

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 4 ~ Issue 2

February 2008

Upcoming Events

February 24, 2008 3pm

Gathering

First UMC, New Lex

March 30, 2008 3pm

Gathering

First UMC, New Lex

April 3-6, 2008

SOE Women's Walk 44

Camp Akita

April 17-20, 2008

SOE Men's Walk 44

Camp Akita

Inside this issue:

Information on Volunteering and Sponsoring

Help us make Southern Ohio Emmaus a community we are all glad to be part of

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

"Why Lent? Lent is a season of preparation, accompaniment, and journey. The whole church prepares itself to live more deeply into the baptismal covenant in worship, in small-group meetings, and through personal and corporate disciplines of devotion, worship, mercy and justice. Part of that overall preparation includes particular attention to those who are new to the Christian faith and seeking to enter the life of discipleship through baptism, as well as those who will support or sponsor them, and those who may have left the church and are seeking reconciliation and renewal. We begin the journey of this season together, grounding ourselves in the two primal facts of Christian existence—our mortality, symbolized in ashes—and our Lord who has conquered death, symbolized in the sign of the cross in which those ashes are applied." (From Planning Lent and Easter Worship in Church and Home, by Taylor Burton-Edwards and Daniel Benedict, General Board of Discipleship website.)

As we begin this second month of 2008, we find ourselves in this season we call Lent. As noted above, Lent is a journey, albeit a spiritual one. We find ourselves confronting deep spiritual issues as we make this journey, until we find ourselves kneeling at the foot of the cross on Good Friday crying out in anguish for the suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ, and celebrating the resurrection of Jesus at the empty tomb on Easter Sunday.

Lent is indeed a journey, one that can take us to places where we sometimes do not want to go. But we can be assured that 'God will not take us where His grace will not surround us' (as found on a church signboard up somewhere in Amish country). I was reminded of this as I listened to the words of the hymn that was sung at our January Gathering that simply said, "...and He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own...".

Our Walks to Emmaus, for both women and men, were deep spirit-filled journeys as well. Did God abandon us on Thursday night? No. Did Jesus depart from us on Friday? No. Did the Holy Spirit flee on Saturday? No. And what about Sunday—no Father, Son or Holy Spirit? No. On the contrary, God pulled us closely, Jesus touched us deeply, and the Holy Spirit guided us gently as we journeyed together. We weren't forgotten at all on any day, not by the Lord above nor by our families and friends here. Our journey involved tears and hardship, joys and laughter, the lightening of our burdens and the realization of our callings. We learned all over again the meaning of fellowship and experienced new ways to worship. And we shared God's grace at God's table in God's time—with each other.

Lent is a journey and an experience, and so was our Walk to Emmaus. As we begin this journey in this season, let us do so together, as a community of faith—in reflection, in reconciliation, in renewal—and as a people of God. We have been blessed to have been called by God to share together on our Walks. Let us now be blessed again to share together in this journey that takes us not only to the cross, but to the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Savior!

De Colores!

Dave Shoemaker



Upcoming Concert Events

February 23, 2008 6pm

Millertown Singspiration

SR155, West of Corning

Info/Directions:

Teresa Garey (740)342-1428

March 8, 2008 6pm

Bear Run Singspiration

(South of New Lex on SR37

Near 6 Mile Turn,)

Info/Directions:

Teresa Garey (740)342-1428

March 9, 2009 7pm

St Paul's UMC Concert

146 Main St, Roseville, OH

St. Pauls will host a Concert, Sunday, March 9, 2009 at 7:00pm with Dave Sherman. Dave will be performing original material, along with some familiar Hymns. Dave will be performing

"He Took the Nails", which is going to be

released on the Southern and Country Gospel radio in February or March. Dave has been a song writer and performer for the past 17 years and has had some songs picked up by other artists and performed regionally.

Please join us for an evening of music and song!

Thank you,
Al Smith

New 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

How Can You Volunteer?

The 2008 spring walks are approaching quickly! Have you sent in your volunteer sheet? If not, may I encourage you to get up right now, fill one out and send it in? If you don't have a form, check the website www.southernhioemmaus.com/documents/volunteer.html or call 740-962-9030

These walks don't just happen. There's hours of work that goes on before and after the Pilgrims arrive. There are four team meetings that all conference room worker's must attend, beginning six weeks before each walk and each team meeting usually lasts 6-7 hours. During each Walk, the Agape and Logistic teams are at work before breakfast and long after the Pilgrims are in bed at night in the lodge. They work hard and long hours behind the scenes. All three of these teams require a commitment of time and money. (but, don't let the team fees keep you from serving)

The volunteer sheet needs to be filled out and turned in yearly so we know what your interests are. Would you believe as many as 80+ phone calls have been made to just get a conference room team completed?

It's not just that your work will be a blessing to others, but you will also be greatly blessed by the tireless work you do.

In addition, there are things you can do at home such as make agape, pray for the Pilgrims and team members, sign up for the 72-hour prayer vigil, send or bring food for the snack table, send-off or closing, sponsor a Pilgrim, come to help carry luggage when the Pilgrims arrive on Thursday night, attend candlelight on Saturday night and come for Closing and help straighten up after closing on Sunday evening.

We are commanded to be Christ's hands and feet. Serve by volunteering for a walk today!

Marna Hyett-Outreach



A SPONSORSHIP NOTE

You may be asking yourself, how would I start to ask a friend, a loved one or an acquaintance to take part in an Emmaus weekend? The answer is PRAYER. Plain and simple, PRAYER is the back bone of the Emmaus Walk. One must make a plan and act on it through prayer, getting yourself in-tuned to what God needs you to do. The title of this person is called a Sponsor, a Prayer filled person who wants someone else to become closer to their Lord and Savior, to feel that wonderful Agape Love that is handed to you with no strings attached.

This is not to be taken lightly. First, you must have attended the Emmaus Walk yourself and attended a sponsorship class. If you haven't attended a Sponsorship class you must have a Co-Sponsor (someone who has had Sponsorship training). This just makes sure that everything is covered and not forgotten. You must make your pilgrim feel at ease, knowing that you, their sponsor, are taking care of everything back home. And always throughout the weekend be Praying for your pilgrim, and their family. The next Sponsorship class will be during Education Day on May 3rd, 2008 at the First United Methodist Church in New Lexington, starting at 9am and ending at 12noon. You will learn about Sponsorship and a whole lot more. Please come, and be a part of this wonderful education day.

God Bless and may all your 4th days be filled with God's presence.

DeColores!

Chuck Moore, Sponsorship Chairperson

Call me if you have any questions: 740-385-3758 or e-mail me chuck71980@yahoo.com

Please give us your thoughts and ideas...

What would you like to see in your newsletter? It's sometimes difficult to know what the readers want to see. Would you like to hear about someone's fourth day experiences? Maybe you would like to share something about your fourth days, but you've been reluctant to share by speaking at a Gathering. We would love to print your fourth day story in the newsletter and maybe that would inspire others to share their story. Send your ideas to Greg Rush (*see Board Member List for contact information*)

It's becoming more and more expensive to mail the newsletter via the postal service. In an effort to reduce the cost to our subscribers and our Emmaus community, we are trying to make the electronic version of the newsletter more readable and more efficient for those readers who may have slower internet connections. This issue's electronic size is less than 200Kb, and what that means is that even if your internet connection is only very slow, it should take less than 2 minutes to download. So, if you would like to receive your copy via email, we need to know your email address. You can email your request to gr44gregr@yahoo.com or telephone Greg Rush at (740) 385-0945.

As always, you will also be able to download your copy from the website:

<http://www.southernhioemmaus.com/documents/newsletter.html> You will need Adobe PDF viewer software to be able to read the newsletter on your computer, you can also find a link on the website to download the software from the internet.



2008 Calendar of Events

Date	Time(s)	Activity	Location
February 24	3:00pm	Community Gathering	First UMC, New Lexington
March 30	3:00pm	Community Gathering	First UMC, New Lexington
April 3-6		Women's Walk #44	Camp Akita
April 5	8:00pm	Candlelight	
April 6	4:00pm	Closing	
April 17-20		Men's Walk #44	Camp Akita
April 19	8:00pm	Candlelight	
April 20	4:00pm	Closing	
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.

Did we miss anything?

Is there something we missed on our calendar of events? If you know of some event or activity that might be of interest to our Southern Ohio Emmaus community, let us know about it so we can include the information on our calendar. Let's make the Rainbow Connection the newsletter we all want it to be.

Do you need an updated Form?

The new **Pilgrim Sponsor Form** and the **Emmaus Volunteer Form** are now posted on the website. Please check for them at: www.southernohioemmaus.com/documents/sponsor.html You can also contact your board members for updated forms.

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE