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Encouraging and inspiring the members of the Mid-Michigan Emmaus and Chrysalis Communities to "Go Fourth" on Their Fourth Day.

Season's Greetings,

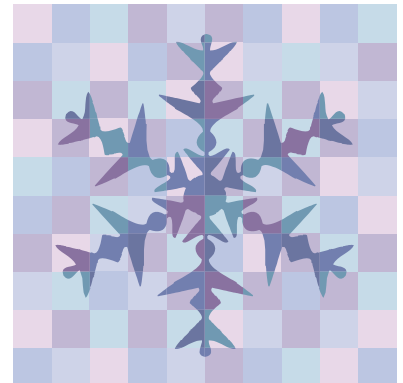
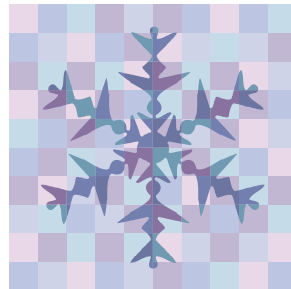
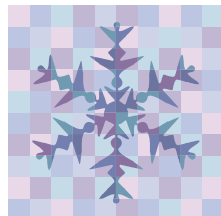
As we approach the holidays I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May Christ bless you the remainder of this year and may you have a healthy and prosperous New Year!

As we look forward to 2012, I want to thank each of you for your prayers and support in 2011. We the board, have been challenged in 2011 and we have felt your love and support, we ask for your continued prayers and support in 2012. As a community we have made much progress and there is still much work ahead. And we cannot make the impact for Christ alone. We need each of you to join us in this journey. I would also like to request that you, as a valued part of our community renew your commitment to Emmaus by updating your service information, either through the database, e-mail, or a phone call. There are many service opportunities and we welcome the help!

Actions taken in 2011 have positioned us to become an even larger more vibrant community from which the light of Christ can shine and I am honored to have been the community lay leader during such an exciting time in our history. It is all because of the grace of Christ and your much appreciated support that we continue to grow and spread the Good News to others for the glory of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

God's Blessings,

Kevin Wolfgang



Gatherings and Hoots

For more Gathering information, contact Emerson Sitts at 989-842-3496.

For Hoot information, contact Alissa Hooper at godspinkdressgrl@yahoo.com.

Walks and Flights

Spring

MME Men's Walk #61

March 15-18, 2012

Caro UMC

670 Gilford Rd.

MME Women's Walk #62

March 22-25

Caro UMC

670 Gilford Rd.



Welcome Chrysalis Community Members

We would like to take this time to welcome the new Butterflies from Flights #29 & #30 from West Michigan Avenue UMC in Saginaw.

Girl's Flight #29

KC Pangborn
Morgan Weaver
Michayla Banning
Bree Deneen
Kendall Pridemore
Lindsay Beebe
Emily Krohn

Boy's Flight #30

David Foster
Zion LaLonde
Dylan Nichols
Nolan Thornton
Brett Stafford
Gavin Owen
Zachary Carter
Andrew Kline
Trayvone Garrett
Angelo Stell
Mitchell Miller
Zach Helfrich



Christmas Art

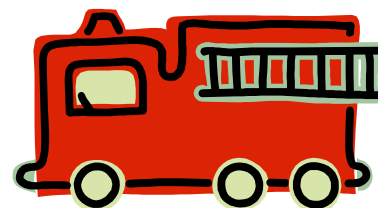
A few years ago at Christmastime, there was an art contest held in an elementary school in East Texas.

One entry was a picture drawn by a six year old boy showing three men, offering gifts to the baby Jesus in his manger. What made the picture unique was the way the gifts were being presented to the baby Jesus...

The men were riding in a fire engine.

The principle asked the boy about his decision to draw the fire engine and the boy, in his heavy East-Texas accent, was quick to reply:

"Well, the Bible says the wise men came from a-far!!"



Christmas Gathering!

Location: Countryside United Brethren church, 4762 S. 11 Mile Road, Breckenridge

Date: Saturday, December 2nd

Time: 6:00 p.m.

