



Walk to Emmaus[®] Newsletter

Vol. 21 No. 12

Greater Dayton Community

December
2009

Chairman's Message -

I can hardly believe how fast the year has flown by—it seems just a blink ago that I was mustering the courage to write my first Chairman article and already December is here. This year has held many challenges for each of us; and for some, the challenges may still trouble us even still as we see a new year just beyond the horizon.

But for a brief moment, I would like to focus on the Hope He brings us. This month, of all those in a year, we look forward to celebrating the life—a child—God brought into this world for us. Sometimes when I think of Jesus as a little baby, I have trouble getting my mind around that picture. I was blessed to carry a child one time, and felt life move inside of me. I put my innermost thoughts and experiences down on paper in a journal, so that I would not forget how it felt to carry her—to feel and see her grow. I kept the journal even after her birth, for many years, and it will be a gift to my daughter when she has her children. The hope of seeing her when she decided to come was an EXPECTATION—I knew she would arrive and I would finally see her face.

Christ arrived that evening—amid the sheep and oxen. He was expected that evening not just by the wise men who traveled from afar and His mother, but by the angels and heavenly hosts—they rejoiced! Why would they rejoice over the birth of a baby? Because they knew He was the HOPE of the world. God knew we needed a Savior—we needed HOPE.

Are you in need of HOPE this Christmas? Are you expecting the Savior, the Hope of the world? Jesus came that we might have eternal life. We, even in this sometimes troubled life, have the HOPE of Christ. We will see Him—even now, we can have the expectation of seeing His face—and knowing that nothing in eternity will separate us from Him.

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HOW TO FIND US!

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

2010 EMMAUS WALKS

Held at Normandy UMC:

Men's Walk #49 - Jan 21-24, 2010
Women's Walk # 80- Feb 18-21, 2010
Women's Walk #82 - Sep 23-26, 2010

Held at Christ UMC

Women's Walk # 81 - July 15-18, 2010
Men's Walk # 50 - August 19-22, 2010

CANDLELIGHT AND CLOSING

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

GATHERING & BOARD MEETING

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

TRAINING & ORIENTATION

SPONSORSHIP TRAINING

Date: Jan 11, 2010 / 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 8, 2010 / 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

SPONSORSHIP TRAINING



Sponsorship Training - Why you need it! As a sponsor, it's important to understand your role and responsibilities, which enhance your pilgrim's experience. Before sponsoring someone for a Walk, you are required to attend the sponsorship training. The sessions are held at 6:30pm before Gathering in Room 214 at Normandy Church. This is a short time of discussion, questions, and answers. Also, from The Emmaus Library, we have the Sponsorship booklet, which guides individuals through the process of sponsoring fellow pilgrims on the Walk to Emmaus. The authors explore the range of possibilities in the role of the sponsor for the renewal of church leaders, Emmaus communities, and the church. The booklet is available at Gatherings, and the cost is \$4.

HOUSING CHAIR

Don't forget to sign-up for the upcoming Men's Walk in the following areas!

- Wednesday 5:30pm (setup)
- Thursday 5:30pm (luggage)
- Sunday 7:00am (sleeping area teardown)
- Sunday 4:00pm (conference room teardown)

Look for more details on the website and sign-up sheets at the upcoming Gatherings. Please contact me if you have questions about serving on the Housing Team.

De Colores, Lex, Housing Chair



AGAPE CHAIR



Community members - if you are visiting the Agape room during Walk weekends, please do NOT move items around! Consult with someone who is designated to work the Agape room if you have questions or problems. If you leave agape items for pilgrims or team members, be sure to specify the full name of the recipient and when you would like the items to be delivered. (For example, "Friday night bedtime" or "Saturday lunch" or "Sunday packet.") Finally, please prayerfully consider serving as the Agape Chair when I complete my term in 2011. If you feel called to serve, I would like to work with you during the 2010 Walks and help you get acquainted with the role and responsibilities. Feel free to contact me with any questions: (513) 752-9628 or agape@daytonemmaus.org

De Colores, Roiann Ward, Agape Chair

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



From the Spiritual Director

Spiritual Director's Musings

As we enter the holiday season, I always take some time apart and reflect upon the true meaning of Christmas. I recognize the secular, consumerist orientation of our society (and I get caught up in it myself to some degree). The trivialization of the Jesus story is part of the air we breathe in our contemporary culture. That's why I think it's important for believers to spend some time being reminded of the ultimate message of the Christmas story. We need opportunities to prepare our hearts for His coming to us once again.

Episcopal priest Pittman McGehee speaks of the Christmas story being about the Incarnation: "the radical, unbelievable idea that God would choose to enter history as a human, through a human, and thus sacramentalize all of the human enterprise." I had a seminary professor who spoke of Christmas as reminding us of "the scandal of the Incarnation." By this he meant the scandalous idea (in most religions) that God would willingly become a human being...the Creator choosing to be one with the created. Scandalous indeed. Why would God do this?



I believe Incarnating among us was/is the best and only way for Him to fully identify with us...so that we can more closely identify with Him. In Jesus, we experience God's self-revelation:

What is God like? Look at Jesus. What does God desire? Listen to Jesus. Does God understand us? Observe Jesus eating with and transforming Zaccheaus. Can God forgive us? See Jesus standing with the shamed woman as the executioners' stones are dropped to the ground. How much does God love us? See Jesus being flogged and nailed to a cross. How does God triumph over sin and death? Step into the empty tomb cut into a Judean hillside.

Max Lucado has titled one of his many books *God Came Near*. I re-read this wonderful devotional every December. God still comes near, and not only at Christmas, but each and every day as we invite Him into our lives afresh to birth new life, new hope, new beginnings, new insights, new habits, and new growth within us. May each of you within the Greater Dayton Emmaus community have a meaningful and holy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

De Colores, Dave Tackett, Spiritual Director

Giving Our Hands to Christ

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE (Continued)

This Christmas season—remind yourself and those you love, that we can have HOPE. He came as a human child—the Almighty God of the universe came as a little baby so that you and I, and the entire human race, could have HOPE! Read the prophecy and account of His birth in Isaiah 7:14, 9:6 and 11; Matthew 1, Luke chapters 1 and 2. It is God's journal to us—He captured the experience and put it on paper so that we could remember and experience His promise of Hope over and over and over. Thank you for the privilege of serving Him with you—it has truly been a gift I will remember each 4th day.

*Love in Christ,
Chantele Dow
GDE Chairman*

BOARD ELECTION RESULTS & MEETING INFO

Welcome to the following Willing Servants who were elected to the Greater Dayton Emmaus Board:



Good Shepherd – Cheri Spencer
Women's Registrar – Pam Shively
Newsletter Chair – Trudi Gilchrist
Computer Chair – Gregg Hayes
Treasurer – Keith Crabtree

Bev Barrett was elected by the Board members (in accordance with procedures) to the **Leadership** position for 2010. The Board appointed Barbara Courtice to assume the **Documentation** position. All current and new board members are invited to the Board meeting on **Tuesday, Dec 8, 2009**. We will start at **7:00pm in the chapel at Normandy UMC**. Also, there will be an anointing of the 2010 Board of Directors at Gathering on **Jan 11, 2010**. If you are on the Board for 2010, please plan on attending Gathering on January.
De Colores, Stephen Puderbaugh, Leadership Chair

HEARTS & HANDS...HELPING ONE ANOTHER

As I mentioned at the October Gathering, I have felt the Lord calling me to organize a Community effort to “give back” to some people who are in desperate need. We have some dedicated members of this Community who are experiencing extremely difficult circumstances. During the next couple of months while we do not have a Walk to support, I am asking for volunteers who are willing to contribute their talents, skills, or time to assist these people who have given so much to us in the past. If you are interested in practicing some **Christian Action** or you want to be part of the **Body of Christ** in a practical way, please contact me (cdow@woh.rr.com) for more information.

De Colores, Chantele Dow



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*

MEN'S REGISTRAR

The Greater Dayton Emmaus Community needs "Pilgrims, Pilgrims, Pilgrims" for the Men's walk # 49 scheduled for January 21-24. The database has been updated to reflect all the current and active Pilgrims who are still interested in attending a Men's Walk. The bad news is that the database now only has 30 active Pilgrims. Community, prospective Sponsors, and Clergy, we need your support in getting the word out about the wonderful experience the Emmaus walk would be for any man of GOD. The requirement is to have at least 20 confirmed Pilgrims to conduct a Men's walk. We need your help in making sure we have the required number to continue changing the lives of Pilgrims through the direct intervention of the Holy Spirit. If anyone has a Grandfather, Father, Brother, Friend, Son, Grandson, or fellow worker that may be interested in attending a Men's walk, please have them complete an application and on to our list of Pilgrims. Jesus is counting on "YOU" as we continue to count on "HIM"!

YBIC, Keith Simpson, Men's Registrar

KITCHEN CHAIR

For those unable to attend Gatherings, you can now sign up to help in the kitchen online, anytime. Just go to the Emmaus Home Page at www.daytonemmaus.org, click on the "Kitchen" tab, then click on the link to sign up and put in the time and day you want to serve. You should receive a confirmation within two days. Or for those not online, call me at 854-7583 and please leave a message with time and day, if no answer. Keep an eye out a week before the walks for a "help wanted" sign posted on the web page if we need more help.



De Colores, Marc Littman, Kitchen Chair

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



Please remember to bring your Kandle Light to the December Gathering!

If anyone is interested in providing music for Gatherings in 2010, please contact me. We are also providing soundboard training for the equipment at Normandy Church, so if you would like to serve in this area, please let me know.

De Colores, Linda Haller, Worship Chair

CHILDCARE AT GATHERINGS?

We are trying to determine if the Community has a need for childcare at the monthly Gatherings. If you have a need or if you are interested in serving, please contact Sonya Lemmerbrock for more information: slemmerbrock@woh.rr.com

Normandy United Methodist Church
GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS
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For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given, and
the government will be
on his shoulders. And
he will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlast-
ing Father, Prince of
Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



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