

# The Rainbow Connection

Volume 4 ~ Issue 4

April 2008

## Upcoming Events

April 27, 2008 3pm

### **Gathering**

First UMC, New Lex

May 3, 2008 9am -12

### **Education Day**

First UMC, New Lex

## Inside this issue:

### **New Members to Southern Ohio Emmaus**

Women's Walk 44

Men's Walk 44

### **Boardmember Contact Information**

Updated since last newsletter. Keep this handy in case you would like to contact a board member.

## **From your Community Lay Director**

*"When Emmaus meets, Emmaus eats."*

In and around Emmaus communities worldwide, and especially the Southern Ohio Emmaus Community, truer words have never been spoken. I can remember going on my Emmaus Walk and not really thinking about food all that much (strange, since I think about food all of the time!!). I guess that I was vaguely aware that I would probably be fed something, or at least enough to get by. What an understatement that was! Between the million meals we were fed and the snack table, it's a small miracle that all of us aren't on some kind of low-carb, low-cal, low-fat diet by the time the three day weekend has ended.

But why do we seemingly eat like this? I suspect it has nothing to do with the food itself. Remember in the story of the Walk to Emmaus when Jesus joined with Cleopas and his companion on the road? By the end of the day they had learned all manner of things and deepened their understanding of what had happened in Jerusalem and what Jesus' ministry was all about. Their hearts had been burning all along and it wasn't until He broke bread with them that the revelation of who He was came to them. You see, I don't think it was the food, but the fellowship with Christ that was more important. The food was merely a way to get them to the table of fellowship with Him.

We see that at work on the Walks. We sit by tables. We listen to talks by tables. We do posters and skits by tables. We sing by tables. We laugh by tables. We cry by tables. We take Holy Communion by tables. We fellowship by tables. And, most certainly, we eat by tables. We build these little communities of brothers and sisters in Christ by fellowshiping at the table of Christ. And sometimes we even add food.

But there is more to it than just this. The fellowship with Christ and all of our brethren in Emmaus and the church depend upon another type of fellowship—a fellowship with God. We need to commune with Him. The Holy Scripture tells us, in Deuteronomy 8:3, *"He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord."* We also pray by tables, fellowshiping with God and communing with him, while fellowshiping with our friends. And we are fed, not bread from the table, but by the Holy Spirit of God, just as surely as if a plate had been placed in front of us, overflowing with whatever manna God provides.

This sense of fellowship, of our need to be in community with each other, extends to our need to be in community with God, to hear Him speak to us and for Him to feed us. We must eat food in order for our physical selves to survive. We must also be fed by the Word of God, from the Bible (His word written upon our hearts) and His lips (His speaking to us through prayer), in order for the spiritual self to continue.

The next time we gather at the table, remember this—that we need not only the bread we break together, but we also need the One who provided it. Our survival depends on it.

De Colores!

Dave Shoemaker



## Education Day

An Emmaus Education Day has been scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2008 at The First United Methodist Church in New Lexington from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon. This is an excellent time to become more familiar with all aspects of Emmaus functions and Sponsorship. If you are just coming off your Walk to Emmaus or have been a long time community member, please mark your calendar to attend.

The topics that will be discussed are:

- **Sponsorship** - at least one class is required so you can sponsor a pilgrim
- **Logistics** - find out how all the behind the scenes things are put together
- **Agape** - learn how you can serve and give back
- **Team Members** - hear how teams are put together and what is required
- **Board of Directors** - understand & learn what each board members duties are
- **Good Shepherd** - information on
- **Chrysalis** - hear about the teen version of Emmaus

If you have any questions about the upcoming Education Day, please feel free to call me @ 982-4729

DeColores,

Debbie Birkimer

### 2009 Fee Schedule

Notice: Some fees have increased due to rising costs associated with the Walk to Emmaus weekend expenses

#### Weekend Fees

Pilgrim Fee	\$125
Team Member	\$115
Logistics & Agape	\$75

Mailed Newsletter	\$7.50/year
Emailed Newsletter	Free

## "A Healthy Death"

Over the past few weeks we've experienced both a women's walk and a men's walk. Over these weekends there was much life but there was also a little **healthy** death. As you know the stage was set and the Lord gave a wonderful opportunity for pilgrims to forgive as well as to be forgiven.

