

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 4 ~ Issue 11

November/December 2008

Upcoming Events

December 7, 2008

Emmaus Family Christmas Party

First UMC
126 S High St
New Lexington
3:00pm

Women's Spring Walk #46

May 14-17, 2009

Men's Spring Walk #46

May 21-24, 2009

Women's Fall Walk #47

Sept. 10-13, 2009

Men's Fall Walk #47

Oct. 1-4, 2009

Inside this issue:

Boardmember Contact Information

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

Volunteer Form

Please help us update our volunteer records

Newsletter Subscription

Let us know how you would like to receive your newsletter.

From the Community Lay Director

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)*

Sometime during the next few weeks, the words of Isaiah the prophet will be spoken in a worship service. Perhaps it will be one of the Advent services; perhaps it will be on Christmas Eve; perhaps even Christmas Day. It might be part of a liturgy; it might be read as a stand-alone passage. Whatever the case might be, we will be reminded that the birth of Christ heralded the coming of a new age – where the presence of God took on a new form and a new direction. No longer would God speak from the burning bush or through the mouths of the prophets. No longer would God need to lead his people through the wilderness of the desert.

The birth of the baby Jesus in such humble surroundings showed us that God had heard our pleas, that God still loved us, and that God would provide a way for our sin to be overcome. Because of the presence of Emmanuel – God with us – we could hear God speak directly to us and watch him lead us to salvation and free us from our bondage to sin. Jesus touches us and we are changed. This person that the Bible calls "the Word made flesh" was not the vengeance seeking God of the Old Testament but the God of love through a new covenant, one established through the shed blood of Christ.

Whenever I hear the story of the birth of Christ, whenever I preach the message of the birth, I always want to remember what it must have been like. Many of us would like to think that Jesus' birth in a stable in Bethlehem was in a sterile and clean environment, perhaps like a modern day birthing center. But if we believe in the Bible, if we accept it as a record of true events, then Jesus' birth wasn't exactly a situation that most of us would enjoy.

If you have never been to a working farm and a busy barn, then you need to find one to get the full extent of this. You need to stand knee-deep in a stall that hasn't been cleaned recently. You need to walk with the cattle and sheep and pigs and chickens and whatever else you may find in the barnyard. You need to understand that someone wasn't standing outside the barn with a hose to bathe these animals before Mary and Joseph entered. No one sprayed Lysol on the floor or Febreeze in the air. And yet God chose this place to send his son to be born. A crowded, stinking manger. Somehow, I think God was sending us a message – that he understood more than we give Him credit for.

Jesus' birth into this world in such a way reflected what one author called the "inelegance" of our human existence. Jesus was born in a stable/manger/barn/cave. It wasn't clean and bright and professing to have the best bed. *(continued on page 2)*



(continued – Christ child) It was dark, damp and dirty, not to mention how bad it likely smelled. Was this the place that the King of Kings should be born in? Why shouldn't it be?

The entrance of Jesus onto the grand stage of life as a baby born in a manger indicates to us how close he is to us. He was born into the "inelegance" of our lives – dirty, dark, damp and, at times, smelly – but he didn't care. He came to live in that very inelegance that we live in. He came to offer hope for the hopeless, love for the loveless, joy for the joyless and peace to the peaceless. He came to live with us in the same way that we lived. And he came to rescue us.

As we close this year, and as we come together in celebration of Christmas, remember that your experience of Walking on the Road to Emmaus was an encounter with Christ that renewed your feelings of hope, peace, joy and love. Remember that Jesus joined you in the very inelegance of your situation. Remember that God loved you so much that He sent His only son to you.

It is our sincere hope that in this Christmas season, as we celebrate the coming of the Mighty God, the Prince of Peace, the Everlasting Father and the Wonderful Counselor, that we live and feel the presence of Emmanuel. Go into the world as those very first visitors to Christ did – the shepherds – full of awe and reverence for what lay in the manger as an act of God's amazing grace. Go into this world shouting from the mountain tops and valleys that Jesus is born. Go into this world and share that God still hears our plea and still loves us!

In the words of our church's Christmas musical this year, "Hope has hands, freedom has feet and grace has a face." And that face belongs to Jesus Christ, Lord, Savior and King.

De Colores!
Dave Shoemaker

October 2008 Gathering Emmaus Praises and Prayer Concerns

Praises:

Kairos Prison Ministry at the Hocking Correctional Facility
Northern Virginia Emmaus Community (NOVA) startup
Birth of Grady Thomas Kempf (Tom & Rachel Hite's newest grandchild)

Concerns:

Our LD's for Spring: Bob Barnhart and Betty Clark
Chrysalis ROCS Community
World leaders
Our armed services
Aaron Shepherd
Paula & Terry Holyfield
Carol Masters
Ray Gary
Kim Harley
Tammy Adair
Jerry & Theresa Carter
Chris & Rhonda Stone
Family of Cameron Brown
Family of Bob White
Dick Newlon
Scott West
MacKenzie Young
Katie Barnhart
Family of Quentin Gill
Family of Lloyd Welch
Carl Russell
Ryan Becker
Rick Clawson
Mary Linscott
Frances Spielman
Family of Mike Maple
Joan Drake
Loreena Ruif
Jeri Sue Price
Larry Money penny
Betty Goodlive
National elections



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.

Maybe you've written a poem or you have another story to share...

If you would like to share something in the newsletter, send your story for the newsletter, to Greg Rush (*see Board Member List for contact information*)

2008 Fee Schedule

Weekend Fees

Pilgrim Fee	\$125
Team Member	\$115
Logistics & Agape	\$75
Extra Meals:	
breakfast	\$5.75
lunch	\$6.75
dinner	\$8.00

Mailed Newsletter	\$7.50/year
Emailed Newsletter	Free

A Teddy Bear and Christmas

Jesus often taught by telling parables. These were simple, down-to-earth stories which expressed spiritual truth. This story, I pass on to you "second-hand" from Dr. Bill Bouknight who received it some ten years ago by Dr. Edward Bauman of Washington, D.C.

About 30 years ago a boy named Tony was born into a family in a Midwestern state. He was blind at birth. He suffered from an extremely rare eye problem for which there was no known cure. When the little fellow was about seven years old, his doctor read in the New England Journal of Medicine of a new surgical procedure that showed some promise for correcting this particular problem. A young surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston had developed it. The local doctor and the surgeon began communicating. The boy's full medical record was sent. A decision was made to try surgery. Since Tony's family could not afford the expenses involved, local churches and civic clubs helped out.

Tony had a favorite teddy bear which he kept with him almost all the time. This teddy bear had begun to show signs of wear. One eye was missing; one ear was chewed off; and through several holes the stuffing was oozing out. Tony's mother told him that she was going to buy him a new teddy bear to take to Boston. Tony rejected that offer in no uncertain terms. What good is a new teddy bear when you have an old, familiar, friendly one already broken in? So, the old teddy bear went to Boston and remained close to Tony through all the medical procedures leading up to surgery: the x-rays, tests, and consultations. In fact, the boy and his teddy bear were not separated until the anesthesia was applied.

Throughout this whole period the boy and the young surgeon were becoming great friends. In fact, the surgeon was almost as excited as the family about the possibilities of this surgery. Somehow there was a good chemistry of friendship and trust between physician and Tony. When the surgery was completed, Tony was heavily bandaged and had to remain quite still for a number of days. That is very hard for a 7 year old. but each day the surgeon was in an out of the room encouraging him.

Finally came the day for removing the bandages. For the first time in seven years of life, a little boy could see. Though the vision was blurred at first, it gradually clarified. For the first time Tony looked into the faces of his parents, saw a tree, and a sunset. The young surgeon was almost literally jumping up and down for joy.

(continued on page 4)



(Continued: Teddy Bear) Before long it was time for Tony to be discharged and to go home. The surgeon had been dreading this day because the two of them had become such good friends. On that final morning, the surgeon signed the necessary discharge papers. He gave Tony a big hug and said, "Listen, I own stock in you. I expect to get letters from you regularly. Do you understand?" Then Tony did something totally unexpected. He said to his surgeon friend, "I want you to have this," and handed him his teddy bear. The surgeon's first impulse was to say, "Oh no, I can't separate you two good friends." But something stopped him. With a flash of sensitive genius, the surgeon understood what Tony was trying to do. He wanted to give his dear surgeon-friend the most precious gift at his disposal, so full was his heart with love. The wise surgeon accepted the teddy bear with a hug and a thank-you, assuring Tony that he would take mighty good care of his friend.

For over ten years that teddy bear sat in a glass case on the tenth floor of Massachusetts General Hospital---one eye missing, one ear chewed half off, and stuffing oozing out of holes. In front of the teddy bear was the surgeon's professional name card. Just beneath his name he had written this caption: "This is the highest fee I have ever received for professional services rendered." A little boy had given the most precious item he had, out of a love-filled heart.

This is a parable of Christmas. 2000 years ago our gracious God, with a heart filled with love, looked out upon a sin-marred, tear-stained world. Had you and I been in charge we might have destroyed the whole mess and started over. But God's great heart was too full of love to allow that. So he gave us the most precious gift at his disposal; he gave himself. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life." *John 3:16 (TMNT)*

"This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person's failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Tom

Pilot Dogs for the blind

Have you ever thought about the life of a guide dog for a blind person? Their job is to keep their blind friend from entering dangerous situations. The problems begin when their blind friend doesn't follow their guidance or doesn't listen to their advice. No matter how good the guidance or advice might be, if the person doesn't listen, they may as well not have a pilot dog.

People with normal sight also need advice or guidance at times, but are we willing to trust our faithful Christian Emmaus friends? Do we even seek guidance from our Emmaus friends? Another source of guidance in our life situations should be the Holy Spirit, in fact, God provides the Holy Spirit to be our pilot in life situations. So remember to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and when you don't understand what the Spirit is telling you, consider an Emmaus friend to help you learn what the Holy Spirit might be telling you.

An Emmaus Share Group can be a great source of help in understanding how to apply the guidance of the Holy Spirit. When we surround ourselves with faithful Emmaus friends, we have a much better chance staying safe in dangerous situations. In a way, the Holy Spirit and faithful Emmaus friends can be like a pilot dog, guiding us through a confusing world.

Greg Rush
 SOE Men's Walk #38, Table of David

SOUTHERN OHIO EMMAUS VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET

Date: _____

Yes! I would like to participate in Emmaus Programs and Functions in the future.

Music: I play: _____

I play nothing, but I sing: _____

Entertainment:

I can do: Standup Comedy: () Clowning: () Other: _____

I am willing to:

- Take part in the 74 Hour Prayer Vigil
- Be a Prayer Partner for someone giving a Talk
- Be on the "Before Walk Cleaning Team"
- Be on the After Sunday Closing "Pack-up" Team

On Thursday, Arrival of Pilgrims, I would like to:

- Help with Registration
- Help Carry Luggage
- Send Food

I am Artistic; I would like to help with:

- Prayer Vigil Poster
- Name Tags
- Table Name Tags
- Name Cards for Pilgrim's Beds

I would like to work on:

- Logistics (requires physical work)
- Agape (requires organizational skills)

I would like to serve on

- An Emmaus Team (Team service requires attending 4 pre-Walk meetings)
- Spring Walk Fall Walk Either
- The Board of Directors (3 year term/monthly meetings)

Please note: It is recommended in the Emmaus Handbook that persons serving on the "Walk Team" begin their experience by serving first on Logistics and/or Agape. They would serve as an Assistant Table Leader, Table Leader, Etc...Your commitment is important.

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Emmaus Community Attended: _____ Walk #: _____

Reunion/Share Group Name : _____

Gathering Attended (Where): _____

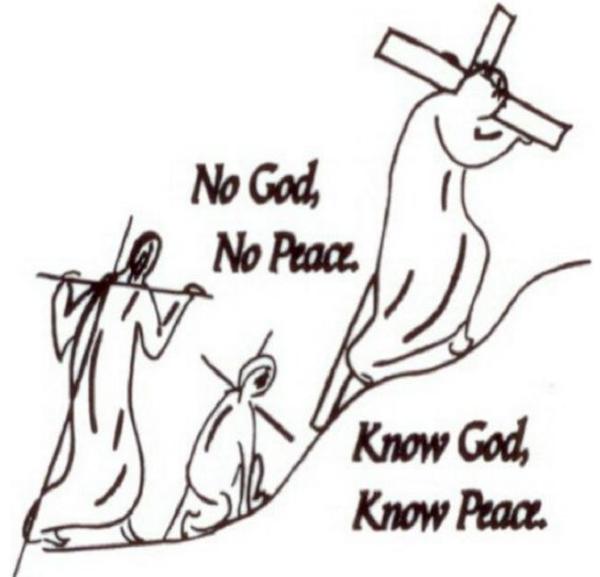
Note: Conference Room Team Members pay a Fee of \$115.00 to cover expenses.

Agape and Logistics Team Members pay a Fee of \$75.

Remember: Don't let team fees keep you from serving, Let someone know your desire to serve.

Fill out and mail to (Outreach Chairperson):

Marna Hyett
539 E. Main St
McConnelsville, OH 43756
740-962-9030
e-mail: teach@embarqmail.com



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

2009 NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

It's time to make sure you continue to stay connected with your Southern Ohio Emmaus Community. One way we stay connected is by sharing community news via our newsletter the "Rainbow Connection". New members should have received two issues by mail at no charge. You can receive the newsletter for free by email or our website www.southernohioemmaus.com. If you want to continue receiving the newsletter by mail, you must renew your subscription at a cost of \$7.50 per year. Please let us know how you would prefer to continue receiving your copy of the newsletter. Use the form below to provide your information and delivery preference.

- I would like my newsletter e-mailed at no charge

Name: _____, Phone: _____

E-MAIL Address: _____

- I would like my newsletter mailed to the following address:
(include a check for \$7.50, payable to **Southern Ohio Emmaus**)

For Mailed Newsletter: **PLEASE PRINT**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Send to: Greg Rush, 38032 Scout Rd, Logan, Ohio 43138.
phone: 740.385.0945 email: gr44gregr@yahoo.com

Things to consider

We are in the process of updating the Pilgrim application and Sponsor form on the website. Stay tuned to upcoming newsletters for information and updated forms. God may be ready to use you to sponsor a Pilgrim in 2009.

Remember that it's not too early to be in prayer about serving on an Emmaus team in the coming year. As the Lay Directors for the Spring Walks begin to contact community members about serving, they will ask those contacted to prayerfully consider serving on a team. If you have already been in prayer, you may be ready to say yes if you are asked.

Please review the Volunteer Information Form contained in this newsletter. This is a great way for you to indicate where you are willing to serve your Emmaus Community. The more community members that get involved, the more effective we can be as an Emmaus Community.

Southern Ohio Emmaus

c/o Greg Rush
38032 Scout Rd.
Logan, Ohio 43138

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE