

Grand Rapids Michigan
EMMAUS Community
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2007 Board of Directors

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Fourth day: Lori Nousen lnousen@aol.com 616/878-0690
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Spiritual Director: Don Graham djgraham@iser.net 616-527-2313
Sponsor's Hour/Closing: Bill Kelley 231-788-5821
Sponsorship: open
Supplies: Joe and Darcy Quisenberry Quizx5@aol.com 616/691-0028
Team Selection: Jay Straw jd.straw@comcast.net 616/281-1180
Treasurer: Joel Darling whaleeducation@hotmail.com 231-288-0999
Worldwide Agape: Bill Dykstra BOATERS@sprintpcs.com 616/821-9520

EMMAUS NEWS

**GRAND RAPIDS AREA EMMAUS COMMUNITY
WWW.GRAEC.COM**

FEBRUARY 2007

SPRING WALKS ARE FAST APPROACHING!

Please ask God who you should sponsor
and be open to His response.

If you need a current application, you may
go to the website www.graec.com or
contact me:

Helen McAvinchey, Registrar
616/844-7010 or
mcavinchey@sbcglobal.net

Please be sure both the pilgrim's
registration and sponsor's contract are
filled out completely.

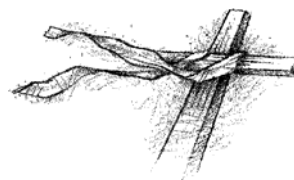


AGAPE

Completed agape should be dropped off
in the mailroom on Thursday
evening. A friendly reminder to not
label any gifts w/ personal names
(church names are ok). If you would
like any "extra" items to be returned
please bring them in a bag with
instructions provided. The quantity
needed for each walk is 60.



**Men's walk
APRIL 19-22, 2007**
Banner Of Christ
Community Church
1111 68th Street SW
Byron Center, MI 49315
Dave Bekkering, Lay Director



**Women's walk
MAY 3-6, 2007**
Location: TBA
Please check the website for location
www.graec.com
Lynn Swart, Lay Director



**SATURDAY
NIGHT OF THE
WALKS**
8:00-8:30 p.m.
Bring pop or a snack
for gathering time

FALL 2007 DATES:

**MEN'S WALK #57
OCT. 11-14, 2007**

**WOMEN'S WALK #58
OCT. 25-28, 2007**

Greetings and Happy New Year,

This past year brought many challenges to our community. Most were met with a very positive result. We now have proper documentation for everyone on the board and those serving on the weekend, up-to-date electronic equipment, a web site that is keeping us informed as well as regular newsletters and nearly enough volunteers to fill the open positions on the board.

While all of these things were necessary and good, it has left the community check book pretty dry. We currently do not have enough money to fund the advances for food and supplies on the spring walks. We know that God will be faithful and support will come. Instead of raising the registration fees, offerings will be taken at gatherings and candlelight services this year to help offset the costs.

It was with much regret that we canceled the Fall Men's Walk due to the fact that we did not have pilgrims. I think it is time that we reflect on our own weekends and remember what we learned about Priorities, Grace, Perseverance, and Christian Action. I do not believe that all of the churches in West Michigan are so packed full of Christian Soldiers and flourishing so abundantly that there is not even 36 men who could use a 3-day weekend to renew themselves in Jesus Christ. The team from the fall will be kept together as much as possible for the spring and will prepare to present the Walk to Emmaus program to 36 men who are looking to deepen their relationship with our Savior. When I was the Lay Director of walk #44, I was told that God would select the team; it was only my job to ask. He already knows who He is going to select for the spring, please open your awareness to the men in your church and get the direction of God in who it is that you ask. Please review the sponsor information that you received in your packet at the end of your walk. It can also be found on the website. Do not take it personally if you ask someone and are turned down. Remember we ask – God selects.

I want to thank all of the hard working board members who made up the Class of 2006, their service was very important to the Community. I also want to thank the volunteers who stepped up and committed to 3 years of service on the GRAEC board, you are laying up treasures in heaven, and the impact of your service cannot be measured. We still have a couple of open board positions. If you are looking for a place to serve God, please come to a board meeting and we will find a place for you to be His hands and feet. The two positions available are Kitchen Coordinator and Set Up and Tear Down Coordinator. Contact me for a complete job description. Now that we have manuals and job descriptions, it is no longer a "dropped in the lap experience" to take on a board position.

Let us put on the Armor of God and press forward into 2007 with the Joy of the knowledge that He will return.

GLYASDI
Chuck



If you would like to be added to an Emmaus prayer chain please email Pam Gombert.
gombertpj@aol.com

GATHERING

Gatherings are on the move! Please mark your calendars for the 2nd Saturday of each month and check the website or contact us for future locations.

6:00 Fellowship

6:30 Potluck

7:00 Worship

February 10th

Wolf Lake UMC
370 Vista Terrace
Muskegon, MI
231-788-3663

Please call Dave and Kathy Thwaites with any questions ~ 616/997-7602 or
racesrule@aol.com

If your church is interested in hosting an Emmaus Gathering, please contact us.

Board spotlight

The board has asked me to introduce myself as a way of sharing a little bit about me. So, the facts are... I am married to a wonderful man named Nick and we live in Cutlerville. I am active at Crosswind Community Church in Dorr. I work at AT&T (sorry, I cannot fix your phone bill ☺) and I love youth camp. Let's face it, worshipping God with 200 fired-up kids just ROCKS!!!! Prayer and Praise are vital just like breath. But my life, my heart, is summed up by one word – FORGIVEN. That is the most important thing to know about me. I am just an earthen vessel, imperfect, and broken, but I am forgiven. Because of Christ I have life. I hope that in my service others would not see me but the One who sustains me.

Jacci DeLaney



Hola GRAEC! My name is Joel Darling, and I am honored to serve as your money guy! Most of you have no idea who I am. My wife Jennifer and I moved to Muskegon a year ago from Central Texas. There is a long story of how God guided us to this area and we would be happy to share it at a Gathering, so come and ask us. In the mean time, I will share that Jennifer and I have been involved in numerous capacities of Emmaus in several communities, including serving on Chrysalis Journey's, Chrysalis Flights, Board and Steering Committees. We were thankful to find and attend a GRAEC Gathering before we moved here and we are delighted to now be a part of it.

In money news...while I have not looked at anything in great detail, it is clear that Steve May has worked very hard to make sure our financial records were straight. I have assumed treasury positions on boards before, and this is the first time I have not had to wonder what went on. He did a fantastic job and I wish you will send him a word of gratitude! As of December 29th, the records exchanged hands with a \$1,226.76 balance and we have several bills to pay from that amount. Please pray about how you can support GRAEC financially. Feel free to contact me at any time at whaleeducation@hotmail.com or #231-288-0999.

Best Fishes & God Bless!
Joel D.