



January/February/March 2008

www.midmichiganemmaus.com

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

## Winter BLAST Draws 70 for Training

About seventy people were in attendance at Michigan Avenue United Methodist Church in Saginaw in January for Winter BLAST, an event designed to offer training to both new and experienced pilgrims in the Mid-Michigan Emmaus and Chrysalis community. It was also a time for food and fellowship as well as opportunities to purchase Emmaus literature and merchandise.

After a brief introduction to the program and facilities by Lisa Kelley, the entire group heard a presentation by Jim Birch on sponsorship. Laced with humorous skits that included common errors made by sponsors, Jim covered sponsoring tips for all three phases of the Emmaus experience: preweekend, weekend, and postweekend. Participants learned that the first and most important thing they can do as a sponsor is to

pray—for God to reveal the right potential pilgrim, for courage and wisdom to approach that person, for the person as they experience the weekend, and for their new pilgrim to get involved in an accountability group and in their church. Many questions were asked and answered, such as who should and should not attend Walk to Emmaus, what to tell your po-

*Continued on page 3*



*New arrivals crowd the registration table.*

## The Encouragement and Blessing of Community

*Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.*

*Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers, even though they are strangers to you. They have told the church about your love. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. It was for the sake of the name that they went*

*out, receiving no help from the pagans. We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth.* —3 John: 1-8

As I read these words of John, it brought to mind the Emmaus community, each of us on our own fourth-day walk through our lives. In the first verse John talks about the "truth." The footnotes in my NIV study Bible take me to John 1:14, which reads "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We

*Continued on page 3*

### Gatherings and Hoots

For more gathering information contact Kim Cronkright (989-799-2174 or kmcright@charter.net).

- **Friday, February 8**—Au Gres UMC at 7:00 p.m.
- **Friday, March 7**—West Michigan Avenue UMC, Saginaw, at 7:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, April 19**—Markey Community Baptist Church, Roscommon, at ~3:00 p.m.
- **Friday, May 2**—Caro UMC at 7:00 p.m.

For hoot information, contact Michelle Aultman (989-737-7621 or paultman@ejourney.com).

- **Saturday February 16**—Bowling party at Northern Lanes (between Midland and Sanford)

### Walks and Flights

*Note: The dates for the spring Emmaus walks are tentative because of a conflict that could not have been foreseen. Watch future issues for confirmation.*

#### MME Men's Walk #45

March 27-30, 2008

Markey Community Baptist Church, Roscommon  
Jeff Steele, Lay director

#### MME Women's Walk #46

April 10-13, 2008

Markey Community Baptist Church, Roscommon  
Kim Jacques, Lay director

#### MMC Girls' Flight

July 17-20, 2008

Midland First UMC  
Della Keyworth, Lay director

#### MMC Boys' Flight

July 31-August 3, 2008

Midland First UMC  
Lay director to be announced.



## Walk to Emmaus: Not Just a Methodist Thing

Over the past few months I have heard many times that Walk to Emmaus is something that the United Methodist Church does. This has confused me because in Mid-Michigan we have many denominations that participate and many churches that host walks. So I thought I would take a minute to review the history.

In 1976, Danny Morris, director of Developing Ministries for The Upper Room, participated in a Lutheran Cursillo in Florida and recognized the need for an ecumenical offering of Cursillo. In 1977, Maxie Dunnam, then the world editor of The Upper Room, participated in a Cursillo in Illinois and together with Danny Morris began to take steps toward including Cursillo as a ministry of The Upper Room. Those Upper Room Cursillos eventually led to Walk to Emmaus.

Walk to Emmaus is a movement that has spread naturally from community to community and across denominational lines at a grass-roots level. Although it is grounded theologically and administratively in The Upper Room ministries of the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church, it is fully ecumenical. This is not only because members of many denominations participate, but because Walk to Emmaus seeks to foster Christian unity and reinforce the whole Christian community. A spirit of openness to and appreciation for the gifts of different Christian traditions and perspectives characterizes Walk to Emmaus communities.

The ecumenical nature of Walk to Emmaus does not mean the movement is theologically indifferent. On the contrary, Walk to Emmaus is designed to communicate the essentials of Christian life with confidence and depth, while emphasizing what Christians have traditionally held in common.

So in a nutshell: it's not just a Methodist thing, it's a Christian thing. Praise God!

—Lisa Kelley  
Communittee Training Chair



Front row (l-r): Kim Cronkright, Karen Emery, Sandi Helms, Erv Letson, Michelle Aultman, Lisa Kelley, and Teresa Camilleri. Back row: Ray Baker, Monte Montei, Ed Orzel, Bob Bauder, Bob McCormick, and John Jankowski. Missing: Dan Smith and Matt Price.

## New Board Organizes for 2008

The 2008 MME board took over the reins as part of the monthly board meeting in January. Assignments and contact information are listed below.

Class of 2008			
Ray Baker	989-469-2489	rabaker@centurytel.net	Supplies
Karen Emery	989-728-6087	klemery@centurytel.net	Newsletter/publicity
Lisa Kelley	989-743-7848	palletsheep@hotmail.com	Secretary/historian
Monte Montei	989-673-6940	montei@centurytel.net	Chair, Community lay director
Matthew Price	989-385-0679	trimenes6@gmail.com	Music
Class of 2009			
Michelle Aultman	989-465-6328	paultman@ejourney.com	Registration, Candlelight/apostolic hour
Bob Bauder	989-835-4961	bobbauder@juno.com	Site selection/facilities
Teresa Camilleri	989-832-2563	tkcamill@aol.com	Group reunions, Literature
Kim Cronkright	989-799-2174	kmcrigh@charter.net	Gatherings
Erv Letson	989-693-6460	jkealetson@mich1.net	Kitchen/table decorations
Class of 2010			
Sandi Helms	989-728-2843	helms65@centurytel.net	Treasurer
John Jankowski	989-891-2122	jhn55mfln4@yahoo.com	Prayer vigil
Bob McCormick	810-38-3744	mccormiskrj@hotmail.com	Vice-chair, Team selection
Ed Orzel	989-883-2185	eworzel@airadv.net	Agape
Dan Smith	989-245-0073		Community training
Additional Board Members			
Rev. Pat England	989-728-2781	pengland@centurytel.net	Community spiritual director
Cathy Kelley	989-585-3139	cathleenbrewer@hotmail.com	Chrysalis representative
Board Support			
Jim Birch	989-835-2856	james.birch@editech-mi.com	Database
John Dwyer	989-426-0481	jngdwyer@ejourney.com	Registrar
Ken Hayes	989-343-1618	ken@greyhayesmedia.com	Web servant
Wendy Orzel	989-883-2158	eworzel@airadv.net	MME Merchandise



*Pam Katona, Doug Loveridge and Patty Sawicki make beautiful music together.*

### **Winter BLAST**, from page 1

tential pilgrim (no secrets!), and how to find out about communities in other areas. Participants were encouraged to use the "Sponsorship" booklet to learn more and to share the "What is Emmaus?" and "What is Chrysalis?" booklets with potential pilgrims when the time is right.

After a lunch of pizza and salad, participants split into groups to attend the breakout workshops. They covered:

- The Role of the Music Leader, led by Pam Katona
- By the Book: an introduction to why things are done the way they are on an Emmaus walk or Chrysalis flight, led by Lisa Kelley



*Lisa Kelley shares what can go wrong when the Emmaus method is not practiced.*

- Agape, basics of agape giving and working in the agape room, led by Wendy and Ed Orzel
- Surviving Serving, a workshop on support team responsibilities, led by Judy Page

Following a short break, all of the workshops were repeated so that participants could attend an alternate session. Winter BLAST closed with a



*Wendy Orzel emphasizes the importance of prayer and self-sacrifice in true agape.*

brief celebration and worship service.

Thanks to Lisa Kelley and Karen Emery for planning this very success-

### **Community**, from page 1

have seen His glory, and the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

On the Walk to Emmaus no one hears anything that they probably have not already heard in their own church. What a person already knows before attending a walk is very important, but the talks and the flow of the talks certainly have a way of making the "truth" easier to understand.

When John spoke about his children "walking in the truth," it makes me think about those whom I have led, not just my own children, but those who have been in a Sunday school class that I taught, or maybe someone who is unchurched who will ask me questions about faith, or maybe someone who I have sponsored on an Emmaus walk in the past. Some of these people will be in our lives in such a way that we can only reach out to them once, others will be there for a lifetime. The job of being there for them will never be completed. In the same way, there are people in our lives who are always there for us. We all need to continue growing together. It reminds me of a line in a movie "The Cowboys" when John Wayne, playing the part of the dying Will Anderson, says "every father wants his kids to grow up bigger and better than he ever was." As Christians that is exactly how we should view our brothers and sisters around us.



*Judy Page makes a point about serving on auxiliary during an Emmaus weekend.*

ful event. Did you miss it? It will probably be back next year. Don't miss it again!

What a blessing it is to hear someone that you have taught in Sunday school or sponsored on a walk give a talk on a walk or give a sermon as a lay speaker and for you to know that there is no way that you could have done the job as well as they did.

Showing hospitality to others is also very important. I think this can be done completely through a fourth-day group. I do not think there is anything that you can do that is more important for someone else than being there for them. As my son Matt's football coach drilled into his head from the sixth grade on, all the way to the state championship game at the Silver Dome, "there is no 'I' in team," there is no 'I' in fourth-day group. It is very important in a Christian's life to have close contact with other believers. You may not need your group every week, but someone else may need you. And even when they don't think they need you, they will be there for you.

John wrote 3 John in his later years, and age brings wisdom. May our wisdom grow today by following the words of John. Know the truth and reach out to those who God has put in your life to share that truth. Be hospitable to those around you by supporting them as they grow. And know that like a stalk of wheat growing in a field, if all the other stalks of wheat around you are growing towards the "Son," you are, too.

—Monte Montei  
Community lay director

## Extreme MAKEOVER DIVINE STYLE

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; the old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...*

—2 Corinthians 5:17–18

**T**his will be my last issue as editor. When I was assigned this job two years ago, I decided to give the newsletter a makeover, with a new design, new graphics, and a new name. Karen Emery, who will be taking over this job, may choose to do the same.

The scripture tells us that because of God's gift to us in Christ, we are new creations. In words used by Jesus, we are "born again." But in modern words, we could describe this as a makeover—an extreme makeover based on *our* need for redemption and *God's* need to share the Good News. Emmaus is intended to give provide an extreme makeover, divine style.

But there are at least two ways we can disrupt God's makeover process. One is thinking too *much* of ourselves. It's pride, with a capital 'P' in the middle. Pride convinces us that *we* are in control, that *we* know best. I'm sure

we can all relate ways in which our ego got in the way of God's plan.

The second thing that can disrupt God's extreme makeover process is thinking too *little* of ourselves. We let the world convince us that we are not good enough. Frankly, 24/7/365 the world is begging us to change: eat this, drink that, work out, lose weight, watch this, read that, medicate yourself with this, wear that. And look at the so-called "reality" shows that dominate our television ratings.

On the original *Extreme Makeover*, tens of thousands of dollars were spent on plastic surgery, dental work, cosmetics, hair stylists, and clothes to makeover someone's appearance. But that kind of beauty is little more than skin-deep. If instead we allow God to perform the makeover, our beauty will be reflected in our heart, our soul, and our life, and that kind of beauty defies age and appearance.

On *American Idol* contestants compete to makeover their struggling singing careers. One so-called "judge" prefers rude ridicule to common courtesy. And at the end of the competition, there is only one winner; everyone else is usually a **loser!** Instead, if we allow God to perform the

makeover, we can all be winners, because we have a Judge who loves us and the Judge's son to vouch for us.

On *Survivor* and *The Apprentice* people scheme and plot to win favor for themselves and to discredit their competitors. They often allow a slim chance at wealth or power to make them over into self-absorbed backstabbers. Those who don't adapt are sent home early. Instead, if we allow God to perform the makeover, we'll never be voted off the island, and we'll all be much more than mere survivors. If we strive to become God's apprentice, He will never point his finger at us and say "You're fired." And unlike the TV show, the riches we receive as God's apprentice we *can* take with us to heaven!

God yearns for us to experience His extreme makeover. We need to surrender. But we need to stop *surrendering* to a lower power, the worldly one that is constantly trying to drag us down to its level, and start *surrendering* to a higher power. Real power comes from God and lies in piety—giving our heart, study—giving our mind and will, and Christian action—giving our body. Sound familiar?

—Jim Birch

**Going Fourth** is published four to 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](mailto: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.



Mid-Michigan Emmaus Community  
P.O. Box 1024  
Midland, MI 48641-1024