

MIDWEST CROSSROADS EMMAUS COMMUNITY

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 9 MARCH 2009

GREETINGS FROM YOUR COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

Fun, Fellowship, the Body of Christ and the Walk to Emmaus

Gathering at the LRCA

For those who attended our February Gathering at the LRCA, you know what a joy it was, as 125 community members came to share the spirit and support the Body of Christ. If you missed it, talk to someone who attended and be sure to attend the March Gathering at Brushwood UMC.

The "free will" donation for a wonderful Italian dinner brought a very much-needed \$1287 for MCEC. These new resources will allow our community to meet operating expenses for several months after the Walks and to fund some scholarships. Thank you to all who supported the community.

April Walks

We have the opportunity for two Walks in April thanks to the donations at the Gathering. We now have resources to make the \$1000 non-refundable deposit to reserve the camp for each Walk.

Melissa Cornet (lay director) is preparing the team to serve the 26 women confirmed, at this time

Tim Cummins (lay director) is preparing the team to serve the 11 men confirmed, at this time. We also have 2 eligible and several on the brink. These are men whose sponsors were waiting to submit registrations until certain that a Walk would be held. Get those pilgrims registered right away!

Fundraising

Two years ago, we noted that the cost of walks averaged about \$120 per person. We planned to increase the registration fee to cover this. But, several in the community were vocal about the perceived hardship that the current fee imposed. They, also, suggested that we should count on donations and fundraising to make-up the difference.

The board discussed this situation and chose to keep the fee as it had been since 2001. We prayed that the community would donate and support fundraisers:

To cover the shortfall
To establish a solid scholarship fund
To provide operating resources

to continue MCEC

The money was not offered up. So, the board was forced to deplete the cash on hand to make up the short fall. Anytime you can, please donate a few dollars. With several hundred members, if everyone donated \$5 a year we can cover operating expenses. Another \$3 would allow scholarships to meet the needs that continue for many who want to serve on team and to be pilgrims. Can you offer a few dollars?

An opportunity to help make MCEC better, join the board

Elections will be held in May for 9 open positions on the board). Any community member who would like to serve should contact any current board member to be listed on the ballot. Many people have voiced opinions on suggested changes we could make to improve MCEC. This is the chance for those people to be a part of the "team on the field" instead of "fans in the stands". Who wants to help make MCEC stronger?

Meetings with Upper Room Representatives

Your board met with Cathi Eberly and Carl Wiggins (regional representatives for "The Walk to Emmaus" for the Upper Room) on March 20th &

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- *Gatherings— Picnic*

21st. These meetings were arranged to help us understand our responsibilities as a Board and better serve as the leaders of MCEC.

The discussions were informing, open and direct. We all learned a lot about the covenant we agree to meet as a community. We opened lines of communication with the Upper Room to guidance on issue effecting our Community. We discussed the purpose of Emmaus. (We all know this is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.) We verified the part the Walk plays in the task as "boot camp" or basic training for the disciple role that 4th day people will undertake.

We were honored to be hosted by the Portage and Hammond churches for these meetings. This gave us all the extra benefit of having lunch with the Melissa Cornet and the members of the Women's Team.

<p><u>Reunion Groups</u></p> <p>Bernie Malacina is the Board Rep working on Reunion Groups.</p> <p>Bernie would like to hear from one representative from each church regarding reunion activity at your church.</p> <p>Please contact Bernie at 219-922-9081 or bern-mar21@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p><u>Looking for 9 more Pilgrims</u></p> <p>The Men's Walk currently has 11 Pilgrims confirmed for the Walk</p> <p>9 more Pilgrims are need to bring the Walk to the 20 Pilgrim minimum needed for the Walk</p> <p>We have heard from a lot of Community Members who said that they had a Pilgrim for the Men's Walk and would be getting the Registration from in soon.</p> <p>We are quickly approaching the deadline to finalize the list of Pilgrims for the Walk. If you have a potential Pilgrim, please send in the registration form asap.</p>	<p><u>New Registrar</u></p> <p>Janice Barber has agreed to serve as Registrar and give Roseann Piercy a much deserved break.</p> <p>We want to thank Roseann for her many years of service as MCEC registrar. She has served our Community with dedication and love. Thanks Roseann!</p> <p>All registration forms should be sent to the MCEC mailbox</p> <p>MCEC P.O. Box 1384 Valparaiso, IN 36384</p> <p>Mail is picked up regularly and registrations delivered to Janice.</p> <p>If you have a question for Janice, You can reach her at 219-996-5131 or janicebarber51@yahoo.com</p> <p>If you need a registration form, email Brian Johnson at brian@bcjohnson.net, and he will send one to you</p>	<p>YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS</p> <p>REV. DOUG BARBER 219-996-7161</p> <p>REV. MARK BROCK 945-1389</p> <p>LUANN COHN 987-7379</p> <p>BOB DEMETER 662-1734</p> <p>LORA WARD 708-895-3877</p> <p>CONNIE ELLEFSON 219-926-9880</p> <p>LEIGH HUMINSKY 942-5721</p> <p>BRIAN JOHNSON 219-613-6828</p> <p>PAULINE LUTHI 219-933-7627</p> <p>BERNIE MALACINA 922-9081</p> <p>EARL MINER 219-464-8180</p> <p>DEB SHEBISH 219-677-3092</p> <p>GLENN YERBY 763-3545</p>
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Election of Directors to the Midwest Crossroads Board

We are taking nominations for Board Member for the 2009-2010 session.

We have 5 openings for Laity and one new Clergy position. If you would be willing to serve on the Board, please let any Board Member know.

Thanks for your service!



<p>Reunion Groups</p> <p>Dyer 322-8038 2nd Sat</p> <p>Gary Christ UMC 1st Mon 6 pm</p> <p>Brushwood 866-3217 3rd Fri 7pm</p> <p>COFS 663-7803 2nd & 4th Tues 7 pm</p> <p>Hammond 933-7627 Mon 6 pm</p> <p>Lowell 696-3227 2nd Sat 7pm</p> <p>Portage 762-3846 1st&3rd Sat 8am 2nd Wed 6:30pm</p> <p>Cedar Lake Tues 7 pm</p>	<p>Crown Point 663-1515 Tues 5:30 pm Thurs 9:00 am</p> <p>Valpo 1st Women's 465-1661 2nd & 4th Fridays 8:00 am Broadway Café</p> <p>At S Coolman's 7:00am Thurs</p> <p>Valpo 1st Men's Mon 6:30 am</p> <p>Chesterton 926-1478 2nd & 4th Thurs 6:30pm</p> <p>Demotte 987-4712 Wed 7 pm</p>
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02-07-2009	CASH ON HAND	\$ 1912.44
INCOME:		
	Walk fees	539.00
	Walk fees & Donations	250.00
	Donations (Feb. Gathering)	1287.00
	Total income	\$ 2076.00
	Subtotal	\$ 3988.44
EXPENSES		
	BMV (trailer plate)	29.75
	CCLI (Copyright)	104.00
	Roseann Piercy (stamps)	42.00
	Bank fees (Jan.)	2.20
	Bank fees (Feb)	2.20
	Total expenses	<\$ 180.15>
03-09-2009	CASH ON HAND	\$ 3808.29
Respectfully submitted, LuAnn Cohn, Treas balance includes funds due for Walks		

Spring Walks
Men April 16th to 19th
Women April 23rd to 26th

3rd Annual MCEC Picnic– June Gathering

Come join the fun at Portage UMC “Crossroads”

Event: 3rd Annual Gathering and Picnic, open to family and friends
Location: Portage UMC, 2637 Mc Cool Rd, Portage IN
 Crossroads is immediately south of the church on McCool Rd.

When: Saturday, June 20th, 4 pm to 7 pm

Details: More information on food will be in the next newsletter
 Bring your lawn chair and baseball bat and glove.

Activities: Food (of course), baseball competition between churches
 Fellowship, fun, Christian Band, and Children's games

Mark your calendar for the picnic and this great afternoon of
 fun and fellowship with old and new friends.

Gatherings/Events

Friday
 March 20th
 Brushwood UMC
 7:00 pm

Friday
 May 01
 7:00 pm
 Church of the Four Seasons
 UIM

Saturday
 June 20th
 Portage
 Crossroads Picnic

Midwest Crossroads

Emmaus Community

P.O. Box 1384

Valparaiso, IN 46384-1384



Address Service
Requested

Web site- www.mcemmaus.org

E-mail- mail@mcemmaus.org

AGAPE

Now that the Walks are approaching, let's turn our attention to providing Agape for the Pilgrims. A total of 48 items is needed to cover the Pilgrims and the Conference Room Team.

Use your imagination to create items that will bring God's Love to the Pilgrims. Please remember, no personal names on the Agape. Church Reunion Group names are acceptable.

If you have a preference as to where the Agape is used, please note that it is for the Conference Room or Cabins. Agape can be delivered to the Head Servant.

If you are writing personal letters to the Pilgrims, please drop them off at Send off or Candlelight, so they can be sorted and delivered to the Pilgrims on Sunday

This is a great opportunity to share God's unconditional love for them, as they experience their Walk.

Emmaus and Sponsorship

Quoting from the Upper Room:

"The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servant hood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all."

So what does that mean for us? Is the Weekend Walk our total Emmaus experience? The weekend walk can be best described as "Boot Camp for Christ", it is a starting point and an awareness of Christ's call for our Discipleship.

participation in a Reunion group is key to our growth and accountability as Disciples. Gatherings and Walk participation are also other ways we can exercise our Discipleship.

What does this mean for us as Sponsors? Sponsorship is not recommending some to attend a Spiritual Retreat Weekend and then return to their prior life, unchanged by the Emmaus experience. It means selecting a potential Pilgrim who God has revealed to you as "ready" to grow in Discipleship. It also means being a Sponsor for a lifetime, not just a weekend. If your Pilgrim is not participating in a Reunion group and Gatherings after a Walk, we are responsible to encourage their participation in a reunion group, and growing as Disciples of Christ.