

Emmaus Community News



*Join us on Saturday,
December 4 for a Special
Christmas Gathering!*



Welcome Women of Walk #88, all "Fourth Day" pilgrims and guests! Join us at the December gathering for a time of community singing, special music and devotions. Many folks go out for dinner prior to the gathering at 7:30. (Some energetic folks even go out afterwards and make a night of it!). In any case, it is a wonderful time to connect with new and old friends and to worship our Lord in common voice! Bring your favorite holiday cookies to share in a time of fellowship following the gathering.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP

The Music and Worship committee is busy planning for 2005. If you are interested in providing special music for a gathering, or if you have a group or praise band that would like to help lead a gathering, please notify Carol and Phil DeGreg at 598-6345 or cdegreg@zoomtown.com. Remember, a person need not have already participated in a walk in order to attend a gathering.



Parking Reminder:

Please do not park so close to residents' driveways on Erie Avenue. The Clark Montessori School parking lot is available. Let us be good neighbors!

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JANUARY GATHERING REMINDER

The January 2005 Gathering will be January 8th due to New Years Day holiday. If you come on January 1st, you'll be by yourself. Have a great New Year!

SPONSORS: Remember 4th Day books are available for purchase (\$5). They are a great gift for a Pilgrim's Fourth Day!

Spiritual Director's Message

Hello Emmaus Friends,

Are you prepared for Christmas?

I don't know about you but the "hustle and bustle" of Christmas can get pretty chaotic that we miss the real reason of the season. If you're like me there are the family traditions, neighborhood or staff parties, and gift exchanges that grab much of the attention. Don't forget trimming the tree, decorating the house, addressing cards, and shopping off a wish list.

Are you prepared for Christmas?

I love to open up the Gospel lessons and read and reflect on the birth narratives fresh. The wonderful story of a babe in Bethlehem who becomes the savior of the world grabs my attention anew. The beautiful carols touch my spirit with peace, comfort, and joy when I slow down to listen

with my heart. The gift of my salvation is all wrapped up in this story if I choose to receive it again. It is a gift of grace! It's the gift of eternal life!

Are you prepared for Christmas?

We as the Emmaus community have been blessed with the presence of the Christ Spirit throughout 2004. It's my hope that we can gather in mass on December 4th and celebrate the birth story of Jesus with awe and wonder as a community. O come, all ye faithful and sing from the bottom of your hearts; "O come let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Let us "come and worship" as we are prepare for Christmas! What a joyous way to enter into this holy season with the family of faith as an Emmaus community. May your Christmas be bright in reflection of that holy night.

Merry Christmas,

Dave Weaver

Thoughts from your Lay Director

I first want to thank the Board of Directors for their dedication and hard work this year. Five members will be leaving the board and five new ones will join with two new positions added, Candlelight chairman and Community Education chairman.

Next, I want to thank the community for its support, faith in the Emmaus walk, and continued prayers for the pilgrims and community.

As the Emmaus Board and community are faithful in their efforts to align the preparation, background support, Walk and 4th Days closer to the Upper Room model, we have all been challenged. We need to review Psalm 29:11, "The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses His people with peace."

Now it is time to allow us to be filled with and feel the peace that can only be given by God. Stephanie clearly described in the last newsletter our need for responsible sponsorship, the training required and many of the duties of a sponsor. The training deadline to complete sponsorship training before one can sponsor a pilgrim will be extended to May 2005. This will allow everyone in the

community who wants to sponsor future pilgrims to attend a training session. (Even if you have sponsored in the past, you are required to attend a training session.)

TW Tesche did an excellent job reviewing the new background support structure in the last newsletter. He described the new prayer chapel and the new format of the job boards which will have a common format.

To help decrease the cost, time, and energy spent by future lay directors, the name tags, bed tags, pew tags, and table names will be uniform for each walk. The verse for each walk is Luke 24:13-33 (the Walk to Emmaus verse on which the weekend is based.) Lay directors, however, may adopt a special verse driving team development that has special spiritual meaning for them.

The new prayer chapel will encourage more involvement for continuous prayer support on-site, in addition to the 72-hour prayer vigil. It is separate from the chapel and sanctuary so that the community may be active in prayer without disturbing the pilgrims.

The team will have three ALDs instead of two for additional support in the

conference room. The ALDs will repeat the position before they progress to the possibility of becoming a lay director.

Agape letters will be limited to 12 during the weekend and the sponsor will be responsible in selecting the most important ones from family and friends. Any additional agape usually given on Sunday may be given to the pilgrim on his or her way home.

Remember, 1 Timothy 6:17, "*Trust in God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.*"

Trust in God, have faith in the Holy Spirit to be "in control" during the preparation, walk, and fourth days. The Lord will bless each of us richly when we "allow him to set our paths straight."

May each of you have a blessed Christmas. Join us in the special December gathering of wonderful holiday music, holiday treats and cookies, and warm fellowship as we share agape love with each other.

God Bless,

Suzanne Bowman

Cost of Running the Emmaus Community

Our community is truly blessed by having the use of a permanent facility that is readily available to us. This has allowed us to keep the cost of a weekend to only \$90. Other communities charge up to \$150 and are talking of raising their fees!

Did you know that we spend over \$3000 on meals each time we put on a weekend? Were you aware that we pay \$7.50 to the Upper Room and \$2.50 to HPCUMC for each and every pilgrim that goes on a walk? Do you realize that each time this year that we sent out a newsletter that we spent just under \$1000? Ever hear of or request a scholarship? Well, each one of those cost \$90.

While the pilgrim and team fees do cover the cost of the weekend, it doesn't leave much left over for other improvements that the board of directors would like to undertake. This past year, we've bought several new microphones and even a separate amplifier for the piano. How many of you would still like to have a better sound system at gatherings or candlelight? Yeah, me too. And there are more things that I'm sure the board would do if funding was readily available.

So what can you do? Well, I'd like you to consider making a donation to the community as the calendar year comes to a close. We say at closing not to thank any one. We all do what we do out of agape love for the pilgrims. Whether it be sponsorship, being on a team, being a server, attending candlelight or any of the many other things that it takes to pull off "the best weekend ever", it's all done out of love. However, if you'd like another way to say thank you, please consider financially supporting the community.

We have a few individuals who make a regular donation to the community and I would like to publicly thank them. Next year I'd like to be able to say that our community was so generous that I had to make bank deposits weekly! If you'd like to make a donation, please use the envelope included in this mailing for the newsletter subscription. If you have any questions, please give me a call at home at 513-697-8876 or at work at 513-870-1622. Please make any checks payable to "Greater Cincinnati Emmaus".

DeColores,
Glenn Larson
GCE Treasurer

Interested in Becoming a Sponsor? Here's Something You Won't Want to Miss...

The Greater Cincinnati Emmaus Community is now offering SPONSOR TRAINING for everyone! Conveniently scheduled just prior to the Gathering in December and January, Sponsor Training will provide complete information about the duties and responsibilities of the sponsor – including some of the newer information that everyone is talking about! Planning on serving as a sponsor within the next few months? You definitely won't want to miss this...interested in knowing what being a sponsor involves? Mark your calendar now so that you don't miss this!

SPONSOR TRAINING
Saturday, December 4
6:30 – 7:25 p.m.
Conference Room



Greater Cincinnati Walk To Emmaus Application to Serve on a Weekend

Name: _____

Phone: () _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

My Original Walk Date: ____/____/____ City: _____ Walk #: _____

Church Affiliation: _____

I have NOT worked in an Emmaus Team before

Date of last team worked: ____/____/____ Number of teams worked: _____

I have served as (check all that apply):

Table Leader Asst. Table Leader Music

Background Support Clergy ALD

List talk(s) given: _____

List special talents (music, computer, etc) _____

Special needs: _____

Are you in a reunion or accountability group? Yes No

Indicate Weekend Preferences. Place an X in the appropriate block(s).

Weekend	Dates	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice	3 rd Choice	No Preference
Men's # 74	19-22 May '05				
Women's # 90	16-19 Jun '05				
Men's # 75	20-23 Oct '05				
Women's # 91	17-20 Nov '05				
Men's # 76	19-22 Jan '06				
Women's # 92	16-19 Feb '06				

Please send completed application to:
Ms. Debbie Skidmore
Emmaus Leadership Chair
3665 Bootjack Corner
Williamsburg, OH 45176

2004 Board of Directors *Worshipfully Working Together*

Spiritual Director	Dave Weaver	979-8184
Assistant Spiritual Director	Stephanie Tunison	861-8483
Lay Leader Chair	Suzanne Bowman	722-3502
Vice Chair/Leadership	Bill Schmidt	941-4804
Lay Director Emeritus	George Thompson	314-7522
Secretary	Kathleen Bauer	271-2618
Treasurer	Glenn Larson	697-8876
Agape	Jack & Ev Gillming	831-4540
Chrysalis Rep	Sue Smith	576-6180
Good Shepherd-Men	Steve Marcy	310-7899
Good Shepherd-Women	Joanne Rouse-Clark	351-6263
Literature	Carolyn Zeigler	221-7015
Logistics Coordinator	T.W. Tesche	859-341-7502
Newsletter Editor	David Heflin	wk 753-6800
Newsletter Co-editor	Lori Markovic	528-0217
Outreach	Bill Lindenschmidt	671-7059
Prayer Servant	Phil Reiner	677-1312
Registrar-Men	Lori McIntyre	722-3502
Registrar-Women	Candy Day	965-9114
Social	Bob & Linda Evans	583-5052
Sponsorship-Men	Sue Smith	576-6180
Sponsorship-Women	Mike Day	965-9114
Supplies	Judy Leidy	859-384-7623
Worship	Carol & Phil DeGreg	598-6345
Web Master	Alan Greber	563-1695

CALENDAR

Upcoming Emmaus Walks

Men's Walk # 73

January 20-23, 2004

- Candlelight 1/22, 8:30, Sanctuary
- Closing 1/23, 4:30, Sanctuary

Board Meeting: Tues, January 4, 7:00
 Gathering: Saturday, January 8, 2005
 Gathering: Saturday, February 5, 2005
 Board Meeting: Tues, February 8, 7:00

2005 Walks to Emmaus

Women's Walk #89: Feb. 17-20, 2005
 Men's Walk #74: May 19-22, 2005
 Women's Walk #90: June 16-19, 2005

Please make childcare arrangements before attending candlelight and closings. It is inappropriate for children to be present at these services.

For complete Pilgrim Lists, Applications, Emmaus information and links to other communities, log in at www.cincinnatiemmaus.org

Christ is Counting on You!



De Colores!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

(513) 871-1345
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 1345 Grace Avenue
 Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church
 Greater Cincinnati Community

Emmaus

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