

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 4 ~ Issue 7

July 2008

Upcoming Events

- July 27, 2008 3pm
Gathering
First UMC, New Lex
- August 31, 2008 1pm
Emmaus Picnic
(bring your family)
New Lexington City Park
Fowler Lane, New
Lexington
- September 25-28
Women's Walk #45
- October 2-5
Men's Walk #45

Inside this issue:

Online Prayer Vigil for Fall 2008 walks:

Women's Walk 45
Men's Walk 45

Pilgrim Application for use in sponsoring a Pilgrim on the Fall Walks

Boardmember Contact Information

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

From the Community Lay Director

"A Million Points of Light"

Many people enjoy going out on a warm summer evening and looking up into the sky and observing the moon, stars and such. I actually prefer what little star-gazing that I do to be in the winter time. At that time of the year, with the cold, clean and crisp air, there doesn't seem to be anything that blocks the view. The summer humidity and the bugs tend to bother me, so I prefer the clarity of winter.

Gazing up at the heavenly bodies makes me wonder a lot about what heaven will be like. I can read the Biblical & theological descriptions...but don't you just wonder? Are there really streets of gold or is that an abstract thought that can't be clearly explained? The reality is that it won't really matter when we come into the presence of Christ and God. We will stand in awe of the presence of the Most Holy and our thoughts about what something will be like will pale in comparison to actually experiencing it.

I remember a former president talking about "a million points of light". I think I remember that being a reference to people doing good things for each other, and forgive me if I am wrong, but that's the way I remember it. What I also remember is comparing that to looking at the stars...which literally are billions of points of light...and seeing God's handiwork.

There's another place where we can see what seems to be "a million points of light". I saw it during Candlelight on Men's Walk #17 (my Walk to Emmaus). I remember walking into a room filled with a million candle-holding people (well, it seemed like it, didn't it?). I remember my wonderment at the awe of the moment.

Since that time, I have had the wonderful experience of participating in Candlelight a countless number of times, as a Community Member and as a part of a live-in team. And every time I go I see a million points of light...a billion stars...a glimpse of heaven.

I can remember the countless number of people who have stood and described the experience as wondering if that moment in time wasn't at least a glimpse of heaven and hoping that it was! However, it isn't the candle that shines at Candlelight. It's the love that radiates from each person for those who are taking that Walk to Emmaus. It's the love we have for our neighbor and our God. It's the 'agape' we bring to the event—that unconditional love for another person.

Quite honestly, most of the time very few of us know anything about the Pilgrims other than the one we might sponsor, but it doesn't stop us from loving them. The one song that is sung during the Weekend is "They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love" and it's true. And we sing the "Love Chorus" during that Candlelight time because we mean it, not because we have to.

We hold those candles as one of those million points of light...a single star of heaven...because someone did it for us. We raise them high...just as Jesus raised His arms high and wide for us. We see the reflection of the light in someone else's face, and the glow that is beginning from within as the love pours out, not only from the Candlelight event, but from heaven above, and we see what heaven will be like.

Let your light shine!

De Colores!

Dave Shoemaker



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

[Women's Walk #45](http://www.3dayol.org/Vigil/GetVigil.phtml?pvid=2596) – September 25-28, 2008
www.3dayol.org/Vigil/GetVigil.phtml?pvid=2596

[Men's Walk # 45](http://www.3dayol.org/Vigil/GetVigil.phtml?pvid=2616) – October 2-5, 2008
www.3dayol.org/Vigil/GetVigil.phtml?pvid=2616

- 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.3dayweekends.com) which hosts prayer vigils for many Emmaus Communities.

2009 Fee Schedule

Weekend Fees

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

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Mailed Newsletter | \$7.50/year |
| Emailed Newsletter | Free |

Prayer concerns from the June Gathering:

Fall Walks & Lay Directors
Mary Graham's parents
Lu Fox
Mike Maple
Ariel Queen
Carl David Russell
Sheila Clawson
Jayden McCord
Jack Shiplett
Chris & Rhonda Stone
Don Jones
JoAnna Wells
Paula Fistick
Family of Don Mahaffey
Larry Alderman

Sponsorship

It's not too early to begin the process of sponsoring a pilgrim on the fall walks. Hopefully you have been praying about those in your life who may be ready to experience an Emmaus Walk. It's important that we don't pressure people, but that we pray and let God prepare them for this special time in their lives.

We also don't want to forget the responsibilities of being a sponsor, so we should be in prayer that we are ready to fulfill those responsibilities. Remember, a sponsor is to care for the pilgrim and their families during that weekend, and bring food to share during the send-off and closing ceremonies. A sponsor also should participate in Candlelight and encourage other community members to participate in Candlelight. The prayer vigil is also an important part of the sponsor's duties, remember how it felt during your walk to see all the names of those praying for you.

Being a good sponsor can make all the difference in how special the pilgrim's Emmaus experience will be.

Faithfully,
Greg Rush

Note: Included in this issue of the newsletter is an Application/Sponsor Form for use in sponsoring a pilgrim

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 |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| July 27 | 3:00pm | Community Gathering | First UMC, New Lexington |
| August 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 18 | 9:00am – 12:00pm | Education Day | TBA |
| 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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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| PLACE POSTAGE HERE |
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