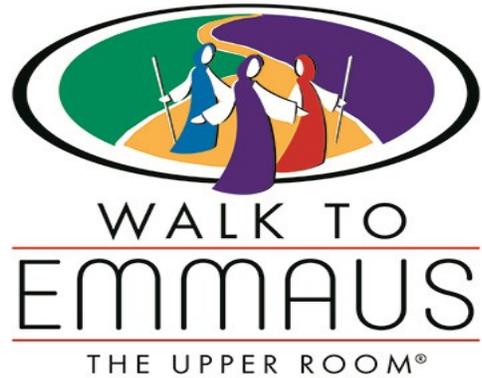


Greater Cincinnati Emmaus and Chrysalis Community

April, 2017



A Message from our Spiritual Director

Greetings, Community!

2 Timothy 1:6 "This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you. . . ."

The apostle Paul wrote these words during his last imprisonment in Rome to encourage Timothy. Most people believe that this was the last book that Paul wrote before his execution. Paul knew that Timothy was by nature a fearful and timid man and he wanted to show him a way to overcome. Paul told him in verse 6 to "fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you". The reason for stirring up a fire or fanning it into flames is to keep the fire burning bright and strong. A fire left alone will always burn out! Are we waiting for God to use us? Maybe God is waiting for us to "fan into flame" the gifts that He has already given us.

Sharon Wright chose 2 Timothy 1:7 as the team formation verse for Women's Walk #118.

2 Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."

I'm quite certain that Timothy was aware of his own fearfulness and timidity. He probably prayed often to overcome it! God wanted Timothy to know that this fear wasn't from HIM. God wants us to know the same thing. We all face situations where we feel timid and afraid sometimes. Maybe it's a fear of public speaking, or fear of rejection or confrontation. Where do these fears come from? I don't know, but I do know where they don't come from and that's God! The first thing we must do in these situations is to understand that. **Fears are not from God!** He has given us a spirit of power and love! We should not accept what God has not given us! Rather we should humbly receive what He has given us: **power, love and self-discipline!**

DeColores!

Rod Fightmaster

Community Spiritual Director

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A Message from our Community Lay Director

“Our Jerusalem Wall”

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom** we have gained access by faith **into this grace** in which we now stand. **And we rejoice** in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts **by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.**” Romans 5:1-5

It was over twenty years ago that I “discovered” this verse. I was yet again in the middle of another personal crisis, but this time, on my knees asking for God’s help.

We all either have, or will experience some crisis – personal, or someone close to us – when life seems to be crumbling down around us; we have lost our way, and, our faith seems to have disappeared.

Some of us have or may have to go through some suffering or tragedy – yours or someone close to you - through an addiction, or afflictions, illness, abuse, or tragedy.

But, what we may not all [successfully] experience is...**recovery** - the reparation process of rebuilding your life. **Restoration** occurs when you, and or others around you change - **as the Holy Spirit works in and through us; and you** return to others what you have received. For me, this has been the Emmaus experience.

In 1994 I took my original walk to Emmaus. Yet only 8 months removed from my walk, my marriage was in deeper trouble, my job was a disaster, and my depression was going deeper – and... I had completely abandoned the promise I made to God at the altar during Dying Moments.

By the time I reached the first year anniversary of my walk, I was unemployed, out of my house and separated from my wife, and deep into my real problem – alcohol and depression. **My life, and the walls around it, seemed to be crumbling down.**

Much like the Jewish people in their disobedience to God, I had moved as far away as possible from God and where He wanted me. In that first year after my walk, I cannot say I was fully aware of continuing to choose this path of personal self-destruction. However, on that day at the altar of Dying Moments, He requested of me, in that still small voice, His desire for me to stop drinking and to place my need and desire for alcohol in that basket.

Much like the walls of Jerusalem were destroyed and left in ruin and decay, and the Jews held captive, the walls of my life had crumbled around me – and I felt defenseless and held captive by my addiction. I was terribly confused because I did have belief, but I lacked the faith and trust required for true obedience to God - **disobedience and belief in God can and often do coexist in our lives.**

Nehemiah’s Story

I was led to Nehemiah a number of years later while preparing for my Lay Director walk. I thought it appropriate that just before the next women’s walk and just after Walk 100, Face to Face, and Chrysalis, we reflect on and pray for a hedge of protection around the pilgrims and all those just entering their fourth days; that they be protected and defended by a wall - of bricks, if you will – we will choose to call them bricks of character - built by transparent men and women willing to put everything out there to serve the Lord and the pilgrims – those just beginning their fourth day and those He is sending to this upcoming women’s walk.

Nehemiah exemplified this type of transparent leadership. Through his devotion, obedience, and dependency on God, he led his people about the task of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

Nehemiah recognized - **from the beginning** - that the true leader the Jewish people needed to rebuild these walls – and their lives - and make their way out of their life circumstances of trouble, crises, tragedy and suffering, was, and always is God. The scripture verse from Romans reminds us “God has poured out his love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit - **whom he has given us.**”

God had been working on rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem **long before Nehemiah.** He had especially positioned Nehemiah to be the one to lead His people through the reconstruction process - **because Nehemiah’s heart was in tune with God.** He shared in God’s grief over the destruction, and saw the situation through God’s eyes. The very first thing Nehemiah did was **not to say to the people, “Let’s get something done here – the first thing he did was pray.”**

In Isaiah 49, God says to his people, “Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.” What He was saying was, **“our lives are like walls continually before Him; He has inscribed our lives on his hands. What the walls were to Jerusalem, our lives are before God.”**

Charles Swindoll, in his book, *Hand Me Another Brick*, tells us that “our lives often lie in ruins through sin and immorality, and sometimes just from simple neglect and lack of discipline. **The leader that brings us to rebuild the walls of our lives is the Holy Spirit – and, it is He who continues the work of reconstruction within us.** God set everything up for Nehemiah to be the leader to rebuild the wall – and Nehemiah **aligned his life** with what God was doing.

Proverbs 16:9 – “The mind of man plans his way – but God directs his steps.”

Nehemiah faced many challenges as well – opposition, criticism, discouragement – but through it all he remained steadfast to his purpose, was patient, persevered, kept his focus on the Lord, and he never gave up.

Upon the completion of the wall, Nehemiah had the people gather for a celebration – and they came, singing and rejoicing, and climbing to the top of the walls. We are not sure what all was involved, **but we do know that their hearts had to be pure.** In order to minister to the people, we know that our hearts must be clean before God – **holiness precedes happiness.**

Long before each of us experienced our Emmaus walk, God began His preparations. He is forever ready to show us things we have never thought of and ready to do things we never thought possible. His invitation to us is the same as it was to Nehemiah: “Align yourself with my plan, my works, and my ways, and I will accomplish great things for my Kingdom.”

De Colores!

Steve Theobald

Women's Walk # 118

April 20-23, 2017

Team Roster

Pilgrim	Church	Sponsor
Grace Ajunwa	Epiphany UMC	Chris Khwaja
Amy Bernhard	St. Paul UMC	Carolyn Heitz
Paulette Blum	Peoples Church	Michelle Clark
Jennifer Boles	Crossroads Florence	Sheri Raleigh-Collins
Michelle Bosse	Christ Community Church	Rebecca Hickman
Linda Bukvil	unknown	Michael Wilkin
Julie Emerson	Anderson Hills UMC	Rebecca Selm
Sonya Fischesser	Bethel UMC	Glenn Beyer
Pauline Fox	Church on Fire Ministries	Jeanette
Joyce Franklin	Crossroads Community Church	Vicky Burgess
Sharon Guard	Anderson Hills UMC	Sue Black
Mary Haybegger	One Hope Community Church	Al Wright
Stacey Hammond	Anderson Hills UMC	Sara Thompson
Cindie Hedberg	New Beginnings Church of Belfast	Lesia Findley
Anissa Hollingsworth	Anderson Hills UMC	Sharon Wright
Kelley Johnson	One Hope Community Church	Emily Carpenter
Sandra Jones	New Hope Baptist Church	Wendy Cannon
Rachel Kalnasy	Mariemont Community Church	Donna Painter
Refinnia Kelley	New Prospect Baptist Church	Michelle Evans
Lena Lautzenheiser	Bucyrus UMC	Meredith Zimmerman
Jen MacRae	River Hills Loveland	Al Wright
Theresa Mertle	The Bridge	Bev Dawson
Jennifer Noe	Seven Hills Church	Cindy Lowe
Beth Olivieri	Resonance Church	Victor Olivieri
Peggy Orourke	The Bridge	Lauren Burnnett
Tangie Sherman	New Prospect Baptist Church	Annise Anderson
Debbie Simpson	New Prospect Baptist Church	Annise Anderson
Cori Tobin	New Beginnings Church of Belfast	Lindsey Florence
Jill Vanfleet	Vineyard Eastgate	Geneva Geding
Carol wright	Westwood UMC	Gail Stewart

Sharon Wright	LD	Perserverance
Bob Clo	SD	Prevenient Grace
Lisa Kerwin	SD	Justifying Grace
Stephanie Tunison	SD	Means of Grace
Mark Roland	SD	Obstacles to Grace
Sandy Vogele	SD	Sanctifying Grace
Cindy Ballentine	ALD	Fourth Day
Lisa Lockwood	ALD	Discipleship
Barb Mckee	ALD	Priority
Pam Schwartz	TL	Grow through Study
Bev Kunz	TL	Life in Piety
Lori Schulte	TL	Body of Christ
April Gutbier	TL	Priesthood of All Believers
Allison Ourada	TL	Christian Action
Kim Ireton	TL	Changing our World
Amanda Busken	ATL	
Amy Kirchen	ATL	
Jill Krutka	ATL	
Lucy Trumbull	ATL	
Kristina Johnson	ATL	
April Griffin	ATL	
Jenny Partridge	LOG	
Susan Bennet	LOG	
Diane Meyer	LOG	
Josselyn Gulbrandson	MUS	
Carol DeGreg	MUS	
Donna Goens	PS	
Sandy Hauser	PS	
Michelle Clark	BR	

Please remember to keep these women in your prayers so that their hearts will be prepared and their eyes would be opened to the Lord to work in and through them. Pray also for the team members who will be the hands and feet of Jesus for these pilgrims and for each other.

Greater Cincinnati Face to Face Encounter #1



I was honored and blessed to serve as Lay Director for the Face to Face Encounter #1. We met each Saturday in March at Zion United Methodist Church in Cleves, Ohio. We had 21 Pilgrims (17 women and 4 men). The team members went above and beyond in their service to the pilgrims! I was blessed with the best team ever and we were all blessed with the best Encounter ever!!

The Candlelight Service took place at 1:30 PM on March 18. The Sanctuary was filled, and the Pilgrims were moved closer to the realization of God's love for them! The service was amazing and proved that the time of the day does not matter; only that the Body of Christ shows up and you did. Thank you so much!!

The team formation verse that I chose was *Isaiah 46:4* "Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you". This verse was chosen because I realize that folks in my age group can easily begin to think that there is nothing left for them to do in God's service. But that is a lie from the mouth of Satan! Abraham was 75 when God called him, Moses was 80 when he led the Exodus, and John was 92 when he wrote the book of Revelation. And there are many more examples in scripture.

God does not look for the young or the old to do His work – God looks for the available!

DeColores,
Ev Gillming

Who's ready to *RUSH*?

The next Chrysalis Rush is happening on April 8, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Please join us for worship and remember – RUSHes are not just for Chrysalis and those who have attended Chrysalis. A RUSH is open to the ENTIRE COMMUNITY AND THEIR FRIENDS. It is a great opportunity to bring anyone who HAS NOT ATTENDED a Chrysalis or Emmaus weekend. It is a chance to have those who are curious meet those who have gone and ask questions. We encourage you to bring a friend of Jesus who might not be familiar with OUR ministries!

We are also super EXCITED to announce that there are 2 scheduled SUMMER FLIGHTS!!! Young Ladies flight # 48 will be June 9-11, Young Mens flight #45 will be July 21-23. Be thinking about young people you could sponsor for this amazing experience!

All events are being held at **Milford First United Methodist Church**.

Fly With Christ & De Colores!
TJ Spencer, Chrysalis chair





AGAPE NEEDED!

We could really use your help making pilgrims feel the love of Christ through wonderful little gifts of agape placed on tables for meals or on pillows at night.

Need help? Check on Google or Pinterest, there are some awesome creative ideas!

Please make 60+ items so that there is enough for pilgrims and team members, all extras will be used for future Walks, Encounters or Flights.

You may bring agape to the monthly Gatherings and place on the back table, or bring directly to the Walk on the first day. Questions? Contact our Agape Chair,

Jane Wiseman, 513-253-5006.

If you are cleaning out closets, we're collecting ties to be used on future Men's walks!



SPONSORSHIP TRAINING

Sponsor Training is held 1st Thursday of each month before the Gathering @6:45 P.M. in the Fireside room. (Across from the Little Theater.)

- Designed to train and equip you to become a successful sponsor.
- You will learn how to determine who to sponsor.
- Know the responsibilities of sponsorship.
- Answer some of the basic questions about sponsorship.



Bless others by being a sponsor.

Learn what it means to be a sponsor

Training is required to become a sponsor

Attend a training before you begin to sponsor a Pilgrim.

FOR QUESTIONS OR TO REGISTER FOR THE TRAINING CONTACT:

Debbie Albright
513-375-7534
goscrap@hotmail.com



Babysitting Service is Back!!

There will be FREE child care available during the Gathering on 4/6/17.

If you need this service, please email Steve Theobald at SJTheo@hotmail.com. Please state the number of children, names and ages. We will need 48 hours notice.

Members of the Hyde Park United Methodist Church will be available in the Nursery to watch the kiddos. These individuals are bonded, insured, background checked, etc.



Community volunteers for Friday breakfast and Friday lunch are asked to park on the side streets surrounding the church. The church's preschool is in session on Fridays during Walk weekends, and the church has asked that we leave the parking lot for parents and school staff. The lot will continue to be available for parking during Candlelight and Closing.



Cross Lanyard makers

If you know how to make the Emmaus cross lanyards, or are interested in learning how, please send contact info to Lori Markovic at lmarkovic7@gmail.com

2017 Board of Directors <i>Worshipfully Working Together</i>		
Position	Name	Phone
Agape Chair	Jane Wiseman	513-253-5006
Chrysalis Lay Director	TJ Spencer	513-276-5127
Community LD	Steve Theobald	513-604-8160
Community LD Emeritus	Lisa Linne	513-289-6706
Community SD	Rod Fightmaster	513-508-4147 cell
Communications Co-Chairs	Bridget Murphy/Annise Anderson	513-349-8148 /513-961-0621
Connections Chair	Jennie Heflin	513-560-5331cell
Education	Debbie Albright	513-375-7534 cell
Good Shepherd	Ennes Ireton	513-448-5856
Chrysalis Vice Chair	Jeremiah Campbell	513-807-6706
Leadership Chair	Susan Wisner	513-600-4709
Logistics Chair	Lori Markovic	513-260-4784
Men's Registrar	Peggie Hughes	513-781-8504cell
Newsletter	Bridget Murphy	513-349-8148 cell
Outreach	Annise Anderson	513-961-0621
Social Media	Michelle Clark	
Secretary	Larry Verdier	513-378-8021
Social Chair	Robin Shehan	513-474-2708 or 513-205-5608
Social	Bev Haun	513-581-5380 cell
Treasurer	Lucy Trumbill	513-910-7990
Rep at Large	Al Wright	513-378-9706
Rep at Large	Chris Swofford	513-383-5484
Women's Registrar	Sandy Hauser	513-941-8060
Website	John Clark	
Hyde Park CMUC Liaison	Sharon Michaelson	513-761-5571

2017 CALENDAR

Upcoming Walks/Flights

Women's Walk #118, April 20-23, 2017
 Girls' Flight #48, June 9-11, 2017
 Boys' Flight #45, July 21-23, 2017
 Men's Walk #101, Oct. 12-15, 2017
 Women's Walk #119, Nov. 9-12, 2017
 Face to Face, TBD

Gathering, Thursday April 6, 2017 7:30pm
 Candlelight, Saturday April 22, 2017 8:30 pm
 Closing Sunday April 23, 2017 4:00 pm

Emmaus Gatherings, Candlelight and Closings are held at Hyde Park Community UMC
 1345 Grace Avenue, Cincinnati, OH

Chrysalis Events are held at Milford First UMC
 541 Main St., Milford, OH

Face2Face events are held at Zion UMC
 4980 Zion Rd, Cleves, OH

Christ is Counting On You!



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Cincinnati, OH 45208
 1345 Grace Avenue

Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church

Greater Cincinnati Community

Emmaus

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