

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 6 ~ Issue 2

February 2010

Upcoming Events

Emmaus Monthly Gathering

February 28, 2010, 3:00pm
First UMC
New Lexington

Satellite Emmaus Gatherings

March 8, 2010, 7:00pm
Logan Gathering
Trinity Lutheran Church
March 9, 2010, 7:00pm
Lancaster Gathering
6th Avenue UMC

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Understanding the Bible (part 8)

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(Updated for 2010)

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 to all brothers and sisters in Christ. Just when we thought we were having a pretty mild winter, February came with record breaking snowfall across many states. Many of you may have cabin fever from being confined to your house for days at a time. Bob and I were fortunate to miss the big snow fall last week when we went to visit our son Matthew in Colorado where he is working in Vail as a ski lift operator. To see God's beauty from an altitude of 11,000 plus feet is simply amazing and breathtaking! While we do not ski or snowboard we were able to go snowmobiling 41 miles in the Rocky Mountains.

Now we are back to reality, vacation is over. As the new Board Chair I feel it appropriate to thank all of our past board members who so lovingly and faithfully served on the Emmaus board for 3 years. The past two years the community has been blessed to have Dave Shoemaker as the Chair of the Board of Directors. In Emmaus we learn not to glorify ourselves but Christ. But I feel that it is appropriate to take a minute and thank Dave for all he has brought to our community and will continue to do. To follow Dave's leadership seems impossible but I know the love and commitment he has for our community and appreciate knowing he is only an email or phone call away.

We now begin another challenging year! Our focus needs to be on Sponsorship. Our monthly gatherings are held the last Sunday of each month at The First United Methodist Church in New Lexington. Attendance has been low for quite sometime. When we sponsor a pilgrim for the walk we should not only be thinking of them during the 72 hour Emmaus experience but also as a friend in Christ where once a month we have the opportunity to bring them to the gathering and relive that special weekend on our Walk to Emmaus. Take a moment and call those you have sponsored and ask them to attend the February gathering with you.

I look forward to seeing each of you on February 28th at 3:00pm. Please remember to wear your name tag and bring finger foods.

DeColores!

Debbie Birkimer Board Chairperson



January 2010 Emmaus Gathering Joys and Prayer Concerns

Joys: Witness Music Ministry, Jack & Barb Shiplett (Married 49 years), Meaningful worship services, God's offer of Salvation

Concerns: Michelle Thompkins, Nancy Heishman's mother, Carmeda Taylor, Judy West, Linda Sprouse, Nick Milhoan, Whitey Garrett, Debby McGrew, Kelsey Taylor, Allene Barnes, Stacy Queen, Boy's Chrysalis Flight, Jayden (Stone foster child), Nettie McDaniel family, June Drummond, Haiti disaster victims, Victims of ice storms on Native American Reservation, Mike Nicholson, Bob & Debbie Birkimer (traveling safety), Patty George, Nathan Harkless

The Judges (Understanding the Bible)

The story of Judges is really summed up in the very last line of the book: "every man did that which was right in his own eyes." In other words, it was an era of self-interest, much like the one we are living in today. The result, not surprisingly, was a decline in morals, a breakdown of the social system, and, most importantly, long periods of spiritual bankruptcy. The period of the Judges covers almost 400 years, most of which Israel spent in alienation from God.

This is, obviously, a dark period in Israel's history. Recall that just before Moses died, he had told the people to do three things: destroy the inhabitants of Canaan, avoid intermarriage with Canaanites, and keep from worshiping the Canaanite gods (Deuteronomy 7:1-5). They failed miserably on all three.

The result is a series of seven cycles that follow the same pattern: 1) Israel sins against God, 2) God sends punishment in the form of

military conquest, 3) Israel repents and cries out to God for forgiveness, 4) God raises up a Judge to deliver them, and 5) they are free from oppression as long as that Judge lives. However, when the Judge dies, the cycle starts all over again. There are seven of these cycles in the book of Judges.

The Judges themselves are men and women who are in charge of the government and the army. Rather than judges as we think of them today, these people are more like benevolent dictators, exercising nearly absolute control. Some are more famous and more successful than others. The four who stand out are: Deborah, a prophet, military commander and Judge, who won a great victory over the Canaanites (chapters 4-5); Gideon, who is most famous for testing God with a fleece, and for defeating the Midianites with an army of only 300 men (chapters 6-8); Samson, probably the most famous Judge of all, known for his strength and his dealings with Delilah (chapters 13-16); and Samuel, who is considered to be both the last Judge and the first prophet, and who figures prominently in the transition from the era of the Judges to the early kingdom (1 Samuel).

One other name that stands out in the era of the Judges is Ruth, whose story of love and faithfulness contrasts with the general atmosphere of this era, to the extent that she has a book named after her to tell her story. Ruth is a Moabite woman, who nevertheless is faithful to Israel's God to the extent that she is one of the few women listed in the genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:5).

Next: The Kingdom.

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

This article is part eight 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> Your comments and questions are welcome, send them to: pastordavid@newhopelogan.org.

Pastor David Rohrer



A Word from the Treasurer

Now that my first year serving as treasurer on the Board of Directors for the Southern Ohio Emmaus Community is over and both the community and I have survived, I thought I would write a small informational article. I'm going to attempt to answer some questions often asked and possibly give some information that will show why we do some of the things we do. The first thing to remember is I'm not a writer any more than I'm an accountant, but as we have learned through our experiences with Christ, we just face new challenges and leave the worry up to He who is equipped to handle it, Christ the Lord. So with much prayer Christ has carried me as your treasurer and he will carry us through this article.

Question #1; (We'll start easy)

Who do we make checks out to for the Newsletter and is it someone different for the Women's walks versus the Men's walks?

All checks for any Emmaus function, event or purpose can be simply made payable to; S.O.E. or Southern Ohio Emmaus.

2 - Why do we take up collections at Gatherings?

We take up collections at gatherings, satellites, candle lights etc... to help offset the cost of the walks. This will be covered more in the answer to question # 3. We also have taken collections for special purposes such as the luminaries we purchased in 2009.

3 – Does the fee we charge pilgrims cover the entire cost of their walk?

The simple answer is No. The \$125.00 fee just covers the cost of the lodge and meals. There are still items such as crosses, worship books and other supplies needed to complete the weekend for the pilgrims. This is where the collections come in. We do not want to make the cost to go on what many consider the greatest weekend they have ever experienced cost prohibitive. Therefore we try to offset

these cost through the aforementioned collections / love offerings.

The majority of all financial dealings for the Southern Ohio Emmaus Community are related in some way to the weekend walks. As I'm writing this article I know of no plans to raise the pilgrim fee. We are currently keeping everything in good standings and are able to pay all bills in a timely manner and this is only possible through the generosity of each member of the Southern Ohio Emmaus Community.

Keeping in mind that we have no secrets in Emmaus, anyone wishing to see any records that I have, I would be more than happy to show costs attributed to a walk without showing specific contributions made by individuals.

4 – (final question) Is it possible for the community to give more help with the cost of a walk to an individual pilgrim?

Yes, there are scholarships available. My understanding is application or requests for scholarship should to be presented to the Southern Ohio Emmaus Board of Directors for discussion. Each case will be heard on a case by case basis. Keep in mind that a sponsor may be asked to request funding from the pilgrim's church prior to the final ruling of the board. Also the time factor of when the walks are scheduled and board meetings are held; (the last Sunday of the month 1 hour prior to the gatherings); should be taken into consideration.

Any other questions you may have with the position of treasurer please be sure to ask. I can be contacted as posted in the board member information at the back of this newsletter. In closing I would like to thank each of you for this opportunity you've given me to serve. I pray the Lord will continue to use each of us to bring more people to a closer walk with Him through the wonderful, spirit filled workings of Emmaus.

DeColores,
Larry Moneypenny



Seeking Agape

Dear friends before you know it, this cold winter weather will be over.

Now is the perfect time to be working on agape for the spring and fall walks. When it appears a little gray outside you can create a joyful spirit on the inside, when you remember how you felt as you received agape during your walk. We need everyone to make these weekends great. While working on your agape, pray for those pilgrims that will be receiving it. God knows who they will be.

In the past, we have been blessed by the amount of agape received. To the newest members, and a reminder to all, church names and or share groups names with or without your city should be on each piece of agape, but no personal names, please. It takes approx 60 pieces of agape for mealtimes and 35 for bedtime. In case you would like some suggestions use this Google search <http://www.google.com/search?q=emmaus+agape+ideas> to find some lists of ideas, they have hundreds. God Bless Emmaus and God Bless You.

Agape, Shirley



What about Logistics?

Have you ever wondered about working behind the scenes on a logistics team? Well, now is your chance to find out! As the new logistics chairperson, I am in search of a "few good men or women", to build up a good, hard working logistics backbone. As you may or may not know, being on a logistics team for an Emmaus walk is a very important and rewarding job. The logistics team is responsible for helping keep the weekend running smoothly and on time. They set up the tables in the dining hall as well as the conference room, they get the camp ready for the Friday night campfire, Saturday night candlelight ceremony, Sunday afternoon cross ceremony and closing and many other things. If the conference room team or lay director of the walk needs anything, the logistics team is their come-to team! If you think you might be interested but are not sure you can come for the entire weekend, that's okay too! If this sounds like something you would like to try, please contact me.

I hope to add your name to my list of volunteers!!! If you have any questions regarding being on a team, what other duties are required, etc, I would be happy to answer your questions.

DeColores!
Karcy Rush
Logistics chairperson
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karcyj@email.com

Prayer Vigils

It's not too early to choose your prayer vigil times for the upcoming Spring Walks. They can be found on the web at www.3dayol.org

Here are the links for the Spring Walks:

Women's Walk #48 <http://www.3dayol.org/Vigil/GetVigil.phtml?pvid=4269>

Men's Walk #48 <http://www.3dayol.org/Vigil/GetVigil.phtml?pvid=4270>

2010 Southern Ohio Emmaus Board of Directors

This is the current contact list of our 2010 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.

Spiritual Director

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Board Chairperson

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Note: Each boardmember name is followed by the year their term ends

Updated: January 18, 2010

Southern Ohio Emmaus

c/o Greg Rush
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE