



Traditions

It's the most wonderful time of the year.

I don't know about you, but I find that tune running through my head all of the time. I really don't care about the rest of the lyrics in the song. That one phrase says it all.

Why is this time of year so wonderful? Well, one obvious reason is that we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Even though we've learned that it's more likely He was born in the spring, we still look past that observation and cling to our tradition of the Christ mass.

And therein lies one of the most significant things about this time of year ... tradition.

What traditions do you have for Christmas? Did you create your own traditions for your family? Have you carried on traditions created by your parents or grandparents? Have you embraced traditions from other Countries and cultures?

When you think about it, the Bible has several references to traditions that were followed by God's people throughout time. I especially love the tradition of Jubilee where one's debts are forgiven. We could all use some Jubilee, I'm sure even more so after the holidays.

The actual birth of Jesus took place during a traditional event. The census and all of the "fun" it brought is somewhat of a tradition of ancient peoples. They (including Joseph and Mary) had their routine ... what to pack, the road to travel,

the people they hoped to see ... perhaps even the people they were hoping to avoid ☺ .

Then through God's grace and love a new tradition was literally born in the middle of an old tradition.

And so instead of traveling to be counted, now we often travel to worship what counts.

Now it's time to pack, pick the road we will travel, see the people we love to see, and rejoice as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus.

We pray for those who are not together, whether a loved one is in heaven, is deployed, or is simply not nearby. Our prayers are with you. We praise Jesus for our military brothers and sisters and their family members who give to our Country every day.

Please remember your Tidewater Emmaus family is here for you. We might not all squeeze around the Christmas dinner table together, but in prayer and praise we come together to celebrate Jesus and join in the tradition of De Colores.

Merry Christmas Tidewater Emmaus brothers and sisters!

On behalf of the Board, thank you for the opportunity to serve you and Jesus.

Praying that you will forever have the heart of a pilgrim.

Blessings and hugs,
--Lea Anne



Sponsorship

[Sponsorship Challenge](#)

Give yourselves a hand. You did a fantastic job of sponsoring during TW92 and TW93.

Now here is the challenge. Let us sponsor more for TW94 and TW95 in the spring. If we plant the seeds and help them to grow now, the harvest will be plentiful for the next walks.

Okay Tidewater Emmaus Community, we have a challenge for you. Let's see how many DIFFERENT churches we can have represented on TW94 and TW95. We love our pilgrims from the churches that typically send folks on these walks and we hope those churches once again plan to send pilgrims in the spring. However, we are wondering how many other churches are out there who have never had anyone attend a Tidewater Emmaus weekend.



How many new and different churches can we have represented on the spring 2011 walks?

Who do we sponsor? Anyone who is walking with Christ and is already making a difference in their places of worship. Whether it is greeting visitors or chairing council. Remember we are about helping to develop the leadership of the church not just bringing in warm bodies.

The men's walk is April 7 – 10 2011 and the women's walk is April 28 – May 1 2011.

Don't forget there is a wonderful, brief video on the Tidewater Emmaus website www.tidewateremmaus.org (see What is Emmaus?) that explains the weekend and the fourth day component. Pilgrim and Sponsor applications are available on our website or from any TWE Board member. Pray and listen for God's guidance on sponsorship. The mission of Tidewater Emmaus is to strengthen all churches in our community, not just our own.



TW94 & TW95 Teaming

The Teaming and CAT team applications for the spring walks deadline is December 18, 2010.

If God is leading you to serve in this capacity please get your application in as soon as possible.

The reason we have a deadline is so we can work through the team selection process early in January. Once the teams have been established, they will have a great deal to do to prepare for the upcoming walks. We would like to give them as much time as possible for their planning as the community form of agape to the team. Each team needs at least 6 first time teamers to meet the requirements of the model. If you have attended The Day of Deeper Understanding (DODU) and would like to help others feel like you did during the weekend, please fill out an application which can be found on our website at http://www.tidewateremmaus.org/twe_apps.html.

It will complete your walk and increase your joy by serving others. Remember, "It keeps getting better" and as part of an Emmaus team, you will also see the "Face of Jesus"

Stan Best

TW-74

TW 95 is trying a slightly different teaming approach. We are going to try and team during the week on Thursday evenings as some people have indicated that due to scheduling conflicts, Saturdays are keeping them from submitting teaming applications. We propose to start teaming in February and the first team meeting will be on a Saturday and then the rest will be Thursday evenings. Time and location will be forthcoming.

Walking by Faith,

Jill Wynne

Have you checked out our



lately.

The website is constantly changing to meet the needs of our community so take the time to check it regularly. Additionally, you might want to access our Facebook link via the web so you can connect with the other outstanding Disciples for Christ in our community.

<http://www.tidewateremmaus.org/>



From the Board

Your board of directors has been extra busy the past couple of months. What with preparing to welcome new board members and saying “Bon Voyage” to others, getting creative to help ease the financial stress of sponsors, teamers (both Talk room and CST) and a myriad of other projects. To get a snapshot of what we are doing check out the October “Board Notes” under “Current News” on your home page of our website (<http://www.tidewateremmaus.org/>).

If you know of someone who is not receiving the prayer requests or newsletters, please let me know as they are suffering from “Emmaus Information Withdrawal”.

If you have ideas to improve our communications, just send me an e-mail at: bassai@cox.net.

Walk Pictures



Thank you for submitting some more walk pictures, but we are still missing some. Please check the website periodically to see if your walk is listed. If not, please let us borrow your information. It will be returned in tact and unharmed. Let the new members see what the “Best Walk Ever” looks like.

