



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM®

Vol. 24 No. 12

Greater Dayton Community

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

**December
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

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A Simple Farewell

B. J. Wood

Oh...

the time has come,
(perhaps so soon),
to end the counting of hours and days--
Leaves have fallen
finished with their purpose
and my preparations completed,
my photos packed...

Uncertain of the road ahead
(it meanders out of sight)
yet certain of the road chosen
and the wonder of keen adventure.
I know that farewells
are to be observed,
and must be said.

But much remains unsaid,
not all tears and regrets made manifest,
and not all dreams revealed.
But time is upon us
oh too soon,
so our sharing is incomplete
and without deeper ending.

So here at last am I,
standing
with a heart full of hope
and sadness at parting.
Then you wish me Godspeed
and I must depart:
A simple farewell
that marks my passage
but transcends my life.



Luke 2:1-20

King James Version (KJV)

¹ And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

² (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

³ And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

¹⁵ And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

¹⁶ And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

¹⁷ And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

¹⁸ And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



From the Spiritual Director



Daunted and Overwhelmed

Oh no! Christmas Eve is coming again!

With the possibility of surprising some, I want to share a secret shared by many pastors: we don't look forward to preaching on Christmas Eve! Why? Christmas is one of the most difficult times to preach (Easter is the other). You might think that the opposite is true—that it would be one of the easiest, right? Wrong!

Preaching on Christmas is daunting, almost overwhelming. How do you preach the texts in a fresh and powerful way that everybody has heard so many times, that everybody knows by heart? I am comforted that many other preachers feel the same way. The great 20th Century theologian and pastor Reinhold Niebuhr (author of the Serenity Prayer), confessed that in the days after he left the pulpit, on Christmas Eve he choose to attend a “high” church where there would be great music but little, if any preaching. No preacher, Niebuhr used to say, is up to the task of Christmas. My 16th Christmas Eve is coming up and in my experience I can heartily agree!

We preachers are not up to the task, and never will be, no matter how charismatic and silver-tongued some may be gifted—for one reason: God's amazing grace is too daunting and overwhelming for us to fully comprehend or explain—but it is never too daunting or overwhelming to claim!

So this Christmas, may we take Niebuhr's advice. Let us sing the great Christmas hymns together and rejoice as we try to grasp once again how much God loves us in Jesus!

*It came upon the mid-night clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.
And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!*

(It Came upon the Midnight Clear, v.1, 3)

And this Christmas let us undaunted, pray for what we are able to comprehend and hope for:

Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world.
Grant that, being born in our hearts, he may save us from all our sins,
and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator,
to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. Amen

-(Lawrence Hull Stookey)

May all this Christmas hear the angels sing! De Colores!

Pastor George Brewer



Merry Christmas



Please join us as we present the play "The Shepherd" a story about the birth of Jesus from the Shepherds' viewpoint.

Bring your friends and your family, both the church and the unchurched all are welcome as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and King!

When: December 9, 2013 7:15 PM
Where: Normandy Church, Emmaus Gathering



This performance is free and the dress is casual and you just might find some forgiveness, peace, and wonder.

We hope to see you there!!!

DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

The December Board Meeting will be on December 10th so that members can focus on family during the Christmas season.

We will also be having a pot luck for the new board members so all current members remember to pack up your favorite snack and bring it along.

We would also like to send out a special thank you for our retiring Board Members, Well done good and faithful servants.

Remember

- December 9th at Normandy Church
Gathering; 7:15 {featuring the play "The Shepherd"}
- Update your willing servant form, especially if you wish to be on a live-in team
- Get your pilgrim applications in to either the men's or women's registrar, it is never too early!
- Jesus loves you!
- Have a very Merry Christmas



2 Corinthians 9:13-14

Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. (NIV)



Giving Our Hands to Christ



BOARD ELECTION RESULTS:

We welcome the following members to the Greater Dayton Emmaus Board:

Agape – Alix Litton
Book Table/Normandy Rep – Mike Cornelius
Men's Worship – Jason Hoang
Documentation – Howard Creek
Secretary – Barbie Rose

We would like to thank these people for their willingness to service our Emmaus Community. Welcome to the Board!

We also wish to thank Trudi Gilchrist, Dick Hoback, Tim Macy, Barb Courtice, and Cindy Pierson for their wonderful service to the Dayton Emmaus Community. They have given invaluable time and efforts on behalf of the entire Dayton Emmaus Community. Well done, good and faithful servants!

Keith Crabtree, Vice Chair

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

SPONSORSHIP TRAINING

There is no Sponsorship training in December, the next session is January 13, 2014.

LOVE IN ACTION

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need...
Romans 12:9-13 NIV

IS YOUR SHARE GROUP OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS?

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.

If you want to know more about share groups we have an orientation before the gathering after every walk weekend at 6:15 in the chapel of Normandy UMC. The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2014, but if you miss the one after your walk it doesn't mean you have missed the boat, you can attend any scheduled orientation. Hope to see you there!

Your Good Shepherd, Verna Drake

REGISTRATION

Attention Emmaus community, when emailing the women's registrar, please use this address: womensregistrar@daytonemmaus.org. My old email address has been changed. Invitations have gone out for WW 92 in February. If an application for a woman is not yet in, names received/postmarked after Nov. 1st will go on the waiting list. Invitations are sent out in order of postmark date. What a joy it has been serving this community for the past year. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me with questions anytime.

In His service. Pam DeHart

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

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

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(Attention: Computer Chair - Bob Cannata)
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