



Walk to Emmaus[®] Newsletter

Vol. 20 No. 11

Greater Dayton Community

November
2008

Chairman's Message

This article I am writing is scheduled to be in the November newsletter!! Wow! Hard to believe this year has gone by so quickly!! One more month and my term serving as the Chairman of the Emmaus board will be completed. I will talk more about this year in next month's newsletter, but would like to say here, that it has been a privilege and a very humbling experience.

We celebrate Thanksgiving in the month of November and I thought I would look into a little history of how the Thanksgiving holiday came to be.

The first recorded observance of Thanksgiving in America was a religious occasion that did not include the feast now associated with the holiday. On December 4, 1619, a small group of English settlers arrived at Berkeley Plantation on the James River in Virginia. In accordance with their charter, the group observed this day by giving thanks to God.

Two years later, the residents of Plymouth rejoiced in an abundant crop and Governor William Bradford proclaimed a three day harvest festival. The colonists and about 90 Indians enjoyed an enormous feast which included ducks, geese, turkey, fish, corn bread and vegetables. It is this particular feast that is usually referred to as the First Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving celebrations were observed irregularly in the years after 1621. However, by 1789, the Thanksgiving custom had spread throughout the colonies and, in that year, George Washington proclaimed November 26 as a "day of public thanksgiving and prayer." Washington's proclamation still did not lead to a regular national observance although many states did celebrate Thanksgiving on an annual basis.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation which invited Americans to "observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens." Such proclamations were repeated by the President of the United States for the next 75 years. In 1939, President Franklin Roosevelt changed the date to the fourth Thursday in November. His goal was to help merchants by lengthening the Christmas shopping season.

Continued on page 4

HOW TO FIND US!

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

UPCOMING EMMAUS WALKS

Held at Normandy UMC:

Men's Walk #47 - Jan 22-25, 2009
Women's Walk # 77 - Feb 19-22, 2009
Women's Walk #79 - Sep 24-27, 2009

Held at Christ UMC

Women's Walk # 78 - July 16-19, 2009
Men's Walk # 48 - August 13-16, 2009

CANDLELIGHT AND CLOSING

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

GATHERING & BOARD MEETING

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

TRAINING & ORIENTATION

SPONSORSHIP TRAINING

Date: Nov 13, 2008 / 6:30pm

Place: Normandy UMC, Room #214

This is an open invitation for everyone to attend a 45-minute training session on sponsoring pilgrims. Come and learn the best methods suggested by the National Emmaus Board.

SHARE GROUP ORIENTATION

Date: Feb 9, 2009 / 6:15pm

Place: Normandy UMC, Chapel

This is a great opportunity for new members of the Community to get connected with a Share Group.

Giving Our Hands to Christ

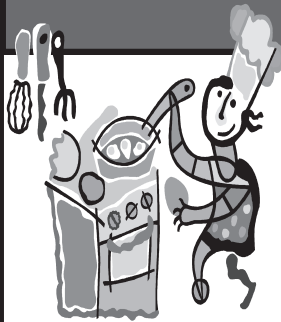
But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you. *1 Samuel 12:24*

HOUSING CHAIR

Please check the housing sign-up sheets at the Gathering for the next Walk for opportunities to serve. Also, the Housing Chair position will be up for election at the November Gathering. The housing duties pretty much function as a well-oiled machine and just need an operator. If you feel led to this position, please contact Missy Trumbull or myself.
De Colores, Stephen Puderbaugh, Housing Chair



KITCHEN CHAIR



The Kitchen staff continues to need help during the following shifts on Walk weekends:

- Thursday, 9:00am - 12:30pm**
- Friday, all shifts**
- Sunday, 6:00am - 9:00am**

If you would like to volunteer for these needs, please contact Virgil Gallagher (shgaoh@verizon.net) or check the sign-up sheets at the monthly Gatherings.

De Colores, Virgil Gallagher, Kitchen Chair

GOOD SHEPHERD

Share Group Orientation: Anyone who is not currently in a share group is encouraged to fill out a share group interest interest form online or pick up a paper copy at the book table at the November Gathering. For web site submission, contact me at www.daytonemmaus.org and click on 'share groups.' **Outreach:** Just a reminder that I am available for outreach. If you would like an Emmaus presentation during your weekend church service, please contact me (937-312-9033).

De Colores, Cheri Spencer, Good Shepherd

COMMUNITY EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN

If you have prayer concerns or would like to pray for other requests in the Dayton Community, please email (bennercl@notes.udayton.edu) or call 937-879-2118. Please limit your requests to a serious/urgent nature and to the needs of either a member of the Emmaus Community or your immediate family. Also, if you are not receiving prayer chain messages and wish to do so, please call me to confirm/update your email address. Blessings to all who support the prayer ministry.

De Colores, Charles Benner



Please remember to complete a Willing Servant Form at the Gathering or online at the Dayton Emmaus website: <http://www.daytonemmaus.org/deForms.htm>. If your Willing Servant Form was submitted on or after July 1, 2008, and you meet the requirements to serve on a live-in team, you will be eligible to serve through June 30, 2010.

From the Spiritual Director

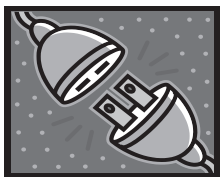
Power Outage and Power Restored

So, where were you when the power outage hit in 2008? Taking a shower? Baking something in the oven? Creating a significant email or document on your computer? Trying to watch the pro football game or your favorite home improvement show on TV? Or away from the house and blissfully unaware but jolted into a dismaying reality when you came home? How long did it take for the power to come back on? What problems did it create for you? How did it feel? More importantly how well did you react and adjust?

When the wind storm hit Kettering I was in Arlington, Texas, at my sister's house, saying my goodbyes to her after a week-long visit. I was there to attend a memorial service for my brother-in-law, Rodney, who ran out of cardiac power just earlier that week after a long bout with emphysema. The memorial service was held on a Saturday, the same day Hurricane Ike turned the Texas north coast into a sauna bath and up the east Texas countryside. Saturday the weather turned the Dallas Fort Worth area into a sauna bath. Somehow it seemed the windy, rainy conditions captured well the tears that flowed in the memorial service that day. We were missing our brother, husband, father, and son and the weather reflected it. We felt powerless in the face of his death.

But an interesting thing happened. In the face of our powerlessness to prevent our family member from succumbing to the disease that hounded him for the last 4 years of his life, we found our power being restored by family and friends, many of whom saw a Greater Power at work in spite of this family loss. A cousin spoke joyfully at the memorial service about the positive affect Rodney had on his life. A Power Point photo journal of his life depicted him happily playing with his grandchildren on his lap, even while his life-line, the oxygen tank, pulsed in the background. And someone recalled how he always said, "I have a disease, it doesn't have me". In the midst of feeling powerless, we regained power—the ability to celebrate his life even in the face of death.

Paul said in Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". The King James translation doesn't communicate the full meaning of the original Greek, which is more accurately translated, "power". More recent translations say, "I can do all things through Christ who empowers me".



I like that philosophy of life. When you encounter power outages, what restores your power? I'm not just talking about DP&L or the other power companies in Ohio. I'm talking about the emotional and spiritual hits we take in life. I remember returning home Monday to almost entirely powerless community in Kettering. I picked up batteries and ice from the Meijer's near the Dayton International Airport on my trip home. I hit the store right as the ice truck was parked outside. I brought home 7 bags and gave some to our neighbors. I reasoned that there's no sense going around being a victim of the power outage. It made me feel good to give some ice to a neighbor. I heard about others who invited neighbors to a big barbeque to use up the food in their slowly warming refrigerators. It gave people a sense that they could help others instead of wallowing in pity. I've heard incredible stories of how people gave tirelessly to help others regain their work, their schools, and their homes. I know of service groups who even to this day are still helping the elderly clear their yards of tree limbs and damaged property. Our greatest losses of power are loss of hope, joy, and peace.

God challenges us to do the paradoxical—to rise from our own losses to help others restore power through his Power—both physical and spiritual, in our work, our neighborhoods, and our communities. It's not what happens to us that determines our destiny in life, it's how we respond with hope in the form of help to those who are feeling powerless. God is looking for agents of Power Restoration to make a difference in our world. I had to come to Ohio to truly experience the awesome deadly power of Hurricane Ike. But I also experienced the awesome life-giving power of God through those people who saw loss as an opportunity to restore power to someone else. Thank God, his power supply never runs out.

De Colores, Dave Evans, Spiritual Director

Giving Our Hands to Christ

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

Many Kansans were unhappy with Roosevelt's break from tradition but the move was soon made permanent by Congress.

As Christians, we should give thanks to God each day for all of the blessings he bestows on us. Take some special time this year as you sit down to your Thanksgiving dinner with your family and let each of them know how thankful you are that they are a part of your life. We sometimes forget to tell those closest to us, how important they are to us.

I have been truly blessed to be a part of, and thank God for this Greater Dayton Emmaus community and am humbled to call you my brothers and sisters in Christ.

May God Bless You All
Don Adams
Chairman Greater Dayton Emmaus
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Ezra 3:11

With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD :

"He is good;  
his love to Israel endures forever."

And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

## WORSHIP CHAIR

*Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs....Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. Psalm 100:2,4*



**Kandle Lights** will continue to be available for purchase at Monthly Gatherings and Candlelight services. We also have AAA batteries at 3 for \$1.00 and free replacement bulbs.

The **Christmas Gathering** is right around the corner. If you are interested in performing one or two songs for the Gathering, please contact me via phone or email by Nov 15th.

**Servants needed:** Please consider serving as a Worship assistant for setup, teardown or monthly Gathering. Interested parties can contact me for additional info and requirements: [worship@daytonemmaus.org](mailto:worship@daytonemmaus.org) or call 937-475-1608.

*De Colores, Chris Christoff, Worship Chair*

## LEADERSHIP CHAIR

We have an immediate need for an individual or share group to assume task of making lanyards for crosses starting with Jan 09 Men's walk. Point of contact is Sally Blue @ 698-6680. Automatic knitting machine provided and she will train whomever volunteers. Also plenty of yarn/supplies will be provided. Can also contact me @ 431-8282.



*De Colores, Chantele Dow, Leadership Chair*

# Giving Our Hands to Christ

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. *1 Peter 4:10*

## AGAPE CHAIR



We have extra agape left over from the walks. If you or your share group provided this agape and would like to have it returned (possibly to use on another walk), see Roiann Ward at the Agape leftovers table in the lobby at the Gathering. The Agape leftovers table includes quite a few letters and notes of agape addressed to Pilgrims who cancelled or arrived too late for the Walk Weekend. There are also some agape letters addressed to team members that arrived too late to be included in their Sunday packet. Please check the Agape leftovers table to see if you know any of the people and can get these letters and notes to them. Letters for Pilgrims who had to cancel should go back to the sponsor.

*De Colores, Roiann Ward, Agape Chair*

## MEN'S REGISTRAR

Attention Greater Dayton Emmaus Sponsors! The next men's Walk is scheduled for January 22-25, 2009 at Normandy United Methodist Church. If you know of any Christian men that would be interested in attending this Walk, please make sure they have completed an application and mailed it to Greater Dayton Emmaus mailbox for attention Men's Registrar. Currently we have about 53 candidates in the men's database. We normally have 28-30 men per Walk so we are in need of increasing our database of willing and active pilgrims desiring to attend this worthwhile event. The confirmation letters for the walk in January were mailed the beginning of the month, but there is still time to get your application in and be a part of a truly great experience, so get your application into the Men's registrar as soon as possible. One thing for sure "Jesus Christ" always shows up!

*Your Brother in Christ, Keith Simpson, Men's Registrar*

## EMMAUS AROUND THE WORLD



### Testimony on the first Russian walk to Emmaus

The Walk to Emmaus for me was a great revelation of God's love. Before the Walk I knew that God loved me and that I was supposed to love others, but only during the Walk I felt the real effect of God's love. My heart was touched by God through the expression of love by other people.

The Walk to Emmaus for me was like a burning bush for Moses. I made a decision at the Walk not to be a passive Christian any longer. I need to labor to multiply the rows of saved people, to enlarge the army of God. I realized that I have power. I came to understanding, that the Body of Christ is united and I was shown an example how to love, how to serve, how to bless. Now I am taking all this into my Fourth Day. I am active in church ministry, I joined a drama club in our church, I help my friends to overcome the doubts of earthly living. I am going to participate in a youth conference next month. But soon the summer break will be over and I will go back to Chelyabinsk to continue my studies. That will be a true start of my Fourth Day: spiritual warfare and overcoming many temptations. But I know I will be a winner! Thanks to all who organized, participated and served at the First Russian Walk to Emmaus. I love you all so much!

Eli Haibullin, Russia


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 www.daytonemmaus.org

Enter his gates  
 with thanksgiving  
 and his courts with  
 praise; give thanks  
 to him and praise  
 his name.  
*Psalms 100:4*



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- Download the Newsletter **FREE** online: [www.daytonemmaus.org](http://www.daytonemmaus.org)

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