

EMMAUS

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 18 No. 12

Greater Dayton Walk to Emmaus

December
2006



I find it kind of ironic that as we come to the end of another calendar year, our various terms in office, committee appointments, memberships, etc., we are also preparing to celebrate a beginning - the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, 2000 plus years ago.

While we are rushing about making arrangements to buy the traditional holiday gifts and food, and to decorate in the usual commercial tradition, we need to stop and take time to reflect upon the fact that the greatest gift that we could ever hope to receive has already been given to us in the form of Jesus Christ.

This gift was not given to us because it was a certain time of year or because of some long established tradition, but simply because God loves us and wanted to show us that love by sending His only Son to save us.

As we prepare to once again celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, let us remember to share that love with our family and friends, not just at Christmas-time, but throughout the year by our words and actions.

I would like to humbly thank the Greater Dayton Emmaus Community for allowing me to serve as your Community Lay Director this past year. It has been a year of learning and continuing spiritual growth for me. I appreciate the love and cooperation that was shown by the Community throughout the year. I especially want to thank the Board for all of their hard work and dedication to this Community. While we didn't always agree on everything, we worked as a unit to show God's love to the Community.

In His service, John

'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My People Israel.'
Matthew 2:6

HOW TO FIND US!

Greater Dayton Emmaus
Normandy UMC
450 W. Alex-Bell Rd.
Centerville OH 45459
www.daytonemmaus.org

UPCOMING 2007 WALKS

Held at Normandy UMC:

Men's Walk #41: Jan 25-28
Women's Walk #69: Feb 15-18
Women's Walk #70: Apr 19-22
Men's Walk #42: May 17-20
Women's Walk #72: Sep 20-23

Held at Christ UMC:

Women's Walk #71: Jul 19-22
Men's Walk #43: Aug 16-19

GATHERINGS & BOARD MEETING

Normandy UMC 2nd Mon 7:15
Dayton Board 4th Tues 7:00

CANDLELIGHT AND CLOSING

Candlelight 8:30 PM Saturday
Closing 4:30 PM Sunday

TRAINING & ORIENTATION

SPONSORSHIP TRAINING

This is an open invitation for all to come to this 45 minute training session before Gathering.
Date: Will resume in Feb 2007
Place: Normandy UMC, Room #214
Come and learn the best methods put forth by the National Emmaus Board.

SHARE GROUP ORIENTATION

For new members of the community to get connected to a share group.
Date: Will resume in Feb 2007
Place: Normandy UMC, Chapel
Time: 6:30 PM

PASTOR'S CORNER

Truly my soul silently *waits* for God; From Him *comes* my salvation. He *only* is my rock and my salvation; *He is* my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.

Psalms 62:1-2

Merry Christmas To All...

**“Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”
Matthew 11:28**

This is the time of year that everyone seems to be rushing about. From the Friday following Thanksgiving until the New Year everything gets cranked up a notch. There are more parties and receptions and dinner invitations than there are time slots in our calendars. Still, we feel obligated to make them all. May I encourage you this season with a non-traditional Christmas scripture? Jesus bids us to come to Him. He’s looking for those who have perhaps been unwittingly influenced by all the hype coming out of Madison Avenue. Do we really need to shop until we drop? He’s looking for all those who have yet to perfect their ability to say “no” to just one more commitment. He’s looking for those who outwardly are pushing forward, but inwardly are raising their hand and saying, “stop, and let me off!” During this busy season why not give yourself a well-deserved gift. Put on your comfortable PJ’s, grab a cup of JAVA, green tea or hot cocoa and your favorite version of the Bible. Sit down in your most inviting lounge chair, in front of the fire place or by the soft glow of a reading lamp and turn to Matthew 1:18 and read about the greatest story that was ever told.

Take Jesus at his word. *“Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”*

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!
Palmer Jason, SD

Christmas with a "W."

Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on nonessential obligations -- extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending. Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas.

My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six year old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant." I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then.

Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise. So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats. As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor.

Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song. Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas," I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment -- songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer.

So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," I was slightly taken aback by its bold title. Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads. Those in the front row center stage held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love."

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her; a small, quiet, girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down -- totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W." The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W." Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together. A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, we understood the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities. For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

"CHRISTWAS LOVE"

(Author Unknown)





His Word in My Heart

I have hidden your word in my heart that I
might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11

We are nearing the end of the *first* chapter of Titus! We will be done memorizing this book before you know it!

December—WEEK 2

Titus 1:12

One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

December—WEEK 3

Titus 1:13

This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,

December—WEEK 4

Titus 1:14

Not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.

January 2007—WEEK 1

Titus 1:15

To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.

2007 Board Election Results

A special thank you to Community members who attended the November Gathering and voted for open positions on this year's upcoming Greater Dayton Emmaus Board. The votes have been counted and the results are as follows:

Computer:	Mary Manvell
Good Shepherd:	Chantele Dow
Newsletter:	Chris Morrison
Treasurer:	Grant Dunigan
Women's Registrar:	Vicki Engle

COMMUNITY NOTE:

As we begin a new year, please remember that Candlelight and Closing services are **intended** for graduates of Emmaus Walks and Chrysalis Flights (and similar functions) **ONLY**.

Please, do not bring other family members to these events. Guests are more than welcome to attend monthly Gatherings.

Also, please remember that we are guests at Normandy and Christ Churches, and they are gracious to allow us the use of their facilities. Please **do not** bring any food or drink into the sanctuary during our functions (Gathering, Candlelight and Closing). Thank You!

Greater Dayton Emmaus

P.O. Box 292224
Dayton, OH 45429
www.daytonemmaus.org

De Colores!

It's that time of year again! If you have any desire to serve on a live-in team, or to assist our Emmaus Community in other capacities in the coming year, please read this!

If you desire to serve on a live-in team, please complete this form every two years. This form is valid from 6/2006 through 6/2008. (There is a one-year waiting period between when you take your "Walk" and when you can serve on a live-in team. Those who have taken their Walk in 2006 should still complete a form, even though it may be later in 2007 that you are eligible.) If you would like to serve in other areas within the Emmaus Community, please indicate that by checking the appropriate box.

Please return this form by July 15, 2006, to be considered for 2007 Walks.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the information. Thanks also for "letting your light shine" as we serve the Lord together!

In Christ,
Dayton Emmaus Board of Directors

Clip Here -----

(Please mail this portion to GDE at above address) Date _____

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____ Walk # _____ Location _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____ email: _____

Birth date: __/__/__ Occupation _____ Home Church _____

Share Group Information _____ looking for Share Group _____ have opening(s) _____ Day _____ Time _____

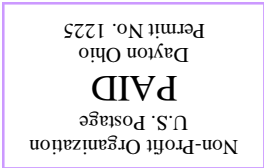
"Willing Servant" Responses ~ Where are you willing to serve?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with Supplies and Food | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide communion bread for Gatherings & Walks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lead Music / Sing / Play instrument for Gatherings | <input type="checkbox"/> Speak to Churches, etc., about Emmaus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help in Kitchen on Walk weekends | <input type="checkbox"/> Serve as clergy prayer partners during the Walk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve as Kitchen Manager for one day during Walk | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist During the Gathering Worship Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist Registrars, call future Pilgrims, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Expertise? List _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work in Agape Room during Walk Weekends | <input type="checkbox"/> Set up / take down electronic equipment for Walks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 th Day Speaker at Gatherings | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with Monday Inventory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with Team Member home errands | <input type="checkbox"/> Sound Board assistance - Gatherings / Walks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with Housing setup/teardown | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist LOGs (scheduled time) during weekend |
- Music for the Walk Weekend:** Sing "Special Music" Play Instrument _____
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Live-in Team (Share Group required) | <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Music Director |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Table Leader (required 1 st experience) | <input type="checkbox"/> Logistics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Table Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Servant (3 Live-in Team Experiences Required) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Director |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Lay Director | |

If you are interested in serving on a Live-in Team, please also complete the questions below:

<p style="text-align: center;">In the past year, I have served the Lord through the Emmaus Community in these ways:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In the past year, I have served the Lord through my local church in these ways:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In the past year, I have served the Lord in the following additional / other ways:</p>
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This information can also be submitted electronically on the web at www.daytonemmaus.org under Forms.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Normandy United Methodist Church
GREATER DAYTON EMMANUS
450 West Alex-Bell Rd.
Dayton OH 45459
www.daytonemmaus.org

To renew your newsletter:

- Fill out the following form and address it to Newsletter
- Send to the Emmaus address on the first page of this newsletter (Attention: Mary Manvell)
- Available *FREE* at www.daytonemmaus.org

The Holy Spirit will
come upon you, the
power of the Highest
hover over you;
Therefore, the child
you bring to birth will
be called Holy, Son of
God.

Luke 1: 35

This is a:

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____