aultman
- Nicholas Bailey
- Bob Bauder
- Kim Conkright
- Erv Letson

In addition, Dennis Warner was elected to a one-year term to fill a vacancy in the class of 2007.

The by-law change that spells out the relationship between Mid-Michigan Emmaus and the Mid-Michigan Chrysalis standing committee also passed by a wide margin. Thanks to everyone who took the time and effort to express their wishes.

Gathering Survey Yields Valuable Ideas

Thanks also to everyone who submitted a response to the gathering survey that was included in the last newsletter. The results have been compiled and some interesting trends were identified.

At the December board meeting the Mid-Michigan Emmaus board of directors voted to establish a short-term task force to revitalize gatherings in light of the survey results and in accordance with *The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus*. Watch for details.

Road to ... Gladwin, continued from page 1

and he is very good at recalling them.

We may not be Billy Graham or a pastor, but we should be studying scripture so that when the opportunity comes we can also explain them to people we meet on the road of life.

1 Peter 3:15 tells us to be always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks the reason for the hope that you have. God made us all different and gave us different gifts and talents. Maybe those we meet on the road



would be able to understand the gospel story better from a person like me, one who is not gifted with flowery language or pretty words.

People who are just walking down the road may not be talking about the crucifixion of Jesus, as those on the road to Emmaus were. But they might be talking about troubles in their church or in their family or maybe about the problems in our world. We may not be able to quote scripture like

Jesus, but we do represent Christ in some way and could comfort them about what is troubling them.

Like the women who went to the tomb and didn't see Jesus, there are a lot of people today who can't see Jesus. It's up to us to show them the way. And that's done through studying scripture and belonging to the body of Christ.

It happens all the time: someone's heart is burning within them or their hearts are "strangely warmed"—through a sermon, Sunday school or God rocks. By sharing your

faith, you can help them take the right road, the road that leads to God's kingdom. And the best thing is that you may have warmed their hearts and, because of that, they in turn may warm someone else's heart, and in that way God's kingdom will grow.

Share yourselves wherever you walk.

—John Dwyer
Community Lay Director

Going Fourth is published six times a year for the Mid-Michigan Emmaus and Chrysalis communities. It is intended to inform, encourage, and inspire members of those communities to live lives of true Christian piety, study, and action. Comments, articles, or story ideas can be directed to the editor, Jim Birch, at 989-835-2856 or james.birch@editech-mi.com. **Going Fourth** accepts articles by e-mail (preferred), diskette, CD, or regular mail at P.O. Box 1024, Midland MI 48641-1024.



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