

LEXINGTON EMMAUS COMMUNITY



Lexington, KY

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

July 2013

Message from Community Lay Director

“Discipleship Denied – Jim and The Garbage Man”

It was a typical Friday. Up at 5:30 am, as on every day of the week, cleaned up and dressed, morning devotions and prayer time, worked the easy puzzle in the Herald Leader while having a bite to eat, and out of the house by 7:25 to meet my friend Barry for a walk. We meet at the Recreation Center behind Immanuel Baptist Church every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for a four-mile walk. We do it in about sixty-eight minutes, or a mile every seventeen minutes. We think that’s pretty good for a couple of old guys.

Well, the morning went fine, that is until I began the drive to Immanuel. I take the back roads so usually travel down Lansdowne Drive to Tates Creek. I saw a garbage truck immediately in front of me. I had not seen a garbage truck on previous trips. Within a few houses he stopped smack dab in the middle of the road to gather the cans and began to load them one by one on his lift. I tooted the horn and motioned for him to pull over to the curb to allow me to pass by. He went into orbit and began yelling at me, refusing to move the truck. He drove a few houses down to the next stop and repeated the same routine – stopping dead center in the middle of the road and yelling at me “to wait a minute, be patient”. So I now began blowing the horn (you do know there is a difference between tooting the horn and blowing the horn?) I began yelling at him. It was quite a scene. There were a total of six other stops in a three-block area and each time the same routine was repeated. By this time there were seven or eight cars waiting. I thought I would get the best of him by laying on the horn when he turned off Lansdowne Drive, but, alas, he laid on HIS horn. At best it was draw!!

By the time I arrived at the church to walk, I was beside myself. How could that man have been so inconsiderate? Didn’t he realize he was holding up busy people some of whom needed to get to work or to drop their kids off at school? Who did he think he was and why did he believe he had the right to inconvenience me? I stormed into the Rec Center and told Barry and Wayne behind the desk, about my unnerving trip and the nerve of the garbage man.

I got a bit of sympathy and then Wayne said, “Jim, maybe you should be praying for that man.” What a bummer!! I had been treated badly and was reminded that I am called to be thinking about the needs of the “other guy”. Do you get the message? Discipleship denied.

The Reunion Group I am part of uses the Service Card every week to guide our discussions. Yes, some weeks, one of us has a “big deal” that needs attention so we lay the card aside, but most weeks we use it to guide us. We don’t get to the back of the card as often as we should though, where we find some soul searching questions –
“When did you feel closest to Christ in the last week?”
“When did you feel you were responding to God’s call to be his disciple?”
“When was your faith tested this week through failure, discipleship denied?”

At the next Reunion Group following my encounter with the garbage man, I shared my story and how I felt it was moment of discipleship denied. It was not pleasant in that I had to share that, at the foundational level; my wounded pride had caused me to act in a very un-Christian way. How could I spend forty-five minutes in devotion and prayer, committing myself to be His servant that day and an hour later, be acting like a blooming idiot? Some of my brothers said they knew how I felt but no one suggested my actions were appropriate.

Praise God for the concept of the Emmaus Reunion Group! Praise God for any group that comes together on a regular basis to hold its members accountable on this Christian walk. I pray that each of you reading this is feeling blessed to have such accountability in your walk. If not, is it time for you to become part of or start a Reunion Group? It will add a whole new dimension to what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

In Him,
Jim Eastburn
Community Lay Director
Ephesians 2: 8-10

A Message from the Community Spiritual Director

There is a verse in the Bible Christians have either taken as a great comfort or (secretly) questioned in their lives. Romans 8:28 says, “We know that all things work together for good to those who love God and have been called according to His purpose.” All things? Bad things? Awful things? Unexplainable things?

All of us have questions when natural disasters strike, when sickness and death come, or when circumstances in our lives spin out of control. Questions abound when people hurt us, or are unfaithful, when promises are broken, or when divorce and conflict happen. Disagreements, differing opinions, and people who are unreasonable, critical and hateful can cause questions to surface. I don’t need to go on, you get the picture---we are tempted to question people’s actions, to question our faith, and to question God.

Concentrate on two phrases: “Those who love God”, and, “Those who are called according to God’s purpose”. That is who we are, God’s children, loved by God and given promises by God. This letter was originally written to Roman Christians who faced major persecution, in addition to all the highs and lows of life. Instead of looking at the negative in our world and yes, there is plenty of negative, let’s look at the positive in the midst of it all.

Each Christian has responded to God’s love and call on his or her life. We say to God, “Here I am, save me, direct me, use me, take charge of my life - I give my life to you.” We recognize that in essence God is in charge of our life, our world, and anything and everything that comes our way. May we rest in that thought! May we keep that perspective when we are tempted to question! May we live in the love of God and the call He has on each of us!

Perhaps you have heard the statement, “I receive so much from God when I work a walk”, or “Working a walk was even more of a blessing than my original walk”. Let me challenge you with this thought, if you feel you have lost your “first love” for God or your sense of call you felt after your Walk to Emmaus, maybe it is time to find it again.

There are many ways to do this, a retreat with your church, a visit to a spiritual mentor, an in-depth study of scripture, taking a spiritual gift inventory class, attending a Candlelight or Closing to hear testimonies that encourage all of us

Maybe it is time to prayerfully consider working a walk and allowing God to use you as part of a team. The team formations are a great time to reconnect with God’s love and God’s call on your life. Working a walk lets God use your gifts, surround you with Agape love, and partner with Him in touching the lives of the pilgrims.

De Colores,
Bob Coppings
Spiritual Director

Fall Emmaus Walks

Remember the upcoming **Fall Walks**. The deadline for all walks and flights is 3 weeks before the walk begins. The deadline for the Men's Walk will be **September 12th** and **September 26th** for the Women's Walk.

Please update your 4th Day Sheets! If your contact info is changing, please visit the Lexington Emmaus Website to update your contact information.



Please **PRAY** for our Lay
Directors and Team
Formation!

Men's Walk 121-Lay Director,
Drew Meadows
Women's Walk 122-Lay Director,
Susan Holliday

Lexington Emmaus Community
Future Walks and Flights

2013

October 3-6, 2013 - Men's Walk 121
October 17 - 20, 2013 - Women's Walk 122

2014

February 15 - 17, 2014 - Chrysalis Flight 36
April 24 - 27, 2014 - Men's Walk 123
May 1 - 4, 2014 - Women's Walk 124
October 2 - 5, 2014 - Men's Walk 125
October 9 - 12, 2014 - Women's Walk 126

Fall 2013 Walk Registration

Register now for the Lexington Emmaus Community's Fall 2013 Walks.

Men's Walk #121 - October 3-6, 2013

Women's Walk #122 - October 17-20, 2013

The deadline for submission of [Walk applications](#) is three weeks prior to the Walk. If you wish to register a pilgrim for these Walks, get them in **now** to make sure your pilgrim has a place. The cost of the walk is \$150.00 with \$50.00 due at the time of application as a nonrefundable deposit.

Please note that because of the date of the Fall Men's Walk the October 4th Gathering has been moved to October 5th. The Community will be gathering at Estes Chapel for Candlelight.

Please visit the Lexington Emmaus Community website for more information, News, Forms, Agape sign-up, past walk photos, links to the Upper Room and other area Emmaus Communities, etc.
www.lexingtonemmaus.org

Announcements

Reunion Groups Update

We are currently in the process of updating all Lexington Community Reunion Group information. If I have not already spoken to you about your Reunion Group, please contact me by phone or email so I may add your Reunion Group contact information to our list. Thank you for your help.

- Sandra Johnson: 859-293-2968; [sjjohnson2@insightbb.com](mailto:sjohnson2@insightbb.com)

More Information on Gatherings

Everyone bring a dish to share: veggie/side dish, main dish, or dessert. Drinks, plates, cups, and utensils will be provided. Everyone will help clean up, so the work will be light

CHILD CARE—Child care is available at most Gatherings. Sponsors assist finding childcare for Walks.

COMMUNITY PRAYER MINISTRY - Need one or two volunteers to take over this ministry. Please pray to see if God is leading you to this position.

Lexington Community Calendar: 2013

AUGUST

- 2** **Gathering at Wesley UMC**, 1825 Russell Cave Rd, Lexington, 6:30 PM Potluck, 7:30 PM Worship
- 9** **Gathering at Paintsville's Mayo UMC**, 325 Court Street, Paintsville, 7:00 Worship

SEPTEMBER

- 6** **Gathering at Paris First UMC**, 617 Pleasant Street, Paris, 6:30 PM Potluck, 7:30 PM Worship
- 13** **Gathering at Paintsville's Mayo UMC**, 325 Court Street, Paintsville, 7:00 Worship

OCTOBER

- 4** **No Gathering**
- 5** **Community Gathering at Candlelight**, 8:00 PM Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY
- 3-6** **Men's Emmaus Walk #121** Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY
- 11** **Gathering at Paintsville's Mayo UMC**, 325 Court Street, Paintsville, 7:00 Worship
- 17-20** **Women's Emmaus Walk #122** Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY

NOVEMBER

- 1** **Gathering at Centenary UMC**, 2800 Tates Creek Rd, Lexington, 6:30 PM Potluck, 7:30 PM Worship
- 8** **Gathering at Paintsville's Mayo UMC**, 325 Court Street, Paintsville, 7:00 Worship

DECEMBER

- 6** **Gathering at Winchester First UMC**, 204 South Main Street, Winchester, 6:30 PM Potluck,
7:30 PM Worship
- 13** **Gathering at Paintsville's Mayo UMC**, 325 Court Street, Paintsville, 7:00 Worship

Lexington Emmaus Community
P.O. Box 23554, Lexington, KY 40523-3554
www.lexingtonemmaus.org

Lexington Emmaus Community 2013 Board of Directors

Lay Director-Jim Eastburn
Treasurer-Karen Lay
Agape-Donna New
Community Shepherd-Alan Jackson
Registrar-Jane Yerace
Leadership Training-David Wolfe
Music-Laurie White
Supplies-Cong Potter
Candlelight & Sponsor's Hour- Mary Lou Stephens

Spiritual Director-Bob Coppings
Secretary-Veronica Taylor
Chrysalis-Michael Deaton
Team Selection-Roy Johnson
Gatherings/Kitchen-Jen Deaton
Literature-Cliff Jackson
Newsletter-Carrie Wheeler
Facilities-Paul Purcell

The Lexington Emmaus Community Board of Directors meets on the third Thursday of the month, at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity Hill UMC, 3600 Tates Creek Road, Lexington, KY. Anyone with agenda items to bring before the board, please contact Jim Eastburn at eastienlex@aol.com



Lexington Emmaus Community
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