

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 5 ~ Issue 1

January 2009

Upcoming Events

January 17-19, 2009

Girls Chrysalis Flight

First UMC, New Lex

January 25, 2009

Monthly Gathering

First UMC

126 S High St

New Lexington

3:00pm

February 22, 2009

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:

Boardmember Contact Information

Updated for New Boardmembers

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

Welcome new Board Members

and Good Luck to outgoing board members

Good Shepherds

check the list for your local Good Shepherd

From the Community Lay Director

It's now the end of December, and Christmas has come and gone once again. The New Year is upon us, football is finally coming to a close (with the exception of the Super Bowl), soon we'll be talking about major league baseball's spring training and if the NBA will ever shorten its season to something other than 12 months. I'm not obsessing on sports, but we seem to have a lot to choose from right at this minute.

My problem, if I dare share this, is that I want a "do-over." I want to go back and "do-over" Christmas and Advent again. It seemed to me that the season was here and gone before we knew it. It just happened so fast that I want to do it again, just to see if I missed something!

But what, in reality, would I do if indeed a "do-over" were possible? Would I change anything at all? They say that hindsight is 20-20, so it's possible I can reflect upon things that have happened and wish I could change them. Only reality tells me I cannot. What is done is done. All I can do is try and do better the next time.

I can gain some assurance of this from the fact that God's word tells us that "...Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23 TNIV) What I draw from this is that we can start fresh each day, not necessarily a "do-over," but with another opportunity to find ways to serve God and our brothers and sisters.

This desire for a "do-over" moment comes partly from the fact of how miserably I failed God during Advent. I believe I shared with some of you the event that took place near where I work, where a presumably homeless, or at the very least, very down-on-his-luck individual was standing at an intersection, downcast and hoping for a handout. The short story is that he didn't get a handout or a hand up from me. I thought about it. I put it into that category of "I'll do it when I see him again" only he wasn't ever there again. And God has given me plenty of opportunity since that day to lament over what I didn't do.

I have had plenty of folks trying to reassure me that all is not lost (I deeply appreciate that!). But it still reminds me that there are times when we fail to project the image and fact that as Christians we are supposed to do more than just think about helping a brother. Those service cards we received on the Walk to Emmaus that are used at share
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groups ask the question of how we failed—not to show how pathetic we are, but to call us into accountability and awareness. We need to be reminded that we often fail the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Perhaps not intentionally, but it happens. But the good news is that although we don't get a "do-over," we get another chance! God understands our weakness and provides us with ample opportunities to show the world who He is, to share the story of Christ our Lord, and to prove the Holy Spirit is alive and working within us.

The new year is upon us, and with it comes more opportunities. I may never get a "do-over" in my lifetime. But I thank God that He believes in second chances!

De Colores!
Dave Shoemaker



December 2008 Emmaus Gathering Praises and Prayer Concerns

Praises - Katie Barnhart and Pastor Jesse Blevins recovering from medical procedures

Concerns - Family of Richard Adkins; Belva Ball; Lee Chiki; Darlene Davis; David Valentine's sister; those who have lost jobs; Family of Bob Post; Family of Mike Maple; Matt Coiner; Ashley; Bonita Higgins; Family of Bill Thomas.

"Seven Resolutions"

I like a list of resolutions prepared by the Rev. Walter Schoedel. He calls them '7-UPS for the New Year.' No, this has nothing to do with the soft drink. These 7-UPS fall under the heading of attitudes and actions.

The first is **WAKE UP**--Begin the day with the Lord. It is His day. Rejoice in it.

The second is **DRESS-UP**--Put on a smile. It improves your looks. It says something about your attitude.

The third is **SHUT-UP**--Watch your tongue. Don't gossip. Say nice things. Learn to listen.

The fourth is **STAND-UP**--Take a stand for what you believe. Resist evil. Do good.

Five, **LOOK-UP**--Open your eyes to the Lord. After all, He is your only Savior.

Six, **REACH-UP**--Spend time in prayer with your adorations, confessions, thanksgivings and supplications to the Lord.

And finally, **LIFT-UP**--Be available to help those in need--serving, supporting, and sharing.

If you're going to make New Year's resolutions this year, let me suggest Rev. Schoedel's list.

Why do we bother to make New Year's resolutions in the first place? Why do we feel this need each January 1 to set new goals? Maybe it is because resolutions help us to identify our priorities. They answer the Question: how do I want to invest my time, energy, money, and talents in this New Year? The New Year reminds us that time is passing. It is up to each of us to maximize the potential of every moment.

Maybe we need to get back to the basics of life. Long ago God supplied the basics for a people who were wandering, both literally and spiritually. I wonder what our churches, our communities, our world would be like if each individual were to make God their number one priority.

Exodus 20:1-17 (NIV)

¹And God spoke all these words:

²"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³"You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third (continued on Page 3)



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and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³“You shall not murder.

¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵“You shall not steal.

¹⁶“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor Tom

Thanks and Welcome

As we welcome the new year in, with the anticipation of what it brings, we also say goodbye to last year. As we look back on the year, we each can reflect upon our victories and on our struggles. From both we can learn.

In this Emmaus Community, the beginning of each new year brings change into each of our lives. We reluctantly have to say "goodbye" to some Board of Directors who have completed their terms. As this new year begins, we also say "welcome" to the Board members you, as the Southern Ohio Emmaus Community, have elected to replace those who are departing.

We wish the best to Connie Walker, Joyce Drake, Gary Allen, and Paula Jasper as they leave the Board. We have appreciated their selfless service as they gave all they have to this Community. Coming on the Board are Shirley Jadwin, Stacy Queen, Kevin Westfall, Barb Shiplett, Larry Money Penny, and Rick Clawson. They have big shoes to fill.

Each of these persons have given of their time and gifts to this Community in their service to God. Each of them at one time or another completed a volunteer sheet indicating their desire to serve in some way. It wouldn't be too surprising to learn that none of them thought serving on the Board of Directors was possible. But God has a way of bringing to the Board just what this Community needs.

Thank you to all of the Southern Ohio Emmaus Community Board of Directors for your service in the past year. For those who are leaving, may God continue to bless you in whatever service you perform. For those coming, be prepared for what God will do with you!

Thanks must also go out to the Community as a whole for continuing to support the Walk to Emmaus. May it always be so.

Dave Shoemaker

Chairperson, Southern Ohio Emmaus Board of Directors



De Colores

WOW it's another year already. Boy where does the time go? What will the new year bring? What is in store for upcoming months? Will the economy recover? Will the price of gas stay low? Will I still have hair? So many questions, so little time. We should always look at time as a little bit, and not worry about the things that drive us nuts. We can't do anything about the question that we think about, all that worrying does is cause us all to have a nervous break down. God is good, He is good all the time. Does He want us to worry? I think not. What we can do is keep Him close at all times, talk to Him, hand over the hard question's that you may have, and let God give you peace of mind.

Just recently my daughter moved into an apartment in town, just 4 miles away, boy what fears I have about the ordeal. Will she be safe? Will she be able to do well in school while working? Will she be able to pay all her bills? You know as a parent we can't help but think about our children. We were their protector, their provider, their support. Now I think about what God has to go through with us, His children. Will they remember to talk to me today? Will they take Me along with them in their daily plans? Will they talk to others about Me and how important it is to have Me their daily lives?

As a Sponsor, prayer is very important to all; it's the backbone of the Emmaus movement. Just think of the questions that a Pilgrim may have when asked to leave their life that they are used to and leave that for 72 hrs. Remember what God would do. Pray for them, to relieve their anxieties of the upcoming walk. God will be there to help, it's so much easier to just let God than it is to intervene and try to do it all ourselves.

May 2009 bring to you many of God's blessings.

De Colores
Chuck Moore, Sponsorship

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is my last article for the Newsletter as Community Good Shepherd. Thank you for allowing me to serve you and our Community. I know Stacy Queen, my successor will do a wonderful job.



Please allow me to ask you all one more time to remember our Emmaus Prayer Chain. Prayer is the backbone of Emmaus and who among us can't use prayer? As the local Good Shepherd for the New Lexington area, I have very few people to contact. The other Good Shepherds have the same problem. Please call your local Good Shepherd and let them know that you would like to pray for your Brother, Sister or their loved one.

The Good Shepherds are:

Bev Shoemaker Athens area 740-753-3580;
Jane Moody, Zanesville 740-450-2402;
Judy West, Lancaster 740-569-7342;
Marcia Hynus, Logan 740-385-7396,
Margie Moody, Gallipolis 740-367-7575;
Marna Hyett, McConnelsville 740-962-9030
Connie Walker, New Lexington 740-684-1431

Please do not hesitate to call for prayer for yourself or a loved one

God bless you all, Connie Walker

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



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