



REYNOLDSBURG
emmaus COMMUNITY

1636 Graham Road
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

APRIL 2009

Return Service Requested



EMMAUS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2009

This is Grace

A man came into the church early Saturday morning during the Women's Walk in March. For the purpose of this story, I'll call him "Bob." He was very distraught and I was moved to compassion as I listened to him speak about how his wife had been murdered less than six months earlier. He was visibly grieving in waves of sobs, mixed with intermittent lucidity, as he described how he had held her in his arms as she died. If I had only one word to describe Bob that word would be "lost." His world had been turned completely upside down and he was lost in a sea of profound grief.

To compound his situation, Bob had lost his job and had recently sent his two kids to stay with some relatives. As I listened to him share his story it became evident that he had not come to ask for anything. He had simply seen signs of life at the church early that morning and decided to come in. Bob said he believed in God and had begun to read the Bible, but felt he

had a lot of work to do to get back on God's good side.

It was then that I talked to Bob about grace. He commented on how he had read about grace in the Bible, but didn't know what it meant. I told him that grace was the unconditional love of God. I went on to explain that grace is freely given to us because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. He nodded and said that made sense to him.

...grace is freely given to us because of what Jesus did for us on the cross.

I asked him if there was anything I could do to help him. He asked me to pray for him and said he needed some gasoline for his car. So we prayed and thanked God for Bob's wife and how much she meant to him. We asked God to give grace to Bob and his kids as they dealt with the pain and grief they were experiencing. And we asked God to provide for their needs. After the prayer I told Bob that I had no money on me but that if he would wait for a few minutes I might be able

to round up twenty dollars. He said that even \$1 would help.

I immediately went to the kitchen where I knew some Emmaus folks were cleaning up after breakfast. I gave them a short synopsis of the situation and within seconds four men opened up their wallets without hesitation. I returned in utter amazement at the generosity of the people in our Emmaus Community, sat down beside Bob, and told him that I did not have \$20 for him. Instead, because of the response of four men in the kitchen, I had \$40 for him! It was then that Bob looked at me and said, "Is this grace?"

Yes, Bob, this is grace.

Stay close to Jesus,

Dave

2009 REYNOLDSBURG EMMAUS COMMUNITY WALK CALENDAR

Men's Walk #60	April 16-19
Women's Walk #79	May 14-17
Women's Walk #80	July 23-26
Men's Walk #61	October 8-11
Women's Walk #81	November 12-15

*Gatherings - the first Tuesday of each month at 7:15pm
(*April 2009 Gathering will be March 31)

Candlelight - Saturday of each walk at 8:30pm. Meet in the Worship Center

Closing - begins at 4:30pm on the Sunday of each walk. Meet in Kirsch Hall

Note: Children & guests are welcome at gatherings; however, candlelight & closings are for those who have attended The Walk to Emmaus.

Reynoldsburg Emmaus Community Web Site: www.rumc.org/emmaus

MEN'S GOOD SHEPHERD - Bill Ulm

Friends in Christ I pray that your 4th days have been blessed and your relationship with Jesus grows closer and more meaningful. As a friendly reminder may I suggest that the "Share Card" can be a strong tool in your becoming closer to Christ. Contemplate each section and answer or speak with reverence. I suggest this because to be very honest, I find myself not getting into the true spirit of the card as it is intended as much as God would want me to. With God's help I pray that we all use the card as intended. Peace be to you.

MEN'S WALK #60 LIVE IN TEAM, APRIL 16-19, 2009		
NAME	ROLE	TALK
Richard Boone	Spiritual Director	Means of Grace
TBA	Asst. Spiritual Director	Prevenient Grace
TBA	Asst. Spiritual Director	Justifying Grace
TBA	Asst. Spiritual Director	Obstacles to Grace
TBA	Asst. Spiritual Director	Sanctifying Grace
Lou Kaser	Lay Director	Perseverance
Monte Adams	Lay Director in Training	
Jeff Myers	Asst. Lay Director	Life in Piety
Dan Collins	Asst. Lay Director	Priority
Darin Foor	Music Director	
Keith Will	Music Director	
Tim Pontious	Technical Director	
Ray Jewell	Table Leader	Discipleship
Lowell Rader	Asst. Table Leader	
Mike Barker	Table Leader	Body of Christ
Jon McIlhargie	Asst. Table Leader	
Bill Davis	Table Leader	Changing Our World
Tom Mayes	Asst. Table Leader	
Butch Muse	Table Leader	Growth Through Study
Jason Herrmann	Asst. Table Leader	
John Miller	Table Leader	Fourth Day
Bill Fencl	Asst. Table Leader	
Kent Brumbaugh	Table Leader	Christian Action
Larry Holter	Asst. Table Leader	Closing Example
Wayne Eaton	Table Leader	Priesthood of All Believers
Scott Helsel	Asst. Table Leader	Closing Example

EMMAUS BOARD 2009	
David Cady Spiritual Director	740-927-3540 dcady@columbus.rr.com
Steve Friece Chairperson	614-866-5864 friece@rumc.org
Paula Stoffel Leadership	614-868-0818 daveds@wideopen-west.com
John Vingle Treasurer	614-866-6489 juanshirl@att.net
Annette Pagura Secretary	740-927-5771 dapagura@insight.rr.com
Kathy Ball Women's Registrar	614-866-8352 cogkathyball@aol.com
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Crystal Dowler Agape	614-557-2176 thedowlers@columbus.rr.com
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Rob Berger Power Point	614-864-3374 rgberger50@wideopen-west.com
Kathi Cover Typist	740-927-0559 kathic@columbus.rr.com
Dave Pagura Computer	740-927-5771 dapagura@insight.rr.com
Kim Rodgers Supplies	614-452-1232 kim.rodgers@hotmail.com

PILGRIM	CHURCH NAME	SPONSOR NAME
Richard Blanton	Summit Station UMC	David Cady
Bill Lott	Asbury UMC South	Bob & Patty Wycuff
Don Acker	House of Prayer	Elton Acker
Richard Gates	House of Prayer	Elton Acker
Butch Wilson	Peace UMC	Scott Hurst
Doug Dahms	Reynoldsburg Church of the Nazarene	Steve Friece
Dan Thurmond	Reynoldsburg UMC	David & Michelle Johnson
Rex Smith	Groveport UMC	Mike Hamier

Check Emmaus link for Pilgrim updates:
www.rumc.org/emmaus/walks/index.html

EMMAUS COMMUNITY SHARE GROUP INFORMATION	
Women's Good Shepherd _____	Men's Good Shepherd _____
NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____	
CITY _____	STATE _____ ZIP _____
HOME PHONE _____	
SHARE GROUP LOCATION _____	
SHARE DAY & TIME _____	
SHARE PARTNERS _____	
Are you willing to accept additional share partners? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
Mail to: Reynoldsburg Emmaus Community 1636 Graham Rd. Reynoldsburg, OH 43068	

IMPORTANT

IF THIS FORM IS NOT RETURNED, YOU WILL NO LONGER RECEIVE NEWSLETTERS BY MAIL AFTER THIS ISSUE!	
Name(s): _____	
Current Address: _____	
Phone: _____	
Pilgrim Walk Community: _____	
# _____	
Mail to:	Reynoldsburg Emmaus Mailing List Reynoldsburg Emmaus Community 1636 Graham Rd. Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Fill out and return only if you must receive a paper copy of the Emmaus Newsletters because you do not have access to a computer or internet.

HOW ARE YOUR "I's" THESE DAYS?

"I" can be one of the most dangerous words we can use in the English language. When we use "I," we are most likely thinking of ourselves rather than others. Jesus always put the will of his Heavenly Father first, and then focused on others, not himself. How likely are we to do the same?

Some of you have served on live in teams and/or the Emmaus Board of Directors. Every team and every board meeting begins with reciting the Emmaus Team Canon or the Emmaus Board Canon. Both of those canons include the phrase "I will use I as little as possible" and "I am an imperfect earthen vessel and am blessed to be here as a servant."

Saying statements like these are perfectly acceptable uses of "I." However, when we begin to use "I" too much, we can often get into trouble.

We are, in fact sinful creatures, because we are humans. "... all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Take a close look at the word **SIN**. What letter do you see right in the middle of "sin?" Isn't it true that most of the time when we are thinking about "I" (that is, ourselves) we are in the midst of sinning in one way or another? The more we can focus on meeting the real needs of others, or helping them to meet those needs themselves in new and better ways, the less likely we are to sin.

How do we do this? How do we stop focusing on "I" and focus on others? One of the things that pleases God most is obeying His word. That's why the word "Bible" has been used to make this acrostic:

B basic
I instruction
B before
L leaving
E earth

The bible is our instruction book for how we should conduct our lives while we are in this temporary human state. If we can make ourselves live in obedience to God's commands, we are much less likely to sin. In fact, look at the word **OBEDIENCE**.

Squarely in the middle of the word obedience is **D-I-E**, die. Obedience means dying to self and following the plan God has laid out for us while we are experiencing this earthly life. Looking even deeper into the word **D-I-E**, you see "I" right in the middle of it. "I" must die to my self each and every day in order to obey God, avoid sin and focus on what He wants me to do to serve others:

O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E
D-I-E
I

How obedient are you these days? God wants you to talk to Him about it!

Grace and peace on the road,



Steve Friece, Emmaus Board Chair
Reynoldsburg Men's Walk #12, Table of Stephen

Each pilgrim is a blessing to our Emmaus community. Have you blessed us lately by sponsoring a pilgrim? Would you like to, but are not sure how? There is sponsorship training every other month at 6:30pm in the chapel. The next training will be before the April gathering on Tuesday March 31. There are Sponsorship handbooks that you can purchase for \$5 at the conclusion of the training. This is a great opportunity to get all those questions answered and to encourage you to take a step toward sponsorship. Don't be shy. Be bold for Christ, and take that next step in your fourth days toward sponsoring a pilgrim. If you have any questions, you may call Barb Acker at 740-964-08114 or Debbie Harmon at 614-837-7987.

SPONSORSHIP TRAINING CHANGES

We began Sponsorship Training several years ago to help you as members of the Emmaus community better understand the sponsorship process and to support you in your efforts to bring this amazing experience to as many believers as possible. This training has been very effective in helping to better equip both sponsors and pilgrims to gain the most from their Emmaus experience.

We have been conducting sponsorship training before the Emmaus gathering each month after an Emmaus walk. This has caused some confusion in that training dates are not easily predictable or remembered. Your Emmaus board has decided to move Sponsorship Training to every even month. Therefore, training will be held prior to the Emmaus gatherings in February, April, June, August, October and December.

The training will continue to be offered in the chapel at 6:30 pm prior to the gathering, and will last no longer than 45 minutes. This ensures that you will be finished in time to attend the gathering. Our next training class will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2009 before the April Gathering at 6:30pm. If you have not attended training before or need a quick refresher, please join us that evening.

EMMAUS WALKS

How will you be the hands and feet of Christ? Sign-up sheets are displayed in the Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church kitchen and in St. Andrew's Hall on the Gathering evenings or call the board representative. Christ gave His life for you. Will you give you hands and feet for Him?

- 24-hour Prayer Vigil
- Carry Luggage
- Bedtime Agape
- Mealtime Agape
- Logistics: Set-up, clean, tear down
- Agape Room
- Kitchen
- Attend Candlelight
- Write Pilgrim Agape

Are you persevering in your walk with Christ? Are you utilizing all the tools you learned on your Walk to Emmaus?

- Seek Discipleship Opportunities
- Serve the Emmaus Community
- Use the Reunion Group Card
- Sunday School Attendance
- Share Group Attendance
- Daily Morning Devotions
- Bible Study Attendance
- Daily Morning Prayer
- Study the Scriptures
- Serve Your Church
- Worship Attendance
- Daily Meditation

2009

NOTE: The normal Gathering date of the first Tuesday of the months in April falls during Holy Week. Since so many of our community will be actively serving in their home churches, the April Gathering will be on Tuesday, March 31.

GATHERINGS (7:15pm)

May 5
June 2
July 7
August 4
September 1
October 6
November 3
December 1

WALK DATES

Men's #60
April 16-19
Women's #79
May 14-17
Women's #80
July 23-26
Men's #61
October 8-11
Women's #81
November 12-15

Register your e-mail address at the Emmaus home page:

<http://rumc.org/emmaus/>
(enter your e-mail at top right of the home page)