

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 5 ~ Issue 9

September 2009

Upcoming Events

Emmaus Monthly Gathering

September 27, 2009, 3:00pm
First UMC
New Lexington

Satellite Emmaus Gatherings

October 12, 2009, 7:00pm
Logan Gathering
Trinity Lutheran Church

October 13, 2009, 7:00pm

Lancaster Gathering
6th Avenue UMC

Inside this issue:

Understanding the Bible (part 4)

Creation

Boardmember Contact Information

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

2009 Fee Schedule

Weekend Fees

Pilgrim Fee.....	\$125
Team Member	\$120
Logistics & Agape	\$75
Extra Meals:	breakfast - \$5.75
.....	lunch - \$6.75
.....	dinner - \$8.00
Mailed Newsletter	\$7.50/year
Emailed Newsletter	Free

From the Community Lay Director

"Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (James 5:13-16 – NIV)

It should come as no surprise to anyone who has walked on the road to Emmaus with the Risen Christ that we often speak of how the Walk to Emmaus is grounded in prayer and depends upon prayer. It should also be no surprise that we often hear a plea from those in charge of our 72 hour prayer vigils for the Walks that we are desperately in need of persons to fill the various time slots. I wish I could say that "...it should be a surprise to all of us that a time slot is vacant...". I wish I could say that. But, alas, I can't.

For an organization such as this that is so rooted and grounded in prayer, for an organization that depends upon the "prayer of a righteous man" (or woman!), for an organization that seeks to be in a state of constant prayer, and for an organization that has so many people claim to be prayer warriors, why is it, then, that we struggle so much to get people to spend 30 minutes in prayer? I honestly don't know, but I also know that I am guilty of it myself (that is, of not signing up for a slot).

I remember the time on my Walk (#17) when the prayer vigil was revealed to all of us and I was astounded that so many people (there are 144 slots) would take time out of their day, at home or work or church or sleep or whatever, and pray for the likes of a bunch of people they didn't know. It was merely one example of that agape love that we keep hearing about – the love of God that knows no bounds – that was real to those of us that were there.

I remember looking on that board and seeing my wife's name in a time slot and was deeply touched. She had been on the Walk (continued on page 2)



(continued from page 1) just two weeks before me and somehow her name was there! Now I know how that happened, but then it was one more reason to know that God loved me, and He was doing it through prayer.

Today, even as I write this, there is a prayer vigil underway for the Women's Walk. In two weeks, the Men's Walk will start. And they will be in need of prayer. When 144 time slots are filled with the voices of 144 righteous men and women, how powerful and effective will that be? Just ask the one person whose heart was changed and life altered because he/she realized that someone loved them enough to pray for them as 3:30 in the morning.

Please join us in praying for those whom God has called to the Walk to Emmaus. If you cannot pray for the Fall Walks, there will be more opportunities in the Spring.

De Colores!
Dave Shoemaker

Walk in the Light

If there is one area of consistency in my life, it is this: I do not look forward to the time of year when the days get shorter. The kindest word to describe my attitude would be grumpy.

Light is a wonderful gift from God, so at this time of year when the darkness lingers on in the mornings, and seems to close in on us in the evenings, I can't help feeling sad over the loss of each minute of daylight.

Autumn is a season of mixed weather as well. It really is a beautiful time of the year, especially when the sun is shining brightly on the changing colors of the leaves. However, there are a lot of dark and damp days, too, and sometimes days with the dreaded snow showers that say winter is really on the way.

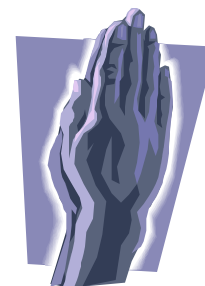
So the fall of the year is a good time to ponder this lesson from 1 John 1:5-7: "This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in

the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

There is an important lesson for us to learn here. In our spiritual lives, it's when we get out of step with the Lord that our gloomy days occur. On the other hand, when we walk in the light of our Lord, we feel upbeat and able to cope with our daily challenges, whatever they may be. The best of all news is that even in our darkest and stormiest times, we can come to God at anytime and start over.

God welcomes those moments of reconciliation because he wants us to represent him well, to shine His light into the world. And it is still true that when the Son comes out the darkness disappears. Why? Because he is the light of the world, of course!

Pastor David Rohrer
Emmaus Community Spiritual Director



August 2009 Emmaus Gathering Praises and Prayer Concerns

Praises: Hog roast; Marna's heart cath was OK; Kelly is back from Afghanistan

Concerns: Women's and Men's Walks; Shawn & Kammy; Don Ice; Barb Snyder; Herb Hine; Beth Lockard; Fultonham UMC; Jerry Thompson, Bob Starner, Lu Fox/Starner family



Sister Act

Maybe, you may have seen the “Sister Act” skit during an Emmaus weekend. This skit features some songs from the movie “*Sister Act 2*” and is performed by volunteers dressed as nuns. The nun costumes are becoming worn out and need replaced. If you are someone with sewing skills and would like to help make replacement costumes, please contact Marna Hyett (740)962-9030. It may be possible to use an old costume as a pattern. Please consider using your talent for sewing to help this Emmaus group continue to share their skit with future Walk to Emmaus pilgrims.

Creation (Understanding the Bible)

We live in an enormous, beautiful and mysterious universe. Many things about it are unknown and incomprehensible to even the greatest of scientific minds. But that doesn't stop us from wondering, or from asking some of life's great questions: Where did we come from? Who made us?

Most of us know the basic story, that God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden (located somewhere in what is now Mesopotamia – see “The Geography of the Old Testament,” in the July newsletter), but they sinned and threw God's plan into chaos. But the creation story extends beyond Adam and Eve. There are four main sections to it, covering the first eleven chapters of Genesis:

First: the creation of human beings in the image of God (Genesis 1-2). The creation of the heavens and the earth is a massive display of God's power. The creation of Adam and Eve is powerful in its own way, because it shows the power of God's love, and his desire to be in relationship to us. So we are given intelligence, emotions, free will, morals and ethics that shape us in the spiritual likeness of God.

Second: sin enters the world in the Fall (Genesis 3). Satan appears to Adam and Eve in the form of a serpent and convinces them that God is holding back on them. He had told

them not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But, Satan says, that's only because God doesn't want you to know as much as he does. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve fall for Satan's trick, sin against God, and are driven out of the Garden of Eden. With the fall, pain, evil and suffering enter the world.

Third: the Flood (Genesis 6-10). Over the next several hundred years, the population of the earth increases, and sin increases along with it. God's heart is broken, and he regrets ever creating human beings. Fortunately for us, Noah, his wife, three sons and daughters-in-law, are worth saving. God has Noah build an ark and fill it with animals, then sends a great flood to wipe the evil away.

Fourth: the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11). God told Noah and his sons to spread out and fill the earth, but it didn't take long for humans to disregard what God said. They determined to gather in one place and build a monument to themselves, a tower that would reach to the heavens. God's answer was to “confuse their language,” so that they no longer all spoke one language, and could no longer communicate easily with each other. Thus, God forced them to scatter over the whole earth.

This article is based on chapter four of Max E. Anders' book *30 Days to Understanding the Bible*, available through amazon.com or christianbook.com.

This article is part three of a series. Earlier articles in the series can be found in previous editions of The Rainbow Connection beginning in June 2009, available at <http://www.southernohioemmaus.com/documents/newsletter.html> Your comments and questions are welcome, send them to: pastordavid@newhopelogan.org.

Next: The Patriarchs.

Pastor David Rohrer



What is Logistics?

As we all learned when we took our Emmaus walk, once we enter our fourth days it is not about us - it is about how shall I serve the Lord. Serving others with our whole heart is one of the most rewarding experiences this side of Heaven.

Logistics is truly a servant's role! Logistics is an integral part of any walk to Emmaus. The logistics team serves the Lord quietly in the background; their manner is courteous and their faces are smiling, but actual contact with the Pilgrims is minimal. Logistics staff are the behind the scenes servants.

They are the folks that clean toilets & serve your food. (Of course they wash their hands between duties!) Logistics is the support team for the Pilgrims and the Team. We set up, tear down - ahead and behind the flow of the weekend. We are the supply line to ensure that the walk is fluid and on time by getting all stages of the weekend set-up ahead of the conference room folks. We are to serve and pray so that the Pilgrims of that walk can experience a walk as special as our own walk was to us. More importantly, we make

everything as comfortable as possible so that the Holy Spirit can do HIS thing during these 72 hours. Remember: We are in a servant role - team members must never forget that important fact!

Serving on a logistics team means arriving on Thursday and serving until Sunday evening. In addition to the team staying for the duration of the weekend, you can stop by for a day or maybe just a few hours to serve and pray. We strive to get as many people involved as possible so that the blessings are shared and more people are trained for the future.

We really would like to see new community members start their Emmaus volunteer work serving with the Logistics / Agape teams. You will see the work behind the scenes and the deep preparation that took place during your walk. This allows you a better understanding of the commitment of the entire Emmaus movement. Please consider this if your health permits! It will make your whole experience much more fulfilling.

If you might be interested in serving in this role, please call David Bankes (740) 342-4297

2009 Southern Ohio Emmaus Board of Directors

This is the current contact list of our 2009 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.

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Updated: July 15, 2009

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE