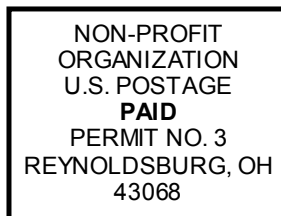




REYNOLDSBURG
emmaus COMMUNITY

1636 Graham Road
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Return Service Requested



OCTOBER 2008



EMMAUS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2008

Spiritual Desperation

One of the great Christian teachings that is emphasized on the Walk to Emmaus, is the need for Christ followers to practice the spiritual disciplines of our faith. We are called to live a life that regularly practices the disciplines of prayer, fasting, Bible study, Communion with Christ, keeping company with the saints, generous giving, and sacrificial service, to name a few. Those who hold fast to these ancient practices know that they readily assist in the development of Christ-like character, and are crucial to the process and experience of spiritual growth.

But what happens when we only see these practices as "disciplines", things we're supposed to do? What happens when we equate our times of devotion with a trip to the gym? Shouldn't we view prayer a little differently than doing 50 sit-ups?

I often sense a closer walk with Christ when I practice these spiritual disciplines, not out of spiritual duty, but out of

The Spiritually desperate do not labor to find words to pray, they simply cry out to Jesus...

spiritual desperation. The times in my life when I know I have truly leaned on Jesus for repose, are when I know I cannot finish the day unless I pray one more time or call to memory one more verse of Scripture. That is what I call spiritual desperation. Perhaps you too have experienced spiritual desperation.

- If you have ever met with your share partner because you needed to and not because you had to, then you might have experienced spiritual desperation.
- If you have ever woke up at 3am and felt the need to pray and found yourself saying "amen" as your alarm was going off three hours later, then you might have experienced spiritual desperation.

- If you have ever had some extra money come your way and you immediately begin to seek ways to give it away, then you might have experienced spiritual desperation.
- If you have ever stood in line for Communion and been moved to tears by the reality of God's grace, then you might have experienced spiritual desperation.

The spiritually desperate do not struggle to find the time to read the Bible, they find it difficult to ignore the hunger that they have for God's Word. The spiritually desperate do not labor to find words to pray, they simply cry out to Jesus and allow "deep to call out to deep." The spiritually desperate do not resist an invitation to serve others, in fact, they usually don't wait to be asked. May we all be so spiritually desperate.

Stay close to Jesus,

Dave

2008 REYNOLDSBURG EMMAUS COMMUNITY WALK CALENDAR

Men's Walk #58 October 9-12
Women's Walk #77 November 13-16

Gatherings - the first Tuesday of each month at 7:15pm
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

SPONSORSHIP MOVING TO E-MAIL COMMUNICATION

In an effort to save money and improve turn-around time, Emmaus sponsorship communications will now be sent via e-mail whenever possible. We have been collecting e-mail addresses from pilgrims and sponsors for the past several walks, and we are now using them to notify sponsors that their pilgrim will be attending an upcoming walk.

To be sure e-mail we are sending does not end up in your "junk" or "trash" folder, please add EmmausSponsorship@gmail.com to your address book. If you have any questions please contact us at this e-mail address or call 614-751-1204.

DeColores,

Doug Theiss
Sponsorship Co-Chairperson

MEN'S WALK #58 LIVE IN TEAM, OCTOBER 9-12, 2008		
NAME	ROLE	TALK
David Cady	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
Doug Theiss	Lay Director	Perseverance
Darin Lukich	Lay Director in Training	
Hans Dreyer	Asst. Lay Director	Discipleship
Mike Allen	Asst. Lay Director	Priority
Dave Pagura	Table Leader	Fourth Day
Josh Boyer	Asst. Table Leader	
John Vingle	Table Leader	Body of Christ
Dale Holter	Asst. Table Leader	
Jon Bowsher	Table Leader	Changing Our World
Scott Hartman	Asst. Table Leader	
Bob Willey	Table Leader	Growth Through Study
Elton Acker	Asst. Table Leader	
Randy Higgenbotham	Table Leader	Life in Piety
Ken Ohrablo	Asst. Table Leader	
Jay Stanley	Table Leader	Christian Action
Scott Gettinger	Asst. Table Leader	
Greg LaPaugh	Table Leader	Priesthood of All Believers
Dan Litzinger	Asst. Table Leader	

PILGRIM	CHURCH NAME	SPONSOR NAME
Scott Turner	Reynoldsburg UMC	Guy Harmon
Ron Stebelton	Lithopolis UMC	Jim Morgan
Charles Moody	S. Bloomfield UMC	Floyd Hubbell
John Dodgion	Eastside Grace Brethren	David Stoffel
Terry Hill	Nazarene	Tonya Winters
Billy Ray Culver	Gospel Tabernacle Ministries	Ed Overturf
Tom Folk	Pataskala Nazarene	Melissa Folk
Timothy Wertman	Etna UMC	Londa Wertman
Trevor Fruchey	Vineyard Church of Columbus	Doug/Aimee Decker
Kenneth Mayfield	Reynoldsburg UMC	Randy Webber
Charles Sheets	Grace Brethren	Jim Kirk
Bruce Bailey	Summit Station UMC	David Cady
William Kiser	Fellowship Baptist	Mike Allen/Butch Muse
Michael Bates	Grove City Nazarene	Jim Carter
Jacob Thomas	Bible Chapel	Dale Holter
Daniel Clegg	Brice UMC	Dan Jones
Gary Ell	Village Chapel UMC	Dan Letzinger
Thomas Hott	Greater Columbus Freewill Baptist	Kelly Hott
Eddie Reynolds	Greater Columbus Freewill Baptist	Kelly Hott
Perry Passen	Village Chapel UMC	Dan Letzinger

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 _____ (please print clearly)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____

SHARE GROUP LOCATION _____

SHARE DAY & TIME _____

SHARE PARTNERS _____

Are you willing to accept additional share partners? ___yes ___no

Mail to: Reynoldsburg Emmaus Community / 1636 Graham Rd. / Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

IS YOUR INFO CURRENT?

Help us keep our mailing list current by sending the following information to Dave Pagura at dpagura@insight.rr.com, or mail to the address at the bottom of this form.

Name(s): _____

Current Address: _____

Phone: _____

New Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Original Community: _____

I will utilize the web newsletter and no longer need a mailed copy.

Effective Date: _____

Mail to: Reynoldsburg Emmaus Mailing List
 1636 Graham Rd. Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

"It is in the shelter of each other that the people live." Irish proverb

God created us to be in community with one another as well as with Him. More and more I am struck by how lonely some people are becoming. It is possible to bank, shop, pay bills, fill up your gasoline tank, be entertained, work at your job - all without personal contact with others. Somehow, this goes against all that God intended when he created the human race. True community is exhibited by the second chapter of the book of Acts. The Walk to Emmaus is one of the best expressions of such true community today. But our culture as a whole seems to be moving more and more away from such a model. Those of us who have experienced the Walk have the means available to us to continue a life in community. I wonder if we stop to realize what blessings we have available to us, and if we are committed to using them?

If you've attended any of the closings of recent Walks in our community, you've seen how the importance of participation in a share group has been emphasized. Membership in a share group is the most common way pilgrims continue to be involved in the Emmaus movement. Those who regularly participate in a share group know and love the blessings the group brings. Recently, God has been convicting me that it is not enough to just encourage new pilgrims as well as the rest of our community to participate in a share group. While stressing the importance of the share group is good, it is also crucial that share groups are conducted in the manner they are intended to operate. If we as a community are not in share groups or are not following the guidelines of authentic share groups, then our community is not remaining true to the essence of the Walk to Emmaus and the life in community that God intended. Some recent conversations with and comments from community members have led me to conclude that perhaps our community should revisit those elements of an authentic share group.

First, does the group meet regularly? If attendance is sporadic, the share group

is not a priority. The first talk of the weekend reminds us that we do, in fact, make time for those things that are important to us. Most certainly, there are going to be times when attendance is not possible, but consistent attendance is crucial for spiritual development and for the group to be effective.

Is the group committed to confidentiality? Nothing can be more detrimental to authentic sharing than violating the trust that "what is shared in the group stays in the group." Concerns and prayer requests offered in the group are intended to remain confidential. To violate that confidentiality goes against everything meaningful in the Emmaus movement.

Does the group "follow the card?" Each part of the share group card is important. Skipping some parts, or even worse, not using the card at all defeats the purpose of the share group and demeans the reason for the group. It is not intended to be just a social gathering, but a guide for study, spiritual growth, Christian action, and accountability to fellow Christians.

Do the members of the share group hold each other accountable? "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17) While each of us is ultimately responsible for our spiritual walk, the counsel and support of others, as well as the importance of answering to them is so important in spiritual formation. Not only does holding others accountable help them, but it also helps each of us in our own Christian walk. No matter what occurs, in all cases display the grace that God extends to His children. Even if some members of your share group are a challenge, remember this message from Susan L. Taylor, an editor, *"Be grace. Wield love as your only weapon, and you place yourself on the path to self-mastery, bountiful blessings and the perfect peace we are all longing for."*

Blessings as you press on toward the goal,



Steve Friece
Emmaus Board Chair

SPONSORSHIP TRAINING

This is a reminder to everyone that sponsorship training is available prior to every Gathering following a Walk at 6:30pm in the Chapel. We will conclude in plenty of time for you to fellowship and attend the Gathering.

For those of you who have never sponsored an individual, this is a great opportunity to discuss all aspects of sponsorship that are essential in doing your part to ensure that your pilgrim has their best possible experience.

Even if it has been a while since you have sponsored someone and you just want to brush up on things, you are also welcome and encouraged to drop in and refresh your memory.

Sponsorship handbooks are available for \$5 at the conclusion of the training if desired. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Stoffel at 614-868-0818, or by e-mail at dstoffel@advancedcivildesign.com.

DeColores,
Dave Stoffel
Sponsorship Co-Chairperson

SUBSCRIBE TO THE REYNOLDSBURG EMMAUS COMMUNITY

E-MAIL LIST

RECEIVE E-MAIL REMINDERS ABOUT SPECIAL EVENTS, GATHERINGS, WALKS, AND CANDLELIGHTS!

GO TO rumc.org and scroll to the bottom of the home page. Click on Emmaus Community under "Sites of Interest" and find the Signup for Emmaus E-mails at the top. Enter your e-mail address and you will be added to the mailing list!

AGAPE REMINDERS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, this is a friendly reminder about Agape. We need to limit our Agape to letters only due to the size of envelopes we use. Some have been sending books and packages, which are difficult to fit in the manila envelopes, so if we could limit Agape to letters only, it would help us out tremendously. Large Agape items should be shared with the pilgrim upon returning home.

- For both men's and women's walks, we need 38 pieces of agape for bedtime and 63 pieces for meals. It is helpful if you indicate the number of pieces in each package.
- Consider listing only your share group meeting time and place on your agape as a form of humble servanthood.
- Agape (not letters) from the community is first distributed to the pilgrims at bedtime on Friday. Team members may receive agape each night. Table leaders and clergy also receive letters before talks. Please specify on the envelope the day you wish the agape to be delivered.
- When writing multiple agape letters, please help us by alphabetizing them prior to placing them in a bundle.
- The agape room must be dismantled Saturday night. It would be very helpful if you would drop off your agape before candlelight.
- Sponsors who are holding their pilgrim's agape, but have not dropped it off by the Saturday morning of the walk, please notify Karen Nuzum.
- Sponsors, also notify Karen if your pilgrim is unable to attend a walk.

Karen Nuzum, Agape Chairperson, 614-834-5457
Paul Collins, Agape Co-chairperson

NOTE: A special thank you to the Re:generation women's home group who are supplying balloons for the remainder of the walks this year. The Lord blesses in so many ways!

Thanks also goes out to the GREAT HARVEST BREAD COMPANY for donating all the Communion bread for our Walks and Gatherings. Visit them at 801 Hill Rd. N. Pickerington, 614-920-0095

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

EMMAUS BOARD 2008

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Paula Stoffel Leadership	614-868-0818 daveds@wideopen-west.com
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Dave Pagura Computer	740-927-5771 dpagura@insight.rr.com
Nellie Hancock Supplies	614-86-5899 nelliedavesgirl@yahoo.com