



Walk to
Emmaus
FILE UPPER ROOM

L.O.V. Emmaus Community

Limestone-Ohio Valley Emmaus Community

Spring Issue

L.O.V.E. COMMUNITY NEWS

April

While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and walked with them.

Luke 24:15

Upcoming Events:

- Gathering April 24
- Ruggles Clean-Up: April 28 (9:00 am) & April 30 (5:00 pm)
- Men's Walk #13: May 3—6
- Gathering May 22

IMPORTANT NOTE:

All Community Gatherings are held at 7:00 p.m. at Washington United Methodist Church

If possible, please bring a snack to share!

Board of Directors:

4/24/07 at 5:45 pm
5/22/07 at 5:45 pm

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Change a Life - Sponsor Someone!

Sometimes we wish that we could find some simple thing to do that would make a great deal of difference in someone's life. Being called to do God's work can seem to be an overwhelming task at times. As we all know, the good news is that God helps us with this, and I believe one of the helps that He has given us is this little thing called the Emmaus Walk. One of the best and most simple things you can do to make a vast difference in someone's life is to be a sponsor for them and welcome them into the strong and faithful Emmaus Community.

Don't make any assumptions—you may be surprised who would be absolutely delighted to go. There are people out there just waiting for a little nudge to make the decision. When I was first asked to go on my walk, I don't think I had even heard of Emmaus. I was at a point in life where I wasn't even sure if I was worthy. All it took was a bit of gentle persuasion from a fellow church member, who I didn't even really know at the time, but since have come to know very well—which, by the way, is another one of those things I mentioned that have made a difference in my life since my Walk. I just can't put into words how much difference that one slight gentle persuasion by someone I hardly knew has developed into such radical changes in me and in my walk with God. I am thoroughly convinced that had I not been a part of such a wonderful community in Emmaus and supported by a great group of friends I have met within the community, I would have drifted far from the path I should be following.

Don't be discouraged if someone you approach does not accept your invitation. Even if the person you have asked does not decide to go this time, at least you have planted the seed and you have let them know that someone takes interest in their spirituality, which can be a very powerful thing... you have been a part of opening the door for greater things in that person's spiritual journey. The seed you planted will grow when the time is right; whether that time is immediate or several years later. You may never know the effect you have on someone simply by showing this interest and being an ambassador of God in that person's life.

Think about the opportunities that your sponsor has opened up for you. Aren't you glad your sponsor stepped out of their comfort zone and approached you? Aren't you glad your sponsor didn't think you were "not the type"? Aren't you glad your sponsor didn't decide it would be "too much trouble"? Do what your sponsor has done for you for someone else. Take it from me, they will hold a dear spot in their heart for you, and you will be doing one of the greatest things I know of to help them grow in their Spiritual journey... and what a wonderful journey it is!

For questions/comments on Sponsorship, please don't hesitate to contact me.

*DeColores,
Dave Lewis
Sponsorship Chair
513-312-5797
Spoonsorship@LOVEmmaus.org*

EXPERIENCE Spring



April Showers



As I sat down at the computer to submit an article for our newsletter, I pondered on what I would say. I know the definition of "volunteering", but decided to see what I could find when I did a search on the word, "volunteer". Here is just a few of the things I found on "volunteering".

First the definition – the word **volunteer** is a verb which means to offer oneself as a volunteer, to offer or bestow.

Since my students love to use Wikipedia, I went to their site to see what they had to say about the word.

Wikipedia says:

A **volunteer** is someone who serves in a community primarily because they choose to do so. Many serve through a non-profit organization – sometimes referred to as formal volunteering, but a significant number also serve less formally, either individually or as part of a group. By definition, a volunteer worker does not get paid or receive compensation for services rendered.

They also give motivation and reward reasons on the site:

Motivations and Rewards

Each person's motivations will be unique — but will often be a combination of the following:

- **Altruism** – volunteering for the benefit of others. Most people argue that there are no purely altruistic volunteers – altruism is a common motivation but never the only motivation for sustained commitment to serve – there is always some aspect of personal gain or satisfaction
- **Quality of Life** — serving community because doing service makes ones own life better — is perhaps the most significant motivation for volunteering. It is often mixed with a good dose of altruism. Included here would be the benefits people get from being with other people, staying active, and above all having a sense of the value of ourselves in society that may not be as clear in other areas of life.
- **Giving Back** — many people have in some way benefited from the work of an organization, or more generally, and volunteer to give back.
- **Religious Conviction** — Many faiths hold that service to others or the community is a spiritual duty or a means of reaching higher spiritual states.
- **Social Reasons** — Volunteering is a good way to meet a lot of different people from other walks of life and it is often easy to make new friends.

I find the motivation and reward to be God's servant, his hands and feet. I looked up scriptures about serving. There are several. One of my favorite is in **Deuteronomy 10:12** **Serve** the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Another verse, **1 Corinthians 12:4-6** 4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are different kinds of **service**, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

Get involved with the upcoming Walks. There are several ways to do this:

1. Bring a friend or a share group and volunteer to clean Ruggles for the Walks.
2. Make agape for the Walks.
3. Sponsorship – if God lays a name on your heart – then pray for that person and approach them about attending a Walk.
4. Cook a meal or serve a meal.
5. Clean up after a Walk.
6. Serving on a team.

These are just to name a few. Pray and ask God how He wants you to become a "volunteer" to do his work.

*De Colores,
Walene and Donnie Bennett
Volunteer Coordinators
volunteers@lovemmaus.org*

Pilgrims—Men's Walk #13

Robert Brookover
Larry Brumley
Buddy Cropper
Kevin Doyle
Ian Greene
Rick Kragler
Steve Kratzenberg
Tony Liess
Danny Mercer
Daniel Miller
Ryan Mountjoy
Denny Perkins
Benji Queen
Joe Robinson
Jeff Shields
Marlin Shoemaker
Steve Triplett

Pilgrims—Women's Walk #14

Terry Barger
Linda Beasley-Bradford
Lauren Brown
Amanda Calvert
Carol Dugan
Sheila Euth
Judy Gambill
Carolyn Head
Katie Kragler
Lynn Kragler
Karen Lewis
Michelle Mills
Judy Robinson
Wilma Simmers

*Please be in prayer, **specifically by name**, for these pilgrims who are answering God's call to participate in our upcoming walks. We ask that they have open ears, minds, and hearts to receive whatever He has in store for them!*

Men's Walk #13 Team News

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

It is almost here—Men's Walk #13!!! Excitement doesn't even begin to describe the feelings of the team for this walk. Please pray for our team and the pilgrims.

Thanks for all your help and prayers. I can't wait to see what God has planned for us!!!

*In Christian love,
Jim Pyle—Lay Director
Men's Walk #13*

Women's Walk #14 Team News

I am so excited and nervous about the task ahead, but from experience I know that God is in control and everything will go as He has planned.

I have chosen Psalms 46:10; "Be still and know that I am God" as my scripture for the weekend. This is what God usually has to remind me to do often. Be still I found is not just sitting and doing nothing. I found a reading in a devotional book I will share with you that gives an awesome definition of being still." It is taken from the book "Because of the Cross."

"Because of the Cross:" I Can Be Still.

Being still is not surfing TV channels with a remote.
Being still is not mindless reading.
Being still is not sitting at a red light.
Being still is not turning off the ringer of the phone.
Being still is not watching a sunset.
Being still is not lingering over lunch.
Being still is not sipping coffee.
Being still is not taking a nap.
Being still is not holding you beloved's hand.
Being still is not keeping your on the ball.
Being still is not sitting quietly in a church pew.

BEING STILL IS SITTING AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

God has already given me an awesome team and I am looking forward to seeing the things He is going to do in the lives of the Pilgrims and Team.

*DeColores,
Theresa Mallory—Lay Director
Women's Walk #14*

LOVE

Men's Walk #13 Women's Walk #14 Team Members

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Spiritual Director | Ray Snider | Charles Mallory |
| - Assistant | Bill Henry | Les Grooms |
| Lay Director | Jim Pyle | Theresa Mallory |
| -Assistants | Tim Naylor | Kathy Weber |
| | Phil Brown | Angie Bowling |
| | George Smith | Linda Ratcliff |
| Board Rep. | | Rebecca Smith |
| Table Leaders | Dell Click | Janet Lester |
| | Alan Leonard | Jutta King |
| | Bob Smith | Tracy Berry |
| | John Bisotti | Elise Starkey |
| | Tom Tavis | Sally Teegarden |
| | | Denise Burke |
| -Assistants | Michael Starkey | Floretta Rice |
| | Dave Lewis | Peggy Rice |
| | Fred Kragler | Kay Marshall |
| | Al Winters | Vernice Smith |
| | Alan Hughes | Lisa Leonard |
| | | April Henderson |
| Music Director | Roger Cheesbro | Amanda Snodgrass |
| -Assistants | | |
| Prayer Servants | Tim Teegarden | Sandy Penrod |
| | Wayne Harper | Julia Warner |
| Logistics | Terry Miller | Cyndi Frodge |
| | Mike Burke | Jill Evans |
| | | Tammy Unger |
| Techno-Log | Jeff Frodge | Rebecca Smith |

Please pray for our team members, that they will serve in humility, and with gratitude for the opportunity. That they will be reminded that the Holy Spirit calls for their love, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self control in all things!

SPRING



Dear Community,

A huge "Thank You" to all who have already signed up to work in the kitchen for the Men's Walk! After the last Gathering it looks like we still need the following from individuals and/or Share Groups:

- Thursday evening – To help serve, to furnish desserts, to furnish drinks;
- Friday dinner – To serve and/or to provide the meal or a portion of the meal for 40 to 50 people (i.e. the salad, potato dish, vegetable, hot bread, dessert);
- Saturday evening – Team Spouses/Family, to be servers and provide entertainment, need sign up for a great evening!;
- Sunday lunch – To help serve.

Sign up sheets will be at the next gathering for the Women's Walk – any help you can provide will be appreciated.

*Thanks again! DeColores,
Kay Grooms
Kitchen Chair*

Walking Together with Christ

The design for the Walk to Emmaus 4-day weekend is to slowly draw the Pilgrim away from their worldly cares and closer to our Lord and Savior. This begins by taking away their watches, their keeping mum about their professions and keeping silence through the first night. Of course they won't forget about all their worldly concerns but they can begin to think more of what is really meaningful in life on earth. The Pilgrims are well fed – I'm sure all will admit to that, but even the menus are to start low key and build up to the Candlelight feast on Saturday night – a taste of what Heaven will be like (and I am not talking just about food!). Then it is necessary to start preparing for reentry into the real world once again – from the mountain top into the valley as they go home on Sunday.

The design for the weekend has been in the planning and works for years and years by more capable lay people and clergy than most of us are. So when the very first share group of which Al and I were participants started thinking and praying about having an Emmaus Community in northern Kentucky and Southern Ohio, we didn't question about the set-up. We did our very best to work within the guidelines. There are just four of us left now – Lynn and Betty Eberly, Al Rhonemus and myself. That was over ten years ago and the time has come for us to "let go and let God" take the Limestone Ohio Valley Emmaus Community on to its fulfillment. Whether or not it will continue to grow or whether it will fold depends, we believe, on whether or not the present Board and the upcoming teams are consistent in following the plans and living up to their stated commitments. There seems always to be someone(s) who thinks they can do it better and really get their feelings hurt if someone tries to draw them back to the original design. They are like new Christians who think God is going to go their way instead of His wanting us to go His Way. And then they become disenchanted when this doesn't happen and so they fall away. It hurts when we see this happen and we know it not only grieves us but God Himself. They become resentful and unforgiving. And what does God's Word say about that?

There are a lot of you out there that were once very active in our LOVE Community that aren't anymore. We just want you to know that you are sorely missed. We can only pray that it is just the Community you have forsaken and not our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I guess I just need to second Tim Naylor's motion, "If you don't do anything else today, just forgive." That is the key to walking with Christ. And, oh my, how much He and we want you to be walking together with us.

*De Colores,
Patty Rhonemus
Wilmington Area Walk #5
Table of Ruth*

From the Community Lay Director

Committing to *THE WALK TO EMMAUS* Ministry as The LOVE Community

Each year the local governing body of the Walk to Emmaus movement is asked to review and renew its letter of agreement with the Upper Room International Emmaus Office. This was done at the January Gathering. By signing the Letter of Agreement, the group is agreeing to conduct the Emmaus program in a manner that is faithful to the following statements:

- The local governing body will be organized and will conduct its business in accordance with the Emmaus Office guidelines in a manner that honors Christ and His church.
- The local governing body will carry out the three-phase method of Emmaus in accordance with the most recent edition of *The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus* and the most recent edition of The Upper Room manuals. The three-phase method includes:
 - Pre-event phase – a plan for sound recruitment, communication about, and proper preparation of participants and team for their three-day experience;
 - Event phase – separate three-day events for men and women, using the Emmaus Office outlines for the 10 lay and 5 clergy talks; and
 - Post-event phase – a follow-up plan that includes group reunions, monthly gatherings, and leadership training for increasing the effectiveness of providing spiritual renewal for local church involvement.
- The Emmaus program invites interdenominational, interracial and international participation, and fosters a spirit of Christian acceptance and unity.

There are 15 statements in all, committing to the Walk to Emmaus program. The Emmaus Office seeks to continually improve the Emmaus ministry. May we of The LOVE Community become increasingly faithful in carrying out our Lord's Work through this ministry.

*De Colores,
Georgjean Shelton
LOVE Community
Lay Director*

From The Good Shepherds

As the spring Men's and Women's Walks approach, I wanted to take the opportunity to share with you what an Emmaus Group Reunion is. The Upper Room handbook "*The Group Reunion*" states it like this:

"The Emmaus group reunion is a small accountability group of two to six persons who have usually participated in the three-day Walk to Emmaus and who want to continue their personal pursuit of a life lived wholly in the grace of God.

