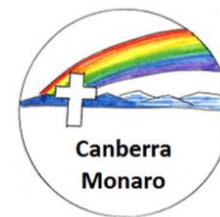




# EMMAUS NEWS



Newsletter of the Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community

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## A message from our Community Lay Director

### Gatherings

Saturday 11 Sep 21  
2 - 4.30pm via Zoom

Saturday 9 Oct 21  
Country Gathering via Zoom  
2 - 4.30pm

Saturday 13 Nov 21  
Going Fourth #15  
10am - 5pm  
O'Connor Uniting Hall

Saturday 11 Dec 21  
BBQ 12.30 pm  
O'Connor Uniting Hall

### Other Meetings

Thursday 16 Sep 21  
Board Meeting

Saturday 9 Oct 21  
CLD meet with WLDs

Thursday 14 Oct 21  
Board Meeting

Saturday 13 Nov 21  
Board Meeting

Saturday 11 Dec 21  
Team Selection Meeting for  
2022 Walks

### Walks 2022

Men's #91: 20-23 Oct 22  
Women's #92: 3-6 Nov 22



Wow, haven't things changed so quickly! The Covid Lockdown is now a reality for all of us. I pray that you are all safe and well during this time.

As the ACT went into lockdown on Thursday August 12<sup>th</sup> the Emmaus Board met briefly by zoom that evening to work out the details for the Gathering on the following Saturday. Saturday August 14<sup>th</sup> saw the Board meet by zoom for their monthly meeting at 11am. This was followed by our Gathering by zoom at 2pm. Nothing can replace a

face to face meeting, but our zoom Gathering came close. With approximately 52 people in attendance, our worship was led wonderfully by Mick Brown and Jim Curtis conducted our Communion Service. We were even able to Commission the wonderful Going Fourth #15 team. The 4<sup>th</sup> Day Talk was given by Andy Visser. What a wonderful testimony of her journey with Christ since her Walk in South Africa and the ministries she is involved in, including as an Agape Fairy on our Walks. What an inspirational time of sharing it was! Thanks to all those involved, a special mention to Gary Bates and Von Chenery for their hosting and coordinating at short notice.

On Saturday evening of August 14<sup>th</sup> at 11pm an Emmaus International Virtual Gathering was held by zoom. There were about 200 Emmaus members involved from all around the world. There were worship items from South Africa, Singapore, the US and Zimbabwe. The 4<sup>th</sup> Day Talk was from a South African lady and the SD was from England. A special part of the Gathering was when the names of Emmaus members who had died in the last year scrolled down the screen. It was clear to see that the Covid Pandemic has hit very hard in some countries. The breakout group we shared with had people from the US, including Hawaii, the Philippines, and South Africa. The lasting impression was that even though we are culturally very different, the ministry of Emmaus has profound impacts on people's lives all over the world.

While on the zoom topic, Emmaus has a Zoom license that is available for all the Emmaus Community. If you would like to use it to hold a Reunion Group Meeting, Bible Study, Team Meeting or to have a chat with friends over coffee, then please use it, that is why we have it. Just contact Von Chenery or Jim Curtis to get the details.

The Emmaus Board recently met with Mike Rowe and Jan Pearsall, our 2 recent Walk Lay Directors, for a Walk Review. This is part of our desire to try and constantly improve what we do. There were no major issues, just some areas we can refine and tweak to help in the future. As a result there will be some work groups set up to look at things like training manuals, ALD, MD and WLD training and updating job descriptions. You may be asked to join one of these work groups or if you are interested in being involved contact me.

In consultation with Wayne & Teresa Scott it has been decided that Going Fourth be postponed from September 11<sup>th</sup>. Keep an eye out for more information on a new date as we see how the lockdown progresses in coming weeks.

## De Colores

Andrew

September Gathering  
Saturday 11 September 2pm via Zoom  
(Zoom details will be advised)



## Direct Donations - a note from our Treasurer

Have you thought that instead of making a one off donation at a gathering, you could make a regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly donation? By doing this, you will help ensure that we can keep supporting pilgrims and meet the running costs of Emmaus. To make a direct deposit use the following details:

Name of bank account: Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community

Bsb: 634634, Account Number: 100021977

De Colores, Phil Bloomfield, Treasurer

# A message from our Community Spiritual Director



## Story Time: Why Parables?

a reflection on Matthew 13:10-17

*Then the disciples came and asked him, 'Why do you speak to them in parables?' He answered, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to them in parables is that "seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand." With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:*

*"You will indeed listen, but never understand,  
and you will indeed look, but never perceive.  
For this people's heart has grown dull,  
and their ears are hard of hearing,  
and they have shut their eyes;  
so that they might not look with their eyes,  
and listen with their ears,  
and understand with their heart and turn—  
and I would heal them."*

*But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.' Matthew 13:10-17 (NRSVA)*

Perhaps it was something of a surprise for the disciples to hear Jesus teaching the crowd through this strange skeleton-story. Given that Jesus freely offers his students an explanation of the parable immediately following this reading, we may assume these followers of Jesus needed some help to 'Hear then the parable of the sower.' (Matthew 13:18).

An explanation of the parable is not, however, their first concern. Jesus' teaching initially prompted a broader question: 'Why do you speak to them in parables?' For these students this seems like an unclear method of communication fraught with the potential for misunderstanding. Perhaps it is fair to say that Jesus is not being as plain with the crowds as he is with those closest to him.

***Parables, however, are not a strategy used without reason.***

As we have seen, it is unlikely that everyone gathered on the shore to hear Jesus' teaching

had pure motives. Indeed, the parable that surrounds this moment of explanation makes this clear. Some hearts are hard, some fearful, some worldly, and others – open.

As Jesus explains, it is to these open hearts that 'more' will be revealed. Openness begets openness. Hard and closed hearts beget hard and closed hearts. When it comes to Jesus' parables, those who listen carefully will find abundance. Those who do not will find they have even less than when they started.

***How we listen is vitally important to what we hear!***

For Jesus all this is a fulfilling of the prophet Isaiah's God-predicted frustration. Isaiah wanted to go. 'Here I am; send me!', he insists (Isaiah 6:8). God immediately articulates the challenges that will be Isaiah's as a result:

'...Go and say to this people:

“Keep listening, but do not comprehend;  
keep looking, but do not understand.  
Make the mind of this people dull,  
and stop their ears,  
and shut their eyes,  
so that they may not look with their eyes,  
and listen with their ears,  
and comprehend with their minds,  
and turn and be healed.” (Isaiah 6:9-10)

Through Isaiah, God will speak. The people, however, will be unwilling to listen.

It is easy to see why the parable of the Sower surrounds this explanation. It reminds us that the Kingdom’s grace and generosity are expressed liberally and that this does not translate into understanding in all who hear. After all, some who listen also have their hands over their ears!

Parables, however, have a way of getting past our defences. They are easily remembered.

They pique our curiosity. They have a habit of surfacing in our minds at the right time. Like a good riddle, they are difficult to let go of.

As a result, these stories linger – and are able to be heard again when our ears are open.

**Conversation Starters:**

*Have you ever had a parable speak to you in a new way at the right time? How did your openness contribute to this? How did the Spirit of God contribute?*

*How do you experience the difference between being told something is true, and discovering that same thing is true? How do parables facilitate discovery?*

Peace,

Mark

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## Mark’s Blog

Our Community Spiritual Director, Mark Beresford, publishes weekly Bible reflections on his website, Barefoot Follower: Inviting Reflection on the Stories of Jesus (<https://barefootfollower.life>). You are welcome to visit this site anytime.



# August Zoom Gathering

Hi all,

It was lovely to see everyone' smiling faces on zoom and it was fantastic to see some of our interstate friends. I was really blessed by Andy's talk and am so glad to see her in her role as Agape Fairy. She is such a blessing to our community. Andy's talk showed me how the blessings that come out of quiet servanthood flows both ways. As always, Mick's singing was a blessing and brought peace to my soul.

De Colores

Trish Dooley

The zoomed in community!



Able led by our ever colourful SD Jim Curtis and MD Mick Brown with an inspirational Fourth Day Talk by Andy Visser



And no gathering is complete without a (zoom) weave!!



**Going Fourth #15 - New Date!!!!**  
**Saturday 13 November 10am to 4 pm @ O'Connor**  
**Uniting Church**



Come along to hear three special messages on the theme

**“Everything that has breath praise the Lord”**  
**Psalm 150:6**

Join us on **Saturday 13 November**  
O'Connor Uniting Church Hall  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bring your lunch, name badge and worship book

Prepare for sharing, fun, fellowship, food opportunities and hearing God's word  
Morning and afternoon tea supplied

Please register by sending an email to  
The registrar at [registrar.canberramonaro@gmail.com](mailto:registrar.canberramonaro@gmail.com)  
Or the secretary at [canberramonaro@emmaus.org.au](mailto:canberramonaro@emmaus.org.au)

Cost \$10 - pay at the door (cash only, no EFTPOS)  
Or by direct deposit to Canberra Monaro Emmaus  
BSB: 634634 Account Number: 100021977  
Please put your name as the reference

## Our Candlelighting Coordinators

### Jill and Jim Pearson



Walk Numbers 54 & 53, Greenhills, Tables of Esther and Matthew.

We are the Candlelighting Coordinators and we aim to create a delightful surprise of love and welcome to the Walk pilgrims into the Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community. We arrive at 7pm on the Saturday night and have the church prepared for the Community, who arrive at 8pm. We have a time of fellowship then a service of worship to the Lord. Then we prepare ourselves for the pilgrims arriving about 10pm.

We have lived in Canberra for over 35 years and been married for 40 years.

These photos were taken of our celebration with family of 40 years of marriage, in early 2021. Pictured with us are our two sons, their wives, and five grandchildren.



Jill is a practicing Maternal and Child Health Nurse, with numerous other clinical capabilities and I am a retired civil engineer who now spends much of his time providing company for isolated men.

I am the househusband and provide healthy, though maybe slightly repetitive, meals.

Jill is very fit and commutes daily to and from work, and both of us swim outside lockdown.

Jill has always been a believer and I came to the Lord in my early 20s.

We have been involved in Emmaus on team, as Prayer Directors, and as Candlelighting Coordinators.

De Colores

Jill and Jim

## A peak behind the Candlelighting screen!

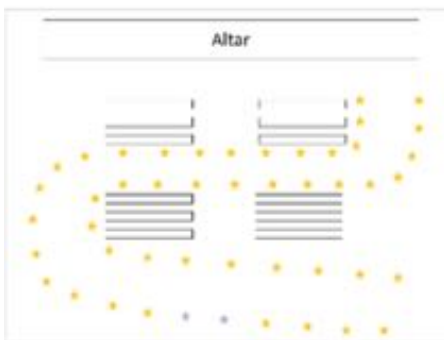


The aim of the Candlelighting event is to create a delightful surprise of love and welcome to the pilgrims into the Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community, by many members of that Community.

The community arrive at the Weston Creek Uniting church at 8pm, the chairs of which have been already set out with the middle three rows of chairs removed.

We have a worship time, then Gathering Service with Prayer for the Pilgrims and Communion, then we Weave and wait for the Team to arrive.

The pilgrims and their leaders approach a darkened Weston Creek Uniting church, whose car park is completely empty. They go inside on the understanding that pilgrims are going to have times of reflection. The vestibule just inside the entry door is dark. However, when the door into the main part of the church is opened, the pilgrims are greeted by the Emmaus Community.



The dark is lit by the many electric tealights held aloft by community members, in long lines on each side of where the pilgrims are walking. The community are singing the “Jesus, Jesus” song.

The pilgrims follow a reverse S path toward the front of the church, with the middle three rows of chairs removed, and congregate up at the front of the church near the Cross.

The community then spread throughout the back half of the church, the tealights twinkling and weaving.

In the dark, the Spiritual Director tells the pilgrims where all of our Community has come from.

We laugh, some cry, we share time and then...

The pilgrims sing “Jesus, Jesus” back to us and slowly we filter away, straining to catch a last glimpse of the pilgrim and team as they serenade us out and we close the door behind us...

“Jesus, Jesus, can I tell you what I know,  
You have given me your Spirit, I love you so.”

