

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 4 ~ Issue 8

August 2008

Upcoming Events

August 31, 2008 1pm
Emmaus Picnic
(bring your family)
New Lexington City Park
Fowler Lane, New
Lexington

September 14, 2008 6pm
Singspiration
6th Avenue UMC
1004 W 6th Ave
Lancaster, OH

September 25-28
Women's Walk #45

September 28, 4:00pm
Closing/Gathering
September Gathering
combined with
W W Closing

October 2-5
Men's Walk #45

October 26, 3:00pm
Monthly Gathering

Inside this issue:

Info on Singspiration

Hosted by:
6th Avenue UMC
Lancaster, Ohio

Online Prayer Vigil for Fall 2008 walks:

Women's Walk 45
Men's Walk 45

Boardmember Contact **Information**

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

From the Community Lay Director

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."
(John 3:16-17, NIV)

How many times over the course of our lives, and most certainly our daily walk with Christ, do you think we have heard these very words? The first half of this passage must be the most well-known verse of the Bible. It's neither the shortest nor the longest. It is very clear in its message—that "God so loved the world"—that he would offer to that very world the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. God wanted to (then and still does yet today) offer assurance to us that he loves his creation and wishes it to be saved. We know that Jesus bridged the gap between us and God, through the outstretched arms on the cross, so that we could know the very love that John tells us about.

It is this love that God has for us, often described in terms similar to what a mother (father) has for her (his) children, that allows sacrifices to be made. It is a love that knows no bounds. It is a love that is unconditional in its offer. Where have we heard that before?

We have a word for that kind of love—Agape. It's Greek. It has variations, but the one used in the Gospels reflects how we look upon the term "agape" in Emmaus. That is, we see it as the self-sacrificing love God has for humanity. The early church was committed to reciprocating and practicing this very kind of love toward God and each other (you can read more if you do a search in Wikipedia on this subject).

Jesus offered to us a way to express this very love. He told us, in the Gospel of Matthew, in Chapter 22 and at verses 37 - 39, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (NIV). Sounds so simple, and yet we struggle so hard with fulfilling this very commandment. The other commandments don't seem to be too hard. Don't steal – no problem. Don't covet – no problem. Don't dishonor your mother and father – no problem. But love your enemy or your neighbor or the person across the street whom you care very little about? Now that's hard.

The Walk to Emmaus, however, finds different ways to express the notion of "agape" throughout the weekend. We receive table agape at meals. We receive bedtime agape. We receive letter agape on Sunday. Each and every form of this agape can be very powerful and strong statements about how much someone loves us, perhaps someone we do not know and may never meet. That's particularly true on Sunday—when we open the envelopes and discover a whole new meaning to what love is.

But it doesn't stop there. It's meant to be an ongoing thing. You receive—you pass it on. We all have the wonderful opportunity to continue in this practice and tradition. How? By coming to Sendoff, to Candlelight, to Closing. How? By writing a card or letter to a Pilgrim for Sunday. How? By preparing agape gifts for mealtime and bedtime. How? By being a great sponsor and lovingly caring for a family while someone is on the Walk to Emmaus. Practicing what we preach—Agape—is not nearly as hard as we think it is.

God loves you, and so do I.
De Colores!
Dave Shoemaker



**Southern Ohio Emmaus Community
Singspiration / Song Fest**

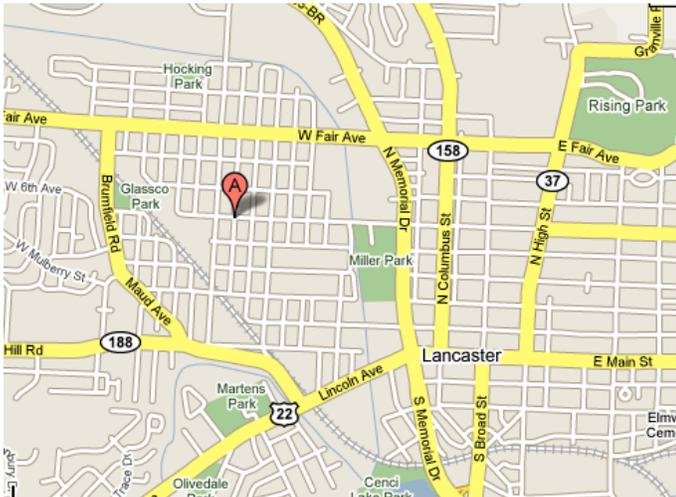
Sunday, September 14 at 6:00pm

Hosted by:

Sixth Avenue United Methodist Church
1004 W 6th Ave
Lancaster, OH 43130
(see map below)

Donations will be used to support
Southern Ohio Emmaus

Refreshments and Fellowship afterwards.
Please bring some food to share.



Prayer concerns from the July Gathering:

- David Russell
- Jim Procasi
- Earl Alfman
- Connie Guss
- Richard Adkins
- Irene Williams
- Addis & Campbell families
- George & Joyce Hughes
- Joyce Parker
- Harry family
- Trinity Lutheran Church youth
- Bill Nelson
- Our Country
- Traveling mercies
- The Fall Walks

Dear Emmaus Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers during my recent illness. Tim and I could feel those prayers and that gave us such comfort. God is Faithful as He hears the prayers of His people. He continues to give us healing. I am stronger each day. Thanks to my Share Group, Judy West and Carol Starner. Judy visited me in the hospital several times and Carol drove from Missouri to take care of me. What a blessing!!

Tim and I pray for our Emmaus Community and for the upcoming Walks. You are such a blessing to us and we thank God for you.

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. - Philippians 1:3-6

DeColores,
Lu Fox

2008 Fee Schedule

Weekend Fees

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

Mailed Newsletter	\$7.50/year
Emailed Newsletter	Free



Sponsorship

De Colores to all. August is here and that means family picnic at the park in New Lex. And education on Sponsorship, I hope you will take the time to learn more about the role. I myself will not be able to attend do to a schedule conflict, however Dwayne Tackett will do the teaching, and I know for a fact that he does a wonderful job. The role of sponsorship should never be taken lightly. It is so important to know about every detail of the adventure. To embark on such a task takes a lot of prayer. Prayer is the backbone of the Emmaus movement. You need to talk with God to see who He puts in your heart. Some advise you should not send someone to Emmaus because of a divorce, or money problems, someone that has a lot of stress, this is not the time for them. Their heart may not be ready to except what God wants them to know, so be patient, the time will come for them.

Here are just some of the questions that you will find the answers to during the education class, see if you can answer them.

1. What is Sponsorship?
2. What is a Sponsor's Responsibilities?
3. Who should we Sponsor?
4. What's the aim of Sponsorship?
5. Did you know that you should help the new pilgrim in finding a share group?
6. Did you know that you should bring the new pilgrim to the first Community Gathering?

If you have any problems answering the questions then please attend the Sponsorship class, it will open your eyes.

To all Sponsor's please fill in all areas of your sponsors form. All information is important in registering and making sure every thing goes smoothly. Thank You.

Chuck Moore

How are you serving or sharing in your Emmaus Community?

- Do you participate in Monthly Gatherings?
- Have you considered helping with an Emmaus Walk? You can help either behind the scenes or on a Conference Room Team. If you haven't already submitted a volunteer form, please consider it.
- Do you have a Fourth Day experience you could share? Either during a Monthly Gathering or in written form in the newsletter.
- Do you participate in the 72 hour Prayer Vigils for the Men's and Women's Walks?
- Do you have a local share group?
- Do you have any musical talent? Your Emmaus Community needs people willing to share their talents.

Online Prayer Vigils

As you may remember from your Emmaus Walk, Prayer is a vital spiritual discipline in our relationship with God.

With prayer being the foundation of our Emmaus Community, we invite you to become involved in the Southern Ohio Emmaus Community through participation in our 72-hour prayer vigil for each Emmaus Weekend. Please choose the specific Emmaus Walk Weekend you wish to pray for, then select the time you are available. You can pray from anywhere you like.

There are several ways to join the prayer vigil:

- 1) Sign-up online via the following website links:
www.3dayol.org/Vigil
- 2) Sign the prayer vigil chart during an Emmaus gathering or function.
- 3) Contact the Prayer Vigil coordinator:
Bob Birkimer via email dbirkime@columbus.rr.com
or by phone (740) 982-4729

Note: Online prayer vigils are hosted by [3 Day Weekends Online](http://www.3dayweekendsonline.com) which hosts prayer vigils for many Emmaus Communities.



“What Abomination Do You Belong To?”

By: Rev. Thomas E. Hite

Rev. Edward A. Black, Jr. of the Elysburg (PA) Presbyterian Church shares the following story:

Some school children were discussing their parents' jobs in class. One new youngster announced that he was the son of a preacher.

“What abomination do you belong to?” another youngster asked.

Out of the mouths of babes, right? “What abomination do you belong to?”

Make no mistake, there is a time for different denominations (and non-denominations) to assemble with “their own” to worship God in their unique ways. I enjoy visiting and experiencing these different traditions when given the opportunity. But, NONE OF US HAVE IT ALL RIGHT!

Comedian Steve Allen sent the following story to The Joyful Noiseletter:

During an ecumenical gathering, someone rushed in shouting, “The building is on fire!”

- ◆ The Methodists at once gathered in a corner and prayed.
- ◆ The Baptists cried, “Everybody into the water.”
- ◆ The Lutherans posted a notice on the door declaring fire was evil, because it was the natural abode of the devil.
- ◆ The Congregationalists shouted, “Every man for himself!”
- ◆ The Seventh-Day Adventists proclaimed, “It’s the vengeance of an angry God!”
- ◆ The Christian Scientists agreed among themselves that there really was not a fire.
- ◆ The Presbyterians appointed a chairperson, who was to appoint a committee to look into the matter and make a written report to the next session.
- ◆ The Episcopalians formed a procession and marched out in good order.
- ◆ The Unitarian-Universalists concluded that the fire had as much right to be there as anyone else.
- ◆ The Catholics passed collection plate to cover the damages.

Throughout the Bible we followers of Christ are being called to be the Church, the bride of Christ, the body of Christ, etc. We are NOT called to be the best church in town. When that becomes our goal, we cease to be the Church of Jesus Christ.

Christ calls us to be DISCIPLES! The first disciples were not preoccupied with polishing the nameplate above the front door to their sanctuary. They knew their calling was to the Great Commission to “go and make disciples of all nations.”

I am a proud disciple of Jesus Christ and I am proud to be a United Methodist while I follow this calling. If ever I get confused may someone point out to me “what abomination I belong to.”

What abomination do you belong to?

Your Brother in Christ,

TOM

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.

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Updated: Feb 24, 2008

2008 Calendar of Events

Date	Time(s)	Activity	Location
August 31	1:00pm	Family Picnic/Gathering (Bring your Family)	New Lexington City Park Fowler Lane, New Lexington
September 14	6:00pm	SOE Singspiration	Sixth Ave UMC, Lancaster, Ohio
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	Camp Akita
October 18	9:00am – 12:00pm	Education Day	Buchtel UMC, Buchtel, Ohio
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.

Southern Ohio Emmaus

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

PLACE POSTAGE HERE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED