

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 4 ~ Issue 6

June 2008

Upcoming Events

- June 29, 2008 3pm
Gathering
First UMC, New Lex
- 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

Inside this issue:

New Online Prayer Vigil for Fall 2008 walks:

Women's Walk 45
Men's Walk 45

Musicians

Come one, come all
We need your help.

Boardmember Contact Information

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

From the Community Lay Director

"Nothing's Too Hard for God"

Abraham was 100 years old and minding his own business when he received three visitors into his midst. These three were not the 'Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future' that Dickens writes about, but they were very spiritual beings, angelic in fact. Being a good and gracious host, Abraham got some water to wash their feet, had Sarah prepare some bread, found the best calf in the herd and had it prepared, and they probably ate this very sumptuous meal heartily.

Abraham didn't know who these three visitors were, but I bet he suspected something when he was informed that Sarah would bear a child in her old age (can you imagine that at 90 years old!). Sarah could only laugh as she overheard this...Abraham had already heard this and his response was much the same. They weren't laughing at God, but at what seemed to be so impossible to accomplish. We, too, have done much the same thing, especially when we hear God asking us (or is He telling us?) what we should be doing. "Who, me?" we ask. "I can't do that. I don't have the skills for this. I have no talents to share. I am not gifted." We've all said these things, as we ponder what we consider is impossible to do. And we laugh at what we think is preposterous.

We forget the words found in Matthew 19:26b, where it is written, "Nothing is impossible with God" (NIV). In Genesis 18:14 it says, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" It certainly wasn't when it came to Abraham and Sarah. It wasn't when Noah had the ark. Nothing was too hard when Moses needed to cross the Red Sea or lead a nation in the wilderness. It wasn't too hard or impossible when Jesus was born to a virgin in Bethlehem. Was it too hard when Christ healed the lepers, the lame, the deaf and the blind? No. It wasn't even too hard when Jesus raised the dead.

Why, then, do we think it too hard for God to forgive us of our sin? Why is it that we so often struggle when faced with life issues that seem impossible for us to deal with? The good news is that God's already been there and done that. He knows it isn't too hard for him to deal with our issues. We must remember that He is the one who had to deal with Jesus on the cross, taking on the burden of our sin, dying our death, and rising from death. Is anything too hard for God? The simple answer is 'no'.

Every Emmaus Walk has a dedicated time (Dying Moments) when we can unload an impossible burden, and allow God to carry it away, on the shoulders of Christ Jesus. Every Emmaus Walk around this world has Pilgrims on their knees asking for the impossible. Every Emmaus Walk has a time when you and I are able to die to our sin, and die to our selfishness, and rise as a new creature in Christ. And every Emmaus Walk has God readily accepting the challenge we lay before him. Why? Because God loves us so much, he was willing to do the impossible – sacrifice His son for us. Because nothing is too hard for God, even when it seems impossible.

De Colores!

Dave Shoemaker



New - 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 May Gathering:

Family of Sterling Dietrich
Family of Vicki Perkins
Carl Russell
Sandra Champ
Chuck Garey
Jean Boring
Dave Sherman
Judy West
Kim Reed & friend
Shane Mender
Joyce Hughes
Roger Wharton
Keith Wellspring
Our military
Bell Shoals Baptist Church (Florida)
The Fall Lay Directors (Connie Walker & Kendall Stephens)



Music Notes



from Teresa Garey

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music.

Psalm 57:7

When talking about our Emmaus brothers and sisters, people often relate how the music touches their souls. Music is the language of the soul--it causes us to cry, laugh and feel our Lord's voice resonating from deep within our hearts & souls. He blesses us when we sing praises unto Him.

Often times people say, "I don't play the guitar" or "I can't sing in front of people".....the Lord says, "Fear Not". He rejoices each time we take a leap of faith and trust in Him to guide us. I guarantee that the Lord has someone that He wants you to touch or someone He wants to touch you. God's like that.....He never misses an opportunity to share Himself with others. Allow Him to use you and His blessings will multiply and overwhelm you with His goodness.

Calling All Musicians & Singers

My job as the Music Chairman (Chairperson to some) is to arrange special music for the gatherings and candlelight services. The list of musicians that I have is old and outdated. If you are led to share your love of the Lord thru music and song, please email or call me so I can be sure that my information is correct.

twildhorses@yahoo.com
(740) 342-1428

What I need to know-----

Your name of course!!
Address
Phone number
Email if you have one.
Musical Instruments you play (even if just a little)

Do you sing?
Are you part of a group?
Has your whole group been to Emmaus/Chrysalis?
Would you be interested in coming to an Emmaus Jam Session?

I pray that my mailbox will overflow with those who are willing to give of themselves for the Lord in the furthering of His Kingdom and our blessed Emmaus Community.

De Colores & Smiles,
Teresa

Sponsorship

I recently lost an uncle, although he lived to his 90's It was still hard just the same. The thing that I had the most trouble with is that I wished I had visited with him one more time, Instead the visit that I attended was truly the last time that I will ever see him in this life.

I say this because I know how easy it is to miss the mark with God, and how easy it is to go on with your daily life and forget to visit with Him. Please keep the feeling of our Lord burning inside you and help others to experience His Grace and compassion that is so freely given just for the asking.

Again feel free to call me with any question about sponsoring, at 740.385.3758 or email me at:

chuck71980@yahoo.com

Your brother in Christ

Chuck Moore

Would you like to share your Fourth Day experience?

Would you like to hear about other'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. If you would like to share some of your fourth day experiences, send your story for the newsletter, to Greg Rush (*see Board Member List for contact information*)



Criticism

I recently came across the following written by James Cole and thought it worthy to pass along to our community.

The boss called the new stenographer into his office. "Miss Allen," he said, "you're the prettiest lady we ever had working here."

A pleased look came over her face.

"You dress well," the boss went on, "you have a nice voice, you make a good impression on the public, and your deportment is very fine."

"Oh, thank you," she said. "Your compliments are appreciated."

"That's fine," the boss continued. "Enjoy them. For we're not going to discuss your spelling, your punctuation, and your typing."

In my pastorate, many people have been critical of some of my approaches. (Most of the criticism has been constructive). Recently I realized that much of what I do in my ministry now, I do in POSITIVE response to that criticism. Over the years, people have suggested things I am doing to the glory of God and for the benefit of His children.

Stay on your toes and off other people's toes, and you'll be known as a successful sole instead of an arch heel.

I feel sorry for the guys
Who criticize and minimize
The other guys
Whose enterprise
Has made them rise
Above the guys
Who criticize and minimize.

The Apostle Paul put it another way when he wrote the following:

Philippians 4:4-9

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

⁹Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Pastor Tom Hite

Community Spiritual Director

2008 Calendar of Events

Date	Time(s)	Activity	Location
June 29	3:00pm	Community Gathering	First UMC, New Lexington
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.

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
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Newsletter

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gr44greg@yahoo.com

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Asst. Spiritual Director

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Board Chairperson

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Updated: Feb 24, 2008

Southern Ohio Emmaus

c/o Greg Rush
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Logan, Ohio 43138

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE