

Wilmington Emmaus

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Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM

Inside this issue:

Celebrate!	1
Tradition	1
Devotion	2
From Larry	3
Prayer List	3
Quintessential Quig	3
A Poem	4

CELEBRATE! *(reprinted from January, 2000)*

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he or she is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come.

Celebrate! 2000 is here, a brand new year. Hallelujah! Unblemished by errors and omissions. Just a new beginning to a year full of hope and promise.

Hello, Emmaus Community, my name is Margaret Horst, Wilmington Area Women's Walk to Emmaus #18, Table of Ruth, and God has called me to serve Him as Chairperson of this community for the year 2000.

For those of you I don't know, my husband, Tom, took his walk on Wilmington #10, our daughter Brandi was a butterfly in Milford on Chrysalis Flight #4 and her husband, Chris, attended Wilmington Men's Walk #27. God has richly blessed us with a three year old granddaughter, Margaret Elizabeth (nice name, don't you think?). Brandi, Chris and Margaret Elizabeth Schmidt live in Ca-

nal Winchester, a suburb of Columbus. The Schmidts are very active in the First United Methodist Church in Bexley and Brandi and Chris participate in the Emmaus Community in Columbus and sometimes here.

Our lives, just as so many in this community, were changed by the Emmaus opportunity to meet the Lord in this incredible new way. We have continued to change, learn, grow and be strengthened through experiences in this Community as we serve God with others who love Him.

Tom and I started out in the kitchen where we met others and began to feel a part of this wonderful ministry. We moved on to cleaning bathrooms and cleaning the church on Sunday morning, which gave us a chance to really learn the church layout and to experience the joy of gifting God with our time, in secret, just for His pleasure. By sponsoring people who

were ready to grow, we learned the incredible joy of giving the best human gift we'd ever received. With the 72 hour prayer vigil, we learned new ways to focus and have the patience for sustained communication with the Father. By serving on teams, Tom and I were blessed first hand to watch others being touched by His hand as we had been and were allowed by God to assist in that life changing process. In serving on the Emmaus Board, I've learned the responsibility and overwhelming details of administering this important ministry and now God has called me to step completely, and I do mean completely, out of my comfort zone and serve Him and you in this Chairperson 2000 journey.

Jesus does guide us in this Emmaus ministry, both by His presence and His words. Wherever you feel His call to volunteer in this community, just remember that in Acts 20:35, "Tis more blessed to give than to receive." If this ministry is successful, it is because He has taught us to give and blesses those gifts.

As we are entering the year 2000, this is my prayer for this Community:
(continued on page 2)

*ACAPE
Pay it
Forward!*

TRADITION	Editor
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TRADITION! What does that word evoke when you read or hear it? Something hackneyed and ancient? Hearing in your mind's ear, "We've ALWAYS done it that way!?" Too often, I fear,

"tradition" has a negative connotation and sends people running from the room, either physically or at least mentally.

Maybe it brings to mind
(continued on page 2)

*“Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.”
from John 7:37-52*

Today (originally written for Dec. 29) The Episcopal Church commemorates Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury. Just before Becket was struck with the executioner’s final blow, he said, “Willingly I die for the name of Jesus and in the defense of the Church.”

My best friend recently celebrated her ordination. For many years we have met weekly. We sip coffee and, invariably, discuss the declining church membership. What’s a pastor to say? What’s a lay person to do?

On Sunday I recite: “Christ was born. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.” That is really huge news, but I know so many people who have given up

church. I dare not pound on doors; I can’t offend anyone. So I tell them about our outreach center. I extol the grand organ music, thinking Bach’s *Tocatta in D* may be all the theology anyone needs to hear.

It’s not. What we need is to hear our stories, the complicated, spiritual, personal narratives that make up the body of Christ. My weekly coffee conversation could be broadened—inviting more and more persons, asking “What does God have to do with me?” Come to think of it, that is how Christ’s church began. That is what every martyr since has defended.

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TRADITION! (continued from page 1)

Tevye in the musical, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF. Fighting against the changes the younger generation wishes to bring about, poor Papa sings of all the traditions that he thinks must stay.

Emmaus traditions are no different. There are those who would love to dump some of the traditions and others who find comfort and that sense of security in knowing that some things will not change.

Some of us “old-timers” miss the old movie, “IN RE-MEMBRANCE” and yet others shed no tears when the movie was replaced. (Still others will tell you that there was no movie on their walk!)

“De Colores” is a real Emmaus tradition. Pilgrims on many walks sing De Colores on the way to every meal. Some walks substitute other songs on the way to some meals....songs more conducive to walking and singing...or

at least less dangerous!

Stating your name, walk number and table? Like some of the other Emmaus traditions, this one is just another case of preparing the pilgrims and community members for a life of Christian leadership. To become comfortable in speaking in public, even if it is just stating your name, is a step toward becoming comfortable in leading.

How about the tradition of AGAPE? It comes in many forms: written, crafts, ice cream, music. The written form is a favorite of many. Some folks are just gifted in putting love into the written form!

The tradition of singing “Let Your Light Shine” at the end of most Emmaus functions reminds us that as we leave our time together and go back into the “real” world, we are to be the light that shines the way to our Lord.

CELEBRATE!

(continued from page 1)

Precious Father,

Please make us mindful of the ways each of our lives has been enriched and strengthened by the experience this Emmaus ministry offers us. We humbly thank you and praise your name for revealing your love in this real way that we can begin to understand. Give us a heart for others and move us to serve you in all the ways necessary to offer this experience to others who need and seek you. Let us see your glory in service, be it cleaning, cooking, praying, whatever you call us to do.

Let us always remember that your grace only remains in us when it flows through us to help others. That is what you left Heaven and came to Earth to do—serve and demonstrate love for our salvation and that becomes, as your children, our purpose for living.

Give us ears to hear what you are calling us to do, hearts willing to respond to your call and hands anxious to serve others. Make us your hands and feet. Allow us to serve you, Lord. Don’t let us be content with only receiving this gift, while there are still so many others who need you.

*We love you, in your Son’s holy name,
Amen.*

So, my dear brothers and sisters, as this new year begins, may the presence of God be a true source of blessing to all of us, may we be guided by Him to serve others and may our lives be different from this day onward.

In His Service,

Margaret Horst

(Editor’s note: Margaret continues to serve in the clown ministry of Wilmington Emmaus)

FROM LARRY *(reprinted from June, 1995)*

I will soon celebrate my four-year anniversary of Men's Walk #11. As I reflect on those talks and the special men of God who presented them, I am drawn to the last three presented by Steve Haines, Jack French, and David Swindler. In these are a recurring theme about the importance of staying in fellowship with other Christians throughout our Fourth Days.

Oh, how much I do enjoy the contact with all fellow pilgrims in the Emmaus Community, whether it be at Gatherings, walk events, share groups, etc. However, there is an important element that we might need to be reminded of that can get lost in our enjoyment of community-related events, and that is our involvement and commitment to the local Body of Christ, the Church.

Allow me to review some high points from those talks:

Body of Christ—The Body (Church) is laity and clergy being equipped to serve alongside one another. Characteristics of the Body are: 1) Alive and life-giving; 2) covenantal agreement with God and other believers in commitment; 3) gifted by the Holy Spirit for service; 4) missionary as we breathe in the Holy Spirit and laity and breathe out action and service.

Perseverance—We participate in the Body to stay in contact with Christ and with other Christians. "Emmaus activities are to supplement, not replace the local Church!"

Fourth Day—The purpose of the Emmaus Walk is to strengthen the Christian community, and to develop Christian disciples who will give their lives to sharing Christ.

The Apostle Paul writes, "But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired...Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it" (1 Corinthians 12:18, 27). The following story illustrates how critical each individual is to the Church's witness.

In a certain mountain village in

Europe several centuries ago, a nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to his townspeople. At last he decided to build a church.

No one saw the complete plans for the church until it was finished. When the people gathered, they marveled at its beauty and completeness. Then someone asked, "But where are the lamps. How will it be lighted?"

The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls. Then he gave to each family a lamp which they were to bring with them each time they came to worship.

"Each time you are here the area where you are seated will be lighted," he said. "Each time you are not here, that area will be dark. This is to remind you that whenever you fail to attend, some part of God's house will be dark."

Remember our commitment made at the cross ceremony, "I am counting on Christ and Christ is counting on me." The Church belongs to Him, and He is counting on us to proclaim, fellowship, and serve through the Body. De Colores!

In Christ's Service and Love,

Larry Stewart

PRAYER LIST

Prayer was requested for these people at our April Gathering:

Dave & Dinah Bond
Teri Kelley
Potential Pilgrims
Cliff Purvis
Unspoken

At the Gathering, folks present names of friends and family in need of prayer. We pray for them at the Gathering and then, during communion, others are invited to take one of the cards and pray over the next month for the individual whose name appears on the card.

QUINTESSENTIAL QUIG

In the month of May do you think of Memorial Day? Or is it the first big campout weekend; the start of the spring / summer vacation season? A paid day off from work, a short work week? The list could go on and on.

Memorial Day was formerly known as Decoration Day. It originated after the Civil War to commemorate the Union and Confederate Soldiers who died in the Civil War. By the 20th Century, Memorial Day has been extended to honor **ALL** Americans who die while in military service.

I would like to extend the biggest thank you and praise to all of our military personnel (and their families) who take the oath to serve and protect our great nation. These military personnel have granted us the freedom to enjoy this great nation. We have the freedom to go to the church we choose. We have the freedom to move about in our country. We have these freedoms because of all of the military personnel who have defended this great nation and some who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Military personnel have given us the ability to live freely in the USA. They have made it easy for us to do the things we do.

Christ also paid an ultimate sacrifice for each of us. He took each of our sins to the cross with him and, in his last words, stated "It is finished." (paraphrased) Christ is the savior of our souls, and if we believe in him, we shall have eternal life.

The sacrifice which military personnel give allows us to enjoy the things we have here on earth. (Our mortal bodies) The sacrifice Christ made is for our eternal lives. (Our souls)

Therefore, we need to thank **Christ** and our **military personnel**, not just on Memorial Day, but every day.

De Colores,

Quig

Wilmington Area Walk to Emmaus

Wilmington United Methodist Church
PO Box 191
Wilmington, OH 45177

We're on the web:
www.wilmingtonemmaus.org

See you at the GATHERING:
May 13
Singing starts at
6:45pm
Wear your nametag!
Bring a snack to share!

A Poem—Author Unknown

*Has someone seen Christ in you today?
Christian, look to your heart, I pray,
The little things that you have done or said....
Did they accord with the way you prayed?
Have your thoughts been pure and words been kind?
Have you sought to have the Savior's mind?
The world with a criticizing view,
Has watched.... But did it see Christ in you?*

*Has someone seen Christ in you today?
Christian, look to your heart, I pray,
There are aching hearts and blighted souls
Being lost on sin's destructive shoals,
And perhaps of Christ their only view
May be what they see of Him in you.
Will they see enough to bring hope and cheer?
Look to your light! Does it shine out clear?*