

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 5 ~ Issue 4

April 2009

Upcoming Events

April 18-20, 2009

Boys Chrysalis Flight

First UMC, New Lex

April 26, 2009, 3:00pm

Emmaus Monthly Gathering

First UMC

New Lexington

Satellite Emmaus Gatherings

May 11, 2009, 7:00pm

Logan Gathering

Trinity Lutheran

May 12, 2009, 7:00pm

Lancaster Gathering

6th Avenue UMC

Women's Spring Walk #46

May 14-17, 2009

Men's Spring Walk #46

May 21-24, 2009

May 31, 2009, 3:00pm

Emmaus Monthly Gathering

First UMC

New Lexington

Inside this issue:

Team List for the
Spring Emmaus Walks

Prayer Guide for prayer times
during the Prayer Vigil.
Check it out if you sometimes struggle
during your prayer vigil times.

Boardmember Contact Information

Keep this handy in case you would
like to contact a board member.

From the Community Lay Director

I have heard that sound before. It comes from deep within the soul. You can only describe it as something like a guttural moan, a great sobbing. It comes from someone, perhaps a father or a mother or both, who has lost a child to death. It is an unnerving sound, even for those who are experienced at hearing it and even expect it. It rattles you and sets you on edge and leaves you uneasy.

I will hear that sound again, one day. If you spend any time in the ministry at all, if you are a pastor, or a pastor's husband or wife, if you are a close friend, another family member, an acquaintance—you will hear it. There is a great sadness that comes with it.

I wonder if those who surrounded Mary, the mother of Jesus, heard that sound come from deep within her? Did she shout when Jesus gave up his spirit on that cross? Did she groan when Jesus wondered if he had been forsaken? Did she feel his pain as the spear pierced his side?

I have heard that sound before. It's inquisitive, but not quite believing. It radiates from within, but not nearly as deep as the death sound. It's a sound that asks if something is too good to be true, yet hoping beyond hope that it is. It is a sound of someone hearing the news—there is no more cancer, your son/daughter/husband/wife wasn't killed in the accident—that you want to hear but can't quite believe until you see/experience it for yourself.

I will hear that sound again, one day. If you spend any time in the ministry at all, if you are a pastor, or a pastor's husband or wife, if you are a close friend, another family member, an acquaintance—you will hear it. There is a certain expectancy that comes with it.

It's the sound of Mary outside the tomb meeting the Risen Christ for the first time. It's the sound of wonderment. It's the sound of not quite praising God but wanting to! Can it be? Is it true? Am I dreaming? Jesus is alive?

How must Mary have felt? Experiencing the certain death of Christ. *(continued on page 2)*



(continued from page 1) . Seeing the empty tomb after watching the crucifixion. Encountering the angels at the tomb. Speaking to Jesus in the garden. How must have Mary, mother of Jesus, felt when she heard the news? Or James, Peter, any of them? What were they experiencing?

We know that Peter raced back to the tomb to see for himself. We know that Jesus would appear in the room with the disciples to prove he was back. We know that Jesus would appear to many others before he ascended to Heaven to sit at the throne.

We have heard that sound before. It is the sound of the Holy Spirit rushing into our lives in the moment that we believe that Jesus is Lord and Savior. It is the sound of the “joy that comes in the morning”. It is the sound of the angels singing at the birth of Christ and the rejoicing of another soul that has been received. It is the sound of a thousand church bells ringing in the New Year. It is the sound of a baby cooing and a child laughing. It is the sound of the greatest joy that we will ever hear – “Well done, my good and faithful servant!”

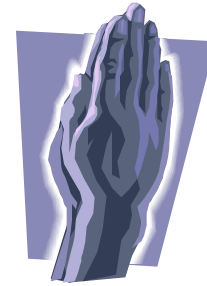
These are the sounds of Easter—of the grieving, of the unexpected news, of the encounter with the Risen Christ. These are also the sounds of life that we all experience.

In this new year, in this season of Easter, let us all hear the sounds of the season, so that we may experience it all. May we remember the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, may we see the empty tomb and may we encounter Christ right where we are—in our moment of desperation or our moment of greatest joy—when we know that Jesus is alive.

Let us hear the sounds of the early church whenever they met and said: “He is risen! He is risen, indeed!!”

De Colores!

Dave Shoemaker



March 2009 Emmaus Gathering Praises and Prayer Concerns

Praises:

Dave Sherman's song, The movie "Fireproof", The High School musical at Fairfield Christian, It's finally Spring, For a daughter going to Haiti, Bob & Debbie Birkimer's granddaughter Olivia, Tom Parrish's ministry to feed the homeless, Good to be alive and praising God

Concerns:

Carmen & Madeline Mitchell, Rick Bennington, Boys Chrysalis flight, The Spring Emmaus Walk teams & pilgrims, Barb and her two sons, Linda Potts, Raplh Bauserman, Linda Berry, Norma Hite, Susan Rogers, Traveling mercies, Shirley Miller, Jeremy Richards, Whitey Garrett family, Linda McWhorter, Sandy Drake, Ricahrd Fast, Dixie Stump

Lost and Found: Left behind at March's monthly gathering in New Lexington

- White crock pot with blue flowers on it
- 9" x 13" clear baking dish with a red lid. The baking dish had brownies in it.

I will bring the items to April's gathering, or I can be reached at 385-3855.

Thanks,
Bob Barnhart



Please pray for Women's and Men's Walks #46 and for the lives that will be changed!

Women's Walk 46 (May 14-17, 2009)

Spiritual Director: Jim Lambert

Lay Director: Betty Clark

Assistant Lay Directors:

Penny Canter, Lynda Fink, Heather Pullins

Table Leaders:

Georganne Thomas, Kim Reed, LeeAnn Herron, Tina Simmons, Dawn Barnes, Karcy Rush

Assistant Table Leaders:

Debby Highbargin, Crystal Ratliff, Katie Kudlapur, Brenda Stimmel, Sue Penix, Linda Lohse Smith

Music Directors:

Barb Harkless, Ruth Nicholson

Clergy Talks:

Brent Watson, Carolyn Hoskinson, Walt Goble

Agape:

Judy West, Alice Moneypenny, Rita Kehl

Logistics: TBD

Men's Walk 46 (May 21-24, 2009)

Spiritual Director: Tom Hite

Assist. Spiritual Director: Stanley Strode

Lay Director: Bob Barnhart

Assistant Lay Directors:

Kevin Westfall, Floyd Tackett, Greg Rush

Table Leaders: Jim Cooke, Dave Kelch, Richard Fast, Sterling Dietrich, Bob Hughes, Jim Stimmel Jr.

Assistant Table Leaders: Mike Helber,

Christopher Stone, Jayme Arnett, Larry Moneypenny, Doug Dewitt, Keith Kistler

Music Director:

Dwayne Tackett

Clergy Talks:

Ricci Arthur, Jessie Blevins, Clarence Thompson

Agape:

Karcy Rush, Cora Marchington

Logistics: TBD

Prayer Vigil

The Spring Emmaus Walks are fast approaching! As we prepare to bring others closer to Christ may we all remember the awesome feeling we had on our walk when the Prayer Vigil was brought out in the conference room. To realize those people whose names are on the poster are praying for you. If you have not signed up for a prayer time and would like to be a part of the Prayer Vigil please call me at 740-982-4729 or go to this website www.3dayol.org/Vigil/GetComm.phtml .

For other helpful information (including a **prayer guide** for some prayer ideas), see the Southern Ohio Emmaus website: www.southernohioemmaus.com

Your Brother in Christ,
Bob Birkimer

2009 Fee Schedule

Weekend Fees

Pilgrim Fee.....	\$125
Team Member	\$120
Logistics & Agape.....	\$75
Extra Meals:.....breakfast -	\$5.75
.....lunch -	\$6.75
.....dinner -	\$8.00
 Mailed Newsletter	 \$7.50/year
Emailed Newsletter.....	Free



“The Full Treatment”

C.S. Lewis wrote the following:

When I was a child, I often had a toothache, and I knew that if I went to my mother, she would give me something which would deaden the pain for that night and let me get to sleep. But I did not go to my mother--at least not till the pain became very bad. And the reason I did not go was this: I did not doubt she would give me the aspirin; but I knew she would also do something else. I knew she would take me to the dentist the next morning. I could not get what I wanted out of her without getting something more, which I did not want. I wanted immediate relief from my pain; but I could not get it without having my teeth set permanently right. And I knew those dentists; I knew they would start fiddling about with all sorts of other teeth which had not yet begun to ache. Our Lord is like the dentists. Dozens of people go to him to be cured of some particular sin. Well, he will cure it all right, but he will not stop there. That may be all you asked; but if you once call him in, he will give you the full treatment.

How well this illustrates our human nature!

At the last moment we often come to the Lord for the “quick-fix” or the “miracle pill” to cure our pressing, immediate ills, but He knows our true “needs” more than we do ourselves. Just like that dentist...he knows there is more extensive work that needs to be done than we realize.

God is not yet done with us. Whether we are brand new Christians or long-time wise and seasoned saints, He wants to continue curing the ills of our sinful tendencies. This process is called “sanctification” or “going on to perfection”.

When we think we have “arrived” and there is no need for further spiritual growth, may God make our spirit “ache” enough that we seek His “full treatment”.

Your Brother in Christ,
Pastor Tom

“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”
Philippians 3:12 (NIV)

Mark your calendar!!!

Emmaus Family Picnic

This year we are trying something a little different

Saturday, August 8, 2009

Southern Ohio Emmaus Family Picnic/Hog Roast and Camping



Location:

8905 Vanatta Rd, Logan, Ohio
(Webb Summit, SR93 - 4 miles north of Logan)



Plan on a day of great music, fellowship and delicious food.

Want to come early? You can actually spend Friday night (August 7th) assisting in the roasting of the pork. Campers and motor homes are welcome. There will likely **not** be Electric or Water for campers, so generators would work well. Bring your camper or stop in for a while for informal fellowship and to help roast the hog. We'll have a campfire and put the hog on to roast all night while we fellowship and share music throughout the evening



For those spending the night, make sure you bring your food for the evening and don't forget all the ingredients for s'mores made around the fire.

Special Music will be provided by those from the Community.

If you would like to participate in the music or provide some sort of entertainment, let us know.



Pieces of April

April has always been one of my favorite months. I think that's because the warm weather is finally winning, despite a setback here and there, and months of good weather stretch ahead. The trees are blossoming and coming into leaf. Crocuses, tulips and hyacinths gladden the eyes and the nose. Everywhere there are signs of Spring, new birth and rebirth. It certainly doesn't hurt anything that April is (usually) the month of Easter.

I also can't get through April without thinking back to the old Three-Dog Night song "Pieces of April." ("I've got pieces of April, I keep 'em in a memory bouquet.") I have a pretty good memory bouquet from Aprils past. In those memories, the weather on Easter Sunday is always good. I go to church with my family, come home, and take a walk in the sunshine. There are chocolate rabbits and marshmallow peeps at home, and multi-colored eggs. Real eggs, not plastic ones, for these are the days before cholesterol was something that could scare you to death even if it didn't actually clog your arteries.

Despite all of these temptations, I go on my walk. This is as close to philosophical as my 12-year old mind ever gets, and I think about a living Savior, a loving Savior, who is risen, indeed, and Lord of All.

Now, maybe I couldn't express it quite that way back then, but it is still the same Savior who walks with me this Easter, this April, this year. Each of us who has experienced the Walk to Emmaus has the assurance that this Savior is with us all of our days. I pray that each of you has a wonderful memory bouquet of the times that he has been with you throughout your life.

Oh, and one other thing. Memories of those rainbow-colored Easter eggs give me the perfect opportunity to say

DE COLORES!

Pastor David Rohrer
Assistant Spiritual Director



Sponsorship

I hope that everyone's Easter Celebration was the greatest ever. My wife and I were asked to attend a Sunrise service on Vesper Hill at Camp Otterbein; it was wonderful and brought back so many memories to both of us. To watch the sunrise over the beautiful trees, hear the birds singing, see the Easter Lilies in bloom under the cross, and the deer running and jumping in the field. It was crisp, the grass glistened with frost, you could see your breath, and all the beauty God gave to us through his Son. The place was truly made with God's hands. He blessed us there on our Emmaus Walk, and yet again at Sunrise Service. May you always recognize the beauty in everything you see and do, and praise God for it all.

Remember if you are considering sponsoring a pilgrim on the Spring Walks, you should have attended a Sponsorship class, or have a co-sponsor who has. Pray for guidance as you undertake all the responsibilities of sponsoring a pilgrim

Chuck Moore Sponsorship

Prayer Guide Example for Emmaus Prayer Vigil

Prayer to the Holy Spirit: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and every enjoy Your consolations. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAISE: Acknowledging God for His character and attributes.
Praise God for His grace and love that is extended to all people.

Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

1. Praise God that His grace was extended to you personally.
2. Praise God that His love knows no limits.
3. Praise God that He is love and the Creator of love.
4. Praise God that Love was the ultimate sacrifice of suffering at the cross.

Songs: Amazing Grace, Grace That is Greater Than all our Sin, The Love of God

CONFESSION: Agreeing with God concerning sin.

Mark 11: 25, "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop-leave it go-in order that your Father who is in heaven may also forgive your own failings and shortcomings and let them drop."

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any hidden hurts, resentments, bitterness, rebellion, or attitudes that will block the flow of the Holy Spirit in your life or the lives of others you encounter. Confess these to Jesus and ask the Lord to restore newness and freshness in your heart, mind, body, and soul.
2. Ask for a spirit of humility and servant attitude in this hour of prayer.

THANKSGIVING: Attitude of Gratitude, thankfulness for what God has done.

Philippians 4:6, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."

1. Thank God for the grace in forgiveness.
2. Thank God for the grace exhibited on the Emmaus weekend.
3. Thank God for the Holy Spirit that is at work in the lives of the pilgrims.
4. Thank God for the order of the talks, the speakers, and the progression in bringing the pilgrims closer to Christ.
5. Thank God for the team members and their sacrifice for the weekend.
6. Thank God for the prayer vigil members and their willingness to be used by God.
7. Thank God for the Emmaus Community, sponsors, and 4th day Reunion groups providing Agape gifts.
8. Thank God for the Spiritual Directors and the grace of the Holy Spirit in them.
9. Thank God for (your personal or specific area of thanksgiving or other things related to the weekend.)

INTERCESSION: Prayer that focuses on requests needed for others.

1. I Peter 3:18, that the Pilgrims will "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."
2. I John 4:8, that the Pilgrims will "love one another in the love of God and will know that God is love."
3. Matthew 10:38, that the Pilgrims will "take up their cross and follow Christ."
4. Luke 24: 31-32, that the "eyes of the Pilgrims will be opened and their hearts burn in the reading of the Scriptures," listening to the talks, sharing in prayer and fellowship around the tables, receiving agape, and communion.
5. James 1:22, that the Pilgrims will become "doers of the Word and not hearers only."
6. Galatians 6:8-10, that the Pilgrims will "sow to the Spirit, reap a harvest of everlasting life, and not grow weary in well doing." Also, that the Pilgrims will "do good to all, especially in the Body of Christ."
7. Romans 1:16, that the Pilgrims "will not be ashamed of the gospel of Christ, but proclaim the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes" and with whom they associate.
8. Pray for each Pilgrim individually as the Holy Spirit directs.
9. Pray for other prayer needs for team members and/or other aspects of the weekend.
10. Pray that all that would be said and done would glorify the Lord.

2009 Southern Ohio Emmaus Board of Directors

This is the current contact list of our 2009 Board of Directors. Keep this list handy so you can contact the board with needs, concerns, ideas, and information. Please keep the board in your prayers that they may honor Our Lord as they serve Him and our community.

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Updated: Jan 12, 2009

Southern Ohio Emmaus

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE