

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 6 ~ Issue 3

March 2010

Upcoming Events

Emmaus Monthly Gathering

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

Satellite Emmaus Gatherings

April 11, 2010, 7:00pm
Logan Gathering
Trinity Lutheran Church
April 12, 2010, 7:00pm
Lancaster Gathering
6th Avenue UMC

Inside this issue:

Understanding the Bible (part 9)

The Kingdom

Seeking Agape

Agape needs your help

Boardmember Contact Information

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

2010 Fee Schedule

Weekend Fees

Pilgrim Fee	\$125
Team Member	\$120
Logistics & Agape	\$75
Extra Meals:	breakfast - \$6.00
.....	lunch - \$7.00
.....	dinner - \$8.50
Mailed Newsletter	\$7.50/year
Emailed Newsletter	Free

BIRD HOUSES

Jack and I were gazing out our dining room window after breakfast when Jack spotted a pair of bluebirds sitting on our neighbor's clothesline. We watched them for awhile and wondered aloud, "Will they choose to nest in one of the many bird boxes that Jack built last fall to replace the ones that were falling apart?" We followed their movements intently and when they finally went out of our sight, we looked at each other and commented, "Well, the sparrows will always rent space from us!" We have a running joke about the bird boxes-- Jack builds them and rents them out to the birds! Now they don't actually pay rent, but in exchange for the use of the box they provide a service that we get to enjoy every year—our personal satisfaction that the birds have a place to nest, raise their young and enjoy relative freedom from cats and predators. And they are so neat to watch on a daily basis. He always says, "If you build it, they will come!" And the birds have not disappointed us, providing much joy and satisfaction for many years.

As your present Vice Chairperson, I enjoyed Deb Birkimer's comments in last month's newsletter. I'm especially jealous that she and Bob went to Vail, Colorado without Jack and me. No, no, that's not it! I loved the comments about Sponsorship that she made. Let me explain why. Not many of you may know me, so let me introduce myself first. My name is Barb Shiplett, SOE Women's Walk #2, Table of Miriam. I think you can tell from the walk number that I'm an older member. In fact, my walk will celebrate our 23rd anniversary on May 16th. The SOE community was just getting started in 1986 with the first set of Walks held at Camp Otterbein near Logan. The Emmaus communities of Cincinnati and Marysville provided leadership for those walks and even for my walk in 1987. The SOE community had a vision that "if you build it, they will come". And with God's guidance and the assistance of many other communities providing leadership, supplies and much support, our SOE community has not only grown numerically, but more importantly spiritually and a greater sense of fellowship with God and our new fellow Christians. Many goals were set, met and even exceeded. In succeeding years, our SOE community remained true and faithful to the ... *(continued on page 2)*



(continued from page 1) guidelines as set forth in the Upper Room Agreement for Emmaus which we renew every year. Sponsorship is a very serious proposition, not to be entered into lightly—sounds like a marriage! Like marriage, sponsorship should be bathed in prayer with much thought and discernment. Then having decided to sponsor someone, be sure to follow through, taking responsibility for all aspects of the process. I encourage everyone to sponsor someone, because it is a very rewarding and uplifting experience. So, our SOE community is continuing to “build it, so they will come”. Won’t you join with us by doing the following: be in prayer for the officers, team members of the walks, the pilgrims, yourself and what you can do personally. You might even consider sponsoring someone for the upcoming walks, attending our Gatherings and the Walk Candlelights and Closings. Now in my closing, I want to thank you for giving your attention to my thoughts and for allowing me the privilege to serve this SOE community as your vice-chairperson. You will hear more from me in future newsletters as Deb Birkimer and myself will share this space, and with your help continue the building of our SOE community so that they will come.

DeColores, Barb Shiplett

Savior on the Loose!

This is the last newsletter before Easter, so it seems appropriate to speak about the Resurrection, and about Resurrection faith. That is, after all, what drives the Christian faith in general and the Emmaus community in particular.

It may surprise you a bit, therefore, when I say that faith in the Resurrection is not what I am getting at here. Although the doctrine is under attack by many contemporary scholars, believing that the Resurrection occurred isn’t especially hard for the believing Christian.

What is important is what we do with that belief.

As Craig Barnes says “What the Gospels ask is not ‘Do you believe?’ but ‘Have you encountered a risen Christ?’”

With that in mind, I find it very informative to look at what Jesus says to Mary Magdalene at John 20:17. Mary has just recognized Jesus. She is obviously thrilled. But Jesus doesn’t give her a hug, or say he’s glad to see her, or any of the things that we might expect him to do. Instead, he says, “Don’t cling to me.” (John 20:17)

That sounds a little strange to our ears, but Jesus never does anything without a reason. In this case, I think the reason is that he is telling Mary not to look back at the old Jesus. He is much more than that now. As he tells her, he is about to ascend to his Father in heaven. He is going on before her. She can’t capture him and hold him, she can only follow him.

Following Jesus is a process of finding him, only to have him move on ahead of us. We can either follow where he leads, or we can try to get him back in the tomb, where we think we can manage him. The trouble with that, of course, is that Jesus just won’t stay there. If we want to follow him, we have to keep moving ahead toward the place he leads us.

I’m pretty certain that Mary Magdalene was never the same after Easter. Neither is anyone who has encountered the risen Christ, and learned that what matters is not that we can cling to Jesus, but that we allow him to take hold of us, of our lives.

After the resurrection, things do not return to normal. They are not meant to. Because there is a risen Savior is on the loose, and he goes before us. May we all be eager to follow, wherever that may take us.

De Colores!
Pastor David Rohrer



February 2010 Emmaus Gathering Joys and Prayer Concerns

Praises: Families, Safe Travel, Berneil Beal in heaven

Concerns: Diane West, Neil Wilhelm, Tim Graham, Ed Miller, Stacy Queen, Tom West, June Drummond, Judy Wilson, Caiden Lewis, Connie Walker (traveling), Darby Bolyard, Jayden Smith **Comfort:** Ann Malone family, Leroy Miller family, Nate Elfrink family,

Seeking Agape

Just a reminder not to forget about "AGAPE". We all loved those little surprises. It takes 60 pieces of agape for mealtime and 35 for night time. Prayer is what Emmaus is founded on.

I have been sending out letters to other communities asking for their wall agape. However most important, I request Prayers from each of their communities for our pilgrims and our teams.

In return we are asked to pray for them. This is a list of communities that are having walks this spring and have requested our prayers.

- EL Shaddai Emmaus of West Central Indiana
- Maribyrrong N W Emmaus of Victoria, Australia
- Highland Rim Emmaus of Winchester, Tennessee
- Emmaus Community of Helena, Montana
- Hoosier Hills of Southern, Indiana
- Dark County Emmaus Community
- West Michigan Community
- Richmond, Indiana area Community
- KZN-DRAK Chrysalis Community of Kwa Zulu, Natal
- Chrysalis of Southern Maryland
- Indy West Great Banquet of Brownsburg, Indiana
- Emmaus of The Rockies, Colorado also Chrysalis
- River Walk to Emmaus of Antioch, Ca South Africa
- Emmaus of the Midlands, South Carolina

Requests are coming in daily so Please remember Emmaus in your Prayers!

Psalm 4:3 GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS.

DeColores, Shirley

LET'S EAT

Hello all. My name is Bob Barnhart and as your Emmaus SOCIAL Board rep I thought I would take this opportunity to explain to you just exactly what the SOCIAL board member does. The Social is responsible for your dining pleasure. My food responsibilities at the monthly gatherings consist of making sure that the food dishes you all bring are put out, uncovered and ready for consuming. That means I put out all the paper products, cups and utensils needed for the meal. I also make sure there is ice and beverages available. I am responsible for clean up after the meal and social time. That includes dishes washed, tables cleaned off and put away and the trash taken out. These same duties I am responsible for during spring walks and fall walks, Thursday night send offs and Sunday closings. Occasionally we have a crock-pot or dish left behind by an Emmaus member. I try to get these items back to their rightful owners in a timely fashion. I have in the past posted the abandoned item in the Emmaus newsletter with success of uniting the item with its owner. That's pretty much it. I would like to thank all you who have graciously brought food to all the Emmaus functions. I would also like to thank all of you who have been kind enough to assist with the food prep as well as clean up.

"When Emmaus Meets, Emmaus Eats" God Bless, Bob

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>



The Kingdom (Understanding the Bible)

Anders begins this chapter with a comment and example. He says that by nature, human beings want total freedom, but they cannot have this. His example involves brushing our teeth, where he points out that it is not possible to be totally free of both the toothbrush and of cavities. We are bound to one or the other.

This is the dilemma that the kings of Israel faced. They wanted total freedom to ignore what God told them to do, but they also wanted to have prosperity and military success at the same time. While there were a few righteous kings, and the country did prosper under them, for the most part, the kings did not do what was right in God's eyes, and eventually it led to the collapse of the nation, and its subjugation to foreign powers.

As in so many of our studies, the Kingdom Era can best be broken down into four main periods. These are:

1. The United Kingdom (1 & 2 Samuel). As the period of The Judges (see last month's Rainbow Connection) came to an end, Israel approached God and said it wanted a king so it could be like all of the other nations. Despite God's warnings that they would not be happy with the result, they insisted, and God allowed Samuel to anoint Saul as the first king. Saul is a great military leader who eventually drifts from God, who then anoints David as the second king. David is, of course, famous for his adventures with Goliath and Bathsheba, among others. Despite his shortcomings, David is a righteous king, and Israel prospers under him. After David's death, his son Solomon becomes king. He begins as a righteous king who only wants to govern God's people wisely, but eventually he, too, drifts away from the Lord.

2. The Division of the Kingdom (1 Kings). When Solomon dies, a civil war breaks out. The kingdom is divided into the Northern Kingdom, consisting of ten tribes using the name Israel; and the Southern Kingdom, consisting of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, and using the name Judah.

3. The Northern Kingdom (2 Kings).

Jereboam, an unrighteous king, leads the Northern Kingdom. All of the eighteen kings who succeed him for the next 250 years are unrighteous as well, leading God to raise up Assyria to conquer the Northern Kingdom and scatter its people. The Northern Kingdom is never restored.

4. The Southern Kingdom (2 Kings).

Rehoboam leads the Southern Kingdom of Judah. He is also an unrighteous king; however, Judah has a little better luck with kings than does Israel. Judah has eight righteous kings out of a total of twenty, so it lasts for 400 years. Nevertheless, Judah's sins eventually catch up with it as well, and God raises up Babylonia to conquer Judah and take all the leading people of Judah into captivity.

Next: The Exile.

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

This article is part nine 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.southernmoheioemmaus.com/documents/newsletter.html>. Your comments and questions are welcome, send them to: pastordavid@newhopelogan.org.

Pastor David Rohrer

We need your help?

Would you like to help others get that wonderful spiritual lift you got when you went on your Emmaus Walk? You can by volunteering to work, you can come close to re-living that weekend. There's nothing like knowing you're helping others get that once in a lifetime experience.

You are needed behind the scenes to work Agape or Logistics. Working the conference room has a special reward also. Why not go right now and fill out that volunteer sheet? You'll feel better for having done so, it takes so little effort.

If you don't have a form, go to the website and download or call me at 740-962-9030, and I will send you a volunteer info form. You can also see me at the next Gathering. I carry them with me.

Marna Hyett
Outreach Chairperson

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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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