These small follow-up groups help pilgrims translate the message conveyed on the Walk to Emmaus weekend into a daily walk with Christ. With the regular support of a few faithful friends, the gift of God's love in Jesus Christ becomes a lifestyle of Christian discipleship through the threefold discipline of piety, study, and action.

Group reunions have a common purpose: to help us persevere in grace. Group reunions undergird our desire to carry those aspects of the three-day experience that we most value and that are fundamental to our formation as faithful Christian disciples into our everyday lives."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.

DeColores,

*Alison Dunn—The Good Shepherd
GoodShepherd@lovemmaus.org*

From The Spiritual Director

Emmaus is many things to many people. Each of us who have been pilgrims on an Emmaus Walk have our own very personal ideas and memories about a Walk to Emmaus. It is a sonic blast of God's agape love given to us by a part of the community of the faithful. It is a challenge sometimes to our preconceived notions of faith that allows us to become open to new faith adventures. The Emmaus Walk is a time of personal spiritual introspection helping us to discover who we are and where we are spiritually. It is also a time of meeting new sisters and brothers in Christ, making bonds of faith and love that will last forever. Emmaus is hearing both lay and clergy talks but is also time to listen to God speak in moments of silence in times of outspoken joy.

Emmaus was a time of rescue for Sharon and myself. It was a time to let sisters and brothers help us see God's love in us and God's love in them. Emmaus kept us floating on the seas of faith when otherwise we might have gone under. Our walks helped us forgive ourselves and others and find new ways to serve and new avenues of affirmation for our faith. My good feelings about Emmaus are well founded in the results coming to both Sharon and I. We become renewed and able to both live and to die for Christ.

Let us all do everything to sponsor pilgrims on the upcoming Walk to Emmaus, giving them the time, love, affirmation, rescue and challenge that we experienced.

DeColores,

Bro. Ray Snider

Community Spiritual Director

In other news . . .

- **Les Grooms** has been elected for a three year term on the governing board of the Greater Scioto Valley Emmaus. He is one of three clergy that serve on the board. In addition to sponsoring four Emmaus Walks in Chillicothe, Ohio, the board also oversees the four Chrysalis Flights that take place in Portsmouth and the two Kairos Walks that take place in the Ross County Correctional Institution.

The board is also planning to sponsor a Torch Walk which is like the Kairos Walk only it is aimed toward juveniles who are incarcerated.

- **A Note from the Registrar:**

How do I get my pilgrim the walk list?

You can find an application on the website or you can let me know and I can send you one. The pilgrim must fill out

the application form. You, as the sponsor, must fill out the sponsor section on the back and then send it in with the \$15 deposit to: LOVE Community PO Box 454 Maysville, KY. 41056. If you need an application or have questions, feel free to contact me at 606-759-4899 or ngeorge@courika.com.

The next two walks are:

- Men's Walk #13: May 3-6, 2007 and
- Women's Walk #14: June 7-10, 2007.

These walks are God's walks and He knows each name that should be there. So, I challenge you to listen to God on the individual that you should sponsor. Take time to pray about that name and don't be afraid to ask questions about sponsoring.

DeColores!

Nicole George—Registrar





Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM

L.O.V.Emmaus Community
Limestone-Ohio Valley Emmaus Community

Upcoming Walk Dates Announced!

Men's #13: May 3-6, 2007

Women's #14: June 7-10, 2007

Men's #14: September 6-9, 2007

Women's #15: October 4-7, 2007

www.lovemmaus.org

L.O.V.E. Community Board of Directors

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Community Lay Director | Georgjean Shelton |
| Assistant Community Lay Director | George Smith |
| Secretary | Donna Tavis |
| Treasurer | Cyndi Frodge |
| Community Spiritual Director | Ray Snider |
| Kitchen | Kay Grooms |
| Communications | Rebecca Smith |
| Music | Phil Brown |
| Good Shepherd | Alison Dunn |
| Agape | Colette McGinnis |
| Chrysalis Representative | Acynda Spriggs |
| Registrar / Membership | Nicole George |
| Sponsorship | Dave Lewis |
| Volunteer Coordinators | Donnie and Walene Bennett |
| Facilities Set up/Clean up | Bill Shelton |
| Worship | Tim Naylor |
| Logistics Coordinators | Dan & Brenda Reed |
| Social Coordinators | Jim and Wanda Bowman |
| L.E.A.D. | Fred Kragler |
| Ruggles Liaison | Stella Hull |



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM

L.O.V.E. COMMUNITY

P.O. Box 454

Maysville, KY 41056

AH-H-H-H-H
Spring