We will be celebrating with a potluck...surprise!!! So bring your favorite dish to pass. Before and after dinner there will be plenty of warm fellowship and sharing our warm Christmas blessings. We will be singing our favorite Christmas songs and celebrating Jesus birthday! After all, we all know that "Jesus is the Reason for the Season"! I look forward and enjoy so much just talking and finding out what amazing things that Christ has blessed you with this past year. So please join me in this celebration of the birth of Jesus. God Loves You And So Do I! Emer

If you have any questions you can call me at 989-842-3496 or email Kevin Wolfgang at kswolfgang@charter.net

Things Aren't Always As They Appear

Most of us see a group of sailboats on the water and think, 'how beautiful'. But, actually, they are in a serious race. When sailboats race together and they are in unequal classes, they use something called a Portsmouth Rating. It's a handicap that is applied to the time taken to sail any course, and the corrected time can be used to compare widely different sailboats on even terms.

For example, a boat that finished in 100 minutes with a Portsmouth rating of 1.2 would receive a 120 min. time. Whereas, another boat that finished in 100 minutes with a Portsmouth rating of .8 would receive a time of 80 min. So in this case, two boats that finished together did not have equal sailors. The one with a Portsmouth of .8 (which is a slower boat) was piloted by a much stronger sailor and it would receive the winning time. Onlookers of this race would assume these boats are equal; but that is far from the truth.

Now consider these ideas for us as Christians. Our bodies and talents are the vessel. Our will and faithfulness are the sailor. Clearly, we all have different capabilities. Possibly, God has his own Portsmouth rating for us and we shouldn't ever think that we have arrived because obviously, the one we think is performing poorly may be called to the thrown ahead of us because they did great things with what they were given. Like we saw with the boats, onlookers could see a boat finish last but the Portsmouth rating could put him in first place. We as Christians can also be like the onlookers of the race when we look at others and judge them. We have our own way of lining people up in order of greatest to least. But oh how different, we all would look if we could see the order after a Portsmouth rating.

All of this makes me humble. It keeps me from comparing to others. God knows each of our Portsmouth ratings. It makes me wonder if I am using all of my qualities to their full potential. What about you?

"Judge not, yest ye be judged." "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."

"To whom much is given, much is expected."

"If they're doing our work, leave them alone."

"We are condemned by our judgement."

Christmas Every Day

You have Christmas every day. Your gift might not be toys or books, but God himself! *His work on the cross and in the resurrection is a gift.* As a result, your sin brings no guilt, and the grave brings no fear. *His energy is a gift.* You can do all things through Christ, who gives you strength. *His lordship is a gift.* He is in charge of you and looks out for you. *His love is a gift.* What can separate you from it? Who could imagine such gifts? Who could imagine not opening them? ~Max Lucado~

As Children of God, my prayer is that each of you will not forget to open the gifts you ALREADY have through Christ Jesus. As you are preparing yourself for the holiday remember that sometimes the best gift you can give to someone might just be to remind them of the gifts they already have and maybe you can help them open one!! A gift that will last forever! Merry Christmas to you all! May God bless you the whole year through. GLYASDI.....Lisa Lagalo



Twenty One Women of God

We want to welcome the 21 women from walk # 60 to the community of Mid-Michigan Emmaus. God loves you and so do we!

Diane Venzke

Ann Reid

Heather Krueger

Sharon Egresics

Aleda Gilmore

Joanne Trombley

Charlene Morris

Jean Larkin

Joy Beebe

Judy Nixon

Jackie Noykos

Linda Montei

Patricia Weingartz

Roxanne Krohn

Connie Iafrate

Wendy Coon

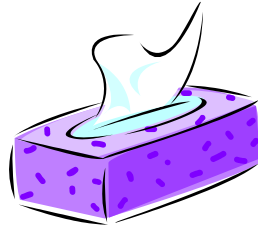
Wendi Addis

Nancy Genta

Carol Long

Janis Schweinsberg

Lisa Silva



Agape

Providing agape gifts throughout the weekend is actually being the helping hands of God to ensure that every pilgrim experiences the provisions of God's love. It is establishing the environment and atmosphere of God's unconditional love and grace that inspires, heals, and transforms.

Four types of agape are needed throughout the weekend: general agape, snack agape, table agape and personal agape. Let me describe each.

General Agape: Letters declaring God's love from around the world.

Snack Agape: Snacks provided throughout the weekend (water, soda, fruit, cookies, veggies).

