



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM®

Vol. 24 No. 11

Greater Dayton Community

450 W. Alex-Bell Rd Centerville OH 45459 www.daytonemmaus.org

**November
2013**

2014 WALK SCHEDULE

At Normandy UMC

MW# 57 January 23-26
WW#92 February 20-23
WW#94 Sept 18-21

At Sulphur Grove UMC

WW#93 July 17-20
MW #58 Aug 21-24

CANDLELIGHT

8:30 PM Saturday of Walk

CLOSING

4:30 PM Sunday of Walk

GATHERING Normandy UMC

2nd Monday every month
7:15 PM

BOARD MEETING

4th Tuesday every month
7:00 PM

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE :**

Board Notices	2
November Election	
From the Spiritual	3
Director	
Subscription	4

Chairman's Corner

"I can explain it to you, but I can't understand it for you."

*Ought not Christ to have suffered those things, and to enter into His glory?
And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all
the scriptures the things concerning Himself. Luke 24:26-27*

When we invite others on a Walk to Emmaus, a frequently asked question is, "What's it about?" And we answer as best we can, but we are not able to "understand it" for them. So we smile and respond, "Perhaps, you should experience this adventure with God for yourself." But somehow that seems to be less than a satisfying response to their earnest desire to know.

Well, if we are unable to "understand it" for them, what are the alternatives? I believe, as is so often the case, the primary answer is having faith. But faith about what exactly? The faith that believes and accepts that the God Who calls and brings men and women to Walks will, in the fullness of His time, present to the Pilgrims both explanation and understanding of His truth and light and, of course, His grace.

If our explanations to the Pilgrims of the Walk are a matter of faith, is this all that is needed to respond to the Pilgrim's questions and concerns? Perhaps something else is required of us. I believe that obedience is also required to complete the explanation and understanding of Christ's life and message, the scriptures, and at some point, the totality of the Walk to Emmaus. Are we not called to be obedient? Do we not sing, "Trust and obey, for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus?" Are we able to respond to the Pilgrims with Biblical truth and light if we not obedient to His will and way?

This dilemma was insightfully described by Thomas à Kempis in his book, *The Imitation of Christ*. "If thou didst know the whole Bible by heart, and the sayings of all the philosophers, what would all that profit thee without the love of God and without His grace?" What à Kempis and others have experienced is that a primary solution to being perplexed about God's message to us is obedience. And remaining obedient until God provides the understanding He determines, at the time He determines. It seems to me that one path to increase our faithfulness is found in being obedient—if I am unable to think it through, then I need to be determined to obey it through.

Well, exactly how does all of this relate to the Walk to Emmaus? Just in this manner: If I am faithful and I "obey it through," then I am convicted that God will transcend whatever questions, doubts, and burdens the Pilgrims bring with them to accomplish His mission according to His will and time.

Is there a lesson here? One lesson for me is not to succumb to the Pilgrim's doubts or questions or burdens, especially when my explanations seem woefully inadequate because I cannot "understand it" for them. Keep the faith.

De Colores,
Brian Wood, Community Lay Director



Giving Our Hands to Christ



BOARD HAPPENINGS

The Greater Dayton Emmaus Board of Directors (the Board) held its first retreat on September 28, 2013. Although this Retreat had multiple purposes, one of the primary purposes was to move closer to discerning God's will for the Board and the Emmaus community and to become more integrated in fulfilling that mission.

The agenda included inspiring talks from the community Spiritual Directors, singing and social activities. The Community Lay Director led large and small group discussions on the accomplishments for this year along with the Board's vision and plans to address community concerns. The Retreat ended with communion in the Parkview outdoor chapel.

This Retreat was accomplished at no cost to the Emmaus community. We were the guests of the Parkview United Methodist Church and lunch and snacks were donated and coordinated by volunteers.

The Board wishes to express its' thankfulness to our Lord and Redeemer Who guided our discussions and granted us the wisdom we seek to fulfill our responsibilities to the Emmaus community, to the host church and to the willing servants who coordinated this event and provided the food. Keep the faith.

De Colores, Brian Wood, Community Lay Director

AGAPE

Thanks to all of you who have so generously supported the Agape Room! Our pilgrims have been touched by your tangible symbols of God's abundant love. It has been my pleasure to have been in service to the Lord and to the Community as the Agape Room Chairperson.

Going forward, we have a share group that will make halos for the July walks on a permanent basis. We need volunteers for 2014 to make halos for the February and September walks. If your share group would like to take this on, please contact me.

Blessings, Trudi Gilchrist, Agape Chairperson

SHARE GROUPS



Do you have a share group? Is your share group open to new members? If so, please let me know so that I can help those without share groups get connected. If your contact information has changed updates would be appreciated. I can be reached via email at Goodshepherd@daytonemmaus.org or by phone at (937) 849-0353. It would be my pleasure to help bring the children of God together.

Verna Drake, Good Shepherd

Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.

(John 14:21, NIV)

KITCHEN

Heartfelt thanks go out to all who helped be the hands and feet of Jesus through your service in the kitchen during the last walk.

Steve Uphouse, Kitchen Chairperson

AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

The elections for open 2014 Board Positions will be taking place at the November 2012 Gathering. In addition to the votes that will be taken at that time, we will also be accepting absentee ballots. Please use the form below to vote for candidates if you are unable to attend the November 2013 Gathering.

Absentee ballots must be received by 11:59 PM on November 10, 2013 and can be mailed to:

Keith Crabtree, Greater Dayton Emmaus Leadership Chairperson
Normandy United Methodist Church
450 W. Alex-Bell Rd Centerville OH 45459

³¹ Therefore, as it is written:
"Let the one who boasts
boast in the Lord."^[d]
1 Corinthians 1:31

Agape	Book Table/Normandy Rep
____ Alix Litton	____ Mike Cornelius
____	____
Men's Worship	Documentation
____ Jonathan Taulbee	____ Howard Creek
____	____
Secretary	Nominations can be accepted until the vote is taken at the November Gathering. Updates will be posted in the November newsletter. Write-in votes welcomed.
____ Barbie Rose	



From the Spiritual Director



"Sherry's Salsa Garden and the Fruit of the Spirit"

Today was the end for Sherry's Salsa Garden. In one of our flowerbeds, she raises tomatoes and peppers. While I was mowing, she picked the ripened vegetables from the plants. She then announced that it was done and I could clear away the rest. I had intended to wait till first frost, but she reiterated that it was done. So we cleared it away, and SSG 2013 is now in the history books.

It was a great year for growing vines, but a rather paltry season for veggies. Was our summer too cool? Is the tree getting too tall? Did they not get enough sun? Did we get too much rain? It doesn't matter because it's over. It is what it is.

Reflecting on the real time experience of fruitfulness or lack thereof, I wondered about the fruit in our spiritual lives. "The Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23 NIV)

Are you in the midst of a robust spiritual fruit growing season? Are you basking in plenty of sunshine? Are you hot—on fire with the Holy Spirit?

Or is your spiritual fruit bearing puny at this time? Is there something between the Lord and you? It may even be that something good is blocking you from God's best for your life.

In the spring, if you set out plants in decent soil, if they receive appropriate amounts of water and sun, a bountiful harvest is assured.

In your spiritual life, if you engage in spiritual disciplines (means of grace), and if you remain open to Sunshine and the fire of the Holy Spirit, the fruit of the spirit comes almost automatically.

I pray your life will bring a bountiful harvest of fruit of the spirit as an offering of praise to our living Lord.

de Colores, Brad

But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

Galatians 5:22-23 The Message (MSG)

SPONSORSHIPS

finding a match made in Heaven

What is a Sponsor? A sponsor is much more than just a ride to and from the Pilgrim's Walk or writing a check [if that is what you choose to do]. Sponsorship is serious business, it is a commitment that involves time and perseverance. Is it a bother? No! It is one of the most rewarding things we may be called to do. We are sponsoring children of the King and the face of Jesus that we show them may have a profound effect on their spiritual lives.

If we believe that someone is truly ready and willing to benefit from the Emmaus program then we should be willing to take a part in that investment. We do support our pilgrims through transportation, prayer [before during and after the walk], our presence at Send off, Sponsor's hour, Candlelight and Closing, we WANT to show them that we are there for them, but our help doesn't end there.

As a sponsor it is our privilege to be of service to our pilgrims all through their Emmaus experience beginning with answering questions prior to the walk [remember there are no secrets], being a spiritual mentor and friend, getting them to gatherings and share group orientation and the never-ending joy in doing whatever is necessary to help them in their spiritual walk.

Kathy Postell, Newsletter Chairperson

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Prayer Warriors

Do you want to participate in our e-mail prayer chain? Have an Urgent prayer request? Contact Charles Benner at: (937) 879-2118 or e-mail bennercl@notes.udayton.edu to become a member of the prayer chain or to submit your prayer request. We ask that you limit your requests to a serious, urgent nature and to the needs of either a member of the Emmaus Community or your Family ~ Thanks

Do not be anxious about anything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. ~ Philippians 4:6

To renew your newsletter mailing:

- Complete the following form
- Send to the Emmaus address on the first page of this newsletter (*Attention: Computer Chair - Bob Cannata*)
- Download the Newsletter **FREE** online: www.daytonemmaus.org
- Send your email address to newsletter@daytonemmaus.org for electronic delivery

This is a: _____ One year \$12.00

Subscription or renewal
Address change

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