

Jackson Area Emmaus Affiliate  
Vandercook Missionary Church  
511 E. McDevitt  
Jackson, MI 49203

**Return Service Requested**



**COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER  
March/April/May 2014**

**Community Gatherings**

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month - Brookside United Methodist Church (please bring a passing dish)

**Board Meetings**

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the Month  
Brookside United Methodist Church – 6:30 PM

**2013 Emmaus Walks**

**Men's Walk – May 1-4, 2014**

**Women's Walk – October 2-5, 2014**

## From Our Community Lay Director



### Performance Review -

At work we are in the middle of our annual cycle of learning how we did last year (performance wise) and setting goals for next year's performance. It can be a painful process, but if you don't have feedback on how you are doing, how do you improve?

We spend a lot of time discussing why attendance at Emmaus events is off. I have been with the Jackson Community now for ten years and we are constantly trying to get enough pilgrims to hold walks and have canceled a couple due to lack of pilgrims. Attendance at Emmaus gatherings has been in a steady decline. There are fewer fourth day groups (at least advertised groups).

I would like to hear from the community.

Tell me why you no longer participate in Emmaus, be it as a sponsor, auxiliary member, attendee at gathering etc. Tell me what we (the board) are doing wrong. Or what am I doing wrong. Be brutal, be honest, be specific.

I would prefer to be able to discuss comments with you so I am sure I understand the issue fully. You can email me comments at [cld@jacksonemmaus.org](mailto:cld@jacksonemmaus.org) or call me at 517-262-3332.

If you do not wish to discuss the comments, you are welcome to send them via snail mail at :

Randy Herrick  
12641 W Michigan Ave  
Parma, MI 49269

But if you do wish to discuss the issue please be very specific about the issue.

Randy Herrick  
Community Lay Director



### 2014 Walks

The men's spring walk has been rescheduled to May 1-4; okay Valentine's weekend was a bad idea. The walk is still at Jackson First Presbyterian Church. Cutoff date for registering pilgrims is April 17<sup>th</sup>. **Please get you applications in now.**

The women's fall walk has been scheduled for October 2-5 at Cornerstone Christian Church. **It is not too early to register ladies for this walk!**

## From Our Community Spiritual Director



In the movies Groundhog Day and 50 First Dates, the main characters live the same day over and over again until something happens to change them in the loop of repetition. At that point, they have the opportunity to delve into a new chapter of life.

I have often felt that this particular Michigan winter is like that. We repeat the same long, hard, brutal winter weather until something breaks. Unfortunately, there's often a slip on the ice in a fall. We break a face, a pelvis or worse. Why does God let us fall, either physically or metaphorically? I like to think God is not a sadist. I would like to think that God wants to make us tougher and better and allows these things to happen to us sometimes in our lives.

If I were God, I would come up with a different method for toughening people up. When we watch those whom we love go through these experiences, and not just ourselves, our hearts would break.

The Joshua tree grows in the desert. It received its name from the original Mormon settlers who crossed the Mojave Desert in the mid-19th century. The tree's unique shape reminded them of a Biblical story in which Joshua reaches his hands up to the sky in prayer. Joshua trees usually do not branch until after they bloom (though branching may also occur if the growing tip is destroyed by the yucca-boring weevil), and they do not bloom every year. Like most desert plants, their blooming is dependent on rainfall at the proper time. They also need a winter freeze before they will bloom.

God "invented" the Joshua tree. If it survives the rigors of the desert it can live for hundreds of years with some specimens surviving up to a thousand years. New plants can grow from seed, but in some populations, new stems grow from underground rhizomes that spread out around the Joshua tree.

God invented us. As we survive the rigor of this Michigan winter freeze we do so with our hands lifted up to God in prayer and by trusting in each other for help and nourishment like the extensive underground root system of the Joshua tree. This is how God wants to toughen us up. God wants us to trust him for our strength. We will survive this Michigan winter and like the Joshua tree bloom and thrive together!

Pastor Jim Hegedus

## Thoughts on Sponsorship



As I sit and pray about the upcoming walks, I close my eyes; I take a deep breath in (breath in the Spirit), and then I exhale slowly (breathing out self). I pray for the Lord to guide me to whoever it is that I am supposed to sponsor, wherever that may be and however that may happen. In addition

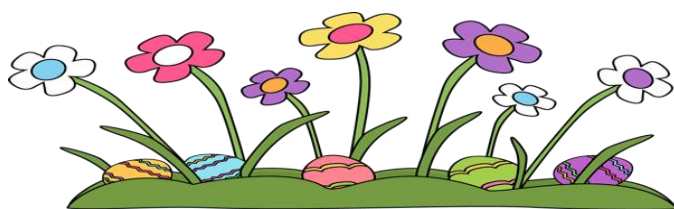
to this, I also ask that the Lord put the right words in my mouth in order to display love, kindness, understanding, and excitement about what could and will happen on their walk.

I also have to pray that even though my walk was very special to me, that I will be open to listen to the concerns that my future pilgrim may have about a walk. We, as sponsors, need to remember how excited and nervous we were when we were asked to go on our walk. When I am talking with one or a group of potential pilgrims about the walk, I go through the weekend by the day and tell them what each day will entail, and what is expected of them for that day. Of course I don't tell about the special events that may occur, but everything else, I tell...that way they know exactly what to expect. We go over in detail any special needs that they may need, or want.

It is very important as a Sponsor, to go over the form thoroughly in order to get everything filled in properly. The main thing is the special needs or allergies. This is extremely important for the Head Cook on the walk and the Auxiliary Heads so that we can provide what the pilgrims need in order for them to have the best experience possible as they take their Walk to Emmaus.

It is always exciting to know you have a pilgrim for a walk, but we need to remember that this is their walk, not ours!! Pray daily for that pilgrim before and after you have found who it is that the Lord wants on the walk as pilgrims. We had to once again cancel a walk because there were not enough pilgrims to attend. Granted timing may not have been the best, but let's pray and fill up the Men's Walk in May!!

God Bless you all,  
Sue Miller



## Mail Room Musings



*Agape questions and answers:*

### How many Agape should be prepared?

36 pillow  
60 conference room

### When should I drop off Agape?

Preferably Thursday Night - but PLEASE no later than Friday.

### How do should letters be marked and/or bundled?

Pilgrims ONLY receive 7-10 letters at the table on Sunday.

The rest of their letters are given to them by their sponsor at pick-up/closing.

MARK CLEARLY (on the bottom of outside envelopes or rubber-band letters together indicating WHICH ONES ARE MOST VALUABLE TO PILGRIM) i.e. - spouse, pastor, kids, best friend, parents, sponsor, etc.

If you have a special time/area/talk that you want your Agape to be given - PLEASE mark clearly! Don't "just tell" the Mail Room staff - write it down! PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE!

Thank you!  
Jenni Whitford

## Emmaus Prayer Chain



**FYI:** We have an Emmaus Email Prayer Chain. If you have a prayer concern, send it to:  
[jackson.emmaus.prayer.chain@gmail.com](mailto:jackson.emmaus.prayer.chain@gmail.com)

If you wish to become an Emmaus Prayer Warrior, let us know and we will add you to our group. We believe in the power of prayer.

Don and Jo Jensen



## Greetings from our Music Director -

With the walk canceled until May for the men, the joint walk with Kalamazoo in March and the Fall walk coming at us, I find myself thinking about all the opportunities we have to sing and praise our Lord, and that includes our gatherings for the community.

I understand our community coming together in order to help put on a walk. But, I think we need to also bring more energy into our community, during the down time between walks. So, I want to do something different in my notes and encourage those of you who haven't been to a gathering in a while to come and bring your special gifts to gatherings. The Lord certainly knows who needs to be there, as He plans that. However, it has become discouraging for some of us to try and keep going, when you're not there to give us some of your Joy of the Lord. Please make a point of coming back, finding out what is going on in the community and singing with us when we lead you in song. That way too, you can be gaining a dose of the Holy Spirit to get you through whatever struggles you may be experiencing, or share in the Joy of serving in Him.

Bea Furman.

**Easter says ...  
you can put truth in a grave,  
but it won't stay there.  
~Clarence W. Hall**



sayingsplus.com

## Add Your Support

**FOR OUR  
NEW  
BOARD  
MEMBERS**

As you're newly appointed Secretary for the Board as well as Auxiliary Head, I'd like to ask for your support. The roll of Secretary is in familiar territory but as Auxiliary Head, I will need a lot of help from the Emmaus Community as well as patience. I am looking forward to working with the board and as well as its newer members. I had a great honor of being the Lay Director on the last Women's Walk in October and being on the Board gives me the opportunity to give back, so to speak, to the Emmaus Community that has always been there for me. Thank you all and I look forward to working with all of you.

Deb Spicer



When I (God) decided that this position was what I had been looking for, my goal became to hopefully get more Emmaus members involved in the monthly gatherings, as well as preparing and attending the Emmaus Walks. We have over 2,000 members in this community, yet we have between 25 and 50 attending the monthly gatherings. When we go on our Emmaus walk, we are so excited and come home pumped up for "GOD." **What happens after that????** I have wondered that for years. The purpose of the 4<sup>th</sup> day gatherings is first and foremost to worship our Lord and Savior. It is also to make Emmaus members become more involved as leaders in their church and in the community and spread "GOD'S" word. It appears we are lacking in that aspect. When the gatherings are held, we eat, praise God with music, share prayers and praises and have communion. We are SERVING God, which is what Emmaus is all about. We need to step up to the plate and share ideas with one another and figure out a way to get more people, old members AND new members, more involved. Thank you and God bless each one of you!

Joyce Norman

The 3 C's of life:  
**CHOICES, CHANCES, CHANGES.**

You must make a  
choice to take a chance  
or your life will never change.

# Meet our New Board Members

## **Rick Danks – Registrar**

Hi, I am Rick Danks, the current Registrar for the Jackson Area Emmaus Community. I took my walk to Emmaus in October of 1994 at Calvary UMC in Jackson where I sat at the table of Nehemiah. Over the past 20 years, I have served in most positions in the conference room and had served on the auxiliary in most positions outside of the kitchen and mail room. I now attend Jackson Free Methodist Church, am the father of 2 sons and a daughter and live in Napoleon Township. I am employed as an electronics technician. Serving in Emmaus has allowed me move out of my comfort zone and trust God to guide my steps and words. GLYASDI, Rick

## **Joyce Norman – 4<sup>th</sup> Day Gathering Head**

Hi, I am Joyce Ann Norman, and have the great pleasure of joining the Emmaus Board as the new 4<sup>th</sup> Day Gathering Head. Rick and I currently attend Brookside United Methodist Church, where all gatherings are held. I became a member of Emmaus in November of 2002. I have been married to Rick for almost 22 years and I have two beautiful boys and six beautiful grandchildren.

## **Deb Spicer – Auxilliary Head and Secretary**

My name is Deb Spicer and I took my Walk to Emmaus in October of 1995 in Lansing, MI and sat at the table of Esther. I am a widow of just over 2 years now. I was married to my husband Jim for 38 years before he went home in November of 2011. I was born in Buffalo, NY and moved to Michigan when I got married in August of 1973. I have 3 grown married sons, Shawn (lives in Baltimore, MD) Christopher (Jackson, MI) and Nicholas (Clover, SC) and 2 beautiful grandson's, Jacob (13) and Lucas (7 mo.) and step-Granddaughter Shawwna. Jim and I had the pleasure of raising several nephews and nieces. I was raised in the Catholic Church and have been attending St. Rita's Catholic Church since we moved in this area from the Detroit area in 1979.



"Blessed are the meek," Jesus explained. Blessed are the available. Blessed are the conduits, the tunnels, the tools. Deliriously joyful are the ones who believe that if God has used sticks, rocks, and spit to do his will, then he can use us.

We would do well to learn a lesson from the rod, the rock, and the saliva. They didn't complain. They didn't question God's wisdom. They didn't suggest an alternative plan. Perhaps the reason the Father has used so many inanimate objects for his mission is that they don't tell him how to do his job!

from *The Applause of Heaven* by Max Lucado

## 2014 Jackson Area Emmaus Board of Directors

### Community Lay Director:

Randy Herrick (517) 262-3332  
cld@jacksonemmaus.org

### Asst. Community Lay Director:

Open

### Community Spiritual Director:

Pastor Jim Hegeudus (517) 740-2240  
jimh@jacksonfirstpres.com

### Asst. Spiritual Director:

Open

### Secretary:

Deb Spicer (517) 688-9604  
(517) 250-4868  
[spicerdebbie@hotmail.com](mailto:spicerdebbie@hotmail.com)

### Treasurer:

Dean Page (517) 768-1362  
Dean.page@ATT.net

### Auxiliary Head:

Deb Spicer (517)688-9604  
(517) 250-4868  
[spicerdebbie@hotmail.com](mailto:spicerdebbie@hotmail.com)

### Computer Records/Data Manager:

John Williams (517) 629-6768  
jwilliams@albion.edu

### Fourth Day/Gatherings

Joyce Norman (517) 914-5167  
[Joyce!norman0529@msn.com](mailto:Joyce!norman0529@msn.com)

### Kitchen:

Andy Crisenberry (517) 857-3461

### Mailroom/Agape:

Jennifer Whitford (517)745-1056  
jene@jacksonfirstpres.com

### Music:

Bea & Bert Furman  
[healingsongcmt@gmail.com](mailto:healingsongcmt@gmail.com)

### Newsletter:

Nancy Gage (517) 536-8164  
k\_gage25@comcast.net

### Prayer Vigil:

Kathryn Ames (517) 262-1014  
nurseames@hotmail.com

### Registrar:

Rick Danks (517) 536-4273  
[rcdanks@comcast.net](mailto:rcdanks@comcast.net)

### Site Selections/Building/Tear Down:

Butch Walker (517) 914-0536

### Sponsor's

### Hour/Candlelight/Closing:

Chuck Tuckey  
CRTuckey@aol.com

### Supplies/Trailer Coordinator:

Sue Miller  
m1lrt1me@hotmail.com

**Please use your Board. We are here to serve you. If you are unable to contact a Board member, feel free to email, write, or call me. I'll be glad to help in any way I can.**

**Randy Herrick, Community Lay Director**