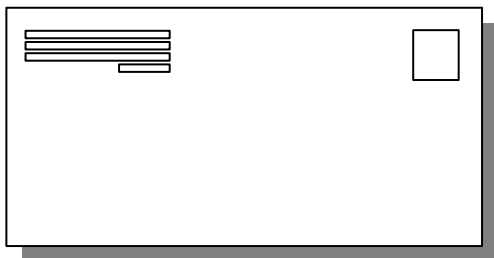
Table Agape: A small gift put at each person's place on the dining tables throughout the weekend. These may also be placed on the pilgrim's pillow. Remember, table agape expresses God's unconditional love. Individual names attached to the gift draw attention away from God's love. Agape with individual's names implies the giver desires recognition or thanks.

Personal Agape: Letters solicited by sponsors from family and friends (not to exceed 8-12).

Make note of the next walk on your calendars: Men's Walk March 15-18, 2012; Women's Walk March 22-25, 2012.

Enjoy time with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to be the helping hand of God to ensure that every pilgrim experiences God's love.

Donna Jo Varner



Christ is counting on you

Yes these words are on the back of the crosses we received when we took our Walk. I got mine in September 2005 in Bay City where I sat at the table of Ezra. Since then I have worked 3 Emmaus Walks and one Chrysalis. I have also sponsored several Pilgrims. I felt that I had been responding to the call of Christ.

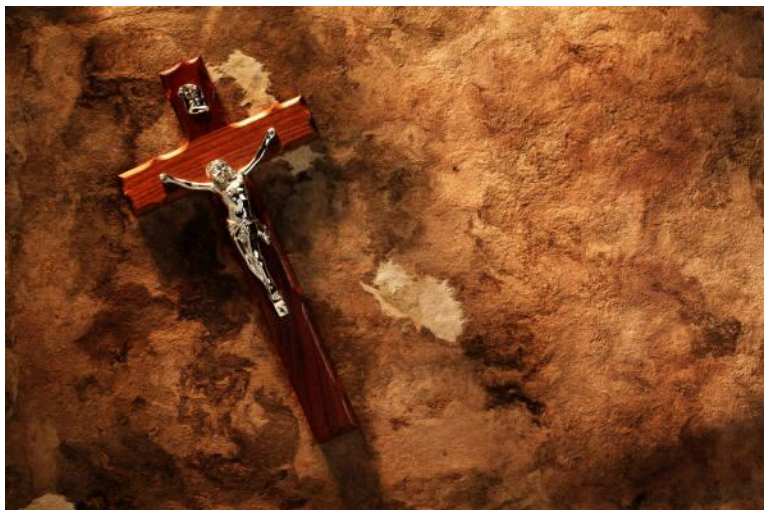
Last November, I sent a letter to Mid-Michigan Emmaus and requested that I would like to be on the Board. In January of this year, I attended my first Board meeting and they asked me if I would take the Site Selection position. I said yes.

Up to that time, I had assumed that every board position had a Board member and also a committee of Emmaus members to assist the chairman in the duties of the position that they held. Boy the saying of “Don’t anticipate” that I had heard so often when I took my Walk. I found out that we did not have committee members working with us. When we had our training meeting last month with Emmaus trainees from Nashville, I found out that each of us should have a working committee.

For almost a year, I have been struggling to grasp the knowledge that I should have had. My mistake was that I did not offer to Ed Orzel my willingness to help him the last few years when he had been the chairman of Site Selection. I would have gleaned the necessary knowledge to do my job.

So now, I am appealing to the Emmaus community, if you would like to respond to the call of Christ, please let me know of your willingness to help me and your Emmaus Board do our job. We have 14 other chairmen who need a committee to assist them in our work, according to our trainees from Nashville. My email is llowe@avci.net. Let me know of your willingness to help on Mid-Michigan Site Selection Committee. Contact Kevin Wolfgang, kswolfgang@charter.net to help another committee chairman. Kevin will see that you will be joining an Emmaus committee. We need YOU and Christ Needs YOU.

Remember, Christ is counting on YOU!



The Emmaus Board is looking for new candidates.

Did you know every year, there is a turnover of board members? Board position terms are 3 years. These terms are staggered so that we always have new and experienced members.

Responsibilities of a board member include monthly meetings in Midland, one individual responsibility (supplies, treasurer, music, newsletter, secretary, site selection, team selection, prayer vigil, agape, etc.)

This is a great opportunity to serve our Emmaus community!

Please prayerfully consider running and contact Kevin Wolfgang if you are willing.

kswolfgang76@yahoo.com

*Going Fourth is published four 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, Mary Wheeler at mwheeler@gmail.com. Thank you to the following for their contribution to this newsletter: **Print Express, printing and distribution.***



As you follow the light of Christmas

May His love shine forever in your life.

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