

# The Rainbow Connection

Volume 4 ~ Issue 9

September 2008

## Upcoming Events

September 25-28, 2008

### **Women's Walk 45**

Camp Akita

October 2-5, 2008

### **Men's Walk 45**

Camp Akita

Oct 18, 2008 9am -12

### **Education Day**

Buchtel UMC, Buchtel

## Inside this issue:

### **Pilgrims and Teams for**

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**

As this edition of this newsletter is prepared to be published, two important things are happening. First, preparations for the two Fall Walks to Emmaus are nearly complete. Team meetings have been held; Agape and Logistical Teams have been set up. Pilgrims have been contacted. By the time you read this, the Women's Walk will be under way and the Men's Walk will be just days away.

The second important thing that is happening is that we, as a nation, have paused from our daily grind on September 11 to take a moment and reflect on what our nation has endured in the last seven years. Yes, that's correct – it's been seven years since we were attacked.

In the last several months, we have tried to use this space in the newsletter to help us remember various aspects of our Walk to Emmaus, from Send Off to Closing and everything in between. Somewhere along the way, perhaps a little humor entered the picture (remember my "jelly on the belly" story?). Perhaps you took a moment to look back on your Walk and reflected on what Dying Moments, Candlelight or even that movie (*In Remembrance*) meant to you. Perhaps you have thought back to the table discussions, posters, singing, praying, eating (who can forget that!!), or worship. Maybe you cried, or you laughed, or you held someone's hand. It could be that you learned to endure that incessant snoring from bunk mates.

Whatever the case, we wanted to take a look back at what our Walk was like and remember. I would encourage you to take a moment, today, right now, and remember your Walk. You might be a Pilgrim reading this newsletter for the first time—but take a moment to remember your last 72 hours. You might be an old, grizzled veteran of Emmaus—but take a moment to reflect on all of your Fourth Days.

It is our hope that you look back in order to look to the future—a future that must include you if our Emmaus community is to continue as a viable ministry and training ground for future leaders of our churches.

September 11, 2001 was a reminder and a wakeup call to us that cannot be complacent, that we cannot become apathetic about our safety and security. The same is true of our walk with Christ. We cannot become complacent or apathetic. In our Emmaus community, unfortunately, some have become just that, just like in our churches. Without you, we are no more than a footnote in history, a fond remembrance, a chance but brief encounter. As we look into the future—tomorrow, next week, next year and beyond—we know that we must have people of faith and become the arms, hands and feet of God Almighty on this earth again.

As we look back and into the future, let's be reminded one more time about the story of the Prodigal Son. He left his family with his earthly inheritance to seek what he thought would be better. Sitting in misery in a pig pen, he realized that all the wealth of this world could not replace what he walked away from. As he returned, humbled in a way that many of us can relate to, he was welcomed by almost everyone with open arms.

Friends, wherever you are, and whatever you have been through, we miss you and await your return with open arms. We need you and want to share with you what God is still doing. Our work here is not yet done. Come on home...we're waiting to see you again.

For those of you just completing the Walk to Emmaus, welcome to the family! Let us know how God wants to use you today, tomorrow and for eternity.

De Colores!  
Dave Shoemaker



## Education Day

An Emmaus Education Day has been scheduled for Saturday, October 18, 2008 at Buchtel United Methodist Church in Buchtel 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

**Directions:** Buchtel UMC is located at 17890 N. Akron Ave, Buchtel, Ohio 45716. From the north/south/west, take US 33 to Nelsonville, turn at SR 78 East (there will be a BP station on one corner, a Sonic on the other)(signs for Burr Oak/Glouster/Murray City) and go approximately 2.5 miles to Buchtel. Akron Avenue is the first street after Bud's One Stop, turn left and go to the stop sign. You can't miss it from here. From the east, take SR 78 to Buchtel, turn right on Akron Ave. Proceed to the stop sign as above.

## "That Stuff"

Late one Friday evening, as I sat in my study, I heard a siren speed past our parsonage home behind the church in northwest Ohio. Shortly after, three vehicles showed up between the church and the parsonage (hidden from view from the highway).

I heard doors opening and closing and young men talking. When this had gone on for some time I decided they were certainly up to no good so I turned on the outside garage floodlight to discourage the "convention". One vehicle left but the other two stayed so eventually I opened the garage door and approached the group with my flashlight in hand.

"Are you having trouble? Can I help you?", I asked.

One young man answered, "No, we're just talking."

I shined my flashlight on the can of beer on the hood of a pickup truck. My response came instantly without hesitation.

"Well, you can talk without "that stuff." This is a church and we don't want "that stuff" on the property."

His reply was also quick. "No problem, we're leaving."

And they did.

For a short time I thought how wonderful and heroic I was in single-handedly dispersing this bunch of troublemakers. God must surely be proud of me! However, after a few minutes I began to play the whole scene over and over in my mind and the Lord seemed to say to me, "Nice job, Pastor. You sure did send them away and they'll *never* be back!"

As I thought about this minor incident I realized what I had and had not said. I DID say, "Well, you can talk without "that stuff." This is a church and we don't want that stuff on the property." I did NOT say, "But we would welcome you young men to come back for Sunday morning worship sometime."

Then I thought how God welcomes every one of us, even with the personal "stuff" we Christians bring into His church because he cares so deeply for every man, woman and child in this world. Jesus Himself welcomed murderers, thieves, liars, adulterers, etc. to come and follow Him.

I also remembered how the writer of the book of Hebrews said, <sup>2</sup>*Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.* (Hebrews 13:2 NIV) I'm not so sure the young men I encountered were "angels" but if they were, I sure did blow it, didn't I!

The Christian community (the church of Jesus Christ, Emmaus community, etc.) is the place where all people are welcome. Let God deal with ALL our "stuff" together.

*Pastor Tom*



## Sponsorship

Hi everyone.

I've been busy sending out Sponsor's letters to help guide you through the process of sponsoring your pilgrim. I'm so blessed to see how many pilgrims are attending this Fall walk. God is good! Please take sponsoring personally, after all their weekend is carried on your prayers, making them feel comfortable while they're away from their family. Just remember your walk and how you felt when you were left with others you did not know, and without knowing at that time, prayers were being lifted up by name to bring you closer to God. Also remember to bring your new member to their first community gathering, and keep them in your prayers. May God bless you in all your 4th days.

Sponsors Chair  
Chuck Moore

## Praise and Prayer

It doesn't seem like we get to do this often enough: Praise God! We have something to be thankful for today. Mike Nicholson, SOE Men's Walk #40, graduated from Ohio Christian University this summer, earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in Leadership & Ministry. Whenever you see him, let him know what you think! Continue to support him and his wife Ruth as they seek God's direction for their lives.

Also, there will be a Kairos Prison Ministry Weekend at the Hocking Correctional Facility, Nelsonville, from October 2 to October 5. Please pray for the witness of this ministry among the participants. Kairos is very similar to your Walk to Emmaus, and lives can be changed dramatically, even in prison.

In October's newsletter, there will be a ballot for the Board of Directors for next year. Terms are for three years and begin in January. Pray that God places the names He wants on the ballot and guides those who vote as well - you!

## From Your Good Shepherd

Welcome new members of our Emmaus Community. Sisters and Brothers, we welcome you with open arms. Hopefully your Weekend was a wonderful, life changing or reaffirming experience for you. Always remember Jesus is with you through every one of your Fourth Days and so is your Emmaus Community.

You have in your Literature package a list of the Good Shepherds. If you do not have a Share or Reunion Group to join, just give your local Lady a call and we will try to help you find an established group or you could start a group of your own. Please remember, you are supposed to be a member of a Share Group to be able to work a Walk.

I hope you will be led to want to work on an Emmaus team either in the conference room or behind the scenes for Agape or Logistics. It is a truly great experience!! You will be greatly blessed and make some wonderful friends. Be sure to fill out and send in your Volunteer forms. (You need to do that every year. Forms are available on the Southern Ohio Emmaus web site.)

Prayer is the backbone of Emmaus. Please remember that we do have an Emmaus Prayer Chain. You may become a part of it by calling your local Good Shepherd. It is a great privilege to be able to help someone by praying for them. Even if you do not join the Prayer Chain always remember that you may call for a prayer for yourself or anyone.

Again, welcome to our new members. Even if you have been a part of Emmaus for a while this is a little reminder. Please always remember we are all a part of one body and we need to work together to help each other and further His Kingdom.

Decolores,  
Connie Walker  
Community Good Shepherd



### Southern Ohio Emmaus – 2008 Fall Walks

Please pray for Women's and Men's Walks #45 and for the lives that will be changed!

**Note:** Pilgrim lists as of September 20, 2008, please include a prayer for pilgrims whose names may not have been known before this newsletter was printed.

#### Women's Walk #45

Janet Bachelor	Alice Money Penny
Pat Baum	Paula Peters
Linda Berry	Sue Price
Linda Brown	Pat Ray
April Butterworth	Rita Rinehart
Linda Carney	Jill Saylor
Lea Chiki	Pat Shoemaker
Stacie Dearth	Rhonda Stone
Rachael Gardner	Susan Thogmartin
Tara Garey	Louise Thompson
Ann Goins	Jennifer Valentine
Amy Guda	Julie Verdow
Cora Marchington	Mary Wake
Barbara McBride	Crys Walker
Diane McGuire	Karren Wells
	Brenda Wildermuth

#### Men's Walk #45

Jim Bartimus  
Bud Fugett  
Robert Kirkwood  
Robert McFarland  
Jeff Mohler  
Jeff Myers  
Larry Nichols  
Dave Sweet

#### Women's Walk #45 Team Members

**Lay Director:** Connie Walker  
**Spiritual Director:** Sharon Hausman  
**Assistant Spiritual Director:** Tom Hite  
**Assistant Lay Directors:**  
 Leslie Brenstuhl, Penny Canter, Candy Drake  
**Table Leaders:**  
 Teresa Garey, Norma Gloyd, Rachel Hite, Ruth Nicholson, Judy West, Wilma Woltz  
**Assistant Table Leaders:**  
 Betty Clark, Linda Guseman, Sue Penix, Karcy Rush, Imelda Scurlock, Tina Simmons  
**Music Director:** Wendy Harbarger  
**Assistant Music Director:** Trinda King  
**Board Rep:** Debbie Birkimer  
**Agape:**  
 Jane Gatrell, Shirley Jadwin, Jean Jeffries  
**Logistics:**  
 David Bankes, Nancy Lister, Staci Queen, Brenda Stimmel, Dwayne Tackett  
**Clergy Talks:**  
 Joel Harbarger, Debbie Nance, Mary Jo Yeakel

#### Men's Walk #45 Team Members

**Lay Director:** Kendall Stephens  
**Spiritual Director:** David Rohrer  
**Assistant Lay Directors:**  
 Bob Barnhart, Dan Pullins, Kevin Westfall  
**Table Leaders:**  
 David Bankes, Gary Covert, Richard Fast, Dave Kelch, Mike Nicholson, Floyd Tackett  
**Assistant Table Leaders:**  
 Joe Clark, Sterling Deitrich, Mike Search, Jim Stimmel Jr., David Venoy  
**Music Director:** Jerry Finley  
**Assistant Music Director:** Clyde Garey  
**Board Rep:** Bob Birkimer  
**Agape:**  
 Doreen Fast, Cassie Stephens, Kelly Stephens  
**Logistics:**  
 Roger Harris, Greg Rush, Christopher Stone, David Valentine  
**Clergy Talks:**  
 Ted Davis, Steve Krumm, Dennis Mohler, Clarence Thompson

## 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  
PO Box 237  
Malta, OH 43758  
740-962-4144  
[pastortomhite@embarqmail.com](mailto:pastortomhite@embarqmail.com)

### Newsletter

Greg Rush  
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Logan, OH 43138  
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[gr44greg@yahoo.com](mailto:gr44greg@yahoo.com)

### Worship

Bob Birkimer  
11650 Tunnel Hill Rd  
Crooksville, OH 43731  
740-982-4729  
[dbirkime@columbus.rr.com](mailto:dbirkime@columbus.rr.com)

### Asst. Spiritual Director

Dave Sherman  
11162 Dingess Rd.  
Circleville, OH 43113  
740-420-3054  
[musicguy32@hotmail.com](mailto:musicguy32@hotmail.com)

### Supplies

Gary Allen  
1577 Twp Rd 196 NE  
Crooksville, OH 43731  
740-342-4732  
[gallen17@columbus.rr.com](mailto:gallen17@columbus.rr.com)

### Agape

Paula Jasper  
2425 Ervin Ln.  
Stockport, OH 43787  
740-559-3983  
[dpjasper@earthlink.net](mailto:dpjasper@earthlink.net)

### Board Chairperson

Dave Shoemaker  
4518 Bessemer Rd  
Nelsonville, OH 45764  
740-753-3580  
[shoebopper@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shoebopper@sbcglobal.net)

### Women's Registrar

Erin Beal  
75 Hill Street  
Logan, OH 43138  
740-385-7989  
[larryb@ohiohills.com](mailto:larryb@ohiohills.com)

### Logistics

David Bankes  
10171 W. Timberman Rd. NW  
Malta, OH 43758  
740-342-4297

### Vice Chairperson

Debbie Birkimer  
11650 Tunnel Hill Rd.  
Crooksville, OH 43731  
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[dbirkime@columbus.rr.com](mailto:dbirkime@columbus.rr.com)

### Men's Registrar

Larry Beal  
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### Music

Teresa Garey  
2370 Bearfield Twp 318  
Corning, OH 43730  
740-342-1428  
[twildhorses@yahoo.com](mailto:twildhorses@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

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Malta, OH 43758  
740-962-4169  
[jdrake@wmcap.org](mailto:jdrake@wmcap.org)

### Sponsorship

Chuck Moore  
13665 Wesley Dr.  
Logan, OH 43138  
740-385-3758  
[chuck71980@yahoo.com](mailto:chuck71980@yahoo.com)

### Literature

Rick Clawson  
3395 N. Finley Rd.  
Malta, OH 43758  
740-962-4401

### Social

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[barnbskt@voyager.net](mailto:barnbskt@voyager.net)

### Secretary

Barbara Shiplett  
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New Lexington, OH 43764  
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### Good Shepherd

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213 Hutchinson Court  
New Lexington, OH 43764  
740-342-4680  
[conniewalker29@yahoo.com](mailto:conniewalker29@yahoo.com)

### Outreach

Marna Hyett  
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Updated: Feb 24, 2008

## 2008 Calendar of Events

Date	Time(s)	Activity	Location
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	9am-12noon	Education Day	Buchtel UMC, Buchtel Ohio
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

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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.

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### Southern Ohio Emmaus

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

*RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED*

PLACE POSTAGE HERE
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