

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 5 ~ Issue 11

November/December 2009

Upcoming Events

Emmaus Monthly Gathering

No gathering in November

Family Christmas Party

December 6, 2009, 3:00pm

First UMC

New Lexington

Satellite Emmaus Gatherings

Logan Gathering

No Gathering in December

Lancaster Gathering

No Gathering in December

Inside this issue:

Volunteer Form

Please update your preferences on serving in your Emmaus Community

Understanding the Bible (part 6)

The Exodus

Boardmember Contact Information

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

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

From the Community Lay Director

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” (2 Timothy 4:7 – NIV)

Every time I come and go from my office where I work I see this verse from 2 Timothy. In my case, it's a Bible verse on a picture I have hanging in my office, one associated with golf (a favorite pastime, with not enough time to enjoy!). Often, we might hear this verse associated with a couple of things: one being an 'end of life' moment symbolizing that we have completed life's journey; second, we might hear it associated with some major theological or faith test we have encountered, something that indicates we have 'survived' an event.

If we take this verse at face value, it states nothing about how the person who wrote it finished in that fight or race. We only know that the writer kept the faith. It wasn't important to know if they won or not. It brings to mind the picture of someone finishing a marathon in last place – of someone who waged a battle to compete and then finish. Marathon running is exhausting to practice, run and watch. And to see someone finish the race at all...well, for those of us who don't do marathons, we can understand these words from 2 Timothy even better – *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”* To me, this passage symbolizes all that we do as members of the family of God. We will fight good fights...sometimes we win and sometimes we don't...we will run the race without regard to where we finish (it's a humility and servanthood thing). It's always about keeping the faith in all that we do...and sometimes it's hard.

As I write this, I am contemplating my service to the Southern Ohio Emmaus Community and I think of this verse. “I have fought the good. fight, I have finished the race...” reminds me that in the three years on the Board of Directors, we have had issues arise that seem like fights (they weren't) but were at least reminiscent of battles, and we have run like a marathon runner finally finishing the race, exhausted, beat up a little, but crossing ... (continued on page 2)



(continued from page 1)...the line that marks the finish. I am reminded time and again that it doesn't matter if I win or lose; the only thing that matters is keeping the faith.

It's time for me to take the gloves off, to pass the baton to another runner, to share the joys and tears of being a part of this great organization. I have tried to do all that I thought God asked me to do. I have been diligent in my work and deliberate in my efforts. I feel that God continues to bless our Community and that I was lucky enough to be elected to help run it.

We have a few new Board of Directors that will be starting their terms in January. You have been in the processing of electing them over the past month or so. We pray that when they take office they will be energized to take on the fight to keep Emmaus strong and relevant. We pray that God grants them the endurance to run that race for the next three years and do all that He calls them to do.

We have two new Lay Directors for the Spring Walks that have agreed to take on the challenge of leading an Emmaus Walk – Heather Pullins for the women and Dan Pullins for the men. It's not the first husband-wife combo we have had, but I can't remember any that led the same set of Walks. They will need all the prayer you can muster to get ready for their adventure.

There will be others God calls to be Board members and lay directors and logistics/agape personnel and agape suppliers and letter writers and all manner of servants to this Community. They need to have the courage and strength as well.

I have been so blessed by God to be a part of this that I cannot really express myself in words. Every time we gather together I am reminded of the Savior who died for me. I see the blessing of Christ in all of your faces as we shared Holy Communion, and the leadership of the Spirit within those persons who once said "No" when asked if they could help at church and now shout "Yes!!" when the same question is placed before them. I hear the impact of the Walk to Emmaus in the voices of those Pilgrims who have completed their journey

when they stand on Sunday night at Closing and remind us what those three days have meant and what they are going to do about it in their Fourth Days.

I have to tell you that I could not have done this level of service alone. Not only did I rely on God, but I relied on my wife, Bev, as well. This was not an undertaking that you agree to lightly. Whether it be our ministry at Buchtel UMC or our ministry in Emmaus, it is something we do as partners. Thanks for always being there Bev!!!

I want to thank the Board of Directors for their leadership, insight and commitment. I couldn't have done my job as Community Lay Director without them. We have a great group of people who will remain and I am sure a great group coming on board to pick up where we left off (for those that are leaving the Board this year).

The third chapter of the book of Ecclesiastes tells us that "there is a time for all things." Well, my time of service to this Community in this manner is rapidly coming to a close. I hope I fought the good fight. I think I have finished the race (or at least I can see the finish line). When my days are over, and someone thinks I need words written on a gravestone, I'd be happy if they just wrote, "He kept the faith."

De Colores!
Dave Shoemaker

Grace

I spend a fair amount of time and effort trying to understand how grace works in my life. This may just be an example of foolish human pride thinking that I can understand something that is in the control of God, but I'm convinced that God wants me at least to try to understand. And I'm certain that he wants me to open myself to receive that grace and allow it to work in and through me.

This week, I was challenged by reading a short meditation by Crawford Loritts, in which he writes that "*Grace is a much higher standard than a bunch of man-made rules and regulations.*" ...*(continued on page 3)*



(continued from page 2)... At first glance, that seems like a paradox. Isn't grace supposed to be free? What standard is Loritts talking about?

I've thought about that, and I've come up with my own idea, which goes like this: we live down to rules, we live up to grace. Let me try to explain. Whenever we have rules, from the simplest of traffic regulations all the way up to the Ten Commandments, we are constantly engaged in finding ways around them. (How many stop signs or "yellow" lights have you slid through in your lifetime?) The result is that we are always in need of more rules and regulations to clarify the old ones.

And yes, this does hold true for the Ten Commandments as well. Remember that the Pharisees had 613 laws, which amounted to their regulations for living under the commandments. And think of all the civil and criminal laws that we have today, almost all of which are simply ways to implement the commandments in our lives. This holds true despite the current efforts to ban all references to the commandments from our public lives.

When we receive God's grace, however, we should not be motivated by fear of punishment, but by gratitude for the unearned blessing that God has bestowed on us. We should be inspired by that grace to find more ways to love and serve God, to love and respect our neighbors. In short, we should be what Joan Chittister calls "gospel people." True gospel people will constantly strive to live out the message that God has written on their hearts.

May that always be the case for our Emmaus community.

De Colores!
David Rohrer
Community Spiritual Director

Lost and Found at Camp Akita: see Tom West if you might have left something behind after a Walk



October 2009 Emmaus Gathering Praises and Prayer Concerns

Praises: Marna Hyett here today; the power of prayer; the fall colors; the new pastor of New Lex First UMC (Doug Widdowson); Karcy was OK after her wreck; for the good times; for Chris Stone's friend who fell and had no lasting injuries

Concerns: Barb, Ray, Madeline, Francis Warner, Katelyn Mohler, John Gilchrist, Clyde Garey, Carl David Russell, Judy West, Mike Tigner, Erica smith

The Exodus (Understanding the Bible)

As Max Anders says, "*the Exodus was the mass movement of the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, back to the Promised Land in Canaan.*" Anders wants us to understand just what a huge, miraculous thing God accomplished. Egypt's Pharaoh was an extremely powerful adversary, with mighty armies at his disposal. It took many spectacular miracles to bring the people through forty years of wandering in the desert. And despite the way some movies picture it, the Exodus was not a happy little group of campers gathering around the campfire each night to sing "Kum-Ba-Yah."

We are told that there were 600,000 fighting men in the group (Exodus 12:37). That doesn't count the women, children, men too old to fight, Levites (priests, who didn't fight) and their wives and children. Add them all up, and the total number approaches 3,000,000. Imagine that the entire population of the City of Columbus picks up and starts moving across the map. Then multiply that by three, and you've got the size of ... (continued on page 4)



(continued from page 3)... this group. And we haven't even started to count the animals that they took with them. It is, in a word, staggering.

