

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 5 ~ Issue 3

March 2009

Upcoming Events

March 29, 2009, 3:00pm

Emmaus Monthly Gathering

First UMC

New Lexington

Satellite Emmaus Gatherings

April 13, 2009, 7:00pm

Logan Gathering

Trinity Lutheran

April 14, 2009, 7:00pm

Lancaster Gathering

6th Avenue UMC

April 18-20, 2009

Boys Chrysalis Flight

First UMC, New Lex

April 26, 2009, 3:00pm

Emmaus Monthly Gathering

First UMC

New Lexington

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 6*)

Boardmember Contact Information

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

From the Community Lay Director

From The Beatles, "Help":

*When I was younger, so much younger than today,
I never needed anybody's help in any way.
But now these days are gone, I'm not so self assured,
Now I find I've changed my mind and opened up the
doors.*

*Help me if you can, I'm feeling down
And I do appreciate you being round.
Help me, get my feet back on the ground,
Won't you please, please help me.*

*And now my life has changed in oh so many ways,
My independence seems to vanish in the haze.
But every now and then I feel so insecure,
I know that I just need you like I've never done before.*

In a theme that is echoed in the lyrics to The Beatles song above (I found these on the Internet, after a brief search, in a public forum), there's no doubt in my mind that all of us have felt that we could do something without help, especially when we were younger. In the days of our own thoughts of invincibility and never-ending energy, we wouldn't dare ask anyone to help us do anything. Wouldn't that have been a sign of weakness? Wouldn't that have been a sign of vulnerability?

Incredibly, God doesn't let that stop us. Instead of allowing us to wallow in our own self-pity or attempt the impossible alone, He has provided help. We look around at our Christian brothers and sisters and know that whatever we need help with, they are there. We look to God and know that the Holy Spirit is right there to guide us. We go to the Lord and there is Christ Jesus, already helping us! Why did we spend so much time avoiding help when receiving it would have made things so much easier?

I believe the answer is found in the second stanza to the song above. "*And now my life has changed in oh so many ways, my independence seems to vanish in the haze...*". And there it is—our independence. Why do we want to avoid help? Because we want to be independent. We want to be independent from everything, including the source of all things—God. I think it's just our human nature to go through the cycle of independence. When we were children, we were absolutely dependent upon our parents and others for even the simplest basic needs of life – food, clothing and shelter. It would be our teen years that we start to explore the feelings of independence, but we still had the umbilical cord attached. It would be our young adult years (continued on page 2)



(continued from page 1) when we go fully on our own. But when is it, precisely, that we realize that we can't do it any longer alone, that our life has changed (through Christ) and we need help?

At some point, the cycle goes fully around and we come back to the point of being utterly dependent upon others for food, clothing and shelter. But mostly, we become in our daily walk with Christ utterly dependent upon Him. *"But every now and then I feel so insecure, I know that I just need you like I've never done before."* I know that's true for me. What about you? It's not a sign of weakness to become dependent upon God. It's not a sign of vulnerability. It's a sign of obedience. We may become vulnerable...to what the Holy Spirit is calling us to do. But we can't live this life, and call ourselves Christians, by being independent.

Sometime in 2011, probably in the Spring, the Southern Ohio Emmaus Community will celebrate Walk 50 for the men and women. If my math is correct, that means we've been doing this for nearly 25 years. We are reaching the point as a Community that we need to remember that we need to be dependent, not independent, on God. We have been at the point for a while where our cries for help seem to grow louder.

This Community is dependent upon you, its members, who have been on the Walk to Emmaus or a Chrysalis Flight and who have been in your Fourth Days and Next Steps. We cannot do this alone—we need all of you to help out, by serving, by being the "hands and feet" of God on this earth. We need, as a community of believers, people who will throw off their self-dependence to become God-dependent. We need people who are active and want to serve in any way possible.

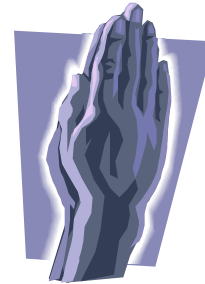
We need your help. Sometime this summer or early fall, the Board of Directors will be seeking nominations for about six openings on the Board for next year. We will be voting on the Fall Walk Lay Directors in a few weeks. We are always in need of persons willing to serve as Agape and Logistics personnel. There's always a candle available for Candlelight and a seat for Closing. There's a Prayer Vigil with an empty spot for your name. We can always fit one more into the sanctuaries at our main Gathering and at the satellite Gatherings in Logan and Lancaster.

How can we be more dependent upon God together?

*Help me if you can, I'm feeling down
And I do appreciate you being round
Help me, get my feet back on the ground,
Won't you please, please help me.*

De Colores!

Dave Shoemaker



February 2009 Emmaus Gathering Praises and Prayer Concerns

Praises:

Mt. Olivet Church – about to get a pastor,
Dave Sherman's song to be released nationally
Our Lay Directors for the Emmaus Walks and
Chrysalis Flights
Overcoming obstacles

Concerns:

Mary Redd, Kimberly Sheets, Kelly Brussett,
Our troops, Our nation, Our churches, Shirley
Miller, Dixie Stump, Donna (Stacy Queen's
mother), Whitey Garrett, Our Spring Walks
(teams and pilgrims), Margaret Parker, Diane
Hinkle, Peg Smith, Lloyd Sweet, Karen (Don
Reed's mother), Judy (David Bankes'
daughter), Darby, Carl David Russell, David
Russell, Angela Westfall



Dad's Special Brownies

The following story has made its rounds over the years and I don't know who the author is but I think it is worth sharing.

A father of some teenage children had the family rule that they could not attend PG-13 or R rated movies. His three teens wanted to see a particular popular movie that was playing at local theaters. It was rated PG-13.

The teens interviewed friends and even some members of their family's church to find out what was offensive in the movie. The teens made a list of pros and cons about the movie to use to convince their dad that they should be allowed to see it. The con's were that it contained ONLY 3 swear words, the ONLY violence was a building exploding (and you see that on TV all the time they said), and you actually did not "see" the couple in the movie having sex - it was just implied sex, off camera. The pros were that it was a popular movie - a block buster. Everyone was seeing it. If the teens saw the movie then they would not feel left out when their friends discussed it. The movie contained a good story and plot. It had some great adventure and suspense in it. There were some fantastic special effects in this movie. The movie's stars were some of the most talented actors in Hollywood. It probably would be nominated for several awards.

Many of the members of their Christian church had even seen the movie and said it wasn't "very bad". Therefore, since there were more pros than cons the teens said they were asking their father to reconsider his position on just this ONE movie and let them have permission to go see it.

The father looked at the list and thought for a few minutes. He said he could tell his children had spent some time and thought on this request. He asked if he could have a day to think about it before making his decision. The teens were thrilled thinking; "Now we've got him! Our argument is too good! Dad can't turn us down!" So, they happily agreed to let him have a day to think about their request.

The next evening the father called in his three teenagers, who were smiling smugly, into the living room. There on the coffee table he had a plate of brownies. The teens were puzzled. The father told his children he had thought about their request and had decided that if they would eat a brownie then he would let them go to the movie. But just like the movie, the brownies had pros and cons.

The pros were that they were made with the finest chocolate and other good ingredients. They had the added special effect of yummy walnuts in them. The brownies were moist and fresh with wonderful chocolate frosting on top. He had made these fantastic brownies using an award-winning recipe. And best of all, the brownies had been made lovingly by the hand of their own father.

The brownies only had one con. The father had included a little bit of a special ingredient. The brownies also contained just a little bit of dog poop. But he had mixed the dough well - they probably would not even be able to taste the dog poop and he had baked it at 350 degrees so any bacteria or germs from the dog poop had probably been destroyed.

Therefore, if any of his children could stand to eat the brownies which included just a "little bit of crap" and not be effected by it, then he knew they would also be able to see the movie with "just a little bit of smut" and not be effected.

Of course, none of the teens would eat the brownies and the smug smiles had left their faces. Only dad was smiling smugly as they left the room.

Now when his teenagers ask permission to do something he is opposed to the father just asks, "Would you like me to whip up a batch of my special brownies?"

On your Emmaus Walk do you remember how we looked back at where we have been during the course of our lives? Remember how we took a close look at where we are today? And remember how we were challenged to look at where we will be going in the future?

I think it is very appropriate during this season of Lent that we closely consider how many "special" ingredients we casually add to our daily life. This is a time for us to consider those daily things that were okay before our walk to Emmaus and those things that are NOT okay following our walk.

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor Tom

Rev. Tom Hite, Community Spiritual Director



The Breath of Life

Lawndale. A name that will mean nothing to anyone reading this article, but which brings back memories of my youth. It was home to Depression-era housing that I can just barely remember. Those houses were torn down when I was very young, and later a new housing development sprang up on that land. In between there was a kind of golden decade or so, roughly coinciding with my teenage years. There were no houses on the site then, and it was used for a playground. There were swings, teeter-totters, slides, and even a merry-go-round in those days before we knew what a mortal danger they posed, and had to be responsible for our own safety. There was a ball field for those of us who were a little older, and there was a hill.

It's that hill that especially jogs my memory today, because when March rolled around, it was the best place in the world to fly a kite.

I've always enjoyed flying kites, though it does take a stronger wind these days, as I don't run quite as fast as I once did. Just the act of flying the kite is fun, but it goes deeper than that. The March wind holds the promise that Spring will soon be here, and with it Easter and its promise of new life.



So, there is something about a fresh Spring wind that both lifts my spirits and reminds me of God's Holy Spirit, the breath of life.

I mention this because it seems to me that, despite the fact that we pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit more than a dozen times during our walks, we simply do not pray to the Holy Spirit often enough in our daily lives. And I think this is partly because the Holy Spirit has an image problem. Ok, the Holy Spirit doesn't really have an image problem. Instead, we have a problem with our perceptions of the Holy Spirit. The Father and Son are easy. We may not be fully able to comprehend an all-powerful, Creator God, but the concept is clear. Jesus is easy, since we can visualize him as a human being like us. But the Holy Spirit – there's a tougher concept, as we see in this quote from John:

"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." (John 3:8)

That's the problem, isn't it? We don't know when the Holy Spirit may come into our lives. Even scarier, we don't know where we may be led once we are born of the Spirit.

Think again of my kite-flying example. The Holy Spirit is that fresh spring wind that holds our kites in the air and offers to take them on an exhilarating journey. We human beings are tied to our kites only by our faith, represented by the kite string. That string is light and thin, capable of being easily broken. Yet, if we hold tight to it, and keep the proper tension on it, it is strong enough to bind us firmly to the Spirit of God, through whom we can do amazing things.

As we near Spring, and more importantly, as we approach Easter, let us feel the wind upon our faces, and let us pray that God will indeed send forth His Spirit in and through us, so that we may be a part of renewing the face of the earth.

Pastor David Rohrer
Assistant Spiritual Director

From your Good Shepherd

Since just coming on the board as Good Shepherd, I'm pretty excited about doing God's work. As I learn my job, I've come to realize there is only a handful of people who are on the prayer chain. I was reading James 5:15 and it says...

"The prayer of faith will SAVE the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."

That verse right there tells me I need to be about God's work and pray. Even for those I don't know. We have no idea what kind of impact we can have on peoples lives.



Please pray about joining our prayer chain. If you decide you would like to make a difference in our world by prayer, please contact me and I will get you in touch with the Good shepherd in your area. Remember prayer is so needed in all our lives.

May God bless each and every one of you.

Stacy Queen
(740) 342-5429
Good Shepherd



Sponsorship

Well it's getting to be time for the walks to begin. So here are some things you should know, about sponsoring.

You should have attended a Sponsorship class, or have a co-sponsor to help ensure nothing gets missed.

- 1) Pray for who is ready to attend an Emmaus walk
- 2) Remember that the timing may not be right for some people, and that there are even some who may not ever be ready to attend. When people are going through difficult marital, financial or medical concerns, you need to be especially sensitive to their needs and their feelings.
- 3) Pray for that person and their family
- 4) Be prepared to discuss the financial responsibilities of the pilgrim's walk. Some options include:
 - a) Sponsor pays the deposit, then the pilgrim pays the balance.
 - b) Sponsor pays the full cost of the pilgrim's walk.
 - c) Ask your pilgrim if their church has a scholarship fund for the Emmaus walk.
 - d) Make sure the financial requirements don't keep someone from attending an Emmaus Walk. So please find the best way to pay. Payment should be completed no later than Thursday of the walk. Cash or Check to Southern Ohio Emmaus.
- 5) Be prepared to help meet the needs of the pilgrim's family throughout the 72hour weekend.
- 6) Bring the pilgrim to Send-Off on Thursday evening (remember to bring food)
- 7) Be a part of the Sponsor's Hour on Thursday where you pray over the Pilgrim's Cross.
- 8) Collect agape letters from family and friends. Bring them no later than Candle light.
- 9) Continue to pray for the walk.
- 10) Attend the Candle Light.
- 11) Attend closing on Sunday (bring food to share) and take your pilgrim home.
- 12) Bring the your pilgrim to a gathering (and bring food to share)
- 13) Be a mentor to your pilgrim, be there to answer questions, or find the answer from someone else.

And as always if you have question about sponsoring, call Chuck Moore at 740-385-3758 Or email at chuck71980@yahoo.com, Thanks.

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

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, 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. 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

I hope that some of you read the newsletter last month and took note of the need for the rooster necklaces. The walks are soon approaching and we have only a few roosters at this time. All other agape needed too!

We have received Letters from and have been requested to pray for the following Emmaus walks;

Cross Bayou Emmaus Community of Louisiana

Men's Walk #61 March 19-22
Women's Walk 62 # April 16-19

Heartland Faithful Emmaus Community of Nebraska & Western Iowa

Men's Walk #2 April 16-19
Women's Walk #3 April 23-26

Mountain Top Northeastern Pa.

Girl's Chrysalis Flight #12 April April 16-19
Boy's Chrysalis Flight #12 April 23-26

East Ohio Emmanuel

Men's Walk #69 March 19-222
Women's Walk #69 March 26-29

Heart of Carolina Emmaus

Women's Walk April 16-19

Emmaus Walks occur every weekend, in various communities, all over the world. Pray for Emmaus every day that God will Bless each and every one of them. Psalm 4:3 says *"the Lord will hear when I call to Him."*

Remember Prayer is the backbone of Emmaus.

DeColores, Shirley Jadwin Agape

Mark your calendar!!!

Emmaus Family Picnic

This year we are trying something a little different

Saturday, August 8, 2009

Southern Ohio Emmaus Family Picnic/Hog Roast and Camping



Location:

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



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

Want to come early? You can actually spend Friday night (August 7th) 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



For 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.



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

Tom Hite
PO Box 237
Malta, OH 43758
740-962-4144
pastortomhite@embarqmail.com

Newsletter

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gr44gregr@yahoo.com

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Asst. Spiritual Director

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Logan, Ohio 43138

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE