

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

Women's Walk # 49 has just completed and we now have another group of willing servants who will be looking to find their place in the Emmaus Community and in their daily walk. They were all fired up at closing and it is our job to help them take this new found love of God and channel it where it will accomplish the will of God, leading others to Jesus. As we go through each day, we can all accomplish the challenge given to us at closing on our walk, God is counting on you. And, we are counting on God as he has told us he will always be there. Let each of us truly be the "hands and feet" of God every day. A "Thank You" goes to all those who came out to support the weekend and share the love of God with the pilgrims.

An important announcement was made at last month's gathering regarding the kitchen. Our kitchen crew is working diligently to help contain costs so we can continue to provide the weekends without raising the fee paid by the pilgrims and team. To accomplish this, a review is being done on the items bought to make sure we have the best value and only buy enough to feed the pilgrims and team. So, if food is left over after the pilgrims and team have eaten, and then the kitchen workers are more than welcome to eat. But, do not plan on there being a lot of extra food.

Another reminder is in order. Candle light and closing are for those who have been through a weekend. It is not a place to bring children. Your cooperation with this would be greatly appreciated.

Easter is just around the corner so I hope each of you is actively involved in activities at your church in preparation for this special time. What a better time than Easter to invite those who do not know Jesus to join you in learning about our Savior, Jesus Christ.

May the love of God shine in you every day! God Bless and Decolores!

-Tom

**IMPORTANT DATES
2007 WALKS**

Women's Walks

- #50 June 21-24
- #51 November 1-4

Men's Walks

- #33 April 19-22
- #34 August 16-19

**All Walk Dates Are Tentative*

UPCOMING GATHERINGS!

- Sunday, March 18th at 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 15th at 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Food & Fellowship: After each gathering, there will be a time of fellowship and food. If you plan to stay, please bring a dish to share.

MARCH & APRIL REUNIONS

Women's Walk #49 (Karen Speas, Lay Director) will hold their reunion one hour prior to the March Gathering — March 18th at 6:00 p.m. in the parlor.

The following Walks will hold their reunions one hour prior to the April Gathering, April 15th — at 6:00 p.m.:

Women's Walk #35 (Teresa Ehalt, Lay Director) will hold their reunion in the choir room.

Men's Walk #27 (Chris Ehrhard, Lay Director) will hold their reunion in the parlor.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

I normally don't like to endorse movies, but I want to encourage us to consider seeing "Amazing Grace." From acclaimed director Michael Apted ("The World is Not Enough," "Coal Miner's Daughter") comes "Amazing Grace," a moving historical epic about the life of antislavery pioneer William Wilberforce. "Amazing Grace" follows Wilberforce's career through his 20's and 30's, as he and his fellow humanitarians make the issue of slavery a talking point, not only in political circles, but also throughout the country. They wage the first modern political campaign, using petitions, boycotts, mass meetings, and even badges with slogans to take their message to the country at large.

The film **Amazing Grace** is being released to coincide with the bicentennial of the abolition

of the slave trade by Great Britain. Britain is marking the occasion with a special coin with a chain connected to the 0 in 1807. The end of the slave trade is certainly something worth remembering and celebrating.

I agree with Darrel Manson who wrote, "It would be even better to celebrate the complete end of slavery, but that has not happened yet. It is estimated that up to 27,000,000 people live in slavery today. It includes men and women who are forced to work in sweatshops. It includes traditional chattel slavery in countries like Niger, Chad, and the Sudan. It includes girls and young women forced into prostitution in Asia. Before the slave trade was abolished, William Wilberforce presented a petition to the British Parliament with 390,000 signatures calling for abolition.

"[Amazing Change](http://theamazingchange.com) (theamazingchange.com)" is seeking to present a petition to the U. S. Congress and world leaders with the same number of signatures. I would encourage you to visit the site, read the information, and add your name to the petition."

I suspect that the meaning of Newton's song would take on new meaning as we ponder how the Lord's transforms a former slave trader and empowers and young Englishman to stand with those who have no voice. I believe our world would be different if we had such poets and statespersons today. Perhaps, God is raising up such men and women through the Walk to Emmaus.

DeColores,
Chris Farmer
Co-Spiritual Director

THANK YOU RECEIVED...

Thank you to the entire Emmaus Community for your contributions, volunteering, and prayers during the 3 weeks of serving the poor and homeless at Urban Light Ministries. During those weeks an entire family came to know the Lord and were recently baptized. In addition, our fellow Christians raised over \$100 to give to the family so their would have presents for Christmas. Fourteen other people dedicated their lives and accepted salvation on December 17th, 2006. Overall, The Body of Christ, which included well over 20 different churches blessed many souls those weeks by letting their "Lights Shine!" Close to 450 meals were served including take home meals families and individuals got to take with them after the main serving. We served the people Emmaus style getting them coffee, beverages, second helpings, and desserts. What knocked their socks off was the choice of desserts offered to them as well as all of the personal serving done (like refills and extra napkins for them when needed). Many of them shared that they don't get this type of service and that they deeply appreciated it. We want to say thanks again to everyone!

Cliff Rodriguez & Tobias Wilson

From Purchasing...

Great News! Thanks to the Community's support, we received a 6% rebate check from GFS for \$862.57. Please continue to let GFS know that you would like your purchases applied towards supporting Emmaus when you shop there!

Jennifer Anderson & Tobias Wilson

EPIPHANY MINISTRY

The mission of Epiphany is "To show Christ's love to incarcerated juveniles." It is accomplished through a three day short course in Christianity and an on-going follow-up process to the incarcerated youth. Additional information about this program can be found at the online newsletter, The Epiphany Star of Ohio (www.epiphanyministry.com). In addition, contact with each facility can be done by e-mailing the following people:

United Methodist Children's Home - Donna Bowers (dbowers53@wowway.com)
Madison Correctional Institution – Jeanette Lambert (ldjlambert@earthlink.net)
Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility – Jayne Griffith (jayne_griffith@hotmail.com)
Ohio Reformatory for Women - Ed & Sharon Markin (esmarkin@loganrec.com)
Franklin's Pre-Release Center – Dan Belville (cdbelville@wowway.com)
Scioto Village Juvenile Correctional Facility – Judy Walters (pwalter9@columbus.rr.com)

The Epiphany weekend at the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) that was held from Friday, February 9 – 11th was a great success. There were 25 young ladies known as "Stars" in daily attendance, without losing any from the beginning. Lay Directors were Sharon Markin and Cherie Harrison. The Spiritual Director was Dough Upton. Other Spiritual Directors were Diane Brown, Chuck Craun, Wayne Engle, and Ray Harper. The next weekend at ORW will be August 16th – 19th. Barb & Keith Swigart will with the Lay Directors and Ray Harper will head the Clergy team. The next area Epiphany weekend will be held at:

Madison Correctional Institution, London
March 22-25, 2007
Norman Lakes, Lay Director

Also, we have the following needs for Epiphany Weekends:

- Money - (\$5 buys a meal during the weekend)
- Posters
- Placemats
- Letters
- Prayer Partner
- Food / Drink Items
- Team Members

If you are interested in supporting this ministry by serving on a team or by donating needed items, please contact Reverend Ray Harper at lambano07@yahoo.com

High Street
United Methodist Church
230 East High Street
Springfield, OH 45505

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Springfield, OH
Permit No. 27

We're On the Web!

<http://spfldemmaus.com>

You can also see our

Newsletter at

www.highstreetumc.com

Newsletter e-mail:

pascot@prodigy.net

SHARE GROUPS — DO YOU HAVE ONE?

Message from a Share Group...

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, was raised in a manse or parsonage because his father was a priest in the Church in England. He attended Oxford College, in England, to study for the ministry. There he gathered a small group of like-minded students for the purpose of seeking for that holiness without which they would not see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). They called it the Holiness Club.

Other students, seeing their rigorous self discipline and methodical ways, in derision called them Methodists — a name which stuck. They gathered for the sacrament of holy communion almost daily. And once a week they met together in order to make an accounting of themselves to each other. They shared their spiritual highlights, and their failures and needs, from the past week, with one another.

That sounds quite radical. Because it is. John Wesley was proposing that they take their faith seriously. How could faith make a real difference in their lives unless they did take it seriously? But who is ready for that?

We who have been on an Emmaus walk may be. The truth is that we don't really know what we are getting into — either on the walk or in a group — until we are part of one. It sneaks up on us. Before we know it, we are hooked. For most of us, these are experiences which put our lives on a higher and better plain.

But from time to time we need to remind ourselves of why we are here. In complete humility, we seek to lean on one another and support one another. Everything we share is for the sole purpose of strengthening ourselves and each other in the life of faith. We share only what is new in our lives since we were last together. We pray for one another.

It all sounds quite simple. But almost every week we witness miracles in our midst. We know that each of us is changing and growing. We grow in love and fellowship with each other, and with God.

De Colores,
Reverend Roland Wildman

If you do not have a Share Group and would like to find one, please contact:

Men's Share Groups (Jerry Peterman, 325-3629) / **Women's Share Groups** (Mary Ahlborn, 322-1958)