

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 8 ~ Issue 2

February 2012

What is Love?

by Heather Pullins, Community Lay Director

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV

Love . . . What is Love... How do you define it? How are you Loved? How do share Love?

When you attended your Walk to Emmaus, did you feel Christ's Love for you? I sure did. I think it was the most important answer that I came home with. God loves me! He always has and He always will! I was a pretty new Christian when I went on my walk, and I was eager to learn. I was trying not to anticipate, but you know how hard that is! I knew it was going to be a good experience, I knew so many friends who had attended before me. I didn't know that it was going to be one of the best things that I'd ever done in my life! I have always had love in my life – my parents, my husband, my children, my friends and family. However, I was not recognizing God's love because I didn't understand it. I didn't realize how easy it was! My eyes were truly opened on my Walk to Emmaus.

How can you share God's Love? You can sponsor someone to attend the Walk to Emmaus. If you haven't sponsored anyone yet, I encourage you to do so. It is a fantastic way to share God's love and your own love to others. To be part of the experience with family and friends is awesome. Watching them grow in the Lord is amazing. If you have not yet attended a sponsorship class, you will just need a co-sponsor (someone who has attended a sponsorship class)! Applications can be found on the website at www.southernohioemmaus.com.

You can also share God's love by volunteering to serve on an Emmaus weekend. You can serve on Agape, Logistics, or be called to serve in the conference room. You can participate in the weekend events from anywhere in the world by being on the 72 hour prayer vigil! Prayer is a vital part of the weekend! The prayer vigil shows the communities love for the Pilgrims, bathing them in prayer for the entire weekend! Volunteer forms can also be found on the website listed above. Please fill out a volunteer form each year. The volunteer forms are an important way to keep information current and communicate your areas of interest.

I hope to see you at the Gatherings, Candlelight, Closings, the Summer Picnic and any other events that our community offers!

Upcoming Events

February

26th 2:00 p.m.
Emmaus & Chrysalis Board Meetings
3:00 p.m.
Gathering
First UMC, New Lexington

March

25th 2:00 p.m.
Emmaus & Chrysalis Board Meetings
3:00 p.m.
Gathering
First UMC, New Lexington

April

29th 2:00 p.m.
Emmaus & Chrysalis Board Meetings
3:00 p.m.
Gathering
First UMC, New Lexington

*Women's Spring Walk
#52*

*March 15th – March 18th
Camp Akita*

*Men's Spring Walk #52
April 12th-15th
Camp Akita*





Chrysalis Retreat to be Re-Scheduled

The Chrysalis Retreat and planning meeting scheduled for March 3rd from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM is temporarily cancelled and will be re-scheduled. When the new date is announced mark your calendar and please attend this important planning event.

Donations are Important

By Greg Rush, Treasurer

Have you ever thought of your giving to Southern Ohio Emmaus as an act of Agape? Your financial gifts during Candlelight and Monthly Gatherings help us to keep our fees low for new pilgrims. For each pilgrim sponsored last year, we needed about \$30 over and above the application fee just to cover expenses. Without your giving, we would need to increase our fees. Our pilgrim fee has been \$125 since our last increase in 2008. We already know that our expenses for the 2012 walks are increasing and we really want to keep our fees the same as they've been for four years. To accomplish this we need your support more than ever. Thank you for your continued loving support of the Southern Ohio Emmaus community!

Make a Joyful Noise

By Betty Clark, Music Chair

In Emmaus we worship and give praises to God in several ways, one of them being through music. We're instructed to "Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord" in *Ephesians 5:19*. You can make music one of your gifts of agape by bringing your talent (and instruments) and help with music at candlelight and gatherings or by volunteering to provide special music at a gathering.

If you are being lead to serve with music, I encourage you to contact me or to fill out the volunteer sheet and "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord".

Gathering Time

Reminder: There is a Gathering for all members of the Southern Ohio Emmaus and Chrysalis Community - 3:00 pm, Sunday, February 26th at First United Methodist Church in New Lexington. If you have not attended a Gathering lately, we think you will be pleasantly surprised. We encourage all to come and musicians to come with instruments.

We Need You to Work Agape & Logistics for Emmaus

Logistics

Tom Parrish
3285 Meadowbrook Dr.
Lancaster, OH 43130
740-687-0910
thparrish@columbus.rr.com

You are needed behind the scenes to work Agape or Logistics. Please contact one of our chairs if you can work all weekend or just a day or even part of a day if that is all you can do. Thank you for serving.

Agape

Cathy Powell
1852 Mill St.
Albany, OH 45701
740-698-6145
cpowell11669@yahoo.com

*Women's Spring Walk #52
March 15th – March 18th
Camp Akita*

*Men's Spring Walk #52
April 12th-15th
Camp Akita*

Fee Schedule

Weekend Fees

<i>Pilgrim Fee</i>	<i>\$125</i>
<i>Team Member</i>	<i>\$120</i>
<i>Logistics & Agape</i>	<i>\$75</i>

**scholarships are still available for ½ Pilgrim Fee, Don't ever let money stop you from sponsoring someone ready to experience Emmaus. Ask a board member for a sponsorship for your pilgrim or if you would like to donate to the Pilgrim Scholarship Fund.*



Keep God in Your Walk of Life, Son

by Tracy Simmons

This morning my son will begin his second day at Chrysalis, the young-adult adaptation of the Walk to Emmaus. Part of this weekend of worship, prayer and fellowship will include letters from close friends and family. This is the letter he will open from Mom:

You received an amazing gift New Year's Eve weekend. Sometimes folks get saved, show up to church most Sundays thereafter and never linger long on the notion of a relationship with Christ. Never mind going "all-in."

You were saved already, but at Winter Ramp I saw you transformed. Your passion and boldness for Christ makes Mom stop and re-examine her own faith. Remember this feeling, hold it tightly. Spiritual highs are, well -- awesome. I pray that you get to live in that Awesome state of mind often.

I pray that heavens pour out on you richness and abundance every day of your life. But know that there may be days, or months or years in which God will choose to be silent. In the course of living a fully committed Christian life, there may be days when you pray to heavens that seem made of brass. It is then that you need the underpinnings of faith to understand that even in the silence you are still smack dab in the middle of His will. He will never abandon you. Read the Bible for yourself. Don't be the baby bird who waits to be fed a regurgitated version of the real thing. Don't let the onionskin be daunting -- you can write in your Bible, and you should.

Pray as you read for the revelation you need for the day, and that the words become anchored in your heart. Someday you may delight in reading some of the great Christian writers. John Bunyan talks about the journey in *Pilgrim's Progress* -- an allegory that's over 300 years old. Don't be turned off by the age of the book. The truth is timeless, and the threads woven through a Christian's journey are much the same, generation to generation.

I hope you'll discover C. S. Lewis along the way. He was an atheist once, before he was transformed like you. There's a book I have by a guy named John MacArthur which will plop you on your rear, challenge you to know what it is you really believe. There is, of course, time for all that.

Stay in church, and in the fellowship of other believers. Don't get caught up in who goes to what church in town, or which flavor their faith is. When your spirit gets tired, these are the folks who will hold up your arms until the battle is won, like Aaron and Hur did with Moses.

Never underestimate the walk someone else is on. My God is a gentleman, who desires a relationship with his children above all else. That process looks different for each person. They may sprint to certain milestones, and crawl to others. Sometimes you have to let them be. It may not look like a supernatural perfecting from the outside, but trust me, it is. Then again, God has granted you a gift of boldness. I pray that you will be led to step on toes once in awhile, to jar people out of their comfort zones.

You don't know this, but my mother prayed fervently that her only son would grow up to be a preacher. Ultimately, my brother chose a different path than the one he was anointed for, but I like to think perhaps her prayer is renewed in you. She would be so proud of you.

Whether you grow up to preach or minister or teach or play the flute or rehabilitate drug addicts -- I promise, I'll put no limits on your ministry, except this one: Go change lives. Don't back down. Do not falter. His hand is upon you. And know this. There is nothing -- and I mean nothing -- you can do in life that will make Mom stop loving you. Being a mom is like that. One day when you bring me a grandchild, you'll understand how complete and unbending the love I have for you is. While you are in the middle of that epiphany I hope you'll have another: This is how completely God loves His children too.

Not in the "I love all y'all," sort of way you might love the universe, but you. Individually. For exactly who you are and where you dream of going. I love you, son. See you tomorrow.



2012 Southern Ohio Emmaus Board of Directors

This is the current contact list of our Board of Directors. Keep this list so you can contact the board with questions, concerns, and ideas. Please keep the board in your prayers as they serve the Lord and our community.

Spiritual Director

Ricci Arthur
395 Mae St
Logan, OH 43138
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Newsletter

Andy Ellinger (2013)
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Note: Each board member's name is followed by the year their term ends

Updated: February 22, 2012

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Board Chairperson

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

