

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 4 ~ Issue 3a

March 2008

Upcoming Events

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:

Agape

How can you help share God's love during the Spring Walks?

Spring Walks

Pilgrim Lists

Team Lists

Please pray for the Spring Walks

Fourth Days Sharing

Consider sharing your story in the next newsletter.

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

"O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb." (Psalm 139:1, 13 – NIV)

I believe that last month we spoke of how Lent was a spiritual journey that we, as Christians, take every year. It is, if you will, a pilgrimage. Well, the pilgrimage is over now, as Easter has gloriously come and gone. We celebrate the risen Christ and praise God for His love of us.

As it says in Psalm 139:1, God has searched us and He knows us. He knows us intimately. I was reminded of this just a few weeks ago. My doctor, in his infinite wisdom, believed I needed to undergo an ultrasound of my gall bladder and liver. Why? Oh, I guess it was because I had a slightly elevated liver function test. Not high enough to get worried, but high enough to get noticed.

The ultrasound was a magnificent piece of work. I got the "jelly on the belly" and the tech proceeded with her scan of the upper left quadrant or some such thing. The magic wand she held in her hand and waved over my tummy could peer inside of me and see things that I, and you, normally could not. It could see my gall bladder, pancreas, liver and whatever else was residing in that part of my body on that day. The tech could, I suppose, with a practiced eye, tell if anything was off a little (although, I confess, she wouldn't tell me). She searched with her wand and jelly and when it was over, she knew far more about me on the inside than she knew about me on the outside.

That test got me to thinking about just how well God knows each and every one of us. *"For you created my inmost being..."* the Psalm reads. The end of the Psalm, at verses 23 and 24 reads, *"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way of everlasting."* God doesn't need an ultrasound to see the condition of our liver or our hearts. He doesn't need to rub "jelly on my belly" to know if we have gall stones or pancreas problems. He already knows who we are and what we are and what our human condition is. And He sent His Son to be our Lord and Savior anyway.

As we prepare in the next couple of weeks for the Spring Emmaus Walks for Women and Men, another group of Pilgrims will come into the realization of just how well God knows them, inside and out. We need to pray for them and those on the teams that have been meeting and planning on how to serve them. Remember all of them at Candlelight, at Closing, and their families. God has always been able to see us, fully and intimately, and no secrets are hidden from Him. Especially now, as we journey on the road to Emmaus, where we encounter the Risen Christ, again and again. May our hearts and eyes always be opened when we are in His presence.

Oh, and about the ultrasound—everything was fine. A little bit of a fatty liver. I'm told that a better diet and a little exercise wouldn't hurt one bit. I guess I better not eat the chocolate bunny ears after all.

De Colores!

Dave Shoemaker



Upcoming Concert Events

March 30, 2008 4pm

West Jefferson UMC Concert

Dave Sherman is performing

April 13, 2008 7pm

St Paul's UMC Concert

146 Main St, Roseville, OH

St. Pauls will host a Concert, Sunday, April 13, 2008 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

Don't Your Ever Do That To Me Again!

Fred Craddock tells a wonderful story about a young minister, newly graduated from seminary, serving his very first church. He gets a call telling him that a church member, elderly woman who has given her life in service to the church, is in the hospital. She's so weak she can't even get up out of bed, and the doctors don't hold much hope for her recovery. Would he go up and visit? Well, of course he will and he does.

All the way to the hospital he's thinking about what he will say to this Christian lady, what words of comfort he can give her to prepare her for her eminent death. He arrives at the hospital, goes up to her room for the visit. He sits and talks with her a few minutes, just small talk really, nothing earth shattering. When he makes ready to leave, he asks if she would like him to have prayer with her. She answers, "Yes, of course. That's why I wanted you to come."

He then asks politely, "And what exactly would you like me to pray for?"

"Why, I want you to pray that God will heal me," she answers in a surprised tone of voice.

Haltingly, fumbling over the words, he prays just as she wanted, that God will heal her, even though he's not really sure that can happen. When he says the "Amen" at the end of the prayer, the woman says, "You know, I think it worked! I think I'm healed!" And she gets out of the bed and begins to run up and down the hallway of the hospital, shouting, "Praise God! I'm healed! Praise God! I'm healed!"

Meanwhile, the young minister, in a stupor, stumbles to the stairwell, walks down five flights of stairs, makes his way to the parking lot and somehow manages to find his car. As he fumbles to get his keys out of his pocket, he looks heavenward and says, "Don't you ever do that to me again!" He had a mountaintop moment, but he didn't know what to do with it!

The bible is filled with stories about mountaintop moments and the way people reacted to them. Some embraced the moment and their lives were changed forever. Others resisted the experience as if to say, "Don't you ever do that to me again!"

What was your Emmaus Road experience like for you? Was it a life-changing experience? Have you "Decided to Follow Jesus" as the hymn says? Or have you written off the 3-day experience saying, "Don't you ever do that to me again!" This mountaintop experience was very real. What are you going to do with it?

De Colores

Pastor Tom
Community Spiritual Director



Sponsor's Message

As the spring walks draw near, let us all be in prayer for the women and men as they take their journey just as we did on the walk to the Emmaus. They will be nervous, unsure, worried, excited, emotional, and trying to anticipate every move on the walk. That's just some of the things I went through. Even though there will be pilgrims we do not know, let us lift them all up, and ask our Lord to do His will in their lives. Let's not forget the teams for each walk, for the Lord has chosen them wisely. I also would like to say a big thank you to the sponsors for taking on this great responsibility of sponsoring and the caring for your pilgrim. Don't forget the candlelight and the closings, do your best to encourage your Emmaus family to support the walks by coming and participating in these two special times.



Chuck Moore, Sponsorship
740.385.3758
chuck71980@yahoo.com

Chrysalis News

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest members of the Chrysalis ROCS community:



Cameron Barnhart
Mike Eldridge
Nick Jewell
Eric Vaughn

Brian Carlson
Josh Glenn
Derek Shutts

We are having a Hoot on Friday, April 18th, at First United Methodist Church in New Lexington, at 6:30 pm. There will be live music and food. All youth are welcome.

We are also planning a Next Steps Retreat on May 17th, also at First United Methodist Church in New Lex from 10 am – 7 pm. The theme for this retreat is Christian Action. We will be serving lunch and supper and there will be no fee for the retreat. Anyone who has attended Chrysalis or worked a flight may attend.

Fly With Christ,
Tammy Aneshansley
Chrysalis ROCS

Agape

Perhaps the most common observation made by pilgrims after an Emmaus walk is how much love they felt being poured out during the weekend. It starts when the pilgrim arrives and finds his or her luggage has been delivered to their room and it just keeps getting better after that!



Members of the agape and logistics teams play an active role during a walk, working behind the scenes to support the pilgrims and team in large and small ways. They are busy from early in the morning till after "lights out" performing such tasks as setting tables, serving meals, cleaning restrooms, moving furniture, and last but not least, keeping the snack table full. If your heart was blessed by these acts of Christian love and you would like to do for others what was done for you, volunteering for an agape or logistics team is a wonderful place to start. Simply fill out a volunteer sheet expressing your desire to serve in this capacity.

Maybe you would love to be on an agape team but you don't think you have the stamina for such a physical role. There are many other ways to show Christ's love to the pilgrims and the team:

- attend send-off
- participate in the prayer vigil
- donate bedtime or mealtime agape
- write notes of encouragement to pilgrims and team members
- attend closing and other special moments during the walk

Prayerfully consider how you can be Christ's hands and feet within the Emmaus community.

DeColores!
Paula Jasper
Agape



Southern Ohio Emmaus – 2008 Spring Walks

Please pray for Women's and Men's Walks #44 and for the lives that will be changed!

Note: Pilgrim lists as of March 23, 2008, please include a prayer for pilgrims whose names may not have been known before this newsletter was printed.

Pilgrims - Women's Walk #44

Rita Bitler
Debbie Brookins
Judy Daniel
Donna Dickson
June Drummond
Julie Goss
Stacy Huffines
Joyce Hunsaker
Jean Jeffries
Brenda Lambert
Joyce McCray
Crystal Ratliff
Martha Roley
Toni Ruffner
Wendy Webb
Brenda Wildermuth
Sara Zinn

Church

Cross Pointe FWB
Albany UM Church
Albany UM Church
Sixth Avenue UM Church
Immanuel UM Church
Pleasant Hill UM Church
Grace Covenant
Immanuel UM Church
New Hope UM (Gore)
Cross Pointe FWB
Cross Pointe FWB
Zaleski Freewill Baptist
Coonville Holiness Church
Trinity Lutheran
West Jefferson UM Church
First UM of Lancaster
Hamden UM Church

Sponsor

Donna Covert
Rita Hysell
Susan Penix
Dotty Jaffogne, Tom Parrish
Betty Goodlive
Shirley Jadwin
Becky Hall and Rachel Cook
Judy Conley
Cheri Bauman and Sharon Stimmel
Donna Covert
Donna Covert
Lynda Fink
Becky Carpenter Clark, Greg Rush
Rebekah Glenn
Heather Pullins and Barb Hockenberry
Norma Bagby
Sherri and Rodney Rogers

Pilgrims - Men's Walk #44

Charles Grubb
Kris Highbargin
John Hoag
David Kelly
Larry Money Penny
Christopher Stone
David Valentine

Church

Hamden UM Church
First Baptist Church – Logan
Lancaster First UM Church
West Jefferson UM Church
Sixth Ave UM Church
Sixth Ave UM Church
Trinity Lutheran

Sponsor

Rodney Rogers
Debbie Highbargin and Chuck Penix
Keith and Opal Kistler
Maria Kelly and David Humphey
Tom Parrish
Tom Parrish
Larry and Erin Beal

Women's Walk #44 Team Members

Lay Director: Betty Clark

Spiritual Director: Walt Goble

Assistant Spiritual Director: Tom Hite

Assistant Lay Directors:

Penny Canter, Joyce Drake, Lynda Fink

Table Leaders:

Bernadette Chaney, Heather Pullins,
Kim Reed, Sherri Rogers,
Georganne Thomas, Judy West

Assistant Table Leaders:

Dawn Barnes, Sheryl Goble, Kathy Morgan, Valerie
Murray, Susie Watson, Michelle Willacker

Music Director: Bev Shoemaker

Assistant Music Director: Linda Rose

Board Rep: Marna Hyett

Agape:

Tammy Aneshansley, Sharon Stimmel, Melanie
Baldwin

Logistics:

Staci Queen, Karen Martin, Max Greuey, David
Bankes

Clergy Talks:

Lynda Lockwood, Mike Queen, Rodney Rogers

Men's Walk #44 Team Members

Lay Director: Larry Beal

Spiritual Director: Dave Sherman

Assistant Spiritual Director: Clarence Thompson

Assistant Lay Directors:

Bob Barnhart, Kendall Stephens, Richard Wallar

Table Leaders:

Gary Covert, Al Reed, Greg Rush, Dwayne Tackett,
Floyd Tackett, Kevin Westfall

Assistant Table Leaders:

Jeff Cook, Sterling Dietrich, Dave Kelch, Mike
Nicholson, Jerry Stimmel, Audie Wykle

Music Director: Dale Sigler

Board Rep: Dave Shoemaker

Agape:

Donna Covert, Erin Beal, Michelle Willacker

Logistics:

David Bankes, Karcy Rush

Clergy Talks:

David Rohrer, Jim Sanders, Brent Watson



PRAYER VIGIL

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

The prayer vigil has not been filled for the upcoming men's and women's walks and we are in need of Community members participation in filling this prayer vigil. If you have a specific time you would be able to pray for the pilgrims during these walks, please contact me. Always remember that prayer is the backbone of Emmaus & prayer is also an act of Agape Love.

Bob Birkimer
740-982-4729
dbirkime@columbus.rr.com

Sharing our Fourth Days...

I experienced my Emmaus walk in the spring of 2005. My Fourth Days haven't all been great, but God has been faithful. In the fall of 2006, I was involved in planning a mission trip to Biloxi, Mississippi, with a group from my church. We were going to Mississippi to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. A few weeks before we were scheduled to leave for Biloxi, I learned that my dad had terminal lung cancer. He was admitted to the hospital for tests and his condition seemed very serious. I was wrestling with the thought that maybe I shouldn't go on the mission trip. My concern was that something would happen when I was 900 miles away from home and that I wouldn't make it back in time. The day before we were to leave on the trip, my family and I celebrated my dad's 69th birthday in his hospital room. My dad insisted that I should go on the mission trip, so I decided to go. My prayer during my time in Biloxi was that God would keep my dad safe while I was away. On my second day in Mississippi, I shared with the camp cook, that my dad was sick and in the hospital back home. I didn't know it, but she went immediately to the onsite volunteer chaplains and told them my story. Within ten minutes, I had several chaplains praying with me, and throughout the week numerous people, people I didn't even know, were praying for me and my dad. Knowing that my dad's condition was so serious, my prayer was that God would keep my dad alive until I returned home. On the day we were to leave for home, one of the chaplains awoke at 4:30am to pray with us before we left, and then we started home. We drove 16 hours straight, so that I could be home and able to visit my dad the next day. My dad had been released from the hospital to a nursing home because he was too weak to go home. When I visited my dad that next day, he wanted to know how we helped the hurricane victims. I told him how so many people were praying for him in Mississippi and I know it meant a lot to him. My dad died two weeks later, but I am thankful that God blessed me with so many praying people and that I was able to spend the last week with my dad. I know that God used my Emmaus weekend to strengthen my faith for tough times and enable me to use my experiences to help others. I pray that your faith has also been strengthened by your Emmaus experience, and that you will help others when you are called for service in God's kingdom.

Greg Rush
Southern Ohio Emmaus
Men's Walk #38, Table of David

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*)



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

2008 Calendar of Events

Date	Time(s)	Activity	Location
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

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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Updated: Feb 24, 2008

Southern Ohio Emmaus

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE