



January/February/March 2009

www.midmichiganemmaus.com

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

Welcome to the new members of the Emmaus Board of Directors

Donna Jo Varner

As a member of Hope United Methodist Church for 30 years I served as Sunday School Superintendent for 22 years, Vacation Bible School Director for approximately 18 years, Sunday School Teacher and Methodist Youth Adviser for 10-15 years. During my Emmaus Walk #75, 1995 in Wyandotte, I came to realize the importance of presence of God's purpose for my life. I served as Registrar for the Mid Michigan Emmaus Community for 3 years, participated in Emmaus Walks in various supportive roles which again strengthened my walk with the Lord. My daughter, Jo drew me to Chrysalis Flights, which re-energized me as I witnessed God's work in the hearts of today's youth. Now being asked to serve on the Emmaus Board brings me great joy. I am anxious to serve the Lord, to do His will and am anxious to learn what He has in store. I have two children. Jo and her husband Lawrence Adams live in Midland with 2 children. Blaine and his wife Kristi Varner live in Columbus, OH and have 4 children.

Michelle Hart

Hello my name is Michelle Hart and I took walk #44 in Caro

and sat at the table of Shiloh.

I have been a church secretary for West Michigan Avenue United Methodist Church for the last 7 years and have my hands in everything there. I have served as Board of Trustee's Chair and as their financial secretary for the last 3 years. I work with the children's program called the "ROCK" which is held on Sunday afternoons and is set up as an inner city program with the children in our neighborhood. I am also involved with the Youth program which is starting up late January. I sing in the praise band at our church also. I am married to Carl Hart who also took his walk in Caro and we have two children, a 16 year old son and a 15 year old daughter. I joined the board to be part of something so spiritually filling to the soul that I couldn't stay away. I am just a person that needs to be part of others life and be here for them when I am called upon. God Bless.

Kevin Wolfgang

Recently retired, Kevin Wolfgang is Member at Large on his church board and is currently pursuing a local minister license through his church. Kevin has

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Candlelight Services

MME Men's Walk #49

March 7, 2009

start gathering at 8:00 p.m.
Trinity United Methodist Church,
Sebewaing

MME Women's Walk #50

March 21, 2009

start gathering at 8:00 p.m.
Trinity United Methodist Church,
Sebewaing

Gatherings and Hoots

For more gathering information contact John Dwyer (989-426-0481 or jngdwyer@ejourney.com).

- **Saturday, March 28** – Trinity UMC, Sebewaing, at 4:00 p.m. POSTWALK & COMMUNITY GATHERING
- **Friday, April 3** – AuGres UMC at 7:00 p.m.
- **Friday, May 1** – Caro UMC at 7:00 p.m.
- **Friday, June 5** – Midland: Aldersgate UMC at 7:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, July 11** – Gladwin UMC PICNIC

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

Walks and Flights

MME Men's Walk #51

September 24-27, 2009

Tawas United Methodist Church,
Tawas City
Lay director to be announced.

MME Women's Walk #52

October 1-4, 2009

Tawas United Methodist Church,
Tawas City
Lay director to be announced.



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been married to his bride Angie 32 years and together they have 3 children all boys, Ryan 30, Brandon 28 and Jordan 17 who is still resides at home. Kevin attended



(from left to right: Donna Jo Varner, Michelle Hart, Kevin Wolfgang, Dean Royal, and John Dwyer.)

mid-Michigan Emmaus walk 45 and sat at the table of Luke. And according to Kevin, his walk; "Was the most spiritually reward-

ing and liberating experience in my life so far!" Kevin submitted his name for nomination because he says; "Too many people go to their grave with their music still in them." He wants to make sure he uses his talents to glorify God and benefit mankind.

Dean Royal

My name is Dean Royal and I took my walk in Sept. 2006 at Tawas and sat at the table of Levi. I reside in Hemlock with my wife of 23 years Nancy, my daughter Morgan 21 and my son Marshall 19. I am a member of the Hemlock United Methodist Church, and am currently a member of the Board of Trustees. I wanted to be on the Mid-Michigan Emmaus Board because of what the Emmaus walks have meant to me. It is so wonderful to be involved with

such good people, with the love of God, and others. I like being a part of that and look forward to sharing the experience with others.

John Dwyer

My name is John Dwyer, I took walk # 39 in the Detroit Conf. Emmaus Community in 1990 and sat at the table of John. I am a retired plumber who now lives in Gladwin Michigan with Gladys my wife of 50 years. I am Secretary of the UMM and the Trustee's. I am also involved in Gladwin First UMC's jail ministry.

I have been on an Emmaus Board for 15 years. (I guess I ran again so I can get it right.) I'm grandfathered in as being the Emmaus Registrar so if you would like that position you will have to wait until I die.

2009 Mid-Michigan Emmaus Board of Directors

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 Vice Chair/ Team Selection
 Site Selection
 Community lay Director

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LIVING A LEGACY (Running the Race)

Philippians 3:12-16

Many of you have probably heard of leaving a legacy. What I would like to share with you today is that we cannot leave a legacy unless we are daily living a legacy.

There are 5 essentials that we need in our lives for living a legacy and one day receiving the reward that is promised. In the scripture that was just read Paul is exercising the spiritual mind; he is looking at things on earth from God's point of view. As a result, he is not upset by things behind him, around him, or before him—things do not rob him of his joy!

All of us want to be "winning Christians" and fulfill the purpose for which we have been saved. And the five essentials that we need to do this are; dissatisfaction, devotion, direction, determination and discipline. These are all described in this passage and I hope to explain in detail how we are to live our lives by Living A Legacy.

The 1st essential is:

1. Dissatisfaction (3:12-13a) "Not that I have already attained!"

This is a statement of a great Christian who never permitted himself to be satisfied with his spiritual attainments. Obviously, Paul was satisfied with Jesus, but he was not satisfied with his Christian life.

Another example of this is a short story:

Harry came out of the manager's office with a look on his face dismal enough to wilt the roses on the secretary's desk.

"You didn't get fired?" she asked.

"No, its not that bad. But he sure did lay into me about my sales record. I can't figure it out; for the past month I've been bringing in plenty of orders. I thought he'd compliment me, but instead he told me to get with it."

Later that day, the secretary talked to her boss about Harry. The boss chuckled. "Harry is one of our best salesman and I'd hate to lose him. But he has a tendency to rest on his laurels and be satisfied with his performance. If I didn't get him mad at me once a month, he'd never produce!"

Many Christians are self-satisfied because they compare their "living" with that of other Christians. Paul did not compare himself with others; he compared himself with himself and with Jesus Christ. As a Christian we should honestly evaluate our self and strive to do better. A divine dissatisfaction is essential for spiritual progress. "As the deer pants after the water brooks, so pants my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God." (Ps. 42:1-2)

We always want to strive to do better, to be better, to be more Christ like.

The 2nd essential is:

2) Devotion (3:13—"this one thing I do")

"One thing" is a phrase that is important to the Christian life. "One thing thou lackest," said Jesus to the self-righteous rich young ruler (Mark 10: 21). "One thing is needful," He explained to busy Martha when she criticized her sister (Luke 10:42). "One thing

I know!" explained the man who had received his sight by the power of Christ (John 9:25). "One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after!" testified the psalmist (Ps. 27:4).

Many Christians today are involved in "many things," when the secret of progress is to concentrate on "one thing." It was this decision that was a turning point in D. L. Moody's life. Before the tragedy of the Chicago fire in 1871, Mr. Moody was involved in Sunday School promotion, Y.M.C.A. work, evangelistic meetings, and many other activities; but after the fire, he determined to devote himself exclusively to evangelism. "This one thing I do!" became a reality to him. As a result, millions of people heard the Gospel.

We must devote our self to "running the Christian race." No athlete succeeds by doing everything: he succeeds by specializing. There are those few athletes who seem proficient in many sports, but they are the exception. The winners are those who concentrate, who keep their eyes on the goal and let nothing distract them. They are devoted to their calling. Concentration is the secret of power. If a river is allowed to overflow its banks, the area around it becomes a swamp. But if the river is dammed and controlled, it becomes a source of power. It is wholly a matter of values and priorities, living for that which matters most. It is being devoted to that "one thing."

The 3rd essential is:

3. Direction (3:13b) "forgetting

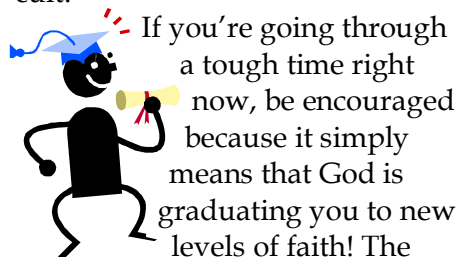
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Tests and Graduating

Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

We are living in difficult, challenging times, but God is faithful. I don't know about you, but it seems that the tests we're going through are getting harder and harder. Do you remember when you took tests in high school? At the time they may have seemed hard. But imagine if you had to take an elementary school test when you were in high school. You'd probably think - oh this is so simple.

So if it seems that the testing of your faith is more intense - it simply means that you're graduating to new levels of faith! Our faith is being tested, and as we pass each "faith" test, we're finding different means of being tested. I suppose in a few years, we'll look back and think to ourselves - wow that was a hard test, but now it doesn't look so difficult!



harder the tests, the greater difficulty - the greater the reward, an increased blessing awaits you! Stay focused, stay alert and remember that God is trying to stretch your faith so that you can accomplish even more for God's Kingdom!

Praise God for Emmaus/Chrysalis Communities where the blessings of God are extended to bring life and hope now (as one ventures on a weekend) and forevermore (as our 4th days extend to our eternal hope of glory).

Rev. Mark D. Miller
Mid-Michigan Chrysalis Spiritual Director



Wanted: Chrysalis Flight Sponsors

Hey! We need YOU!! Yes, YOU!

You can be a sponsor for a youth in one of the upcoming Chrysalis Flights for this spring/summer. They would love the experience and you will be so glad you did it! Chrysalis is for teens who are a sophomore in High School through freshmen in college.

Hoots are the teen version of gatherings and we try to have one every couple of months. March 6-7 from 8 pm to 8 am at Aldersgate United Methodist Church we will be having a sports themed lock-in. We will be going putt-putt golfing, watching sports movies and eating! Kids are asked to bring a snack to share and a 2 liter of pop or juice. All kids who are of the Chrysalis age group are invited to participate whether or not they have been on a flight.

Chrysalis Flight plans are still

in the making for this spring and summer, we will post information as soon as we get it. If you have any questions, please contact me by email,

paultman@ejourney.com or by cell (989) 737-7621. Reverend Mark Miller is the Community Spiritual Director and his contact information is (989) 430-0954, or revmarkmiller@yahoo.com we are both happy to answer any questions you may have and are looking forward to some awesome flights in 2009!

God loves you and so do I,

Michelle Sultman
Mid-Michigan Chrysalis Community Lay Director



Join A Prayer Vigil

An easy yet meaningful way to support all the Emmaus Walks and Chrysalis Flights is to be a part of the 72 hour Prayer Vigil! Don't be scared to take one of those least desirable times of the night to pray, at our age, we are probably suffering from insomnia anyway and what better way to spend our time? If you would like to be called upon to be a part of the prayer vigil, please contact me by email paultman@ejourney.com or by phone, (989) 737-7621 and I will be so happy to put you on the list! If you don't contact me, beware, I may find you anyway and ask you to pray at 2:00 am!! Call first to get your preferred time!



Prayer Vigil Chair,
Michelle Sultman

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those things which are behind"

The unsaved person is controlled by the past, but the Christian running the race looks toward the future. We are accustomed to saying "past present, future," but I think that we should view time as flowing from the future into the present and then into the past. At least, the believer should be future-oriented, "forgetting those things which are behind." Bible terminology, "to forget" means to "no longer to be influenced by or affected by." It simply means that we break the power of the past, but by living for the future. We cannot change the past, but we can change the meaning of the past. The events of the past do not change, but the understanding of those events does change.

A good example of this principle is Joseph. When he met his brothers the second time and revealed himself to them, he held no grudge against them. Yes, they had done him wrong, but he saw the past from God's eyes. As a result he wasn't able to hold it against them. Joseph knew that God had a plan for his life—a race to run—and in filling that plan and looking ahead, he broke the power of the past.

The 4th essential is:

4. Determination (3:14) "I press on"

Translated this means "I follow after." The Greeks used this to describe a hunter eagerly perusing his prey. The same zeal that Paul had when he persecuted the Church, he displayed in serving Christ. Wouldn't it be wonderful if all Christians put as much de-

termination into their spiritual life as we do our golfing, fishing, shopping or watching our favorite TV program? What would happen to this world that we live in if; we lived our Christian lives as Paul lived his?

The Christian living a legacy with a spiritual mind realizes that God must work in us if we are to win the race. God works in us that He might work through us. As we apply ourselves to the things of the spiritual life, God is able to mature us and strengthen us for living a legacy.

What should be our goal in living a legacy with such spiritual determination? "The prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" When we reach the goal, we will receive the reward! The important thing is that we reach the goal He has established for us. The only way that we can reach the goal is thru determination.

The 5th essential is:

5. Discipline (3:15-16)

It is not enough to just run hard and win the race; we must also obey the rules. In the Greek games, the judges were very strict about this. Any infringement of the rules disqualified the athlete. He did not lose his citizenship, but he did lose his privilege to participate and win the prize. In verses 15 and 16, Paul emphasizes the importance of the Christian remembering the "spiritual rules" laid down in the Word.

One of the greatest athletes ever to come out of the U. S. was Jim Thorpe. At the 1912 Olympics at Stockholm, he won the pentathlon and the decathlon, and was undoubtedly the hero of the games. But the next year officials found that Thorpe had played semipro-

fessional baseball and therefore had forfeited his amateur standing. This meant that he had to return his gold medals and his trophy, and his Olympic achievements were erased from the records. It was a high price to pay for breaking the rules.

Christian maturity involves acting on the guidance that you have already received. We can always make excuses that we still have so much to learn. The instruction for us is to live up to what we already know and live out what we have already learned. We do not have to be sidetracked by an unending search for truth.

In 2 Timothy 2:3-7 says; Endure hardship with us like a soldier of Christ Jesus—he wants to please his commanding officer. Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. The hard-working farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.

Paul used a comparison to soldiers, athletes, and farmers who must discipline themselves and be willing to sacrifice to achieve the results they want. Like soldiers, we have to give up worldly security and endure rigorous discipline. Like athletes, we must train hard and follow the rules. Like farmers, we must work extremely hard and be patient. But we keep going despite suffering because of the thought of victory, the vision of winning, and the hope of harvest. We will see that our suffering is worthwhile when we achieve our goal of glorifying God, winning people to Christ, and one day living eternally with him.

Dan Smith

Community Lay Director

Use Your Musical Abilities

Calling all people who know how to play a guitar, flute, banjo, ukelele, accordion, spoons...



anything! You are desperately needed at any and all gatherings and candlelight services! I know a lot of you will not respond to this plea because

you will need a special invite - but, you are officially the Body of Christ and you are to be Jesus here on earth and boy, do we

need you! Men's Candlelight services suffer the most and that is so sad! We need to be there to support our men and encourage them on their walk. Won't you please consider bringing your instrument, candle and voice to the next candlelight service and support our new community members? We would love to see you there!

Out-going Candlelight Chair,
Michelle Sultman

Information Update

Moved, changed phone numbers, or e-mail addresses in the last few years? It is so very hard to put together a walk, 76 hour prayer vigil, gathering etc., without current community information. *PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE*, update your information, with a board member.

Have pity on the Emmaus volunteers who are doing GOD's work to further His kingdom. Also get a volunteer form from the Mid-Michigan Emmaus Website (www.midmichiganemmaus.com) and get out of the boat, take that step of faith.

THANK YOU and
GOD thanks you.

Agape Acrostic - Please be in prayer for the ways the Lord wants you to show agape love to the pilgrims of Walks #49 & #50.

- A** - Agape Love is shown in many ways:
- G** - Gifts of Agape to be handed out over the weekends.
- A** - Add your name to the 76 hour Prayer Vigils.
- P** - Your Presence at the Candlelight Services.
- E** - Edibles are needed for the snack times over the weekends!

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, Teresa Camilleri at 989-832-2563 or tkcamill@aol.com. **Thank you to the following for their contribution to this newsletter:** Jennifer Gertz, graphic design and layout, and Mashue Printing, printing and distribution.

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