

EMMAUS

LEXINGTON COMMUNITY



Lexington, KY

"Did not our hearts burn within us, while he talked with us by the way...?"

January 2006

SURPRISE!!

No one is more surprised than I am that I'm the one writing a letter of greeting to the community as your Lay Director. If you read last month's newsletter, you read my farewell and thank you letter. If you came to last month's gathering, you heard me say thank you as I ended my year as Lay Director and "rolled off" the board in my elected position to serve in an emeritus position only as Team Selection coordinator. But a funny thing happened on the way to the board meeting!

After the November 7th board meeting, I was talking casually with two other board members about the past year and the upcoming one. We ended the conversation committed to praying about the next board meeting, about the general election, about finding someone for the last open position (to be filled by appointment), and the board officer elections.

As for myself, I knew I couldn't serve yet again as Lay Director since I was going off my elected position, and if anyone had asked me to serve again, I would have gone running and screaming from the room! Now don't get me wrong, I love you all dearly, but I've had an exhausting year personally with many other things going on in my life. The word going through my mind was "weary." Then I went on an Emmaus Walk. I had a most interesting weekend during Walk #90. The short story is that God and I had some wonderful conversation where He told me in no uncertain terms that I would no longer be weary (and showed me what I forgetting to do to keep from getting weary). I returned from the Walk renewed and refreshed, ready to serve. Of course I was a little perplexed since I was at the end of the year!

Meanwhile, my fellow board members were praying, and God placed on their hearts and minds a novel idea. Our community bylaws state that a board member can't run for election twice in a row, but a person can serve in an appointed position and an elected term back-to-back. In the past, board members have served in that order—an appointed position THEN an elected one, but nothing says that a board member can't serve first in an elected position then in an appointed one. SO, here's the result: the board offered me the appointed position left open by Pam Chandler's move to Alabama (that I've been trying unsuccessfully to fill for several months). It's a one-year position, ending in December 2006. I accepted the position. During the election of officers, the board nominated me as Lay Director. Now refreshed and renewed, and armed with God's promise that I would not be weary, I accepted and was elected as Lay Director for 2006.

What does all this mean for the community? Basically, we have some continuity for another year as we continue to build. Again, the community, just like the walks, doesn't depend on any one person to make it successful. It's success lies on our reliance upon God as we faithfully and sacrificially serve Him. I ask that you join the board again in 2006 in faithful and sacrificial service. And for me, personally, will you hold me accountable to what God Himself promised me? Check in with me now and then this year, and ask me if I'm practicing Isaiah 40:31: "But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

De Colores, Judy Seitz

LEXINGTON EMMAUS COMMUNITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006

The election of for the 2006 Board of Directors ended November 30th. At the December Board Meeting, the new Board met, Officers were elected, and community assignments were made.

Please welcome the 2005 Board of Directors and remember to pray for them. We are all thankful for their service and commitment to our Lord and the advancement of His kingdom.

Lay Director/Team Selection	Judy Seitz	(859) 858-9201
Spiritual Director	Bob Coppings	(859) 272-7871
Vice Lay Director and Registrar/Financial Secretary	Marty Wright	(859) 224-3736
Treasurer	Keith Wright	(859) 271-4596
Secretary	Carol Pinkston	(859) 272-0901
Agape	Donna New	(859) 986-7928
Candlelight/Sponsor's Hour	Stan Schilffarth	(859) 494-4360
Chrysalis	Susan Woods	(859) 626-9915
Community Shepherd	Charlie Shoemaker	(859) 230-8359
Facilities	Tony Hale	(859) 225-9793
Gatherings	Dee Hunter	(859) 744-5651
Kitchen	Amy Winn	(859) 200-8423
Leadership Training	Ted Gyorffy	(859) 873-6186
Literature	Jerri Williams	(859) 272-0585
Music/Entertainment	Kelly Hamilton	(859) 333-2006
Newsletter	David Baugh	(859) 699-8386
Supplies	John Bryant	(859) 338-9161

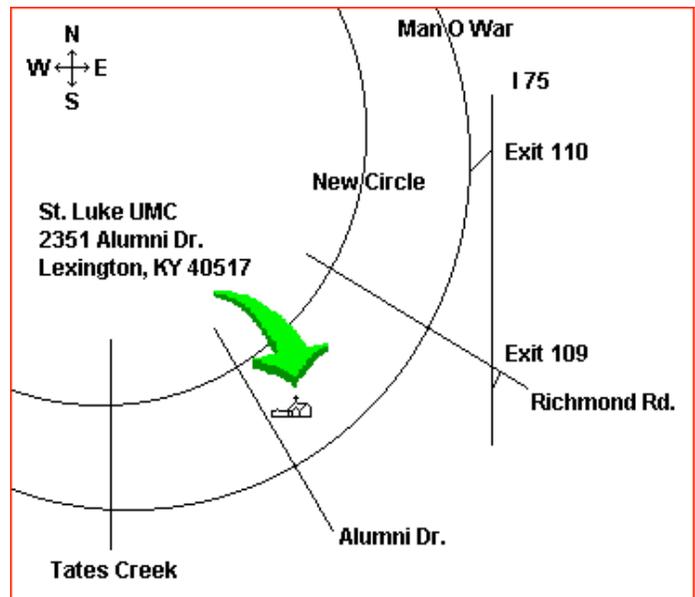
GATHERINGS - NEXT GATHERING/POTLUCK IS JANUARY 6TH

JANUARY

We will be meeting January 6th for our monthly Gathering and a potluck. We will gather at 5:30 PM at St. Luke United Methodist Church, 2351 Alumni Drive, Lexington, KY. Please bring a dish to share—vegetable, salad, or dessert. Drinks, main dish, and utensils will be provided. Dinner will start 6:00 PM. Worship will immediately follow at 7:30 PM. Don't forget to bring plenty of food to share.