The Body of Christ Building the Body of Christ

The Tidewater Emmaus Board announced a new initiative for the Community at the November 20 Gathering. If you were not able to attend please review the following:

What if we were able to take the cost of sustaining a year of Tidewater Emmaus and Chrysalis and spread it across the entire Community? This would mean instead of relying on love offerings collected at Gatherings, and teaming and sponsorship fees paid by teamers and sponsors, we would leverage the support of the entire Community to strengthen the Kingdom of Christ.

Fourth Day Operating Expenses

Fourth Day operating expenses are covered through love offerings collected at Gatherings and through special donations made by Community members. These expenses, that support both Emmaus and Chrysalis, include:

Music dues, insurance, legal services (on retainer), post office box, childcare at Gatherings and DODU, music equipment and projector maintenance, weekend supplies (folders, flash paper, play dough, etc.), and weekend manuals for the leadership teams.

Each year these expenses come to [\\$5,331](#)

Walks and Flights

The cost of a Chrysalis season: two full Chrysalis flights (boys and girls), including teaming fees and sponsorship fees = [\\$11,852](#)

The cost of an Emmaus season: two full walks, full teams, sponsorship fees, CST fees, and teaming fees: \$25,020. Two Emmaus seasons each year = [\\$50,040](#)

How it Breaks Down

Currently Tidewater Emmaus has 880 members who receive our emails and Newsletters. What if every member were able to give just a little agape donation to support the Community. What would it take to fund an entire year of Tidewater Emmaus and Chrysalis?

If all 880 members of the Community were able to donate [\\$16](#) each, by the [December](#) gathering, we would collect enough agape funds to support the entire Chrysalis season.

If all 880 members of the Community were able to donate [\\$32](#) each by the [March](#) gathering we would collect enough funds to support the men's and women's walks in the spring.

If all 880 members of the Community were able to donate [\\$32](#) each by the [September](#) gathering we would collect enough funds to support the men's and women's walks in the fall.

These figures include the Fourth Day operating expenses. So there would be no need to collect offerings at Gatherings.

How is this done?

So how could we do this? Surely we don't have 880 members coming to Gatherings or available to team or sponsor. Most of our members are committed to ministries at their churches. This is exactly what we are called to do as Christian leaders who have attended an Emmaus weekend. We are supposed to put our church first in service and in financial support.

After tithing to our church, what if there were an easy, convenient way for any and all Community members to support Tidewater Emmaus and Chrysalis?

We are setting up a feature that facilitates online donations on behalf of Tidewater Emmaus and Chrysalis. This utility allows Community members near and far, from recent walks, and the very first to support the Emmaus community that they love.

There are several benefits to this program:

1. If enough donations are received we can fund an entire year of Tidewater Emmaus and Chrysalis and have no need for teaming fees, sponsorship fees, CST fees, or offering buckets
2. If partial funding is received to support the Community that funding will still have an impact on our ability to reduce our fees ... and this is a good thing!
3. Donations made to the Agape Donation Fund are tax deductible!
4. It provides a way for Community members to give back, even if they cannot make a commitment of their time.

With no fees to worry about, consider the reach we could have to everyone in the Tidewater area. How many Christian leaders could we build up and send out glowing with the love of Christ?

**Pilgrims and caterpillars would still be responsible for their weekend deposit. This is an essential component to confirming their commitment to the weekend.

On the Horizon

Shortly the Tidewater Emmaus web site will be updated to include a "donate now" button. Community members can use this button to give once, give throughout the year, or donate on a monthly basis. You can set up monthly donations too. A minimum donation of \$10 each month (a requirement of our online donation service, JustGive.org) is required if you choose this option. Each time you donate you will receive an email receipt that can be used for your tax deduction filing.

Donations to the Agape fund via check or cash could still be made directly to Tidewater Emmaus/Chrysalis without using the "Donate Now" button.

These are NOT dues. Donating is NOT required. We simply wanted to give you an idea of what it would take for the Body of Christ to build the Body of Christ.

It comes down to \$80/year for each of our 880 members ... it averages out to \$6.67/month per community member. Pretty amazing when you break it down isn't it?

The Board will communicate the status of the Agape donation fund each month. One month prior to a flight or walk season, the Board will review the available funds and inform Community members of the balance due that is required to sponsor, team, or work CST for that walk or flight season.

We cannot predict the status of the funds for any weekend season at this time. For now, plan on the current fees and be pleasantly surprised to learn what the actual fees will be ... perhaps \$0!

What do you think of this idea? Please contact any of the Tidewater Emmaus Board members (listed on the Contact Us page on the TWE web site) and let us know your questions and thoughts about the Agape Donation Fund.

De Colores!

--Tidewater Emmaus Board

AGAPE!!

- ❖ Are you feelin' the love? Want to give back? One of the many opportunities to "pass it on" is through making agape for upcoming walks. I will be at the December 18th gathering with placemats to color and ideas for agape for you to make. You can email me ANYTIME at mbsworld1@cox.net if you have specific questions on agape!
- ❖ Also, to the BEAUTIFUL agape makers out there....I PRAISE GOD for your hearts and your servant hands! These past few walks have just been awash in your beautiful offerings of Love...and SO SO appreciated! I love you!!
- ❖ **Prayer Vigil!** TW 94 and TW95 are gearing up for the Spring ...it is NEVER too early to sign up for the upcoming prayer vigil. And while you're signing up for a time to pray for the pilgrims, please consider praying for the teaming process....Holy Spirit does amazing things when we give our hearts in prayer!!

TWE EMMAUS December Gathering



The December Gathering will be held 18 December 2010
starting at 6:30 pm at
Mt. Pleasant UMC, 2505 Mt. Pleasant Rd, Chesapeake

[Get Directions](#)