

MAY/JUNE 2015

Fox Valley Walk to Emmaus

Wisconsin, usa



FOX VALLEY COMMUNITY NEWS

Welcome Pilgrims from FVWTE #17 and #18

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Gathering

Saturday, June 20th, 2015

Asbury UMC

6101 University Ave.

Madison, WI 53705

11am – Board meeting

1pm – Fellowship and Potluck lunch

1:45pm – Praise and worship

Upper Room Leadership Clergy Training

Friday - September 11th, 2015

Training goes from 12pm-5pm

Upper Room Leadership Lay Training

Saturday – September 12th, 2015

Training goes from 9am – 5pm

The presenter for both trainings will be Cathi Eberly. Trainings will be held at:

St Paul's UMC

600 Wilshire BLVD

Stevens Point, WI 54481

Agape Report:

GOD is good, all the time.

That statement was very apparent during Walks #17 and #18.

A new facility Lake Lucerne retreat and camping area proved a wonderful place with special opportunities to display God's wonder.

We are delighted to share that the membership in FVWTE has grown by 58.

From the chances I had to witness the joys of the pilgrims during the walks, to the pleasure of serving on the Agape team with a wonderful crew of 31 Agape volunteers, I again am blown away of how God's love abounds.

From send off on Thursday night to closeting on Sunday evening there were many times when the Agape team shared our Lords love.

Providing early morning coffee and snacks (snacks on a walk to Emmaus weekend imagine that). To sharing all the community's bed time and table Agape gifts. From sharing of talents by making sure that as many needs or wants were fulfilled it was an awesome opportunity to be around and with so many loving persons.

I wish to thank a few who really stepped up to fulfill the true meaning of serving. First off we need to thank all who served on the conference teams

Leading is a great opportunity to serve with God's help. The Agape team was led by Dave & Janice Brantingham who spent an enormous amount of time preparing and building the efficiency of the Agape opportunities. When you review the numbers we must remember to thank all of the community that supplied snacks, Agape gifts, transportation and most important prayer. Then there are all who came to support the pilgrims with your love by attending Candlelight on Saturday night and closing on Sunday. Who of us can forget the joy (laughter) that those who acted in the Camper Skit or those who participated in the fashion show on Saturday night!!

Forgive me when I say I'm bursting with God's love and a little pride for the opportunity to be a part of such a wonderful group of Gods children.

All the time, GOD is good.

YBIC

Bruce England Agape board rep FVWTE

**THANK
you**

Volunteers Needed!!!

We have all heard the saying "It takes a village to raise a child". We can change that saying a bit and we have "it takes a community to make a successful Walk to Emmaus".

In order to make a 72 hour Walk to Emmaus that life changing experience for the pilgrims, we need many people to fill many jobs. There are so many areas to use your talents throughout a walk.

There is a volunteer form available at the website. Click on Community Information, then Community Forms, then Volunteer Form. You may send it to the address on the second page or to me at the email address below.

Be sure to check out the other areas where you can help out in the Emmaus community on the second page of the volunteer form. If you are interested in being a part of the Team Selection Committee, you may mark that on your form and also let me know directly if you would like to do so.

Another way of helping out is to spend some time working at the Emmaus table at Annual Conference June 12 -14 in Middleton. During your time there, you will hand out brochures and share information about the Walk to Emmaus with those attending the conference. For sign up times available, contact John Woodbury at john@oakwoodsales.com.

Please prayerfully consider where God is calling you to use your talents in our Emmaus community. If you have any questions regarding the list of areas to volunteer, please let me know and I will help you better understand what is needed in that area.

Dawn Hahn
Team Selection Committee
dmhsuam@netnet.net

MEN'S WALK #19
APRIL 14-17, 2016

WOMEN'S WALK #20
APRIL 21-24, 2016

Lake Lucerne Camp
W6460 County Road YY
Neshkoro, WI

What is Emmaus

If you go to the Upper Room website under programs and Emmaus, it reads:

A Journey with Christ

While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and walked with them. - Luke 24:15

The walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers.

The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with the prayerful discernment and invitation from a sponsor. After one accepts this invitation they complete an application.....

Following the three-day experience, participants are joined in small groups to support each other in their ongoing walk with Christ.

Through the formational process of accountable discipleship in small groups and participation in the Emmaus community, each participant's individual gifts and servant-leadership skills are developed for use in the local church and its mission. Participants are encouraged to find ways to live out their individual call to discipleship in their home, church, and community.

The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip the local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work. Emmaus lifts up a way for our grace-filled lives to be lived and shared with others.

(As printed online in Upper Room)

Have you been inspired? Met the challenge? Been in action at home? In your church? Your community? Your work? Shared with others the grace given to you?

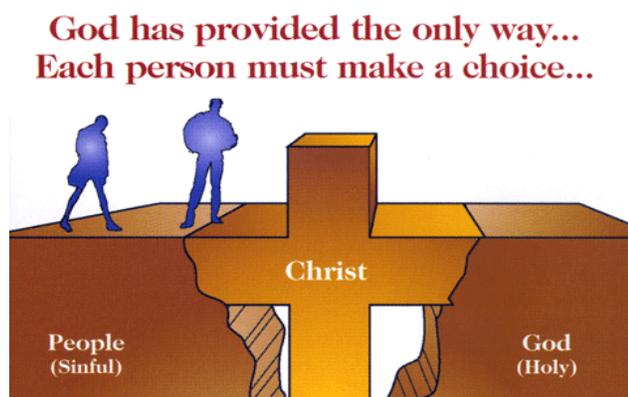
Take a few minutes several times each day, listen to God, Pray to God, thanking Him for everything He has given, share with others the Good News!

Lord we give you thanks for all that you give. Through you everything is possible. We love you and praise you today and always. Amen

Mary Vinger - CLD

FVWTE #4

Table of Naomi



In Mathew 25:36 we read "...I was in prison and you visited me.....". In Matthew 25:40 we read "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

I must admit that when I was an atheist and even during the early years of my Christian faith, I did not live up to these verses. Lock them up and throw away the key. Lock them up and let them rot. They deserve to be in prison. Some of them did some pretty horrible things to end up there. I started to read scripture. Not just to say that I did it but reading to actually learn something. I read about the people that Jesus talked to and the people that he ate with. The people that nobody else recognized or paid any attention to. The outcasts. The people that didn't matter. The people who were not good enough to touch His robe. Not to mention not good enough to share a meal with. He, on more than one occasion, called out people like me. Called me a hypocrite. Called me judgmental. Who did I think I was? What made me think that I was better than anyone else. I believed in the existence of Christ. But, I was not living like Christ. I believed that he died for MY sins. I even believed he died for other's sins. But not everybody's sins. Especially not the prisoner. Why would he care about them?

As my faith grew I realized that my way of thinking was one of the reasons why God sent His Son. I didn't get it. I thought that I had it all figured out. In the words of Hermoine Granger, from Harry Potter, "what an idiot". As I let Christ in my heart, and started working on my relationship with Him, something happened. He humbled me. This humbleness led me to get involved with the Kairos Prison Ministry. I served on the first Kairos team to go into a Wisconsin prison. However, the men who are incarcerated are not the only ones suffering. Many times people forget about the family on the outside. The wife or girlfriend that is trying to raise children by herself or struggling to put food on the table. The mom who looks back and thinks, what did I do wrong? What could I have done to prevent this from happening?

This leads me to a ministry that my wife, as well as others from our Emmaus Community, are involved in. It is the Kairos Outside (KO for short). This is for women who have a loved one that is either currently incarcerated or was incarcerated in the past. The KO is a weekend for these women to support each other and help them to develop relationships with other women who have gone through the same experiences. This is a weekend to give them hope. I weekend for us to show them the love of Christ. There are many volunteer opportunities for women and men. The KO weekend will be November 13-15 at Lake Lucerne. This will be the first KO in Wisconsin and there are many spots that need to be filled. You do not need to have experience with people who have been incarcerated. The only requirement is a love for Christ. Please read about KO on the next page and consider volunteering.

DeColores,

Brian Gass

Athens (Georgia) Area Walk to Emmaus # 25

Table of Peter



Introducing
KAIROS OUTSIDE

Help us plant the seeds of Kairos Outside of Eastern Wisconsin

Kairos Outside of Eastern Wisconsin is a local program under Kairos Prison Ministry International (www.kairosprisonministry.org) whose purpose is to demonstrate God's grace and love through Christian support for women who have relatives or friends who are, or have been incarcerated. It is modeled after the 4th day movements of Emmaus, Cursillo, Via de Cristo, etc. The spouses, parents, other relatives and friends of the incarcerated often "do time" right along with their relatives or friends. It is important for them to know that they are not alone and that there is a Christian community that cares about them. This support is provided in a safe and loving environment during a Kairos Outside weekend. It gives women an opportunity to interact with other women who are in similar situations, to learn to form small support groups to give them strength for the challenges they face.

We are holding our first Wisconsin Kairos Outside Weekend starting Friday night at 6:00pm, November 13 and ending Sunday, November 15 around 4:00pm. It will be held at Camp Lake Lucerne, Neshkoro, WI (near Wautoma). The weekend is a series of talks interspersed with music, prayer, fun activities and general pampering. While the weekend is Christian in nature, no religious affiliation is necessary to attend. There is no cost to the guests.

Please help us by praying for the ministry, volunteering to serve on a team or helping identify those women who would benefit from attending this special weekend. If you have any questions or need more information, feel free to contact Gloria Stielow (glojstielow@gmail.com) or Deanna Gass (dlgass@gmail.com).

Board of Directors for 2015

Lay Director - Mary Vinger

Assistant Lay Director - Dave Brantingham

Spiritual Director - Mike Carlson

Assistant Spiritual Director - Heather Brewer

Secretary - Brian Gass

Treasurer - Chris Chandler

Agape - Bruce England

Communications/Website - Ron Powell

Database - Jody Scott

Facilities - Keith Mulder

Gatherings - Kathleen Woodbury

Group Reunion - Clark Stevens

Literature - Maria Stevens

Music - Mike Scott

Outreach - John Woodbury

Senior Spiritual Mentor - Anita Genrich

Registrar - Sarah Thompson

Sponsorship - Chris Nelson

Sponsorship Hour/Candle Light/Closing - Pam Kasper

Team Selection - Dawn Hahn

Senior Lay Mentor - Greg Zurbuchen

Prayer Vigil - Kathy Jungwirth

If you have any information that you would like to see on the next newsletter (or you want to write an article) then you can email it to Brian Gass at clapton97@juno.com.