

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 5 ~ Issue 2

February 2009

Upcoming Events

February 22, 2009, 3:00pm

Emmaus Monthly Gathering

First UMC

New Lexington

Satellite Emmaus Gatherings

March 9, 2009, 7:00pm

Logan Gathering

Trinity Lutheran

March 10, 2009, 7:00pm

Lancaster Gathering

6th Avenue UMC

March 29, 2009, 3:00pm

Emmaus Monthly Gathering

First UMC

New Lexington

April 18-20, 2009

Boys Chrysalis Flight

First UMC, New Lex

Women's Spring Walk #46

May 14-17, 2009

Men's Spring Walk #46

May 21-24, 2009

Inside this issue:

Mark your calendar!!!

Saturday, August 8, 2009

Southern Ohio Emmaus Family

Picnic/Hog Roast and Camping

(Read more about it on page 4)

Boardmember Contact Information

Updated for New Boardmembers

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

From the Community Lay Director

Perspective (pər-spěk'tív) n. 1. A drawing or painting technique in which objects represented seem to have distance and depth. 2. A mental view of the relationship of aspects of a subject to each other and to a whole. 3. An idea of the relative importance of things. (Webster's II New Riverside Dictionary 1996)

Before all of you think I have jumped off into the deep end of the pool without my water wings on, and before you turn off your brain thinking that this is an English lesson this month, just bear with me! I would like to take a moment and have all of you think about the word "perspective". There's no doubt that we have often heard of the term as it is used in art, as defined above. Most of us hear the word in terms of how we view the world or something specific within it (see number 2 above).

Perhaps that is what we need to explore today – our perspective on the Walk to Emmaus. Let's look at it this way. If we go back to the story from Luke 24, we remember that two men were returning from Jerusalem to Emmaus after the crucifixion of Christ. They were joined by a third man along the way. In the course of time, Jesus was revealed to these two. They had no real perspective of the events that had occurred around them other than what their senses told them. They perhaps had seen Jesus shortly after his capture, had stood by while the trial took place, watched as Jesus was nailed to the cross, and observed his death. Perhaps they were just in the neighborhood and didn't see a thing but had heard all about it.

My point is that these two could not see the big picture – God's perspective – of what was going on around them. All they could see was the face of a stranger walking with them; all they could hear was this man asking questions; all they could understand was pain and grief. They couldn't stand back and think too much about how God was using them or had offered Christ as a sacrifice of redemption. Yes, it is true that these two ran back to Jerusalem to tell the disciples about this experience. But did they really have the perspective they needed to understand what had just happened?

In my limited understanding of our human existence, I believe we, as people of faith, can have a far better perspective of our place in God's handiwork if we want to. We have the benefit of knowing, as people say, how the story ends. We have God's inspired and written word to lead us in that understanding of the proper perspective.

Often, we view the Walk to Emmaus as sometimes perhaps greater than it is. Don't get me wrong – the Walk to Emmaus is a God-blessed and prayer-supported *(continued on page 2)*



(continued from page 1)

miracle of miracles for most of us. But we can't forget that it is just one tiny part of what we are called to do as Christians and children of God. It is a tool to be utilized by our churches to grow and develop leaders around those churches – people just like you and me.

As we begin to enter the Lenten season and prepare for Easter, we need to step back and look upon our experiences on the Walk to Emmaus and maybe we will see it in a new light, or, if you will, a new perspective – one that allows us to see more of the “big picture” and less of ourselves. Maybe, just maybe, God will open our eyes anew, clean away the blindness, and allow us to see just a tiny glimpse of heaven.

The two on the road to Emmaus came face to face with our Risen Lord and didn't even know it for some time. But when they did, they knew that their hearts had been warmed by His presence. I wonder how long it took them to understand, from their perspective, what kind of a moment they had just been a part of.

The Southern Ohio Men's Walk to Emmaus, Number 17, was my time to try and grasp this issue. I didn't see the big picture either. But you know what? God chooses instead to reveal it one day at a time. And he isn't done yet. One day, God willing and the ice storms don't stop it, I'll see it all in the way He intended.

One other thing. It's about the relative importance of things (definition #3). While I have never really seen myself as important in the grand scheme of things at all, God has. That became quite clear when I realized that Jesus died for me. *For me!* I wonder...what was His perspective like?

De Colores!
Dave Shoemaker



January 2009 Emmaus Gathering Praises and Prayer Concerns

Praises: Girls Chrysalis Flight, Betty Goodlive, Hocking County Sheriff situation turned out fine, Somerset UMC men on the Walk to Emmaus at Reynoldsburg

Concerns: Don James, Rose Wallace, Marna Hyett, Norma Gloyd, Dr. Ken Beck, Mike Marr, Our government, Whitey Garrett, Cutright family, Chevalier family, Boys Chrysalis Flight – April, Mt. Olive Church (Stockport), Rick & Nancy Bennington, Lay Directors for Spring Walks (Bob Barnhart & Betty Clark), Darby (a five year old needing kidney transplant), Dick Newlon, Diane Smathers

The Season of Love

I am writing this article a little over a week before Valentine's Day, a day that I am afraid even Christians now see as just another secular holiday. We have lost sight of the real name of the day: Saint Valentine's Day. So it really is a Christian holiday, and its subject, love, is an authentically Christian subject. If you need further proof of that, there are abundant examples from the Bible:

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” (1 John 4:7-8)

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” (John 13:34)

In 1 Corinthians 12:31, Paul says *“And now I will show you the most excellent way,”* and then proceeds to write the whole of chapter 13 on the subject of love. The most excellent way is the new order that God intends for the world. Loving one another is the very foundation of life in Christ. In the famous words of the poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *“let me count the ways”*:

First, it is love that gives meaning to human life. We gain nothing and we are nothing without love. It links us to other people, heart to heart, so that we can face life together, being truly happy (continued on page 3)



(continued from page 2)

for the good things that happen to others, and supporting one another in adversity.

Second, it is love that shapes us as followers of Jesus Christ. Jesus tells us to love God wholeheartedly, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Taking again the words of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, if we are to love as Christ teaches us, then we must learn to love *“to the depth and breadth and height my soul can reach.”* When we learn to love this way, then we can truly let the light of Christ shine into the world.

Third, love is one of the very few things that will last into eternity. Paul says *“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love”* (1 Corinthians 13:13). The things we accumulate will, in the short term, pass to others. In the long term, they will fade away into dust. Love, being the very essence of God, survives all of these things.

Love truly is the most excellent way. It has the power to make us Christ-like. We need to look for ways to increase the love among us, so that, in the words of Hildegard of Bingen, *“Love overflows into all things, from out of the depths to above the highest stars.”*

Pastor David Rohrer
Assistant Spiritual Director

Are you in a share group?

If the answer is **"No"**, the Good Shepherds are here to help. Please let us know you are looking.

If the answer is **"Yes"**, we would also like to hear from you. Following an Emmaus Walk, new members of the community are often looking for a share group. Sometimes Community members who have been around awhile are also looking for one. If you are in an active share group, you can help by contacting the Good Shepherd in your area and let them know about your group.

Volunteer needed for Logan/Hocking County

We need a local Good Shepherd

Is God calling you to help?

If you are interested, please contact:

Dave Shoemaker, (740) 753-3580

shoebopper@sbcglobal.net

Below is a list of those who have agreed to help coordinate Prayer Requests and Share Groups in their local communities, but you will notice that Hocking County is in need of a volunteer.

The Good Shepherds are:

Bev Shoemaker Athens area 740-753-3580;

Jane Moody, Zanesville 740-450-2402;

Judy West, Lancaster 740-569-7342;

We need a Volunteer, Logan/Hocking Co.,

Margie Moody, Gallipolis 740-367-7575;

Marna Hyett, McConnelville 740-962-9030

Connie Walker, New Lexington 740-684-1431

Please do not hesitate to call for prayer for yourself or a loved one. Help us to update our list of Share Groups by providing your group's information or if you are in need of finding a group, let us know.



Agape, Do we remember?

As the new Agape chair I want to let you all know that I am thrilled to be back on the Emmaus Board. I served in that same position 10 years ago, and I loved it. I have however found out that even though my duties are the same, the way that I perform them has changed. I am quite used to checking my mail box daily, but I haven't become accustomed to doing the same with my E-Mails as of yet. So please feel free to contact me via E-Mail, but please have patience. I have quite a bit to learn!!

Remember the fun and joy of receiving little surprises at camp? We knew that many people had to take part in the giving. Agape is an important part of the weekend for the pilgrims. It even helps start conversations when sitting at a table of unfamiliar faces. Needless to say that we all went home with a bunch of loot, fond memories and new friends along with our closer walk with Jesus. During these cold, icy and snowy days I would like to encourage your share group to be working on some of these projects. A general rule is that we need 65 pieces of agape for mealtime and 35 pieces for bedtime. We seem to be in short supply of the rooster necklaces. If you need a pattern or directions I will do my best to locate one for you, this is a time consuming project so we could use some extra hands. I have always been amazed at the amount of Agape that comes in for each walk. I know that you receive joy while working on it.

DeColores,
Shirley Jadwin

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

Mark your calendar!!!

This year we are trying something a little different

Saturday, August 8, 2009

Southern Ohio Emmaus Family Picnic/Hog Roast and Camping
(Location: *more info later*)



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

Want to come early? You can actually spend Friday night 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

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.



Lent 101

Lent is a season of the Christian year when people are invited to simplify their lives to focus on their relationship with God in Christ. It begins this year on Wednesday, February 25th.

WHERE DOES THE CONCEPT OF LENT COME FROM?

At Jesus' baptism the sky split open, the Spirit of God, which looked like a dove, descended and landed on Jesus, and a voice from heaven said, "*This is my Son, My Beloved, with whom I am pleased.*" Afterward, as told in Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus hiked into the wilderness for forty days to fast and pray. While he was there, he was tempted by Satan and found the strength to make some tough decisions. He also found clarity about God and what kind of person God wanted him to be.

WHAT DOES LENT HAVE TO DO WITH ME?

Our lives are filled with distractions that take us away from living a life with Christ. We try to fill the emptiness inside us with mindless TV, meaningless chatter, stimulants, alcohol or other things. We run from silence because we're afraid of being alone with God. So, like Jesus, we need to take some serious time to pray and figure out where God is in our lives, and where God is calling us to serve. We need to re-focus our lives to be more in line with God.

HOW DO CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE LENT?

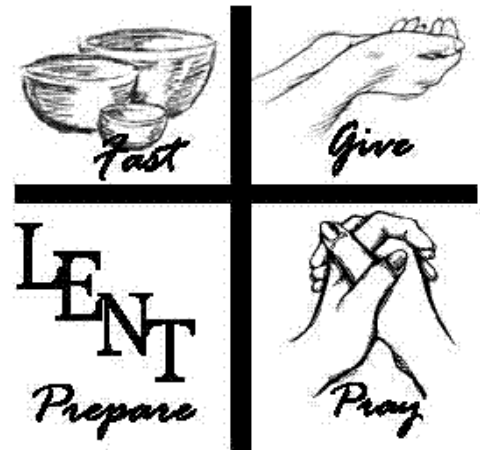
It's different in different traditions. But generally it's a time to return to Christ by cutting out all that distracts us. For some people that means giving up something like candy, TV, soft drinks, beer, cigarettes or meat as a way to purify their bodies and lives. Others take something on and collect food for the needy, volunteer once a week to help children, or decide to be kind to someone they don't like. Whatever "stuff" is given up or taken on, the intent must be to draw us closer to Christ. Lent is a resolution to simplify our lives, and to return to the One who loves us -- Jesus.

WHEN IS LENT?

It's the forty days before Easter. Lent excludes Sundays, because every Sunday is like a little Easter. Basically, it's about one-tenth of a year.

SO THE REAL BEGINNING OF LENT IS ASH WEDNESDAY?

Yes, Ash Wednesday usually begins with a service where we recognize our mortality, repent of our sins, and return to our Loving God. We recognize life as a precious gift from God, and re-turn our lives towards Jesus Christ. We may make resolutions and commit to change our lives over the next forty days so that we might be more like Christ. *(continued on page 6)*



Online Prayer Vigils

As you may remember from your Emmaus Walk, Prayer is a vital spiritual discipline in our relationship with God.

The Prayer Vigils for the spring walks are now available online, so now you can pick your prayer times even if you can't make it to a Gathering or function where the prayer charts are typically shared.

With prayer being the foundation of our Emmaus Community, we invite you to become involved in the Southern Ohio Emmaus Community through participation in our 72-hour prayer vigil for each Emmaus Weekend. Please choose the specific Emmaus Walk Weekend you wish to pray for, then select the time you are available. You can pray from anywhere you like.

There are several ways to join the prayer vigil:

- 1) Sign-up online via the following website links: www.3dayol.org/Vigil
- 2) Sign the prayer vigil chart during an Emmaus gathering or function.
- 3) Contact the Prayer Vigil coordinator: Bob Birkimer via email dbirkime@columbus.rr.com or by phone (740) 982-4729

Note: Online prayer vigils are hosted by [3 Day Weekends Online](http://www.3dayweekendsonline.com) which hosts prayer vigils for many Emmaus Communities.



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In an Ash Wednesday service, usually a minister or priest marks the sign of the cross on a person's forehead with ashes.

WHY ASHES?

In Jewish and Christian history, ashes are a sign of mortality and repentance. Mortality, because when we die, our bodies eventually decompose and we become dust/dirt/ash/whatever. Repentance, because long ago, when people felt remorse for something they did, they would put ashes on their head and wear "sackcloth" (scratchy clothing) to remind them that sin is pretty uncomfortable and leads to a sort of death of the spirit. This was their way of confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness.

WHAT DO CHRISTIANS DO WITH ASHES?

At an Ash Wednesday service, folks are invited to come forward to receive the ashes. The minister will make a small cross on your forehead by smudging the ashes. While the ashes remind us of our mortality and sin, the cross reminds us of Jesus' resurrection (life after death) and forgiveness. It's a powerful, non-verbal way that we can experience God's forgiveness as we return to Jesus.

COOL THINGS TO DO FOR LENT

- Skip one meal a day and give the money to the poor.
- Start a prayer "rhythm." Say a prayer every time you brush your teeth, see a commercial, or check your e-mail.
- Read a chapter in the Bible a day. (Matthew is a good book to start with).
- Forgive someone who doesn't deserve it (maybe even yourself).
- Give up beer or sodas. Give the money you save to the Red Cross.
- Spend thirty minutes a day in silence.
- Write someone a thank you letter.
- Say one nice thing to someone each day.
- Pray for others on your way to work or school.
- Volunteer one afternoon a week at a local shelter

May this season of Lent lead you to taking up your cross for Christ.

Mark 8:34-35 (NIV)

³⁴Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor Tom

How are you serving or sharing in your Emmaus Community?

- Do you participate in Monthly Gatherings?
- Have you considered helping with an Emmaus Walk? You can help either behind the scenes or on a Conference Room Team. If you haven't already submitted a volunteer form, please consider it.
- Do you have a Fourth Day experience you could share? Either during a Monthly Gathering or in written form in the newsletter.
- Do you participate in the 72 hour Prayer Vigils for the Men's and Women's Walks?
- Do you have a local share group?
- Do you have any musical talent? Your Emmaus Community needs people willing to share their talents.



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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE