

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 5 ~ Issue 8

August 2009

Upcoming Events

Emmaus Monthly Gathering

August 30, 2009, 3:00pm
First UMC
New Lexington

Satellite Emmaus Gatherings

September 8, 2009, 7:00pm

Lancaster Gathering
6th Avenue UMC

September 14, 2009, 7:00pm

Logan Gathering
Trinity Lutheran Church

Inside this issue:

Online Prayer Vigil Links

for Fall Walks

Understanding the Bible (part 3)

The Historical Books

Updated Boardmember Contact Information

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

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

From the Community Lay Director

Greetings in the name of the Risen Christ!

Hopefully, God has been blessing you quite fully this summer as the days move right along. We are coming upon the time very quickly now when the Fall Walks will be held. We encourage all of you to not only attend the various functions during the Walk (Send-Off, Candlelight, Closing) but to encourage others to discern if God is calling them to a closer walk with Christ. We do not have to have a Pilgrim on a Walk to enjoy these moments with them and the teams. I hope we see you at Camp Akita!

Normally, the Walk to Emmaus strives to redirect the focus of our lives from self to self-less. We encourage working in the background as servants during Walks as Agape or Logistic team members, during the year as Reunion (Share) Groups that meet and create agape, as Board of Director members, and in other various duties and positions. Sometimes, however, normally doesn't cut it for someone who goes well beyond the call of duty.

At the risk of tooting someone's horn, I want to especially thank Greg Rush for his idea and tireless efforts pulling off a wonderful hog roast, to Karcy Rush for always being in motion to make sure everything was taken care of, to the entire Stimmel family for the use of their property (and it was a terrific location) and their skills. If you didn't eat any of the hog or chicken (thanks to Larry and Alice Money Penny), you missed out on some great stuff! I know I am omitting somebody, and I don't want to, but I can't even remember who all did what. I want to thank everyone else who was there on Friday and Saturday for a grand time of fellowship and food.

The hog roast idea this year was a significant change from what we have always done. In Emmaus, as in life, we can easily get into the rut of always doing the same thing. This year in particular, the Walk to Emmaus has been about change. The purple worship booklet has changed somewhat. The Dying Moments event will see a change. Team manuals changed. And there's another change coming – the Pilgrim crosses. These will, at some point, go from pewter to wood. However, despite all of these changes, there is one thing that remains – the God who was, who is, and who always will be! You've got to admit that even though the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are the same from the beginning of time, they aren't static! I cannot.... (continued on page 2)



(continued from page 1)imagine God standing around and saying, "But that's the way we've always done it!" Can you?

This Community cannot remain static, nor can its leadership. We are quickly approaching that time of year when we will be voting for new board of director members. There are six of us (I think) that will be replaced by January. I am one of them. Although I have enjoyed my time on the Board immensely, I do not want to stay on it forever. This is one instance where change is necessary and needed. Maybe God is calling you to serve in this way. If so, would you mind letting us know?

Hope to see you on August 30 at the next Gathering. It's our last one before the Women's Walk. Come out and worship, pray and fellowship together. May God continue to bless you in all of your Fourth Days!

De Colores!
Dave Shoemaker

Prayer Vigil

The Fall 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 these websites

www.3dayol.org/Vigil/GetVigil.phtml?pvid=3648

www.3dayol.org/Vigil/GetVigil.phtml?pvid=3649

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

Your Brother in Christ,
Bob Birkimer

Let's Eat

Hello all. My name is Bob Barnhart and as your Emmaus SOCIAL Board rep, I thought I would take this opportunity to explain to you just exactly what the SOCIAL board member does. The Social Board Rep is responsible for your dining pleasure. My food responsibilities at the monthly gatherings consist of making sure that the food dishes you all bring are put out, uncovered and ready for consuming. That means I put out all the paper products, cups and utensils needed for the meal. I also make sure there are ice and beverages available. I am responsible for clean up after the meal and social time. That includes dishes washed, tables cleaned off and put away and the trash taken out. I am responsible for these same duties during spring walks and fall walks, Thursday night send offs and Sunday closings. Occasionally we have a crock-pot or dish left behind by an Emmaus member. I try to get these items back to their rightful owners in a timely fashion. I have in the past posted the abandoned item in the Emmaus newsletter with success of uniting the item with its owner. That's pretty much it. I would like to thank all you who have graciously brought food to all the Emmaus functions. I would also like to thank all of you who have been kind enough to assist with the food prep as well as clean up.

"When Emmaus Meets, Emmaus Eats"

God Bless, Bob

Loving the Lord

How many of you who are reading this article love the Lord? Based on your response at Emmaus gatherings, I would guess all of you would say that you love the Lord. At least, I have never heard anyone say "no" when they're asked "Do you love Jesus?" just before we launch into another chorus of "O, How I Love Jesus." And the love this Emmaus community has for the Lord was never clearer than when we sang it once again at the family picnic earlier this month.

Before we congratulate ourselves too much, however, let's think for a minute about Solomon. (continued on page 3)



(continued from page 2) Solomon is one of the great figures of the Old Testament. We remember him for being a great king and for his fabulous wealth (also a gift from God), but perhaps most of all for the unselfish request he made of God. When he could have had anything he wished for, Solomon asked for wisdom to govern the people, so that God granted him a “wise and discerning mind” (1 Kings 3:12).

Despite that wise and discerning mind, however, 1 Kings also gives us this little summary: “Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places.” (1 Kings 3:3)

Solomon is a complex character. We see it clearly there at the end of verse 3. Solomon loved the Lord,... ONLY.... Despite all that God blessed him with, Solomon was not without his human weaknesses. The Bible reveals not just his glory, but his flaws as well. Solomon was, for all the trappings of being a king, just like us — a saint and a sinner at the same time.

Loving the Lord is a good starting place for our fourth days. Yet how many of us continue to worship at the high places? I’m assuming there are no Baal-worshippers among us, nor anyone dancing around the Asherah poles. But we find our own high places in the temptations of our modern world, and we allow them to put that four-letter word “only” into our lives as well. We love the Lord, ONLY....

The good news is that, whatever our shortcomings, the Lord continues to work with us, his people. In spite of the failings and even outright rebellion of the human race, the full measure of God’s grace is always available to us. Pray for enough of that grace to eliminate the word “only” from your love of the Lord.

David Rohrer
Emmaus Community Spiritual Director

The Historical Books

(part three in a series)

By now you may be wondering if we’re ever going to get into the specifics of the Bible. Well don’t worry, we’re getting there. That’s the good news. The catch is that we won’t be getting there until next month, because there’s one more important thing we need to do first, and that is to get the “lay of the land,” so to speak. We need to have an overview of where we’re going, so that the steps we take along the way will make more sense.

Remember that the historical books of the Old Testament are the books from Genesis to Esther, and that those books follow a rough time line. That is to say that the story they tell is in a loose, rather than a strict, chronological order.

With that in mind, the Old Testament can be divided into nine main sections:

Creation. In this section we find the story of the creation of the world and everything in it, including us. No surprise there. This section also includes the stories of Cain and Abel, Noah and the flood, and the Tower of Babel.

The Patriarchs. The Patriarchs are Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph, and this is the story of their family covering roughly 200 years, as well as the story of how the Hebrew people come to live in Egypt.

The Exodus. After 400 years of slavery, Moses and Aaron lead the people out of Egypt in a thrilling story that is familiar to most everyone. But tune in for some exciting new details.

The Conquest. Joshua, one of the great military leaders of all time, leads the people into the Promised Land. And none too soon. They’ve been wandering in the desert for 40 years.

Judges. Another 400 year period, this one marked by alternating periods where the people follow God, only to fall away again and again. The leaders that God appoints are known as Judges. Probably the best known is Samson, but there are a lot of other names as well. (continued on page 4)



(continued from page 3)

The Kingdom. Still another 400 year period, only now the people are ruled by a king. The most famous of the kings are David and Solomon, but again, there are a lot of others. Unfortunately, most of them are great sinners who, as the Bible tells us, “do evil in the sight of the Lord.”

The Exile. The people are conquered by a foreign army and taken to live in Babylon for 70 years. A lot of prophecy happens during this period, with the two major figures being Daniel and Ezekiel.

The Return. Babylon is conquered in turn by the Persians, whose King Cyrus allows the people to go back and rebuild the Temple and the city of Jerusalem. Ezra and Nehemiah figure prominently in this part of the story.

Silence. One more 400 year period, from the time the last Old Testament book is written until New Testament times. During these 400 years, the Pharisees become prominent leaders of the Jewish people and begin imposing hundreds of rules and regulations on their daily lives.

I hope you have these sections pretty clearly in mind. With them, we have now built a good foundation of knowledge which will serve us well as we move into the specifics next time.

This article is based on chapter two of Max E. Anders' book *30 Days to Understanding the Bible*, available through amazon.com or christianbook.com.

This article is part three of a series. Earlier articles in the series can be found in previous editions of The Rainbow Connection beginning in June 2009, available at <http://www.southernohioemmaus.com/documents/newsletter.html>

Next: The Creation Era.
Pastor David Rohrer

Emmaus Family Picnic 2009

First, I would like to thank all those who helped organize and support the Family Picnic this year. Part of what makes an event like this succeed is those who came to enjoy the time of fellowship with their other Emmaus family members. This year we tried something a little different, we held the picnic on Saturday rather than Sunday. We also held the picnic at a new location where we could provide camping and a campfire the evening before the picnic. If you were unable to come and enjoy either the campfire on Friday or the Picnic and Hog Roast on Saturday, you missed an opportunity to share and fellowship with over 100 of your fellow Emmaus Family members.

Anyone who has thoughts or ideas for next year's picnic, please share them with someone on the Emmaus Board. We will be forming a planning committee for next year and I know they would love to hear about your ideas. If you attended this year's picnic and really liked some aspect, let us know. If you thought of something different you think might make the picnic even better, let us know. For those who were unable to attend this year, we would still like to hear your thoughts that might help us improve the picnic for next year.

Remember, Christian fellowship is part of what makes our Emmaus Community the special experience that it is. Please pray about how you can make this community even more effective at making disciples for Christ.

Sincerely,
Greg Rush

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: July 15, 2009

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE
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