I recently came across the following I'd like to share:

### *"Keeping God Alive in Our Hearts"*

*Jesus prayed: forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. In the novel "The Great Hunger," a newcomer comes to a farm community. He refuses all friendship with his neighbors and puts out the no trespassing sign. One day a little child from the town climbs underneath his fence to pet his dog. The vicious animal leaps on her and kills her.*

*Hostility spreads throughout the community. When the newcomer comes to town no one will speak to him. Clerks refuse to wait on him. SPRING comes and the merchants refuse to sell him seed. Finally, the father of the girl who was killed comes over and sows his field. This act of kindness is too much for the insufferable newcomer. "Why—you of all people?" he asks. The father responds: To keep God alive in my heart.*

*The experience of forgiveness is basic to our spiritual health. It is the way that we keep God alive in our hearts. But there is more. The petition says: Forgive us as we forgive others. In other words, we are asking God to forgive in proportion to our forgiving. We become our own judge and jury.*

*How do we forgive the unforgivable? By remembering that God forgives us for our sins against him.*

What is in your heart? Is it the life and love of God or is it the slow and painful death of not forgiving?

A Fellow Forgiven Sinner,

**Pastor Tom Hite, Community Spiritual Director**



## Sponsor's Message

To the sponsors and co-sponsors, thanks to all, another success in Walk 44. We know the time it takes to prepare one's pilgrim for an Emmaus Walk, the prayers started right after your pilgrim's name came to mind. I wonder who put it there and for what reason. That's how God works in our lives, and most of the time it may be down the road we see the outcome blossom like a bud on a tree and new and improved life comes forth. And this I say well done for your willingness to be an important part in someone's life as a servant. To the men and women of Walk #44, remember about education day for all Emmaus Members, new and old alike. Do your part and strengthen the Emmaus movement, the best way is through education. Remember God chose you for this walk, so let's do our part in showing God's love to others. May all your Fourth Days be filled with Love and Understanding.

Feel free to contact me for information about sponsorship.

God Bless,

Chuck Moore  
Sponsorship 740-385-3758

## From Your Good Shepherd

Welcome new members of our Emmaus Community. Sisters and Brothers, we welcome you with open arms. Hopefully your Weekend was a wonderful, life changing or reaffirming experience for you. Always remember Jesus is with you through every one of your Fourth Days and so is your Emmaus Community.

You have in your Literature package a list of the Good Shepherds. If you do not have a Share or Reunion Group to join, just give your local Lady a call and we will try to help you find an established group or you could start a group of your own. Please remember, you are supposed to be a member of a Share Group to be able to work a Walk.

I hope you will be led to want to work on an Emmaus team either in the conference room or behind the scenes for Agape or Logistics. It is a truly great experience!! You will be greatly blessed and make some wonderful friends. Be sure to fill out and send in your Volunteer forms. (You need to do that every year. Forms are available on the Southern Ohio Emmaus web site.)

Prayer is the backbone of Emmaus. Please remember that we do have an Emmaus Prayer Chain. You may become a part of it by calling your local Good Shepherd. It is a great privilege to be able to help someone by praying for them. Even if you do not join the Prayer Chain always remember that you may call for a prayer for yourself or anyone.

Again, welcome to our new members. Even if you have been a part of Emmaus for a while this is a little reminder. Please always remember we are all a part of one body and we need to work together to help each other and further His Kingdom.

Decolores,

Connie Walker

Community Good Shepherd



### Southern Ohio Emmaus – 2008 Spring Walks

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

#### Women's Walk #44

Rita Bitler	Lancaster, Oh
Debbie Brookins	Albany, Oh
Judy Daniel	Albany, Oh
Donna Dickson	Lancaster, Oh
June Drummond	Logan, Oh
Julie Goss	Lancaster, Oh
Stacy Huffines	Logan, Oh
Joyce Hunsaker	Logan, Oh
Jean Jeffries	Logan, Oh
Brenda Lambert	Bremen, Oh
Joyce McCray	Lancaster, Oh
Crystal Ratliff	New Plymouth, Oh
Hazy Riebel	Long Bottom, Oh
Martha Roley	Logan, Oh
Toni Ruffner	Logan, Oh
Wendy Webb	West Jefferson, Oh
Sara Zinn	McArthur, Oh

#### Men's Walk #44

George Boehm	Johnstown, Oh
John Brown	Logan, Oh
Andy Ellinger	New Straitsville, Oh
J.T. Fertherolf	Cincinnati, Oh
Chuck Grubb	Hamden, Oh
Kris Highbargin	Nelsonville, Oh
David Kelly	West Jefferson, Oh
Larry Money Penny	Lancaster, Oh
Kelly Price	Logan, Oh
Ron Ramey	Lancaster, Oh
Pat Sheline	Lancaster, Oh
Christopher Stone	Lancaster, Oh
David Valentine	Nelsonville, Oh
Jerry Zinn	McArthur, Oh

### 2008 Calendar of Events

Date	Time(s)	Activity	Location
April 27	3:00pm	Community Gathering	First UMC, New Lexington
May 3	9am-Noon	Emmaus Education Day	First UMC, New Lexington
May 18	3:00pm	Community Gathering	First UMC, New Lexington
June 29	3:00pm	Community Gathering	First UMC, New Lexington
July 27	3:00pm	Community Gathering	First UMC, New Lexington
August 24 or 31	1:00pm	Family Picnic/Gathering (Bring your Family)	New Lexington City Park Fowler Lane, New Lexington
September 25-28		Women's Walk #45	Camp Akita
September 27	8:00pm	Candlelight	
September 28	4:00pm	Closing/Gathering	Camp Akita
October 2-5		Men's Walk #45	Camp Akita
October 4	8:00pm	Candlelight	
October 5	4:00pm	Closing	
October 26	3:00pm	Community Gathering	First UMC, New Lexington
November 27		Thanksgiving (No Gathering in November)	
December 7	3:00pm	Family Christmas Dinner (Bring a dish or two to share)	First UMC, New Lexington

First United Methodist Church is located at 126 S. High Street, New Lexington, Ohio  
The Community's board of directors meets at First United Methodist Church at 2:00p.m., the same day as the Gathering.

## 2008 Southern Ohio Emmaus Board of Directors

This is the current contact list of our 2008 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](mailto:pastortomhite@embarqmail.com)

### Newsletter

Greg Rush  
38032 Scout Rd  
Logan, OH 43138  
740-385-0945  
[gr44greg@yahoo.com](mailto:gr44greg@yahoo.com)

### Worship

Bob Birkimer  
11650 Tunnel Hill Rd  
Crooksville, OH 43731  
740-982-4729  
[dbirkime@columbus.rr.com](mailto:dbirkime@columbus.rr.com)

### Asst. Spiritual Director

Dave Sherman  
11162 Dingess Rd.  
Circleville, OH 43113  
740-420-3054  
[musicguy32@hotmail.com](mailto:musicguy32@hotmail.com)

### Supplies

Gary Allen  
1577 Twp Rd 196 NE  
Crooksville, OH 43731  
740-342-4732  
[gallen17@columbus.rr.com](mailto:gallen17@columbus.rr.com)

### Agape

Paula Jasper  
2425 Ervin Ln.  
Stockport, OH 43787  
740-559-3983  
[dpcjasper@earthlink.net](mailto:dpcjasper@earthlink.net)

### Board Chairperson

Dave Shoemaker  
4518 Bessemer Rd  
Nelsonville, OH 45764  
740-753-3580  
[shoebopper@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shoebopper@sbcglobal.net)

### Women's Registrar

Erin Beal  
75 Hill Street  
Logan, OH 43138  
740-385-7989  
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### Logistics

David Bankes  
10171 W. Timberman Rd. NW  
Malta, OH 43758  
740-342-4297

### Vice Chairperson

Debbie Birkimer  
11650 Tunnel Hill Rd.  
Crooksville, OH 43731  
740-982-4729  
[dbirkime@columbus.rr.com](mailto:dbirkime@columbus.rr.com)

### Men's Registrar

Larry Beal  
75 Hill St.  
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740-385-7989  
[larryb@ohiohills.com](mailto:larryb@ohiohills.com)

### Music

Teresa Garey  
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### Treasurer

Joyce Drake  
P.O. Box 177  
Malta, OH 43758  
740-962-4169  
[jdrake@wmcap.org](mailto:jdrake@wmcap.org)

### Sponsorship

Chuck Moore  
13665 Wesley Dr.  
Logan, OH 43138  
740-385-3758  
[chuck71980@yahoo.com](mailto:chuck71980@yahoo.com)

### Literature

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### Social

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### Secretary

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760 Ridge Ave.  
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### Good Shepherd

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### Outreach

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Updated: Feb 24, 2008

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**Southern Ohio Emmaus**

c/o Greg Rush  
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*RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED*

PLACE  
POSTAGE  
HERE