

# The Rainbow Connection

Volume 4 ~ Issue 5

May 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:

### **Volunteering**

Have you submitted your volunteer questionnaire form?

### **Sponsoring Someone**

Are you qualified to sponsor someone for an Emmaus Walk?

### **New 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**

### *"In Remembrance"*

As we go through this year together, I want to take a look at the various parts of our Walk to Emmaus. You might have already figured out part of this. I don't think it hurts us at all to revisit the Walk and to look at it in different ways, possibly opening our hearts, minds and souls to all that God has to offer us through Jesus Christ on the Walk to Emmaus.

This month, I would like to look at a little bit of what happens on Thursday night. Most of us remember that sometime on that evening we saw a video. Can you remember the title? Can you remember what it was about? Do you even remember the video being shown? It was an unexpected event, one of many to be sure. I can sit here today, having seen the film what seems to be a countless number of times, and still wonder about the thing and its purpose for the Walk to Emmaus.

For the record, the film is entitled *"In Remembrance"* and it lasted something like 39 minutes, not the eternity that some of us thought it did. We know that it took place in the Upper Room at Passover, shortly before Jesus' crucifixion. It depicts the events of the last supper, and introduces us to the nature of Holy Communion, by placing us in the room with the disciples on that night. While we know that this is important, why didn't we have a film that dealt with those fellows walking on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus? After all, this is the Walk to Emmaus, isn't it?

I am guessing that you could contact the International Walk to Emmaus office and get the specifics about why this is, but I have another theory. The first part of it involves the fact that the disciples were all gathered at the table in community that night with Jesus. Sound familiar? Take a look at April's newsletter. We talked a lot about being at the table, in community together. The second part of my theory is wrapped up in the discussions given by Judas and Phillip. It may not be obvious, but I think there was a lot to be learned from listening to both of them describe their experiences with Christ.

Judas starts us off, all alone, sitting by a fire, pondering all that had happened as he betrayed Jesus. Judas had begun this ministry well-intentioned, as they all had. But somewhere along the way, Judas had allowed Satan to take control. Judas had allowed things like power, control, and greed to take over. Judas no longer could see the point of helping others (he thought it was a waste of resources) when helping himself seemed so much better.

**Continued on page 2**



Judas had become so selfish that he had wanted a Jesus who would be an earthly king, and if there were an earthly king, then there would be an earthly treasury and treasurer, and more opportunity to serve self than others. In contrast, there is Phillip. Phillip is sitting with Bekka, his girlfriend. He is remembering all of the things that he and the others had been through. Phillip describes missing his family and friends, and certainly Bekka. She wants him to stay—I would think a part of him wanted to stay. But Phillip expresses a well-known feeling—the unexplainable draw of Christ. Phillip knows there is something more, something greater than he involved. Phillip doesn't think about himself but about others and the things they can do. He knows he must return and continue the work, even at the cost of his relationship with Bekka. He sees the self-less acts of Jesus and knows where he needs to be.

Why do we need to watch "*In Remembrance*"? I think that somewhere in our consciousness, we all are between Judas and Phillip—fighting the battle of being selfish and self-less. Our journey on the Road to Emmaus helps us realize that we can indeed go from one to the other. Unlike Judas, however, it's a road that we do not travel alone. We look up and see someone traveling with us, someone who we find ourselves inexplicably drawn to, much like Phillip. Someone who walks with me and talks with me and tells me I am his own, as the song says.

Indeed, this is the Walk to Emmaus, where we can go from being selfish to self-less, one step at a time, as long as we have Jesus walking with us. It's one of the many journeys we make on our walk.

De Colores!

Dave Shoemaker

## 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.



### **Other Events**

June 8, 2008 6pm  
**St Paul's UMC Concert**  
146 Main St, Roseville, OH

**Featuring:** New Mercy

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### **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)

### **Prayer concerns from April Gathering:**

JoAnna Well  
Betty Borgen  
JoAnn Parish  
Tracy Price  
Marcy Jeffers  
Mike Maple  
Whitey Garrett  
Congregations of 1st UMC and New Hope UMC  
(Crooksville)  
Joe Woodward  
Katy Barnhart  
Brandon Daniels  
John Gilcrest  
Dick Newlon  
Ryan Salmon  
Shawn Green  
West Jefferson Mountaintoppers



### **Sponsor's Message**

Our spring walks have come and gone, but the memories will last forever. I don't know about you, but when my 4th days start to get me down I pull out my letters from my walk (SOE Men's Walk #16), Yes they're still readable, and I relive my walk all over again. What a blessing to have such a wonderful tool like our letters to help us through our difficult times, that Agape Love from those who you may or may not know how they felt about you. Isn't God good?

I would like to thank those who attended the education day, I hope you learned a lot, I know I did. I went to my first education day sometime back and I learned so much, but you know this education day I learned so much more, which taught me, you can learn something new every time you attend. A big thank you to Dwayne Tackett for teaching the Sponsorship class so I could learn the ropes, it meant so much to me, It would be hard to find a better friend than an Emmaus friend.

### **A little bit of education for you.**

Here are some things to remember on being a sponsor:

1. If you attended the education day, congratulations, you are now eligible to sponsor.
2. If you did not attend a sponsor's class you will need a Co-Sponsor to help you.
3. Don't forget to bring finger food for Thursday and Sunday. (Emmaus meets Emmaus eats)
4. Come to Saturday night candle light.

More things to come in future newsletters

Please, as always, if you have any questions about Sponsorship Please call Chuck Moore at 740.385.3758 or email me at [chuck71980@yahoo.com](mailto:chuck71980@yahoo.com)

### **Volunteering**

Now that the spring walks have concluded, it's time to get those volunteer sheets filled out and sent in. Are you interested in serving behind the scenes on an Agape or Logistics team? What a great way to serve fellow Pilgrims, and really is the suggested way to start you serving on an Emmaus team.

I've received only three volunteer sheets since the walks have been completed. You are an important part of our community and we really need committed people to work.

While you're thinking of it, find that volunteer sheet, fill it out and send it in! I'm expecting to hear from YOU.

Marna Hyett  
Outreach

### **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](http://www.3dayol.org/Vigil)

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

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



### 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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**Greg Rush, 38032 Scout Rd, Logan, Ohio 43138.**  
phone: 740.385.0945      email: [gr44gregr@yahoo.com](mailto:gr44gregr@yahoo.com)

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