

Greater Cincinnati Emmaus and Chrysalis Community News

December, 2015



“As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them.”

Luke 24:15

A Word From Our Spiritual Director

Something to Think About...

As we think about Advent, let's also remember God's Promise of His second coming. Peter wrote his second letter as a reminder to Christians that Jesus is coming again! 2 Peter 3:1-2: "Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior."

We tend to forget this truth as we get caught up in the busyness of our lives. The promise of the second coming of Christ is found all throughout the word of God, Old and New Testament alike. That's why Peter wanted us to remember or be 'mindful' of the words which were spoken by the Old Testament prophets and Jesus Himself. As a matter of fact, there are more prophecies in the Old Testament concerning the second coming of Jesus Christ, than there are concerning the first coming of Jesus Christ.

The new birth is an important doctrine; it is only found 9 times in the entire Bible. Baptism, also an important doctrine, is found only 20 times in the New Testament. Repentance, certainly an important doctrine, found 70 times in the New Testament. The Second Coming of Christ is found 380 times in scripture! In fact, 1 verse out of 25 in the New Testament tells us that Jesus is coming again.

Peter said that scoffers would say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised?" He goes on to say in 2 Peter 3:9 that the Lord is not 'slow' in delivering his promise but He has delayed His return because He doesn't want anyone to perish but *everyone* to come to repentance. I dare say that each one of us knows someone who, if Jesus came today, would not be counted among the saints. Many who are Christians today are happy that Jesus didn't return ten years, or five years, or two years, or one year, or even two months ago. There is a compassionate purpose in His timing. God's grace is shown in His delay.

Contemporary preacher, Fred Craddock, preached a sermon on the prodigal son but with a twist. Instead of the father honoring the younger, rebellious son, he slipped a ring on the older brother, thanked him for his faithful years of service and killed the fatted calf in honor of doing what was right. And from the back of the sanctuary, a woman yelled out, "That's the way it should have been written."

But it wasn't. That's why Christianity is so unique. It's not written the way we would have written it. Christianity is for the person who feels like the younger son – unworthy, unloved, not good enough. And yet there's a place at the table. It was written for the person who feels like a thief on the cross – out of time, out of luck, out of hope. And yet there is a place at the table. It was written for the person who feels like Judas – my life is a lie; this smile covers the deceit; I've sold my soul to the devil. And yet, Jesus welcomed him to the table. It was written to the person who feels lost, excluded, and forgotten by God and yet, like a lovesick father, God makes sure there is a place at the table. Grace. That's what makes Christianity unique!

From Our Community Lay Director

Passing the torch and reflections on the year 2015 and hope for the future....

De Colores and Grace and Peace to you my brothers and sisters. As my year as Community Lay Director comes to an end I give thanks for the opportunity to serve our Emmaus community. I am grateful for the privilege to serve and give thanks to God for getting me through. God does not call the qualified and I was one not qualified. But He qualifies the called. He gave me strength to stretch and faith to dream big. I am grateful for the hard work of every volunteer that helped make the four Emmaus Walks a success. Your Board worked hard to serve and strive to make each Walk the "best ever." I am thankful for each and every person that served the Board.

There is much still to do. A few items started that will be accomplished next year are a complete re-write of our by-laws to clarify positions and fully integrate the Emmaus and Chrysalis community board and define the sub-committee's serving the Board. This will present some great opportunities to serve the community. This requires that a Chair of one of its committee's serve on at least one team. So the establishment of sub-committees allows the community to serve the Board and places them in training to assume a Board Committee Chair by mentoring them.

Chrysalis has been in a transition and restart phase. I absolutely believe that this primary outreach of Emmaus must be given a tremendous support from all of the Emmaus community. By combining the Boards of Chrysalis and Emmaus into one, we intend that we all recognize this as one community and reaffirmed our commitment to make Chrysalis a major part of Emmaus. We plan to re-launch our Chrysalis Flights in the summer of 2016, possibly in a joint effort of surrounding communities. We hope that this dynamic ministry receives your support in sponsorship and attendance at all of weekend functions. Let's pray hard for God to begin a new thing in Chrysalis in 2016.

Next year, we should continue to dream big. One of the things that the Board has considered was having summer Walks. To do that, we will have to hold them off site from Hyde Park. Please be in prayer to enable us to do this. It's so important to our community and most important for the young people in our lives who are bombarded with anti-God messages in this world. In speaking of off-site venues, that leads me to the next point.

Right now, the Board has authorized a sub-committee to research the start of another ministry geared toward mature adults called Face to Face. This "weekend" is designed to be held off-site where people live or can have easy access. As a community, we should be praying for the right place to do that and for the pilgrims to enable people who are not physically able to attend to experience the love and grace of God that we all have experienced through the Emmaus ministry.

This year we had 4 "full" walks stretching the capacity of the conference. What a great blessing from God. I pray that all who supported and all who attended continue to be blessed in your Fourth Days and in this end of year season where we give thanks to God and celebrate His Advent. So I shall be off to serve this great community of God in other capacities and look forward to serving Him and you in different ways.

De Colores,

Jeff Markovic, GCMW #51, Table of Micah

Treasurer's Report

Thanks to our generous community our finances are very stable. We had \$32,471 in donations, pilgrim fees and team fees this year, and \$25,047 in expenses. We have a cash balance of \$31,031.08.

We have upgraded our website this year, and are very pleased with the results. We still expect to upgrade our data base system, but will most likely wait until the Upper Room releases their data management system in 2016 or 2017.

We will have the opportunity to be generous again this year. Just mail your donation in the enclosed envelope. Thank you, Community!

De Colores,
Susan Wisner

Called to Serve

Looking for a way to “give back”, to be His hands and feet? We have many opportunities within our

Emmaus/Chrysalis community to be servants: helping behind the scenes on a walk or flight (see job boards for specific needs), signing up to pray for teams and pilgrims and caterpillars (see prayer boards), making agape, attending Gathering, Candlelight, and Closing, accepting the invitation to be on a live in team. Please look on our website, or download the app (search Cincinnati Emmaus in the AppStore or on GooglePlay) to get involved in our community. Remember: Christ is counting on YOU!



The health and vitality of our Emmaus and Chrysalis Community depends on us all! Please prayerfully consider sponsoring someone you know on a Walk or flight this upcoming year. Thank you for considering this important role in the community!

If you would like to learn how to become a sponsor, contact Beth Moore at emmaus@nevermail.net or 513.290.7746. Training can be completed over the phone at your convenience.

2015 Board of Directors <i>Worshipfully Working Together</i>		
Position	Name	Phone
Agape	Linda St. Myers	513-874-0514
Chrysalis Lay Director	Synda Bernicke	513-314-1274
Community LD	Jeff Markovic	513-260-4783
Community LD Emeritus	Ev Gillming	513-831-4540
Community SD	Rod Fightmaster	513-508-4147 cell
Community ASD	Bob Clo	419-270-1604 cell
Education	Beth Moore	513-290-7746
Education	Janet Steele	(on leave)
Good Shepherd	Jack Gillming	513-831-4540
Historian	Brian Pickens	513-484-6059
Leadership Chair	Lisa Linne	513-683-1428
Logistics	Lori Markovic	513-260-4784
Men's Registrar	Jennie Heflin	513-560-5331 cell
Newsletter	Bridget Murphy	513-349-8148 cell
Outreach	Annise Anderson	513-961-0621
Outreach	Chris Khwaja	513-304-8201 cell
Secretary	Les Sper	513-398-9280
Social	Robin Shehan	513-474-2708 or 513-205-5608
Social	Bev Haun	513-581-5380 cell
Supplies	Sharon Wright	513-404-0456 cell
Treasurer	Susan Wisner	513-561-3156
Webmaster		
Women's Registrar	Peggie Hughes	513-479-1362
Women's Registrar	Sandy Hauser	513-941-8060
Worship		
Worship		
Hyde Park CMUC Liaison	Sharon Michaelson	513-761-5571

2015 -2016 CALENDAR

Upcoming Emmaus Walks

Men's Walk # 98, Feb 18-21, 2016

Women's Walk #116 April 21-24, 2016

Men's Walk #99, Oct 13-16, 2016

Women's Walk # 117 Nov 17-20, 2016

All Emmaus events take place at
Hyde Park Community UMC

1345 Grace Avenue

Cincinnati, OH

Please make childcare arrangements before attending Candlelight and Closing. It is inappropriate for children to be present at these services.

Christ is Counting On You!



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

(513) 871-1345

Cincinnati, OH 45208

1345 Grace Avenue

Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church

Greater Cincinnati Community

Emmaus

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