FEBRUARY

The February 3rd Gathering will begin with the fellowship at 7:00 PM and the service at 7:30 PM. Please bring a snack to share.



SNOW POLICY

If Fayette County is out of school, we cancel the Gathering. We also announce it on major Lexington TV and radio stations.

URGENT SIGN-UPS FOR SPRING WALKS:

We only have three Gatherings before the spring walks, and the first one is BEFORE the teams have begun their team formation. So, we need the community to start signing up for prayer times, agape, and kitchen help right away! Please look for opportunities at Gathering and/or go online to our Web site to sign up. We especially need help with kitchen clean up since we now have lovely china for our meals.

SPONSORSHIP – THE FIRST ACT OF AGAPE

The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus lists three aspects of good sponsorship:

- It is “the first act of agape” before a Walk ever begins.
- It undergirds the whole weekend “with sacrificial love on behalf of each Pilgrim.”
- It is the foundation for a healthy, effective Emmaus Movement, which results in the renewal of the church.

Thus, sponsorship offers an opportunity for spiritual revitalization to individual Christians who then serve as vessels of renewal in their home, congregation, workplace, community, and the world. Wise sponsorship builds up the body of Christ.

Sponsorship is the act of re-experiencing The Walk to Emmaus with the person whom God has laid on your heart. Do not take its responsibilities lightly or carry them out haphazardly. Sponsorship requires extensive prayer, diligent thought, and careful planning before the Walk and follow-through afterwards. Sponsorship is one of the most important aspects of The Walk to Emmaus.

Remember this focus as you consider sponsorship. Viewing The Walk to Emmaus as a hospital to cure psychological, social and even spiritual ills will weaken the community. Emmaus is for active Christians and members of churches whose own renewal will mean new energy, commitment, and vision in the church and everyday environments for Christ's sake.

Emmaus is designed to give pilgrims the skills needed for leadership and invites them to make the commitment needed to build up the church for the sake of Jesus Christ. Its purposes are to deepen the faith of individuals, to increase the faith of congregations, and to bring Christianity to the World.

Consider these three principles:

PRAYER: Praying is the first step in sponsorship. When we start praying, we commit the process to God. We release to God our control, our desires, and our expectations. As we spend this time in prayer, we need to empty ourselves of self to be filled with God's instruction, God's timing, and God's person for us to sponsor.

OPENNESS TO GOD: Our openness to God enables us to become God's instruments in furthering divine will through The Walk to Emmaus. Being open to God includes having our eyes open to see God at work. Being open to God means we listen. Time and time again, the scriptures admonish us to listen to God and God's instructions. Our openness to God allows us to receive God's instruction – even when the instruction does not conform to our expectations. Our openness to God sensitizes us as to how God wants to renew and revitalize the church using all the aspects (sponsorship included) of the Emmaus experience.

CALLING BY NAME: Another aspect of sponsorship is calling individuals by name. God called people by name – Abram (Abraham), Moses, and others. Jesus also called individuals, and he called each person by name. Nowhere in the Gospels do we read Jesus issuing a general call for volunteers.

As sponsors, we need to follow the scriptural principles of praying, being open to God, and then calling people by name to attend The Walk to Emmaus. Remember, The Walk to Emmaus is not for everyone. Be certain that the individual you invite is right for Emmaus and the Emmaus is right for that individual.

Are you ready to be a praying, discerning, committed sponsor? Is God calling you by name?

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January

- 6 Gathering and Potluck at St. Luke UMC, 2351 Alumni Drive, Lexington (see article for times)
9 Board Meeting, St. Luke UMC, 2351 Alumni Drive, Lexington

February

- 3 Gathering at St. Luke UMC, 2351 Alumni Drive, Lexington
6 Board Meeting, St. Luke UMC, 2351 Alumni Drive, Lexington

LEXINGTON EMMAUS COMMUNITY SPRING WALK SCHEDULE

Men's Walk #91 - March 16 – 19, 2006

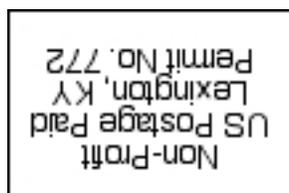
Women's Walk #92 - March 23 – 26, 2006

Registration forms should be sent to:

Lexington Emmaus Community,
ATTN: Registrar,
P.O. Box 23554
Lexington KY 40523-3554

Registration forms may be obtained from:

the address on the left
or our website at:
www.lexingtonemmaus.org



Return Service Requested
Lexington, KY 40503
3401 Cornwell Drive
LEXINGTON EMMAUS COMMUNITY