

# Thoughts from the Chairman

Greater Dayton Walk to Emmaus  
Cursillo - Chrysalis - Walk to Emmaus  
De Colores!

Emmaus  
Normandy UMC  
450 W. Alex-Bell  
Centerville OH 45459

Vol. 12 No. 12

**Jesus, the greatest gift of all, offers eternity – the choice of a second birth.** During this season of the year let us not forget God's gift to us. Jesus was born into our world of sin, but was complete in Holiness and communion with God, for He was God. And He offers to us His gift of grace and forgiveness. When we are born into this world of sin, we are born with the absence of any joy in holiness or joy in communion with God. That's the dilemma of being born a sinner. But at the same time, the human being is born hopelessly religious. We insist on worshipping something. Our problem is that we often don't recognize that this vacuum within is a God-shaped vacuum. So until people discover the truth of the gospel, they direct their worship to things, other people or themselves. When it came to our first birth, we had no choice or direction in the event. It happened to us, and we didn't get to choose it. But when it comes to being born again, we do have a choice. God gives us life and strength and health for the purpose of providing us the opportunity to come to Him for life. God offers us more than life here, with its few years. He offers eternity – the choice of a second birth.

As we head into the Christmas Holiday and our focus is on Jesus, it presents a perfect time to ponder whether there is anything we can do to help someone else to the point of conversion. I believe the Emmaus experience provides one of the first things we can do by uplifting Jesus. It is as Jesus is lifted up, and the Holy Spirit is enabled to speak to hearts by the awareness of His love on the walks, that hearts of pilgrims are softened and attracted to Jesus. We hear over and over from pilgrims at the end of the walks how the timing of their walk was perfect for their life. Undoubtedly the Holy Spirit has a timetable for each one of us. Nicodemus waited and pondered for three years. If Nicodemus had come to some of us, as he came to Jesus in the night, we would have

had him baptized by the following worship service. But Jesus was willing to wait for the Spirit's schedule, and when Jesus was lifted up, Nicodemus responded and became a faithful follower of the Lord.

As Jesus is uplifted in Emmaus, in our churches, in our homes and in our lives this holiday season, the Holy Spirit will be able to bring those around us to the place of worshipping something besides things, other people and self, and more hearts will be won. YES!!

Janie and I wish each one of you the full joy, peace, comfort and strength of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ this Holiday Season. We love each of you and you are in our prayers.

DeColores,  
Jim & Janie Kear

### Gatherings and Other Noteworthy events of the Larger Community (All times are p.m. unless otherwise noted)

- 12/4 - Christ Church - Kettering  
Christ UMC - 7:00
- 12/4 - Enon  
Enon UMC 7:30
- 12/11 - Dayton South  
Normandy UMC 7:15
- 12/8 - Dayton North  
Vandalia UMC - 7:30
- 12/12 - Wilmington  
Wilmington UMC - 7:00
- 12/12 - Sidney  
1st UMC - 7:00
- 12/19 - Dayton Board Meeting  
Normandy UMC - 7:00
- 12/25 - Christ is Born!!

### POST THANKSGIVING THOUGHTS

I AM THANKFUL:

FOR THE TEENAGER WHO IS NOT DOING DISHES BUT IS WATCHING TV, BECAUSE THAT MEANS HE IS AT HOME AND NOT ON THE STREETS.

FOR THE TAXES THAT I PAY, BECAUSE IT MEANS THAT I AM EMPLOYED.

FOR THE MESS TO CLEAN AFTER A PARTY, BECAUSE IT MEANS THAT I HAVE BEEN SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS.

FOR THE CLOTHES THAT FIT A LITTLE TOO SNUG, BECAUSE IT MEANS I HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT

FOR MY SHADOW THAT WATCHES ME WORK, BECAUSE IT MEANS I AM OUT IN THE SUNSHINE

FOR A LAWN THAT NEEDS MOWING, WINDOWS THAT NEED CLEANING, AND GUTTERS THAT NEED FIXING, BECAUSE IT MEANS I HAVE A HOME.

FOR ALL THE COMPLAINING I HEAR ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT, BECAUSE IT MEANS THAT WE HAVE FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

FOR THE PARKING SPOT I FIND AT THE FAR END OF THE PARKING LOT, BECAUSE IT MEANS I AM CAPABLE OF WALKING AND THAT I HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH TRANSPORTATION.

FOR MY HUGE HEATING BILL, BECAUSE IT MEANS I AM WARM.

FOR THE LADY BEHIND ME IN CHURCH THAT SINGS OFF KEY, BECAUSE IT MEANS THAT I CAN HEAR

FOR THE PILE OF LAUNDRY AND IRONING, BECAUSE IT MEANS I HAVE CLOTHES TO WEAR.

FOR WEARINESS AND ACHING MUSCLES AT THE END OF THE DAY, BECAUSE IT MEANS I HAVE BEEN CAPABLE OF WORKING HARD.

FOR THE ALARM THAT GOES OFF IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS, BECAUSE THAT MEANS I AM ALIVE.

### Information about the Emmaus cross

*From the Emmaus List Server*

On one side of the Walk to Emmaus cross is the phrase, "Christ is counting on you." This phrase reminds us that Christ needs our hands and feet to share all the love God has in store for the world.

On the other side is the ancient Christian symbol called the monogram of Christ. The letters X(chi) and P(rho) are the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ (XPIETOE). Using the first two letters was shorthand for referring to Jesus Christ.

The symbol first came into use during the reign of Constantine I(360-337 AD), the first Roman Emperor converted to Christianity in 312 AD. While preparing for a battle, Constantine saw Christ in a dream and was told to paint this symbol on his army's shields. He ordered his troops to do so, and they won the battle. In 318 AD he declared Christianity to be the state religion of Rome. Since that time, this has become a commonly recognized symbol for Christians around the world.

#### *Greater Dayton Walk to Emmaus 2001 walk schedule*

<i>Walk</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Where</i>
Men's Walk #24	January 25 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	Normandy UMC
Women's Walk #45	February 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup>	Normandy UMC
Women's Walk #46	April 26 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup>	Normandy UMC
Men's Walk #25	May 31 <sup>st</sup> – June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Christ UMC
Women's Walk #47	July 26 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup>	Christ UMC
Men's Walk #26	September 6 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>	Christ UMC
Women's Walk #48	October 11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	Christ UMC

Mens Registrar, Bob Clayburn, reports that there is an excellent chance that if men sponsor a pilgrim soon, they will be able to attend a year 2001 walk, thus minimize waiting time.

Applications are available from Bob or at the narthex table at Gatherings. Let's fill these walks up with pilgrims who need what Emmaus has to offer them. Pray and see who God will reveal that you should speak with about this experience called "The Walk to Emmaus".

**From the SD's Study**

Dear Friends of the Greater Dayton  
Emmaus Community:

Another great year for our community!  
We have handled the transition to  
Christ United Methodist Church with  
grace and love and patience (thanks for  
all those who had patience!). As I think  
about our Fourth Days, I am  
reminded that the fruit of the Spirit men-  
tioned in Galatians 5:22,23 has many  
parts to it. One of them is patience. Some-  
times in our own lives and in the  
lives of those we love we wish that "God  
would hurry up" and work with us  
(and with them). One of the verses that  
has come to mean a great deal to me  
lately is: "Be not weary in well doing; for  
in due season we shall reap, if  
we faint not." Be not weary, friends, in  
trying to grow - be not weary in  
praying for others to come into the King-  
dom and to grow. It will happen!

Decolores!

**Ricci**



**SHORT TERM MEMORY HELPS**  
Candlelight - Saturdays - 8:30 p.m.  
Closing services - Sundays - 4:30 p.m.

**Christmas Choir Needs YOU!**

Linda Haller will once again lead the  
Community Christmas Choir for a number or  
two at the December Gathering. If you would  
lend your voice to this wonderful group, all you  
need do is come to the December Gathering a  
bit early (6:30 p.m.) for a brief rehearsal period.

**Election Results**

At the November Gathering votes were cast to elect  
new board members to a three year term starting  
January 2001. Those newly elected who will be  
serving your community are:

Computer Chair:	<b>Diane Arthur</b>
Kitchen Chair:	<b>Joe Amend</b>
Newsletter:	<b>Patrick Cassidy</b>
Normandy UMC Rep/Book Table:	<b>Dick Hoback</b>
Secretary:	<b>Bob Hewitt</b>
Social:	<b>Jean Jarusiewicz</b>
Supplies:	<b>Anna Huber</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Joyce Stare</b>
Women's Registrar:	<b>Sharyl Tinnel</b>

**Dayton Board Members**

Agape	Vicki Sargent (513)	743-0213
Chairman	Jim Kear	339-2721
Christ UMC Rep.	Jerry Ballard	299-5251
Computer Admin.	David Carpenter	862-8668
Kitchen	Mary Pat Peck	277-4128
Leadership	Pam Walker	434-7981
Housing	Bev Tipton	278-5130
Newsletter	Patrick Cassidy (513)	897-3457
Normandy Rep and		
Book Table	Barb Martin	433-0525
Outreach/Good Shepherd		
	Sherri Raderstorf	294-0552
Registrar/Sponsorship		
	Bob Clayburn (M)	426-1003
	Nancy Tawney (W)	294-2544
Secretary	Karen Freyvogel	428-0742
Social	Jean Jarusiewicz	252-9627
Spiritual Director	Ricci Arthur	698-4747
Supply	Anna Huber	438-0760
Treasurer	Bud Ragan	439-2477
Worship	Bob Warner	433-2916

**Normandy United Methodist Church**  
**GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS**  
450 West Alex -Bell Rd.  
Dayton OH 45459  
<http://www.erinet.com/cekaiser/emmaus/>

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## De Colores!

Jesus said, "Let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"  
- John 7:38 (NRSV)

### Share Group Orientation

Because share groups play such an important role in the Emmaus experience, we offer regular opportunities for the community to attend orientation sessions after each Walk. The next one will be February 12, 2001 from 6:30 - 7:15 in the small chapel. Bring your name tag and your service card. Questions? Call Good Shepherd Sheri Raderstorf. See the Board listing on page 3 for the number.

✂

This is a:		<input type="checkbox"/> One year \$8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription or renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Two Years \$14.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Address change	<input type="checkbox"/> Three Years \$20.00	

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (checks payable to "Walk to Emmaus")

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Newsletter  
Greater Dayton Emmaus  
450 W. Alex-Bell Rd.  
Centerville, OH 45459