

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 9 ~ Issue 2

February 2013

Why We Gather

by Georganne Thomas, Community Lay Director

While sorting through some really old Emmaus materials, I found this and it really reminded me how important Gatherings are to our Fourth Days. Here are the objectives of an Emmaus Community Gathering:

- To make visible the Christian community—persons of various churches and denominations who, “in an attitude of progressive conversion, are **united** in one faith, one Lord, and one baptism.
- To encourage one another to continue our walk with the Lord and to **persevere** in grace through the practice of **piety, study and action**, through membership in a **group reunion**, and through active participation in one’s own church.
- To **inspire** one another to make profound changes in our own lives and in the environments in which we live.
- To maintain relationships with other Emmaus Pilgrims in order to build a vital community of persons to **support future Emmaus Walk Weekends**.
- To educate the Emmaus Community in the Walk to Emmaus movement, weekends, and a method for living in the **Fourth Day**.

“They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying ‘It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.’ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.”

The heart of the Gathering is seen in **Luke 24:33-35 (NIV)** This was after Cleopas and other disciple’s eyes were opened and they recognizing Jesus as the stranger in their midst.

Following our Walk to Emmaus, we are encouraged to see every day as a continuing Walk to Emmaus in the **companionship** of the risen Christ. Just as the eleven gathered together, the monthly Gathering is for us a time to share our resurrection stories: how God became real to us on the road with a friend or through a stranger, through scripture, in the breaking of the bread, in the **sharing of our love**. Through singing and prayer, small groups, Fourth Day talks and Holy Communion, we share our stories and help one another recognize the risen Christ in the midst of our lives, that we may live more fully in the Presence.

Upcoming Schedule of Events

February

Chrysalis Boy’s Flight
16th – 18th President’s Day Weekend
17th – Candlelight 8:30 PM
18th -Closing 4:30
First UMC, New Lexington

24th 2:00 p.m.
Emmaus & Chrysalis Board Meetings
3:00 p.m.
Gathering
First UMC, New Lexington

March

7th – 10th
Women’s Spring Walk #54
Camp Akita

24th 2:00 p.m.
Emmaus & Chrysalis Board Meetings
3:00 p.m.
Gathering
First UMC, New Lexington

April

18th – 21th
Men’s Spring Walk #54
Camp Akita

28th 2:00 p.m.
Emmaus & Chrysalis Board Meetings
3:00 p.m.
Gathering
First UMC, New Lexington

May

19th 2:00 p.m.
Emmaus & Chrysalis Board Meetings
3:00 p.m.
Gathering
First UMC, New Lexington



I believe this may have been from the original Emmaus Handbook or Manual (maybe some of the longtime members can recall this). Even though it's probably from the very first walk, it is true today. We do need Gatherings. We need the fellowship with all the Community. For me, it keeps the memory of *my* Walk alive and reminds me why we all need to sponsor and support new pilgrims for the walks.

If you've not attended a Gathering lately and would like to experience the fellowship with Community, why not start now. The next Gathering is February 24th at 3:00pm at the New Lexington United Methodist Church. The March Gathering will be March 24th. The March Gathering will be two weeks after the Women's Walk and I'm sure those new members would love to see you. Please come and welcome them. Remember too that "when Emmaus meets....Emmaus eats".

If you have a prayer concern and are unable to attend, please contact one of the Board Members listed on the last page of this Newsletter and we will pray for you at the Gathering. DeColores

Let Your Light Shine

by *Betty Clark, Board Vice Chairperson*

The winter months can seem extremely long and with the cold weather and gray skies we may feel like we want nothing more than to hibernate until spring. We can sometimes let those feelings affect our prayer and study times. If we look at God's wonderful creation, we see that the plants and trees go through a stage that may look dormant, like nothing is taking place in the cold months, but they are still being nourished to be ready to flourish with the new season. We too need constant nourishment. We need to be fed every day by digging into God's Word, meeting with Christian friends regularly (share groups) and making time to spend with our Father in prayer daily.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven"
Matthew 5:16 NIV

Our Emmaus community needs to continually be in prayer for the upcoming flights and walks not just in the weeks before the event. Be in prayer for the teams that are forming and preparing for team meetings. Lift those men, women and teens that are willing to give of their time to serve. Lift up the men, women and youth that will be attending the flight or walk. God is already at work in their hearts and now that God is working, the evil one is trying his best to keep jabbing and trying to tear them down. This is when our prayers are needed most.

Keep the teams and pilgrims/butterflies lifted in this "dormant" period. Soon we will push through the ground and begin growing again. Don't let us be hidden in these winter months. Keep God's love visible in our lives and let His light shine through us. DeColores!

New Prayer Chain Email Address

by *Floyd Tackett, Community Good Shepherd*

Hi Brothers & Sisters-- a couple things I wanted to share with you! First; I set up a new e-mail account for the Prayer Chain --fleetack@gmail.com I can still receive mail at ftack@aol.com but would prefer to use gmail for any Prayer Requests. Thanks--hope it's not too much bother. Thanks, Keeping the Faith.

Be Blessed and be part of this life changing prayer chain.
fleetack@gmail.com



Fundraiser Success

by Dawn Barnes, Community Secretary

I would like to give praises to God and THANK YOU to my sisters and brothers in Gently Bold share group (husbands, kids) we had our spaghetti dinner fund raiser tonight and with food and auction baskets raised \$1,615.00 to give to Southern Ohio Emmaus. God was with us every step of the way and even did a little fishes and loaves. It was a great community turnout and several attending asked about Emmaus and we had some brochures that were taken. What an awesome night with everyone so willing to help and everyone VERY tired. It does feel good to do God's work.

Fee Increase for Fall Walks

by Greg Rush, Community Treasurer

The Southern Ohio Emmaus Board would like to thank all those faithful community members for their support. Thanks to your giving we have been able to avoid raising our pilgrim fee for five years. In 2012, your financial gifts (including collections at gatherings, candlelight and other special gifts) totaled over \$5000 and we would not have met our expenses without these gifts. Last year, 126 new pilgrims experienced the Walk to Emmaus and this could not have happened without your support.

Costs per Pilgrim	
Purple Worship Book	\$1.50
Cross	\$4.00
Picture	\$6.50
Meals per person	\$58.75
Lodging per person	\$77.25
Lodging Tax	\$4.64
Upper Room fee	\$13.00
	<hr/>
	\$165.64

The SOE board members have discussed ways to keep from raising fees, but reluctantly we have decided to raise the pilgrim fee from \$125 to \$150 beginning with the 2013 fall walks. The board wants you to understand what items contribute to the cost of an Emmaus Walk. As you can see, the new pilgrim fee (\$150) still doesn't cover the full cost of sponsoring a pilgrim (\$166). In fact, in addition to the costs for each pilgrim we also have supplies which need purchased for the walks and throughout the year. So when you see us taking up a collection, please consider helping so we can avoid further increases.

Sponsorship Tip

by Larry Money Penny, Sponsorship Chair

Throughout this year I hope to be able to offer some tips that may answer some questions you have or that could come up when sponsoring a pilgrim. One of the biggest problems facing our country and the geographic area that the Southern Ohio Emmaus Community serves is financial instability. This is becoming an ever greater concern even in our churches today. Due to the ever increasing costs of all aspects of the weekend "Walk to Emmaus" the board is announcing in this issue of "The Rainbow Connection" that they are raising the fee to attend a walk from \$125 to \$150. Please keep in mind this still does not cover the full cost for a pilgrim to attend the walk, and the community still needs your help as you have always helped. The board hopes that this fee increase does not cause someone to think more about the cost than what can be gained if someone attends the walk. I would pray that not one person doesn't attend because of the cost.

