

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 5 ~ Issue 6

June 2009

Upcoming Events

Emmaus Monthly Gathering

June 28, 2009, 3:00pm
First UMC
New Lexington

Satellite Emmaus Gatherings

None in July

Emmaus Family Picnic and Hog Roast

August 8, 2009, 12:00noon
August 7 – Fellowship/Camping
8905 Vanatta Rd, Logan, Ohio
Tell your Emmaus friends who may not
receive this newsletter

Inside this issue:

Pilgrim List from the Spring Emmaus Walks

...Please welcome them to our
Emmaus community

Boardmember Contact Information

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

From the Community Lay Director

Tony Campolo, theologian, professor, preacher and a host of other things, once preached (and maybe wrote a book) about the notion that the "...kingdom of God is a party!" There are aspects of that notion that I would enjoy—the wonderful worship and the fantastic fellowship—but I also have a hard time reconciling the idea that the "party" can also be "worship." Maybe it's the traditionalist in me...I do like to have a good time and especially at church, although I am not sure I would describe it as a party.

Tony, however, had a much bigger point to make. I think he wanted to let some folks know that God isn't always in the business of doom and gloom and sad-sack faces. The Kingdom is supposed to be a joyous place—not a rigid, sit-upright, starched collar, sing only the old hymns kind of place! The Kingdom is not a place where Jesus checks your credentials at the door and you can only get the back pew (aren't they the best seats?) if you have the proper dress or a suit and tie on.

I will admit that I like a church that is more relaxed, not too starchy, a blend of contemporary and traditional. I like a church who is willing to try new things to enhance the worship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I would like to think that my church is that way...but they may not think so! We have a wonderful experience together, although I wouldn't go so far as to describe it as a party, at least not yet.

Why do I ramble on so much about the Kingdom and parties? I, too, have a point to make about the Kingdom, parties and worship. But my point needs to be placed in context with our Walk to Emmaus and our Emmaus Community in Southern Ohio. As a community of faith, but not a church, our worship opportunities together are rather limited. We gather to worship as an Emmaus Community in our monthly gatherings. We have a wonderful time singing, praising God, lifting concerns, praying, sharing Holy Communion and fellowshiping. Maybe that's also a party in the eyes of Tony Campolo, but I do know it is worship.

We also get the opportunity to worship together as an Emmaus Community when we gather for Sendoff, for Candlelight and for Closing. The key here is to remember that we gather in worship. At this point in the life of the Walk to Emmaus, ...(continued on page 2)



(continued from page 1)... the gathering of the Community for these events is not intended to be a party, a family reunion, or a group hug. It is supposed to be moments of worship, perhaps even acts of grace, that are for the Pilgrims.

It is important for us to remember that these moments are acts of worship. It is important that we be reverent in our gathering. It is important that our attitudes and actions reflect that we are indeed worshipping God. Does this mean that when we gather as a Community that we can't greet one another or visit? Absolutely not. It's only natural to say 'hello,' get a hug, and catch up. But when the singing begins, or someone speaks, could we hold our tongues and pay attention and be in worship?

I only bring this up as a reminder to our Community and as a hint to our newest members that there is actually some form of etiquette we should follow at these events. When we stray from what our purpose is (to worship God and to pray for our Pilgrims), then the moments of grace that we gather to experience become nothing more than a party. And, quite frankly, you don't need to come to Camp Akita to have a party.

Friends, the next time we gather, the next time we are sending the Pilgrims on their Walk, the next time we come together to pray over the crosses and to share in Communion, the next time we come together for Candlelight and Closing, remember that these are holy moments and be in an attitude of worship. There will be plenty of time after Closing for the party! But for just a few minutes, can't we worship God, pray together, break bread together and sing together with respect for one another and God?

It's sad to say that sometimes our actions are deplorable, even when we aren't aware of what we are doing. But we can be aware of what actions we can take when we worship God as a community. We don't need to be rigid and formal and stuffy. We just need to be aware...to be respectful...to be reverent...to be in worship. And I believe that God will still bless us, even if it doesn't appear like we are having a party.....

De Colores!
Dave Shoemaker



May 2009 Emmaus Gathering Praises and Prayer Concerns

Concerns: Jacob Weaver, Kelsey Emory, Scott Sweat, Marna Hyett, Brenda Lambert's mother, Millie Eck, Chris & Rhonda Stone, Tammy Wells, Sanford Short's mother, Tom & Rachael Hite, Jerry Bachelor, Paul Heishman's mother-in-law, Connie Walker, Catherine Simpson, Johnny Alfman

Bible Study, A Lifetime Project???

When members of my denomination come together, we sometimes lament that we only "want to want to study the Bible." Think about that for a moment if you will, because it says a lot. It says first of all that we don't actually study the Bible, nor do we truly want to study the Bible (or else we would); but, somewhere deep inside of us we really wish that we wanted to study the Bible. If only God would put that desire in us, then maybe we'd get somewhere.

I don't believe that statement is unique to any one denomination. The fact is that very few of us study the Bible to the depth and extent that we should. Part of the problem is that it's a very challenging project. A lifetime project, in fact. That leads me to two conclusions: first, that we really should get started; second, that we need some guidelines to help us in our understanding and application of scripture.

My solution to that is(continued on page 3)



(continued from page 2) ... a series of articles (*the first one is titled The Structure of the Bible*) that will follow the general outline of a very helpful book called *30 Days to Understanding the Bible* by Max E. Anders. I checked and it is available on amazon.com and christianbook.com, so for anyone who would like to study ahead or just go into more detail, you can get a copy from either of those sources.

A word of explanation and/or warning: These articles will not assume that the reader knows anything about the Bible other than that there is such a thing. While a lot of what you read may be review, I hope that the way the material is organized will also help you to organize your thinking and your understanding about the word of God and how it fits into your life.

Let me know if you think these articles are helpful, and don't be afraid to suggest ways they can be improved.

David Rohrer
Emmaus Community Spiritual Director

The Structure of the Bible

(part one in a series)

Somewhere along the way, you may have heard that the word "Bible" means "book," but that is not quite right. The word actually comes from the Greek *ta biblia* which literally means "the books," and that's the way we should think of the Bible: as a collection of books. It is divided into two main sections: the Old Testament, which begins with creation and ends before Jesus was born; and the New Testament, which is the story of the ministries of Jesus and of his disciples after his death and resurrection.

Each testament consists of a series of books. There are 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament, for a total of 66 books. If you take out your Bible and scan the list of books from Genesis to Malachi, those are the books of the Old Testament. The books of the New Testament are Matthew through Revelation.

Here's where it gets a little tricky. You can sit down and read most books straight through because there is one continuous plot line from start to finish.

That's because most books have only one author (or at most a few authors). The Bible has something like 37 authors, depending who is counting, and they wrote over a span of more than 2,000 years. So let's try to make some sense of how the books are organized.

The Old Testament books from Genesis to Esther are classified as historical books. They do follow a rough timeline, although there is some overlap, so if you want to read the history of Israel, these are the books to read. The next five books, from Job to Song of Solomon (also called Song of Songs in some Bibles) are called poetical books or wisdom literature. They are called wisdom literature because they contain a whole lot of wisdom, and poetical because in the original Hebrew they are written in poetry, or at least contain substantial sections of poetry. The last part of the Old Testament, from Isaiah to Malachi, has prophetic books. They are the records of what we call the "writing prophets," that is, those whose words are written down for us. There were many other prophets in Israelite history, but not everything got written down. The wisdom books and the prophetic books were all written during the time covered by the historical books; hence, the trouble with trying to read straight through the Old Testament.

The New Testament also has a set of historical books. These are the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) plus the book of Acts (sometimes called Acts of the Apostles). They tell of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, and the lives of some of the apostles after Jesus' ascension into heaven. The next set of New Testament books is the Pauline Epistles, written by the apostle Paul, and running from Romans to Philemon. Note that the word "epistle" simply means "letter." The final set is the General Epistles, written by various other authors. These are lumped together because none of these authors wrote anywhere near as much as Paul did. The books in this category are Hebrews through Revelation, although if you want to argue against calling Revelation just an epistle or letter, you won't get much dispute from me. All of the epistles are intended as instructions on how to live the Christian life.

There's a lot more that we can and will say, but I hope this introduction is a good foundation for our further understanding of the Bible.

Pastor David Rohrer



Please welcome the newest members of the Southern Ohio Emmaus Community...

Women's Walk 46 (May 14-17, 2009)

Gena Bartimus	Stockport
Virginia Blackston	Pleasantville
Kim Blevins	Lancaster
Sonya Chaffin	Lancaster
Stacy Chapin	Logan
Janice Clouston	Lancaster
Alyson Cupp	Lancaster
Irene Davis	Logan
Thelma Dilliard	Lancaster
Jean Hart	Fleming
Jennie Herron	Circleville
Margaret Hughes	Lancaster
Trecia Justice	Haydenville
Rita Kemmerer	Lancaster
Carol Konkler	Lancaster
Susie Mercer	Zanesville
Amy Miller	Amanda
Beth Mohler	Lancaster
Bethany Neville	Logan
Mandy Roley	Sugar Grove
Kay Roop	Logan
Kim Russell	Crooksville
Catherine Simpson	Guysville
Jacqi Stobbs	Logan
Bess Trent	Columbus
Robin Yingling	Lancaster

Men's Walk 46 (May 21-24, 2009)

Dean R Bresler	Lancaster
Mark Brookins	Albany
Eric Cooper	Logan
Chris Dearth	Amanda
Dave Frazier	Logan
Jerry L Hunt II	Lancaster
Bob Kirkwood	Roseville
Don Lambert	Bremen
Shawn Miller	Amanda
Brian Neville	Logan
Bob Rannells	New Plymouth
Les Ratliff	McArthur
J.T. Stuttle	New Straitsville
David E Sweat	Glouster

Volunteer to Serve

Now that the Spring Walks have concluded, we look forward to Walks 47 slated for September 10-13 for women and October 1-4 for men.

While you're thinking of the fall walks, why not dig out your volunteer form (or download the form from the website) and send your volunteer preferences to Marna Hyett. You should find her address at the bottom of the form. We need you! There are many ways you can help our community. Prayer is of course the most important way you can help, but besides that, working behind the scenes in agape and logistics is not just a blessing for the Pilgrims, but an additional blessing for you to get to serve.

Believe it or not, we have already begun to plan for the Fall Walks. Please complete your volunteer form and send it in today.

Marna Hyett
Outreach Coordinator

Volunteer & Sponsorship Forms available online at:
www.southernohioemmaus.com

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

Southern Ohio Emmaus – Family Picnic and Hog Roast

When: Saturday August 8, 2009 (campfire fellowship and camping Friday night, Aug 7)

Where: 8905 Vanatta Rd, Logan, Ohio (Webb Summit, SR93 - 4 miles north of Logan)
(See map on other side)

What to Bring: Food, Lawn Chairs, Musical Instruments

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

Bring your family, a friend, someone from your walk and come for the day. Roast pork and tableware will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to complete the meal. Great desserts are always appreciated!

Want to come early? You can actually spend **Friday night** assisting with the roasting of the pork. Campers and motor homes are welcome. There will likely **not** be Electric or Water for campers in the camping area, 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 campfire 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.

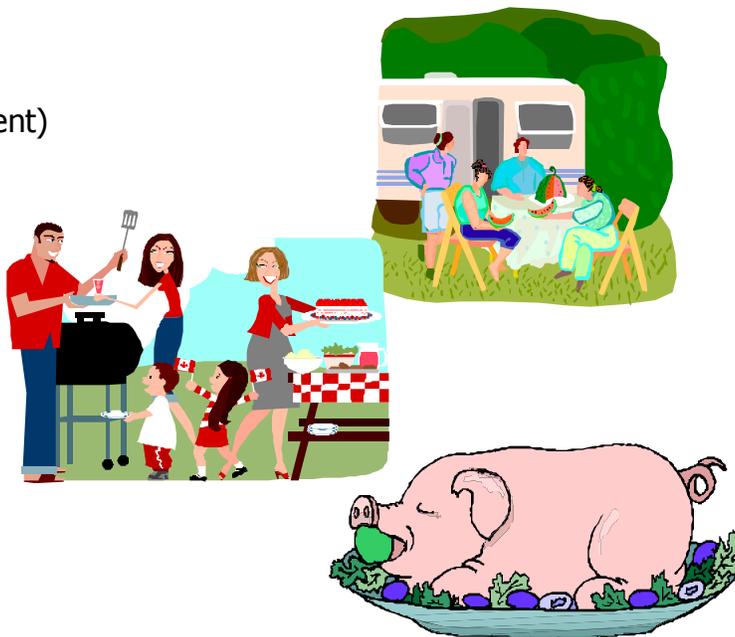
Schedule of Events:

Friday August 7, 2009 (after 5:00pm)

Primitive Camping (bring your camper or tent)
Campfire
Fellowship & Music
Help Roast the Hog

Saturday August 8, 2009 (come anytime)

Family Picnic and Hog Roast
Outdoor Games
Bring your favorite game
Fishing (bring your pole)
Fellowship & Music
Covered Dish Dinner at 12:00 noon
Worship at 2:00pm
Fellowship & Music
More Outdoor Games & Fishing



Note: Children will need adult supervision while fishing

Contact Greg Rush for more Information or if you have some ideas:

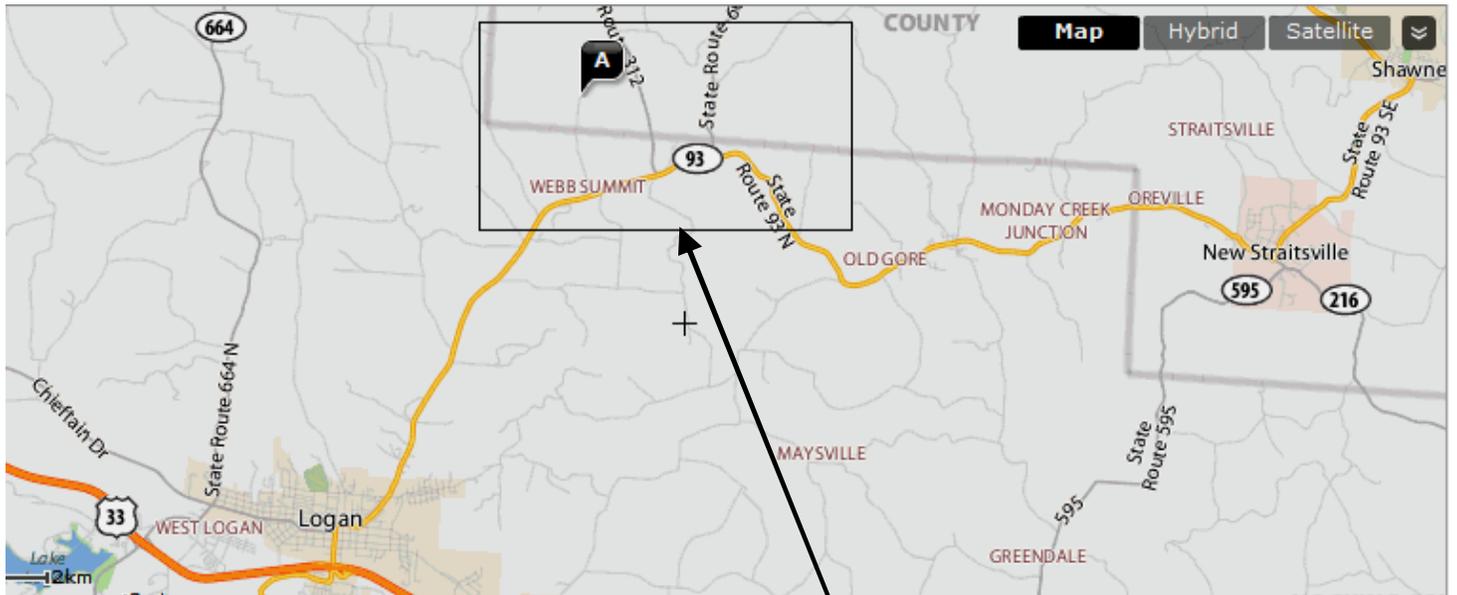
(740) 385-0945

gr44gregr@yahoo.com

If you intend to camp, please RSVP (385-0945) so we can plan space for your camper

Location for Southern Ohio Emmaus – Family Picnic 2009

8905 Vanatta Rd, Logan, Ohio (Webb Summit, SR93 - 4 miles north of Logan)



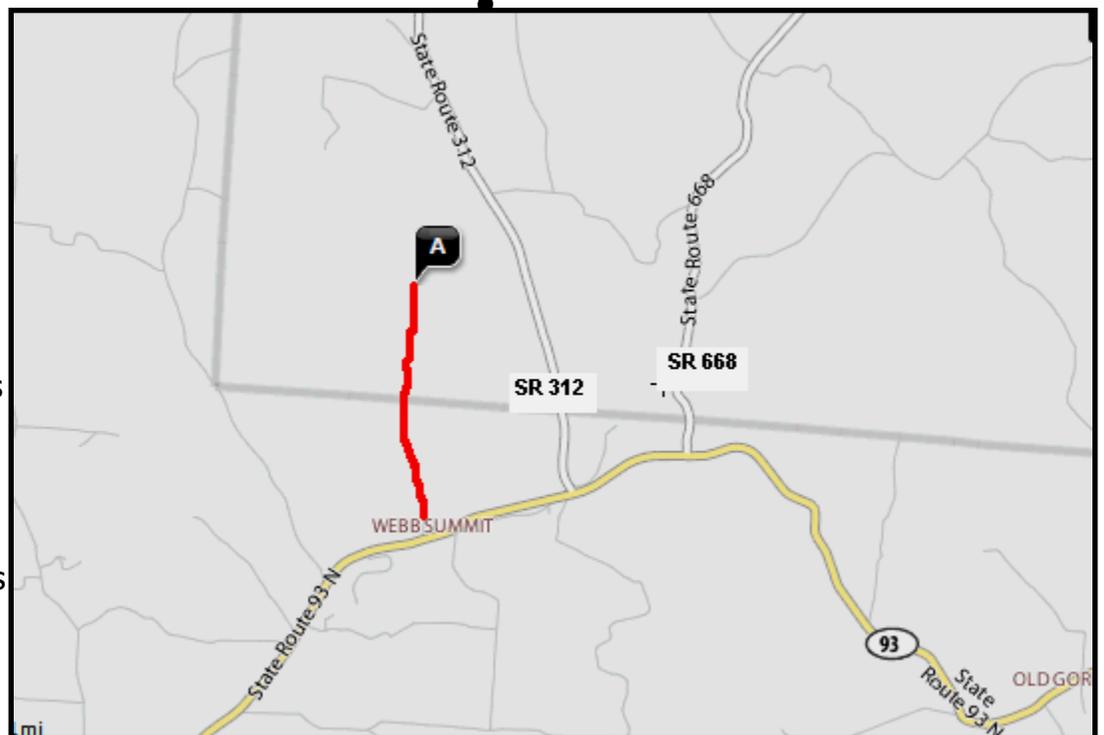
Address:

8905 Vanatta Rd
(Webb Summit)
Logan, Ohio

Directions:

(From Logan)
Take SR 93 north 4 miles
Turn left on Vanatta Rd
Follow road to the end.

(from New Straitsville)
Take SR 93 south 7 miles
Turn right on Vanatta Rd
Follow road to the end



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.

Spiritual Director

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Updated: Jan 12, 2009

Southern Ohio Emmaus

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE
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HERE