



# *The Peninsula Rainbow Emmaus Community Newsletter*

Number 1

December 1995

*De Colores and welcome to the first edition of the Peninsula Rainbow Emmaus Community Newsletter! Our purpose is to share what is going on within the community and articles of general interest with you.*

## **TEAMING**

*One of the greatest things about Emmaus is sponsorship. And the second greatest is teaming.* All of us realize that we can't stay up on the mountain (or stay on that high forever) but we can go up the mountain again with the new pilgrims.

That's not to say teaming is for everyone, but try it—you'll like it! As I start another teaming experience with the Tidewater Young Adult Chrysalis community, you know what brings me back time after time? The friends of course, the close religious times each Saturday, or is it the striving to be closer to Jesus? It is all of the above and more.

As our friend and author Oswald Chambers said so elegantly in "My Utmost for His Highest" (Oct. 1). "We have all had times on the mountain but God will never allow us to stay. The test of our spiritual life is the power to descend. We are built for the valley."

That is where we are tested and where Jesus was and Holy Spirit is but for the asking!!

So test those wings. Team, volunteer, and reach out today. ... De Colores, Joe Bone

### ***Teaming—Application and Selection***

So you'd like to serve on a team. For most it is a wonderful experience; however, there are factors about serving on a team that should be considered. They are as follows:

**PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL STRAINS:** The joy of being on a team is there, but the work and strain are there also. Team members routinely are the first up in the morning and the last to bed at night. Working under pressure is also routine. Everyone on a team must carry his or her full load and be ready to pick up part of someone else's work when the unexpected happens. Every team member must also

be ready, willing, and able to share his or her faith and love with any and all others during teaming and on the weekend.

**COMMITMENT OF TIME AND FINANCES:** When you agree to serve on team, you are making a commitment to be available for that weekend and to attend six to eight team meetings and training sessions prior to the weekend. You also need to attend the Day of Deeper Understanding (DODU) following the weekend. A weekend fee of \$125.00 is charged.

**SERVING AS NEEDED:** Everyone must be willing to serve in whatever capacity is needed. You do not select how you would like to serve and particular jobs can not be promised.

**TEAM SELECTION:** It is mathematically impossible for everyone who applies to be selected for the team. About one-third of the team will be very experienced, one-third will have served on one or two teams, and one-third will be serving for the first time. An effort is also made to involve as many different churches as possible. The team selection process should assure the choice of a strong and balanced team, broad involvement by the Emmaus community on teams, cultivation of new leadership for future walks and the community, and opportunities for growth in servanthood. Individuals selected to team should be active supporters of Emmaus. Teams should represent those who seek to live a life in piety, study, and action, who know the value of a support group; and who are active church members. Attendance at a Day of Deeper Understanding (DODU) is required.

The decision to team should be made prayerfully. If after prayer your answer is YES, complete an application and mail it to the address on the application. If you decide that being a team member is not for you, there are many other area of service in Emmaus. You may want to make agape, serve on a committee, or be part of a community support team for the weekend.

Need an application? Pick one up at the next gathering or call a Steering Committee member.

... De Colores, Phyllis Lewter

## SPONSORSHIP

*Condensed from a series of articles by Pat Patterson published in the monthly newsletter of the Tidewater Emmaus Community (June-September 1995 issues)*

The opportunity and responsibility to “PASS IT ON” is truly a huge one and is critical to EMMAUS and our churches. This article will help us focus on both the joy and duty of being a sponsor.

Although there are many useful and important ways to serve our churches and our risen Christ, we know that helping others attend an EMMAUS weekend has to be one of the finest! After all, it was for us... it truly lit our fires. Some of us enjoy writing agape, doing placemats or working in other ways behind the scenes and some of us feel that serving on the team is our greatest service, but I will suggest to you that serving as a sponsor is the highest form of agape, both to pilgrims and to their churches. It is “hand to hand” discipleship at its finest. And true to all service to Jesus Christ, the more we put into it, the more He is able to bless us. I have personally experienced my most rewarding moments of both spiritual and emotional highs while serving as a sponsor. It is so joyful to see what Jesus can do in others’ lives just because we are obedient and invite them on an EMMAUS weekend.

EMMAUS is somewhat unique from most Christian conferences and retreats. We do not take a “y’all come” approach to the weekends, but depend on sponsors to invite people to the weekends.

Without sponsors there would be no weekend; so this is why one of the talks for the Day of Deeper Understanding is on sponsorship. Still, it is important from time to time to remind all of us in the EMMAUS community of the importance of sponsorship, both to the pilgrims and their churches, and to ourselves. As we fulfill the great commission, as we discipleship others, we know that God will shower his blessings upon his children.

What do you think? Please pass your questions, comments, or suggestions about this newsletter and any community activities to Della Garren (596-2297), Penny Peterson (851-9410), or Woody Wilson (851-7009) or via E-mail to: PenRainbow@aol.com

## THE STEPS OF SPONSORSHIP

First, some information on the steps to sponsorship in a very broad presentation. In their most simple form, the steps of sponsorship are (1) prayer, (2) prayer, and (3) prayer. Just like the EMMAUS weekend itself, our efforts as sponsors must be bathed in prayer, but in order to focus and direct our prayers, each of us needs a little more information on sponsorship. These are the broad steps of sponsorship:

- Discern the openness of an individual or couple to God’s call to discipleship through prayer.
- Make an appointment with the person or couple to discuss the EMMAUS weekend and approach to discipleship.
- Extend an invitation to the person or couple to develop a more vital relationship with Jesus Christ by attending an EMMAUS weekend.
- Ask them to make a commitment by completing the registration form and submitting the registration fee. If married, both should be strongly encouraged to participate together.
- Continue to pray for persons you are sponsoring and begin preparations for the weekend, like AGAPE.
- Make arrangements to support your pilgrims (and their family members remaining at home) on the weekend. This includes getting pilgrims to the weekend, AGAPE support, Sponsor’s Hour, Candlelight, Closing, etc., and PRAYERS.
- Encourage your pilgrims in their Fourth Day by helping them to get involved in reunion groups, to attend the Day of Deeper Understanding and to attend their first Gathering.
- Help your pilgrims to reenter their church with an appropriate show of enthusiasm as they demonstrate their discipleship.
- Inform the pilgrims of the opportunities to PASS IT ON within the EMMAUS community and how they can sponsor others. Sponsorship is an act of AGAPE love which can revitalize our discipleship, but it should be handled with lots of prayer. This broad presentation will hopefully help you to think about your approach to sponsorship in a systematic way.

## WHY DO WE SPONSOR?

The reason we sponsor someone on an EMMAUS weekend can vary from person to person, but we know that unless certain factors are observed, the outcome may not be the desired one. The basic desire to PASS IT ON may cloud our good judgment, so it becomes a good test of our discipleship to question ourselves as to why we want to sponsor someone to EMMAUS.

Some reasons why NOT to sponsor someone on the WALK TO EMMAUS are:

- I want all my friends to have this great experience I had.
- We need to fill up the weekend roster so we will have enough pilgrims.
- I want to fix this serious problem my friend has.
- My friend just lost a spouse and is lonely.

These are some of the reasons pilgrims have caused serious problems on weekends and diverted the teams from their real focus. Yes, the pilgrims may have been helped, but it was at the expense of the discipleship of many others.

The real reason we should desire to PASS IT ON is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians we know. This will bring new life and vision to the work of the Church wherever these pilgrims find themselves... at home, at work, at church or in the community. We should always remind ourselves that the aim of the EMMAUS weekend is to build up disciples within the body of Christ who will go back to their churches and work to strengthen them to the glory of God.

The reason we sponsor someone on an EMMAUS weekend will never become an issue if we follow the important step of praying for God's discernment regarding prospective pilgrims before we even discuss the weekend with them or invite them on a walk. Please be sure that it is God that wants the pilgrim on the weekend, not you.

***May you be blessed this Christmas holiday! Look forward to seeing you at the gathering, December 29th. Details on the back of this page.***

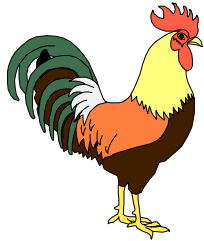
## WHOM DO WE SPONSOR?

PASS IT ON!! We all know that's the purpose of sponsoring someone on an EMMAUS weekend, but whom should we consider sponsoring? This experience is designed for active Christians and church members whose own renewal will mean new energy, commitment, and vision in and for the church. This will result in changing our world around us. We could consider sponsoring persons who are:

- ***Church leaders (pastors and laity)*** who will bring new vision, commitment, and understanding back to their congregations; and who need the renewal and grace that EMMAUS exhibits;
- ***Dependable church members*** who are the quiet backbone of the church;
- ***Less active members*** who need their awareness of grace rekindled and their commitments renewed;
- ***Christians*** who are hungry for "something more" and who want to grow spiritually;
- ***Members and leaders*** who represent a cross section of the church and will help EMMAUS remain sound theologically, centered on the essentials of our common faith, open to different perspectives;
- ***Respected laity and clergy*** whose participation, support, and leadership will encourage others to take the walk and will build a sound, balanced leadership base for the movement in the community.

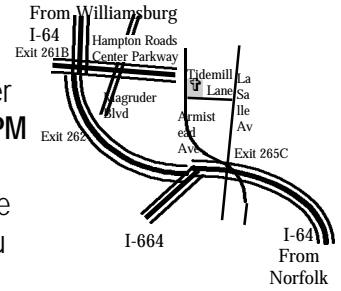
EMMAUS is right for many people, but it is not right for everyone. In some cases, persons can be wrong for the EMMAUS experience because of their emotional state, because they are non-Christians, because they are "church-hoppers" with an ax to grind, or they are persons ***who are always looking for the next "spiritual high"*** to prove they have arrived.

What does all this mean? We should be in a season of prayer before inviting anyone to attend an EMMAUS weekend, consider someone's situation in the church and their personal situation, and follow the leading of God's Holy Spirit when considering anyone for the EMMAUS experience. The only true guidance we have is to be faithful and obedient to God's calling.



## Upcoming Events

**GATHERING:** The Peninsula Rainbow Emmaus Community December Gathering will be one week later than normal, **Friday, Dec 29, at 7:00 PM** due to Christmas. Baby-sitting for children through kindergarten will be provided. Supervised activities for children 1st through 5th grade will be provided after the initial music. Please bring a musical instrument if you play and a beverage & goodie to share at fellowship time.



Where: **Wesley United Methodist Church, 2510 North Armistead Avenue, Hampton**

<b>WALKS</b>	<b>Peninsula Rainbow 1</b> (Men) May 9-12	<b>Peninsula Rainbow 2</b> (Women) June 6-9
	SonShine 15 (Men) April 25-28	SonShine 16 (Women) May 23-26
	Tidewater 32 (Men) April 16-19	Tidewater 33 (Women) May 16-19
	TW Young Adult Chrysalis 9 February 1-4	Tidewater Chrysalis 11 February 16-19

Peninsula Rainbow Emmaus Community  
 P. O. Box 98  
 Hampton, VA 23669-0098

### Your Steering Committee

Lisa Beshaw		850-1324	Hampton
Jeff Carty		538-0816	Suffolk
Eric Grayson	Secretary	851-2377	Hampton
Arline Germain		596-3737	Newport News
Peg Hopewell		851-5649	Hampton
Dave Hopewell	Team Selection	851-5649	Hampton
Clyde Johnson	Music Director	596-6885	Newport News
Colleen Meiser	Children's Programs	850-4818	Hampton
Cindy Newsome	Lay Director	851-2847	Hampton
Rev. Ken Newsome	Spiritual Director	851-2847	Hampton
Jim Peterson	Devotions and Fourth Day Speakers	851-9410	Hampton
Penny Pugh		766-3694	Yorktown
Jerry Schwartzlow		220-0431	Williamsburg
Sharon Schwartzlow		220-0431	Williamsburg
Woody Wilson	Treasurer	851-7009	Hampton