God chose Moses to lead the Exodus, which involved four major events or stages:

First, deliverance out of slavery in Egypt (Exodus 1-18). Remember from our last session that after Joseph died, the Israelites were in slavery for 400 years. They finally cried out to God for help, and God sent Moses to Pharaoh to ask for their freedom. Pharaoh refused, and God sent a series of ten plagues to convince him. Only after the tenth plague, the death of all of the firstborn in Egypt, did Pharaoh agree. But the people no sooner leave, than Pharaoh changed his mind and sends the army after them, resulting in the famous parting of the Red Sea, which allows the people to continue on their journey to the Promised Land.

Second, the Ten Commandments (Exodus 19-40): Simply calling this section the Ten Commandments really doesn't do it justice, because much more goes on, particularly the incident with the golden calf in Chapter 32, but the commandments are certainly the focal point of all that happens. They are given to Moses on Mt. Sinai by God, who promises to bless the Israelites when they obey them, and to curse them when they disobey.

Third, Kadesh Barnea (Numbers 10-14): What? This is a shocker, partly because Kadesh Barnea doesn't roll easily off the tongues of most of us, and also because we don't typically think of the story of the Exodus being told in the book of Numbers. Actually, we don't read Numbers much at all, do we? Nevertheless, from Mt. Sinai, Israel migrates to an oasis at Kadesh Barnea, the gateway to the Promised Land. Spies are sent into the Promised land. When they return, they report on the beauty of the land, but feel that the people there are too strong to conquer. Only Joshua and Caleb disagree. The people rebel against God and refuse to follow Moses into the Promised Land.

Fourth, 40 years of wandering (Numbers 20-36): The rebels are condemned to wander in

the wilderness until everyone 21 or older at the time of the rebellion dies. Only Joshua and Caleb from that generation will be permitted to enter the Promised Land. After some closing words of encouragement to the people, Moses dies.

Next: The Conquest.

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

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

Pastor David Rohrer

Memories of Thanksgiving Past

When I was little, I remember my mother preparing for the Thanksgiving meal, it seems like she started days before the big event. The thawing of the turkey had taken days. I remember it seems like she would get up at 3am to start the turkey cooking, basting every hour on the hour. And by morning the aroma was all through the house, you couldn't help but run into the kitchen to see that wonderful turkey all golden brown, and a hope that you might just get a pre-taste before anyone else.

There's nothing like the smell of bread and rolls baking in the oven, mom would remove them and place a pat of butter on each one and it would slowly melt and slide off to the side. Occasionally when she would be busy doing something else a roll would come up missing or maybe misplaced.

Now we can't forget the pies. Pies and more pies you couldn't believe your eyes. Chocolate pie filling cooked on the stove. Rolling out the pie crust and using a fork to poke holes, I don't know why; does anyone know why? Oh, that lemon pie with mile high meringue topping. Also apple, cherry, rhubarb pie, I'm sure there were more but at this time I don't remember all of them. ...*(continued on page 5)*



(continued from page 4)... Then I remember the dining table all decked out, a tablecloth with the fine dishes and candles, shiny utensils and glasses. The turkey would be placed at the end of the table where dad would carve that wonderful bird. My dad was a carpenter and a jack of all trades so he knew what to do. A large bowl of mashed potatoes so deep you could swim in them, and right in the middle a large pool of butter. Oh, I almost forgot the stuffing with tasty sage, onion, bread, celery and turkey broth stuffed inside the bird, it's making my mouth water.

I guess what I'm getting at, is that today life seems to be so busy, that now the turkey is placed in a bag, and cooked for a few hours. Pies are premade from the grocer's freezer, bread is taken out of a tube and baked, and we never seem to have the time to smell the love that once was part of this great holiday. Let's

remember that God blessed our nation with abundance, and let's give thanks where thanks belongs, to our Lord and Savior.

May God bless you with wonderful memories of days past, Happy Thanksgiving.

By: Chuck Moore
Sponsorship Chair

Spring Walk Lay Directors:

Women's Walk: Heather Pullins;
Men's Walk Dan Pullins

Please keep the upcoming spring walks in your prayers.

2010 NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

It's time to make sure you continue to stay connected with your Southern Ohio Emmaus Community. One way we stay connected is by sharing community news via our newsletter the "Rainbow Connection". New members should have received two issues by mail at no charge. You can receive the newsletter for free by email or our website www.southernohioemmaus.com. If you want to continue receiving the newsletter by mail, you must renew your subscription at a cost of \$7.50 per year. Please let us know how you would prefer to continue receiving your copy of the newsletter. Use the form below to provide your information and delivery preference.

I would like my newsletter e-mailed at no charge

Name: _____, Phone: _____

E-MAIL Address: _____

I would like my newsletter mailed to the following address:

(include a check for \$7.50, payable to **Southern Ohio Emmaus**)

For Mailed Newsletter: **PLEASE PRINT**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Send to: Greg Rush, 38032 Scout Rd, Logan, Ohio 43138.

phone: 740.385.0945

email: gr44gregr@yahoo.com

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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mqueen342@att.net

Outreach

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teach@embarqmail.com

Updated: October 15, 2009

SOUTHERN OHIO EMMAUS VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET

Date: _____

Yes! I would like to participate in Emmaus Programs and Functions in the future.

Music: I play: _____

I play nothing, but I sing: _____

Entertainment:

I can do: Standup Comedy: () Clowning: () Other: _____

I would like to:

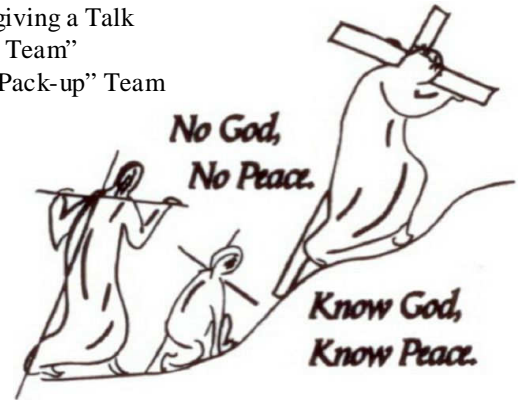
- () Take part in the 74 Hour Prayer Vigil
- () Be a Prayer Partner for someone giving a Talk
- () Be on the "Before Walk Cleaning Team"
- () Be on the After Sunday Closing "Pack-up" Team

On Thursday, Arrival of Pilgrims, I would like to:

- () Help with Registration
- () Help Carry Luggage
- () Send Food

I am Artistic; I would like to help with:

- () Prayer Vigil Poster
- () Name Tags
- () Table Name Tags
- () Name Cards for Pilgrim's Beds



I would like to work on:

- () Logistics (requires physical work)
- () Agape (requires organizational skills)

I would like to serve on

- () An Emmaus Team (Team service requires attending 4 pre-Walk meetings)
- () Spring Walk () Fall Walk () Either
- () The Board of Directors (3 year term/monthly meetings)

Please note: It is recommended in the Emmaus Handbook that persons serving on the "Walk Team" begin their experience by serving first on Logistics and/or Agape. They would serve as an Assistant Table Leader, Table Leader, Etc... Your commitment is important.

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Emmaus Community Attended: _____ Walk #: _____

Reunion/Share Group Name : _____

Gathering Attended (Where): _____

Note: Conference Room Team Members pay a Fee of \$120.00 to cover expenses.

Agape and Logistics Team Members pay a Fee of \$75.

Remember: Don't let team fees keep you from serving, Let someone know your desire to serve.

Fill out and mail to (Outreach Chairperson):

Marna Hyett
539 E. Main St
McConnelsville, OH 43756
740-962-9030 e-mail: teach@embarqmail.com

Southern Ohio Emmaus

c/o Greg Rush
38032 Scout Rd.
Logan, Ohio 43138

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