



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM

L.O.V. Emmaus Community

Limestone-Ohio Valley Emmaus Community

Christmas Issue

L.O.V.E. COMMUNITY NEWS

December

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

Luke 24:15

Upcoming Events:

- Gathering December 27
- Gathering January 24

IMPORTANT NOTE:
All future Community Gatherings will now be held at 7:00 p.m. at Washington United Methodist Church

If possible, please bring a snack to share!

Board of Directors:
12/27/05 at 5:45 pm
1/31/06 at 7:00 pm

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Remember My Birthday!

As you well know, we are getting closer to my birthday. Every year there is a celebration in my honor and I think that this year the celebration will be repeated. During this time there are many people shopping for gifts, there are many radio announcements, TV commercials, and in every part of the world everyone is talking that my birthday is getting closer and closer.

It is really very nice to know, that at least once a year, some people think of me. As you know, the celebration of my birthday began many years ago. At first people seemed to understand and be thankful of all that I did for them, but in these times, no one seems to know the reason for the celebration. Family and friends get together and have a lot of fun, but they don't know the meaning of the celebration.

I remember that last year there was a great feast in my honor. The dinner table was full of delicious foods, pastries, fruits, assorted nuts and chocolates. The decorations were exquisite and there were many, many beautifully wrapped gifts. But, do you want to know something? I wasn't invited. I was the guest of honor and they didn't remember to send me an invitation.

The party was for me, but when that great day came, I was left outside, they closed the door in my face—and I wanted to be with them and share their table. In truth, that didn't surprise me because in the last few years all close their doors to me. Since I was not invited, I decided to enter the party without making any noise. I went in and stood in a corner. They were all drinking; there were some who were drunk and telling jokes and laughing at everything. They were having a great time. To top it all, this big fat man all dressed in red wearing a long white beard entered the room yelling Ho-Ho-Ho! He seemed drunk. He sat on the sofa and all the children ran to him, saying: "Santa Claus, Santa Claus"... as if the party were in his honor!

At 12 midnight all the people began to hug each other; I extended my arms waiting for someone to hug me and....do you know ... no one hugged me. Suddenly they all began to share gifts. They opened them one by one with great expectation. When all had been opened, I looked to see if, maybe, there was one for me.

What would you feel if on your birthday everybody shared gifts and you did not get one? I then understood that I was unwanted at that party and quietly left. Every year it gets worse. People only remember to eat and drink, the gifts, the parties and nobody remembers me. I would like this Christmas that you allow me to enter into your life.

I would like that you recognize the fact that almost two thousand years ago I came to this world to give my life for you, on the cross, to save you. Today, I only want that you believe this with all your heart.

I want to share something with you. As many didn't invite me to their party, I will have my own celebration, a grandiose party that no one has ever imagined, a spectacular party.

I'm still making the final arrangements. Today I am sending out many invitations and there is an invitation for you. I want to know if you wish to attend and I will make a reservation for you and write your name with golden letters in my great guest book. Only those on the guest list will be invited to the party. Those who don't answer the invitation, will be left outside. Do you know how you can answer this invitation? it is by extending it to others whom you care for... I'll be waiting for all of you to attend my party this year...

See you soon....I love you!

-Jesus-

WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

From the Community Lay Director

Engaging in Gatherings

Preparations for Men's and Women's Walks #12 are underway!! These walks will be held in May and June, 2006, but it takes months to put together teams, and that process has begun.

The process begins with the naming of the Lay Director for each walk. Then the Team Selection Committee meets and considers positions to be filled. Names of potential team members are taken from community membership records which indicate persons' progressive team experience and from other lists indicating persons' support of Emmaus: prayer vigil charts, kitchen charts, set-up and clean-up charts, and especially participant rosters for Emmaus training programs. Names of potential team members also may be submitted to the Team Selection Committee throughout the year. In addition to having pilgrims fill out volunteer sheets at the end of a Walk, table leaders may present names of pilgrims at their tables that they feel would be good team members in the future.

At the conclusion of the Team Selection Meetings, the Walk Lay Director has a list of specified prospective team members. Then the Lay Director begins contacting potential team members asking for their participation on the upcoming walk, in a specified role. The Lay Director has the team training dates set and relays that information when asking people to serve.

Many considerations must be made by the potential team member *prior* to their commitment to serve. It is imperative that team members participate in the whole team process. Prospective team members should be told about the commitment which is expected of them when they are first contacted to serve on the team. Team members must be able to attend no less than eight out of ten weekly meetings or three out of four longer monthly meetings. If there are known conflicts in scheduling which prevents this commitment, this person should decline to serve on the team. When a person accepts a role on the team, he/she enters into an implied covenant agreement with God, the Upper Room, and the LOVE Community Board of Directors to serve according to the Upper Room's Handbook on the Walk to Emmaus.

Further, team members are expected to be at the walk from beginning to end, with no consideration for leaving the site of the walk for any reason. The only exception is an unforeseen emergency. Should the prospective team member know of a scheduling conflict or suspect one might occur, this person should decline the offer to serve.

The Upper Room's Handbook on the Walk to Emmaus outlines the progression of servanthood in the Emmaus community. Emmaus leadership begins and ends with anonymous positions of servanthood, such as working in the kitchen, praying in the chapel, sorting letters in the agape room, and cleaning camp before and after walk weekends. This kind of sacrifice and servanthood is the heart of Emmaus and is where the development of Christian leadership begins. The purpose of an established progression of responsibilities for Emmaus community members is twofold: to provide leadership training and spiritual development.

The Team Selection Committee chooses first from among persons who actively support the Emmaus Movement and who practice the Emmaus method. Teams should represent those who seek to live a life of piety, study and action; who know the value of a support or share group for living in grace as an accountable disciple; and who are active church members. The committee will also honor participation in gatherings as a sign of a person's commitment to the Emmaus method for Christian living.

Are you interested in serving on a team in the LOVE Community? Are you active in your church? Do you seek to grow in your faith by study and Christian action? Are you active in a share group? Service on an Emmaus team is a privilege. It is also a responsibility.

Jesus taught his disciples about the kind of leadership the Walk to Emmaus calls for. It is the only kind of leadership Christians are given authority to exercise in the name of Jesus.

But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve; and to give his life as a ransom for many." ---- Matthew 20:25-28

Hello from your Worship leader! If it has been awhile since you have been able to attend a gathering you should make the effort to re-engage. One thing I would ask, leave the cares of this world at the door. We have tried very hard to turn up the Worship atmosphere and from all accounts we are succeeding. We have spent many hours in prayer and consultations with other members of the community to bring us quickly into worship. Sometimes we start with music, sometimes prayer, sometimes a reading. I can assure you that we will not be in a rut anytime soon, I like to mix things up. All with the Manual's blessing I might add. I am surprised at the latitude the manual gives for gatherings, as we are a very structured organization.

In the last two months I have tried to increase participation in gatherings. I have asked some of the pastors in our community to assist with prayer time. Also, some of our newer members will be asked to handle the offerings. This gives our newest members a chance to start serving and it also gives the community a face to put with the name. I will also be asking from time to time for people to introduce the 4th day speaker. This will allow for special introductions of the 4th day speaker by people that are very dear to them. While I am on the 4th day speaker page, if you have never given a 4th day talk, contact me through the community web page or see me at a gathering. I can also be contacted at 937-695-0732. We have had some special speakers in the past, and there are more planned for the future. I usually keep the 4th day speaker for each gathering close to my vest. Remember to engage in the gatherings, leave your cares at the door and come prepared to Worship, and you will be blessed.

It is a blessing to serve you as Worship Director! If you don't do anything else today, Forgive!

De Colores,

Tim Naylor

LOVE Community Worship Director

Joy To The World, The Lord Is Come

Is There Life After Stress?

Our Sunday School class, in years past, has studied a book, "Is There Life After Stress" by James W. Moore. The following are some excerpts from this enlightening book.

"There's no question about it! We live a stressful world, a turbulent world, in which we must learn to cope with the stresses of this life, or else we will be pulled apart at the seams. No one is immune. Stress is no respecter of persons. It touches the life of every person in one way or another.

How do we deal creatively with these stressful disappointments and burdens? What do we do when life pulls us in every direction, and our world caves in around us?

One morning a first-grade teacher walked into her classroom to find little Johnny, six years old, standing up in the front of the class with his stomach stuck way out. Thanking that was an odd thing to do, the teacher walked over and asked, "Johnny, why are you standing there with your stomach sticking out?"

"Well," he answered, "I had a tummy ache this morning, and I went to the nurse, and she said, 'Just stick it out till noon and maybe it will be okay.'"

Some people go through life like that—just sticking it out till noon, just coping, just enduring, just surviving. But life is more than that. Life is more than "sticking it out." Life is a wonderful gift to us . . . even with all its stresses and problems and pressures. And God wants our lives to be full, meaningful, abundant, and creative."

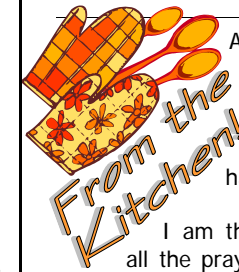
The Emmaus Community urges each of us to be a part of a share group. Why? For all of the above reasons in this introductory chapter of this book. We need each other for support, encouragement, as sounding blocks, for discernment, stress of "sticking it out" and accountability. God is always with us and our share groups can become a very important part in our journey.

*DeColores
Colette McGinnis—The Good Shepherd
GoodShepherd@LOVEmmaus.org*



If you are thinking about sponsoring a pilgrim for the next walk, please make sure to pray about it and get the application (with \$15) turned in.

*Cyndi Frodge
Registrar*



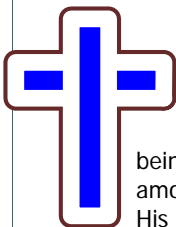
As we approach this holiday season, it is a time to give thanks for all the blessings that God has given us.

I am thankful this year for all the prayers that are offered for the walks, the share groups and church family preparing meals. People willing to clean and serve. This prayer was in our Upper Room:

"O God, thank you for our gifts to serve. Give us the wisdom and ability to use them for your glory. Amen"

*DeColores,
Pat Welti*

From the Spiritual Director . . .



Hello Beautiful Emmaus People!

In Matthew 12: 18-21, the author includes the prophet Isaiah's words about the non-Jews also being the recipients of the same works that Jesus did among the Jews. Isaiah writes in Chapter 42: "And in His name (Jesus') the Gentiles will hope." The word "hope" means: "to expect with desire, a manner of trusting, or to confide in."

I believe Matthew brings up Isaiah's prophetic words because he wants to point out to his audience that something valuable has been lost, forgotten, laid aside by both Jew and Gentile.

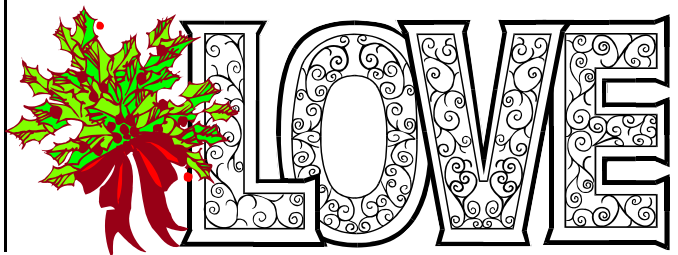
I don't know about you, but I get concerned about my memory on occasions. Not long ago I strode purposefully out the back door, across the deck, down the steps heading toward a walnut tree in the back yard. Halfway there I stopped dead in my tracks and mumbled, "What did I come out here for?" (Any neighbor who might have been watching would have surely thought, "Yep, he's been awfully distracted lately, I guess he's finally snapped.") While I was in that embarrassing position something wonderful happened. The wind blew! I heard a rustle over behind the tree. Immediately I remembered that earlier I'd looked out the dining room window and seen a plastic grocery bag that had snagged in the flowerbed under the tree. At my present angle I couldn't see it, but thank goodness for the wind that reminded me of why I made the journey in the first place!

In this Christmas season, where is your hope in Christ's soon coming? The reason God sent his Son was to re-establish His memory in our hearts. Have you forgotten the sound of His voice? Who is He to you? Are you being accountable to Him, in thought,

word, and deed? Are you thinking realistically about God's sure judgment upon sin, the need for confessing sin, eternal life and direction that He offers through faith in Jesus Christ? God sends the wind of the Holy Spirit to daily jog our memory. How is your hope of Christ's coming in your family, church, and Emmaus community? Are you expecting Christ to work "new desire" in your heart and therefore you will settle for nothing less? When's the last time you've experienced the power of God because you've responded to His leading in a new direction? Have you confided in Him in a quiet place? Are you in any way accountable to others through a small group such as Bible Study, Sunday School, or Emmaus Reunion Group?

Matthew gives us a "memory jog" through Isaiah when he includes his prophetic words: "And in Jesus' name the Gentiles will hope."

*De Colores,
Michael Canada
LOVE Community Spiritual Director
Gulf Coast Emmaus #22, Table of Peter*





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

**Upcoming Walk
Dates Announced!**

Walk #12

Men: May 4-7, 2006

Women: June 1-4, 2006

Walk #13

Men: September 7-10, 2006

Women: October 5-8, 2006

www.LOVEmmaus.org

December, month of holly,
pine, and balsam,
Of berries red, of candles'
mellow light,
Of home and fireside, laughter,
happy faces,
Of peace that comes upon
the holy night

**Health and
Happiness**



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM

L.O.V.E. COMMUNITY

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Maysville, KY 41056



We wish you
a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry
Christmas We wish you a
Merry Christmas And a
Happy New Year Good
tidings we bring to you &
your kin We wish you
a Merry Christmas
and a Happy
New Year

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