As sponsors we need to step up, not by paying the fee in its entirety or even part, although if you're able I know you will be blessed for your generosity, but by helping the pilgrim find the funds. Many times a church will help, share/reunion groups will help, other Emmaus members in your or the pilgrim's congregation may help and there are scholarships available just by asking ANY member of Board of Directors. Please if you know someone who needs help and you feel you've exhausted all sources; contact the board so we can help you with finding the fees required.

Through our prayers, generosity and God's unending love we can sponsor more pilgrims, which spreads His love and grace to more people to just continue to lead the Church out and to sow as we have been called to sow. God Bless and Decolores!



2013 Southern Ohio Emmaus Board of Directors

This is the current contact list of our Board of Directors. Keep this list so you can contact the board with questions concerns, and ideas. Please keep the board in your prayers as they serve the Lord and our community.

<u>Spiritual Director</u> Ricci Arthur 395 Mae St Logan, OH 43138 740-385-4127 pastorric@aol.com	<u>Newsletter</u> Andy Ellinger (2013) PO Box 223 New Straitsville, OH 43766 740-394-2444 andyellinger@yahoo.com	Note: Each board member's name is followed by the year their term ends Updated: January 14, 2013
<u>Asst. Spiritual Director</u> Karen Crawford 60 Pomeroy Rd. Athens, OH 45701 Phone: (740)593-8541 pastorkaren@richlandumc.org	<u>Agape</u> Joyce Drake (2013) PO Box 177 Malta, Ohio 43756 740-962-4169 jdrake@wmcap.org	<u>Logistics</u> Tom Parrish (2013) 3285 Meadowbrook Dr. Lancaster, OH 43130 740-687-0910 NO EMAIL
<u>Board Chairperson</u> Georganne Thomas (2013) PO Box 192 Albany, Ohio 45710 740-698-8571 gat192@frontier.com	<u>Outreach</u> Cathy Powell (2014) 1852 Mill St. Albany, OH 45701 740-698-6145 cpowell1669@yahoo.com	<u>Social</u> Barb Harkless (2015) P.O. Box 52 Haydenville, Ohio 43127 740-385-4359 rbharkless@yahoo.com
<u>Vice Chairperson</u> Betty Clark (2014) 645 Connett Rd. Nelsonville, OH 45764 740-664-5040 bwclark@nelsonvilletv.com	<u>Women's Registrar</u> Kim Russell-Reed (2015) 12804 Twp. Rd. 1001, NE, Crooksville, O. 43127 740-808-7081 k12russell@yahoo.com	<u>Supplies</u> Sharla Snedden (2013) 8027 Hirst Rd SE Newark, OH 43056 740 323-4859 sssned@windstream.net
<u>Treasurer</u> Greg Rush (2014) 38032 Scout Rd Logan, OH 43138 740-385-0945 gr44gregr@yahoo.com	<u>Men's Registrar</u> Jeff Bender (2015) 1 East Main Street Logan, Ohio 43138 740-653-0184 bendej1@gmail.com	<u>Worship</u> Emma Hockenberry (2015) 7280 Gregg Rd. West Jefferson, Ohio 43162 614-843-1919 emma19marie@yahoo.com
<u>Secretary</u> Dawn Barnes (2014) 357 Kellybrooke Place Galloway, OH 43110 740-878-3561 dbarns10@wowway.com	<u>Sponsorship</u> Larry Money penny (2015) 1450 Ginder Rd., N.W. Lancaster, O. 43130 740-756-9148 lmoneypenny@columbus.rr.com	<u>Music</u> Tom West (2015) 9727 Old Rushville Rd., Rushville, Oh 43150 740-569-7342 jatbwest@yahoo.com
<u>Good Shepherd</u> Floyd Tackett (2014) 226 Cedar Cove Asheville, OH 43103 740-983-6565 fltack@aol.com	<u>Literature</u> Linda Lohse-Smith (2014) 7140 Selby Rd., Lot 103 Athens, Ohio 45701 740-594-9296 lindadavid77@frontier.com	

Southern Ohio Emmaus

c/o Andy Ellinger

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED