

THE WALK'S TALK

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Special points of interest:

- Updated Gathering Place for February
- Team Application
- Board Contact's

Newsletter thought:

The secret of balancing worship and work, devotion and service, love of God and love of people is maintaining our connection to Jesus Christ. Our relationship with him is the anchor, the steady point that makes balance possible in the first place. And the deeper that relationship goes, the more stable the balance will be.

From: Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World.

Coming Home

I recently returned from a wonderful trip to West Texas. As with all of our trips when we return home, we have the memories of the journey and the bags which need unpacking.

As we start this new year of 2006, ask yourself what baggage you need to unpack from your life. Jesus wants to be your traveling companion and help you with all your baggage.

Wilson Heacock,
Community Lay Director

A Prayer For Coming Home

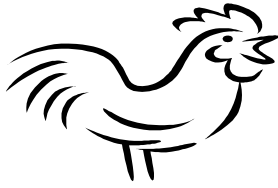
O True and Ever-Living God
I repent of all my false and empty gods
I look again into the closets of my life,
My mind, my heart
To see what rules me.
Whom do I serve?
What are the possessions, the people, the opinions, the events that control my life?

O Welcoming One
I see you standing at the door
of my heart
waiting for me.
You gaze at my strange gods with an eye of compassion.

I am ashamed to invite you
into my cluttered house
yet my heart aches to be home with you.

My hand is reaching for the door
I hear myself saying,
Come on in, I have more room than I thought I had.
Come on in, and be the only God in my life.
May this moment of homecoming last forever.

Anonymous



De Colores

GATHERING DATES '06

UPDATED — All monthly gatherings start at 6 p.m.

January 21, 2006

Wesley United Methodist Church
1406 E. Austin, Harlingen
Ph: (956) 423-6156

February 18, 2006

First United Methodist Church 228 S Main St., Donna
Ph: (956) 464-3421

May 20, 2006

Christ's Harbour Church
1441 Santa Isabel Blvd.
Laguna Vista
Ph: (956) 943-5595

June 17, 2006

First Baptist Church
501 E. Van Buren,
Harlingen
Ph: (956) 423-0470

August 19, 2006

Trinity United Methodist Church
1801 Trenton Rd.,
McAllen
Ph: (956) 631-2926

November 18, 2006

Los Fresnos United Methodist Church
402 S. Arroyo Blvd.
Los Fresnos
Ph: (956) 233-5760

A Dancing Trip

The plane from San Francisco to Los Angeles was crowded—only a few seats were left. I chose one beside a teenage girl who seemed to be cowering in a corner. She had a book in her lap, and as I settled down I caught the title, *How to Make It in the Woods*.

I knew that many were now seeking a simple life removed from the city, but I didn't know that the migration warranted a how-to book on the subject. Intrigued, I struck up a conversation.

When she sensed my genuine interest, Sally talked earnestly and freely about her "trip" --- her effort to find meaning in life.

Then, about 20 minutes before we landed, she asked, "And what is *your* trip?" I didn't answer immediately. Then I said, "I'm on a *dancing* trip." Her eyes brightened and she wanted to know more. What followed was a beautiful time of sharing.

Caught up in the magic of the moment, we quickly sensed that we were on a dancing trip together. And once again, I discovered that the Spirit will work in relationships whenever we are **open—open** to ourselves and **open** to others. This precious period had an eternal dimension because real communication -- *soul* communication -- had taken place.

Maxie Dunnam

The key word in this story is **open**. When we choose to take on the responsibility to sponsor a pilgrim are we **open** in our hearts and minds to take the trip to Emmaus with the person being sponsored? Are we ready both spiritually and physically to support a pilgrim, through prayer and time? We need to consider the obligation to support our pilgrim on their **fourth day**. Do we have time to introduce them to a reunion group or bring them to an Emmaus gathering?

Is the person we want to sponsor **open** in his or her heart and mind to make the trip to Emmaus. Does the person have a pleasing relationship with God? Are they excited about being a Christian and serving the Lord? Do they have a desire to be a church leader?

If we are considering a person for the Walk to Emmaus, we must answer these questions honestly. When we prayerfully choose a person for the Walk to Emmaus, we will strengthen our local churches and our Emmaus Community. We will experience real communication -- *soul* communication between our pilgrim, ourselves and God.

De Colores
Bonnie Cherrington,
Assistant Community Lay Director



EMMAUS LEADERSHIP TRAINING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2006 8:30 A.M.— 3 P.M.

Purpose: Training Lay Directors, Board Representatives and clergy leadership teams for the 2006 Walks to Emmaus and Chrysalis Flights. This is also open to anyone interested in learning more about Emmaus. The ELTS (Emmaus Leadership Training) is required for all incoming Lay Directors. Board Representatives and clergy who have not had ELTS training in the past 3 years.

R.S.V.P. with Deleyce Mills at Wesley United Methodist Church, 1406 East Austin Avenue, Harlingen, Texas 78550 Ph: (956) 423-6156 .

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Do you want to take your spiritual growth to the next step? Have you lost that once close feeling that you had with God? Do you want to feel empowered to live life to the fullest? The answer might surprise you: Get active in an Emmaus Reunion Group.

An Emmaus Reunion Group can provide the accountability that we all so desperately need. We need to be challenged to grow deeper in our commitment to Christ. We need others to help us to see God's grace in our life. We need the opportunity to be honest about our failings and short-comings and know that love and forgiveness

abound. In addition, we will be blessed when we give ourselves in God's grace to help others along their spiritual journey.

My friends the answer to living an empowered life may be a Reunion Group away. Give yourself a spiritual uplift this year. It may be the best New Year's resolution ever.

Grace and Peace,
Jason Adams
Spiritual Director



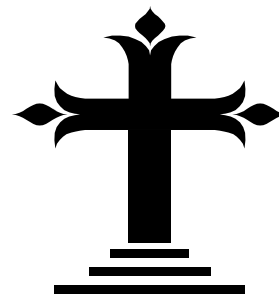
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Chrysalis Youth	Lindsey McCallum Allan Jarzonbek		

Board Members at Large: Ed Keebaugh, Janice Prickett, Mark Garza, Phil Niemantsverdriet, Joe Mohny, Elaine Wisely, Richard Percy, Barbara Creighton, Philip Hoeflinger, Letty Neimantsverdreit

Ex-Officio Voting Members of the Board: Steve Purdy-Past Community Spiritual Director

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members of the Board: Diane Bleibdrey-Emmaus Conference Board Representative/Team Selection, Gene Palmos-Web Master, Oralia Sanchez-Newsletter Editor, Vacant-Quarter Master, Bill Friend-Camp Thicket Liaison



SCHEDULE WALK'S & CHRYSALIS '06

March 9-12, 2006
Men's Walk #1284

April 20-23, 2006
Women's Walk #1295

July 20-23, 2006
Boy's Chrysalis

July 27-30, 2006
Girls Chrysalis

September 14-17, 2006
Men's Walk #1319

October 19-22, 2006
Women's Walk #1332

*Candlelight: Saturday's
at 8:00 p.m.*

*Closing: Sunday's at
3:00 p.m.*

*What to bring: your
name tag, cross and
purple worship book..*

**Please R.S.V.P. with
FUMC in Weslaco for
childcare for candlelight
& closing.**

Ph: (956) 965-7561.

Valley Emmaus Community

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Newsletter Deadline



Submittal Deadline:

January 15, 2006
March 15, 2006
May 15, 2006
July 15, 2006
August 15, 2006
October 15, 2006

Print & Mail:

February 5, 2006
April 5, 2006
June 5, 2006
August 5, 2006
September 5, 2006
November 5, 2006

To subscribe to be notified by email when the newsletter is posted please email:

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A donation to cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter is appreciated. If you are able to make this donation, then please make your **check payable** to **Valley Emmaus Community** and mail it to the newsletter editor.

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