

# Thoughts from the Chairman

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

When I was a little bean of seven growing up in West Virginia, my baby brother disappeared from our fenced - in back yard as my mother hung out the family wash. She became hysterical when she realized her eighteen month old child was missing and galvanized the neighborhood into a search party. Somewhere in the midst of the frantic emotion, I struck out on my own to search for Lil? Johnny, heading immediately toward the dreaded Route 60 highway where it was feared the toddler had wandered (or been taken!) I can remember walking up side streets I had never been on before, calling Johnny's name until the lump in my throat grew so painful, I could barely whisper.

Ultimately I walked back home, consumed with fear and worry, empty handed. When I arrived home there was a joyful hubbub, in the center of which was my tow headed little brother in his blue romper and cowboy hat and my tearful mother, squeezing that little kid like a ripe orange. Seems the patriarch of the neighborhood, Old Man Mitchell (probably close to ninety), had discovered the adventuresome lad perched on a bridge railing on Rt. 60, watching the water rush over the rocks in the swollen creek below.

That night at supper as my baby brother sat eating in his booster chair, my mother spoke to him, saying, "You know, Johnny, God was with you when you crossed the Big Street," to which he responded, "No, Mommy, I don't think so. I never saw God cross the street."

Over fifty years later I view that incident of my childhood as critical to the formation of my own personal theology. Many are lost, but God continues to seek access to their hearts, sustaining the seekers with His strength and often using the most unlikely persons to fulfill His purposes. "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise?but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." (II Peter 3:9) He waits for each patiently, whispering our names, knocking at the door of our hearts even as we perch precariously over the churning, forbidding waters.

As members of the Body of Christ and recipients of His amazing grace, we have a responsibility to seek out the lost and plant seeds of God's love for Him to harvest

*(Continued on page 2)*

### **Gatherings and Other Noteworthy events of the Larger Community**

(All times are p.m. unless otherwise noted)

#### **Upcoming Area Walks and Events**

- Greater Dayton Men's #28  
May 16th-19th at Normandy UMC
- Cincinnati Men's #65  
May 16th-19th at Hyde Park UMC
- Greater Dayton Women's #51  
July 18th-21 at Christ UMC

#### **Gatherings**

- Greater Dayton at Normandy UMC  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mon 7:15
- Enon UMC  
1<sup>st</sup> Mon 7:30
- Christ Church  
1<sup>st</sup> Mon 7:00
- Wilmington UMC  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tues 7:00
- Sidney 1st UMC  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tue 7:00
- Dayton Board  
4<sup>th</sup> Tues 7:00

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

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in His time. Early in my own faith journey I believed that a disciple of Christ must go to a "far off land" to reach the lost, but God has led me to understand that my mission field is here, and the print and electronic media constantly remind me that the lost are at my doorstep. They are in our own families, next to us in the church pew, in positions of authority as well as in the underclass of society. Lots of them are easy to spot; their behavior is objectionable; they live for the pleasure of the moment without regard for the needs or sensitivities of others. They are often the very people to whom Christ was drawn when He walked the earth. If, in fact, "our chief end is to glorify God," as the catechism tells us, and if our response to God's grace is Christ-like action, then we must be about venturing into unfamiliar and often uncomfortable territory to extend the hand of Christian fellowship and the message of God's redemptive love. And we must trust that God will honor our efforts, will empower us to reach out, will use us as His instruments of peace, no matter how frightened or inadequate we may feel. And sometimes approaching a friend or family member or fellow parishioner is the scariest challenge of all. God gives us opportunities each day to reach out to the lost, and I believe He loves our clumsiest attempt to shed a little light in the dark corners of our world. As my husband would say, "God just asks us to show up. He'll do the rest." But we have to be willing to show up. To make that call. To write that letter. To approach that scary situation?with the confidence that we "can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Phillippians 4:3)

Lovingly, YSIC,  
Mary Pat Peck

## From the SD's Study

Dear Members and Friends of the Greater Dayton Emmaus Community:

Jesus said in John 15:5: "Abide in Me, and I in You." I know that many of you have been reading the wonderful book "Secrets of the Vine". If you have not read it, I highly recommend it! One of the main points is that we need to have an ongoing relationship with Jesus. And, even more, not just the "formal, regular" times of prayer (which are necessary, of course), but - also moment by moment, day in and day out.

I will confess that I am still working on that one! But, this is a challenge for each of us. Many of us have attended an Emmaus Walk weekend and have had a "one-time" wonderful experience with our Lord - and that is great - but - have we continued? Are we walking with our Lord day in and day out? How are things going for your "Fourth Days?" Is Jesus as real to you as your weekend experience? If not, as the old saying goes, who do you think moved?

Fortunately, we worship a God who wants so to bring us back to Himself. It is the power of Sanctifying Grace. The Bible says that God is able to "accomplish that which He started." Praise be to God!

Decolores!  
*Ricci Arthur*

### Team for Men's Walk #28

At Normandy United Methodist Church  
May 16th—19th 2002

Ed Dapore	TL	Discipleship	Jeff Vaflor	AMD	
Steve Hiatt	ATL		Charles Kaiser	Log	Fourth Day
Doug Evenden	TL	Priesthd Believers	Ed Kruse	Log	
Joel Belvo	ATL		Tom Lakes	Log	
Ed Spears	TL	Christian Action	John Tonkin	ALD	
John Wissinger	ATL		Andy Manvell	ALD	
Steve Utz	TL		Joe Amend	ALD	
Jack Stubbs	ATL		Ricki Arthur	ASD	Sanctifying Grace
Bob Hewitt	TL	Body of Christ	Dave Garman	LD	
Leroy Chambliss	ATL		John Whitaker	SD	
Ron Weikert	TL				
Chris Wissinger	ATL		Clergy		
Denny Bratton	TL	Life in Piety	John Gordon		Justifying Grace
Bud Floyd	ATL		Dennis Ditto		Prevenient Grace
Bev Tipton		Prayer Warrior	Mamie Johnson		Obstacles to Grace
Terry Kierce		Prayer Warrior	John Whitaker, SD		Means of Grace
Eric Measel	MD				

### Pilgrims for Men's Walk #28

At Normandy United Methodist Church

Brian Blankenship	Waynesville	Dennis Mikel	Vandalia
Mitch Carroll	Dayton	Sonny E. Morretta	Kettering
Bob Childers	Riverside	Richard G. Norton Jr.	West Carrollton
Steve Dicken	Miamisburg	Paul Phillips	Huber Heights
Stuart Dupras	Tipp City	Cliff Poling	West Milton
Brad Foland	Centerville	Michael B. Prior	Miamisburg
Glenn Grider	Union	Stephen Puderbaugh	Huber Heights
Todd Guenther	Vandalia	Paul Reeser	Miamisburg
Chris Heiss	Troy	Gerald Saunders	Lebanon
Ed Huber	Dayton	Tony Shaffer	Sidney
Robert C. Johansen	New Carlisle	Sean Spaeth	Dayton
Clarence Kaldahl	Farmersville	Jeffry A. Tischbein	Camden
Jim Krile	Bellbrook	John Mark Trimble	Dayton
Marco P. Lascari	Dayton	Dave Washburn	Kettering
Chris Leak	Dayton	Ron Wilkes	Troy
Daniel W. Marker	Kettering	Chip Wilkins	Bellbrook
Rob Martin	West Carrollton	John Williams Jr.	Xenia
Perry Matlock	Dayton	Terrance Willis	Troy
		Paul Wilson	Kettering

**Normandy United Methodist Church**  
**GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS**  
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http://www.daytonemmaus.org

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### De Colores!

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**-Philippians 2:12-13 (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 May 13, 2002 from 6:30 - 7:15 in the small chapel. Bring your name tag and your service card. Questions? Call Good Shepherd Jean Jarusiewicz at 252-9627

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