

EMMAUS

LEXINGTON COMMUNITY



Lexington, KY

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

January 2016

The Lay Director says...

2016..... What do you expect?

The year 2015 has gone and a new year springs forth, ready or not. As we look forward, do you look with anticipation to the coming days of 2016, or are there feelings that have no resemblance to joy? Although there are many reasons, health, finances, burdensome responsibilities and failed expectations that can cause us to allow the gloom of this temporary world to own a larger space in our life than it should, we sometimes have to be reminded that the God of all creation longs for us to lean in to Him during the low and high times of our lives. He is a God of relationships.

During the last several months, there have been multiple discussions as it relates to our Emmaus Community, and the term "revival" has arisen repeatedly. Upon searching for a "best" description, I note the following...

"Revival refers to a spiritual reawakening from a state of dormancy or stagnation in the life of a believer. It encompasses the resurfacing of a love for God, an appreciation of God's holiness, a passion for His Word and His church, a convicting awareness of personal and corporate sin, a spirit of humility, and a desire for repentance and growth in righteousness. Revival invigorates and sometimes deepens a believer's faith, opening his or her eyes to the truth in a fresh, new way. It generally involves the connotation of a fresh start with a clean slate, marking a new beginning of a life lived in obedience to God. Revival breaks the charm and power of the world, which blinds the eyes of men, and generates both the will and power to live in the world but not of the world."

Revival defined: 'bring to life.' From the Latin root, 're' means again and 'vivere' means life.

By definition, the word "revival" speaks of bringing life –again, implying that once that which had obvious, abundant life has somehow lost its purpose, passion and zeal.

Read the third paragraph, starting with "Revival" again. I, personally, was convicted by the words, not because the listing of characteristics is unattainable or unsustainable but because all too often I CHOOSE not to participate, not to seek out His Word, not to pray or seek His will. Guilty, and it hurts, knowing that I/we have been given gifts and abilities that remain bound up, knowing that a deeper relationship may take me out of my "comfort" zone and it is easier to resist than to trust.

We see evidence of a need for revival in our churches, our country, our Emmaus Community, our homes, and, most of all, a need within each of us. It begins with us individually.

Yet, as children of a loving God, the father, we are convicted and given opportunity to repent from the short comings we so often blame on a "fallen state". This is the first step, to recognize that we were not designed, nor capable of walking this walk alone. Would you claim with me the grace that has been poured out so we can begin tomorrow afresh, with a passion for a deeper relationship that includes prayer, a thirst for His word and a boldness to speak truth?

The new year is upon us.....what do you expect?

DeColores, Joe Martin

The Community Shepherd says...

Seeking Revival for 2016

A few weeks ago the Lexington Emmaus Board of Directors met for an entire day to seek God's direction for this community as we enter a new year. We were reminded that the Emmaus movement is of God, and it is only with God's lead and in God's power that we will do anything worth doing. As part of seeking the Lord's guidance and direction, we heard a call to enter a time of prayer and fasting, and we invite you, the Lexington Emmaus community, to join us in that journey.

Many of us may think about fasting as a means of losing some of the extra weight we put on during the holiday season just past. My dietician daughter-in-law tells me that is not a very good idea. But I am convinced fasting is an important part of seeking the presence and the will of God. Fasting is a means of humbling ourselves, of denying self, that has always been necessary as we seek to be obedient, affirmed in both the Old and New Testaments. It is a great way to say to our own bodies, with all their wants and demands, "You are not in charge, here!" It is a discipline, needed to put ourselves under the Lordship of Christ rather than our own self-interest.

So, please join with your sisters and brothers in this community as we "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness", humbling ourselves and praying that God will move in a mighty way to bring his gospel of love and grace to more and more people in Central Kentucky and around the world. If you are not in the practice of fasting already, you are advised to start small, but also to trust that God will provide the strength you need to start. We will be talking a bit more about this invitation at our next Gathering on January 8th. It would be great to see you there.

DeColores, Bruce Hiner

The Secretary says...

Begin January with a Blessings Jar

Happy New Year everyone. Did you have a blessed year? Are your priorities right with God as your focus? If not how can you reprioritize? Are you prepared to sponsor or work the Emmaus Walk?

Each January I take an empty Mason jar and label it Blessings Jar. The purpose is twofold. Each week I place a small note (usually a post it note) stating a positive thing that happened that week. Then each Saturday I put \$2.00 in the jar plus all the change in my wallet.

At the end of the year I read all the blessings (all 52 of them) realizing how amazing the year has been. Then I count the cash. I always have enough to work an Emmaus Walk or sponsor a person to attend the Walk. I often even have enough to purchase craft materials to produce agape. I try to make fun wearable agape.

This past year I had more blessings than usual. I know some of you are wondering what I am referring to since my Fred died this last year. But the truth is, even in the midst of his battle with cancer, I had so many gifts from God. I opened my jar and wept. My blessings had been many. I had been on a 23 day trip and cruise in Europe, we had a wonderful 3 weeks in Washington DC, Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown with our eldest granddaughter, I spent a week in California visiting my sister and brother-in-law as well as my daughter and her family, we spent time together walking in the park imagining our next anniversary trip at 45 years, and I taught as a missionary teacher in Prague, Czech Republic. All are blessings.

So fill up your jar. Be prepared to work when called with full commitment as a priority.

DeColores, Patricia Walsh



The Registrar says...

The next Chrysalis flight is Feb 13,14 and 15. Christmas is over, but you can still give the gift of Christ to a youth 14 through 18. This is a Community event. It's up to US, the Community to spread the love of Christ Don't let these kids down! Plan NOW to sponsor someone. Don't wait until the last minute (Jan 31, 2016). Sponsorship forms are found on our website lexingtonemmaus.org.

DeColores, Beckie Sigmon

Call to Christian Action...

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVANTHOOD... SIDE BY SIDE

Where: AdventureServe Wilmore, Ky.
When: January 23, 2015 9:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
Why: To prepare campus facilities for the upcoming Chrysalis Flights (Feb 13-15)
What: General cleaning of rooms, mopping floors, kitchen/conference room furniture arrangements, insulating windows, installation of laminate flooring, possible painting, etc, praying over campus in preparation of the Flight.

Please note the date on your calendar and plan to attend. We need your help.
If you have a particular area of interests, please contact me at martinedco@bellsouth.net

DeColores, Joe Martin

Future Walk and Flight dates...

2016 and 2017

February 13-15, 2016 Chrysalis Flight #38

Ken Lucky, Boy's Lay Director
Jen Marshall, Girl's Lay Director

April 7-10, 2016	Men's Walk #129
April 21-24, 2016	Women's Walk #130
October 6-9, 2016	Men's Walk #131
October 13-16, 2016	Women's Walk #132
February 18-20, 2017	Chrysalis Flight #39
April 20-23, 2017	Men's Walk #133
April 27-30, 2017	Women's Walk #134
October 5-8, 2017	Men's Walk #135
October 12-15, 2017	Women's Walk #136



**YOU can be a
Sponsor!**



Inclement Weather Policy

If schools are closed in **Fayette County** due to bad weather, there will **not** be a Gathering that night. If the weather gets bad during the day please watch the news channels and check our FaceBook page. Safety first!!

Next Gathering

January 8

***Trinity Hill UMC
3600 Tates Creek Rd.
Lexington***

***6:30 Potluck
7:30 Worship***

Plan Ahead...

Gatherings 2016

February 5	Trinity Hill UMC
March 4	Trinity Hill UMC
April 9	Men's Candlelight/Estes Chapel

The Lexington Emmaus Community is invited to a Farewell Open House for Ben Bowman as he prepares to return to Prague at the end of January. This is simply a chance for Ben to see and say goodbye to as many friends as he can before he leaves. **No gifts please!** Your attendance is your gift. Cards, notes and pictures that Ben can take back to the Czech Republic are encouraged.

Saturday, January 9, 2016 1pm-4pm
Home of John and Nellie Miller
119 Anderson Way
Wilmore, KY 40390

LEXINGTON EMMAUS COMMUNITY

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Return Service Requested