

Wilmington Emmaus



Wilmington Area Emmaus Community Newsletter

THE PERFECT GIFT

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'"

Isaiah 9:6

Everyone knows that Christmas is the season to be jolly. 'Tis the season for joy, while frantically going with the hustle and bustle of the holiday attending the parties, dinners, and shopping for the most perfect gifts. You become a master at juggling the money for special party clothes, decorations that you must have and, yes, the perfect gifts. Your schedule is so jammed with this event and that function that you stay up late to bake, decorate and plan for those perfect gifts. You try to encompass the family traditions with ones you would like to start while looking for the perfect gifts. You desire to make everyone happy even if it is at your expense while looking for the perfect gifts. Then you wrap those perfect gifts in beautiful paper and tie them with just the right ribbons and place them under the decorated tree. Christmas Day arrives! Guess what? You are exhausted and

your joy and enthusiasm seems dull. Your emotions are on your finger tips. You've missed something, but you're not certain what. But, 'tis the season to be jolly. It says so. Ho Ho.....

As Christians, we know the reason for the season and yet we let the hustle and bustle of the holiday squeeze out our Lord and Savior. With all the "stuff" stuffed in our schedule, He is the first to get "X" out and so the miracle of Christmas is missed. Wouldn't you love to simplify this holiday by finding one perfect gift for everyone on your list? A gift that lasts forever. A gift that doesn't tarnish, doesn't rust, doesn't weather
(cont. on page 2 "Perfect")



TABOR TALK

"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed."

Matthew 2:10

As I write this article, we are in the midst of what is known around these parts as "Michigan Week." Simply put, that is traditionally the last week of the college football season, the week leading up to the Ohio State vs Michigan football game. The hype is great. The air is electric. The anticipation and enthusiasm for THE game is at fever-pitch level! And yet, when Saturday is over, and the game is complete, the only thing that matters is what is on the scoreboard! The record attendance will not matter. The total yardage gained will not matter. The instant replays will have no effect on the outcome of the game! The score is what will matter. Numbers on a scoreboard -- indicators of who won and who lost!

In a sense, Matthew 2:10 is like that scoreboard! This verse describes the search of the three wise men, the magi from the East, for the "one who has been born king of the Jews!" (2:2) They
(cont. on page 2, "Tabor")

PERFECT *(cont. from page 1)*
with time, doesn't change with the seasons. God's gift to us came wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. How about giving the gift of Christ? You and I being Christlike in character, demonstrating to others His gifts of forgiveness, a full cup of kindness, a sincere phone call of grace to someone who would never expect it or notes of love to estranged family members or forgotten friends. Yes, Jesus Christ came shining His light but how can we shine for others if we let this holiday frenzy dim our light or even burn it out? We need to unpack our calendars, cancel a few events and functions and take some quality time with our Father, unwrapping His gift of Jesus' birth, His life and His death.

The ornaments are ready. The place has been prepared. Strings of lights and holly are draped across the chair.

The family is all together. I know where they must be. Everyone is searching for the perfect tree.

Mother wants a straight one. The children want it tall. Dad just hopes that somehow he can get it down the hall. Soon they'll gather round it as proud as they can be. But when they're looking at it, I wonder if they see. With all the celebrations, sometimes the truth is lost. That every step this baby took brought Him closer to the cross.

The perfect tree grew very long ago. And it was not decked with silver or with ornaments of gold. But hanging from its branches was a gift for you and me. Jesus laid His life down on the perfect tree.

(Ray Boltz, musician and songwriter)

Let it be our prayer this holy holiday, that we will first and foremost spend time with our Lord refreshing ourselves in His living word, renewing our spirit and sharing His message of love by scattering it throughout our

workplace, sharing it with the grocery clerk, sprinkling it on the people we meet--people we don't even know, clipping it on the visor of our spouse's car, sending it to our children, e-mailing it to our friends and missed loved ones. You know, we may be the only Jesus someone may ever see.

Have a blessed holiday season sharing the perfect gift, Jesus.

LOVE, PEACE & JOY!

In His Service,
Margaret



Thank You

SPECIAL THANK YOU

to

RANDY RILEY

Leadership

Randy has been one of God's disciples and has served this Emmaus Community and Board humbly and without hesitation. God is not done calling upon Randy and we know he will continue to serve and witness for our Lord in whatever way that he can. From the Emmaus Board and Community, we say, "GOD BLESS YOU and THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

TABOR *(cont. from page 1)*

came to the land of the Jews, the land called Palestine, and then went to the place where they considered that kings would be born, Jerusalem, the capital city! There they even went to the home where the king would be born, the palace of the king, and thus spoke to the "king" himself, Herod! The star, in a sense, is that scoreboard! These men from the East had seen the score in the sky, and had followed it to a "victory party," so to speak! They were looking for the victory party and had come to the only place they knew to come--the home of the king. When they discovered the newborn baby was not there, no doubt they were disheartened and confused, but then the lights on the scoreboard came back on! And they "rejoiced with great joy!"

I would love to tell you sitting here that there will be a victory party on Saturday in the OSU locker room! But only the scoreboard will be able to predict that one. But I can tell you that every Christmas is a way to a victory party for Christ! The star tells us that a King has been born! Sin has been defeated and death has been overcome!

"When the right time came, God sent His Son....to buy freedom for us....so that he could adopt us as his very own children."

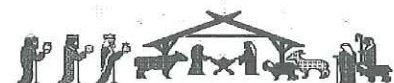
Galatians 4: 4-5

This Christmas, no matter what, let's celebrate the victory!

The presidency may be in question, Florida may be in doubt, and the nation may be in confusion, but realize that with the birth of the King, the final gun has sounded and the game is over! Check out the scoreboard, and rejoice with great joy! (And, "Go Bucks!")

God bless....

Chuck Tabor



Swan Song

"And I heard him exclaim ere he drove out of sight, 'Merry Christmas to all, and to all, a good night.'" Santa had great final words....I'd say we could each quote these famous lines. "I'll be back." Schwarteneggar, right? So what words of parting can your editor impart? Frankly none come to mind at present.

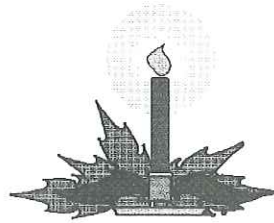
This is the final issue of WE newsletter I'll will edit. In some ways, it's been an incredibly long three years! In other ways, it seems I just started. We've had our bumps along the way, but you should have received your newsletter sooner or later (hopefully, sooner). Remember our contest to "name the newsletter?" We had some dandy suggestions.....it would have been nice to use a different name and logo each month! During these three years, I suggested and the board adopted the policy of sending the newsletter to all Emmaus folks who desired receiving it, at no cost. You'll remember that's about the time we began taking up love offerings at Gatherings and Candlelights. As a result, our newsletter went from around 400-600 mailings to over 1300 currently (and growing).

Now, I must thank all of you who ever submitted an article or announcement to be included in the newsletter. I hope I always received it and included it! Thanks to those who ever helped get the newsletter out...to members of the board who were prevailed upon to tab and sticker at board retreats. Thanks to Ed Hiestand for his help in maintaining the mailing list and providing our mailing labels. What an incredible job he does! Thanks for all those times he made a trip to Wilmington to mail the newsletters. A great big special thank you to Steve, Diana and Emily Preston and others who have helped with the tabbing, stickering and mailing for over a year now. (And a great big thank you to Diana for the wonderful meal on those newsletter nights!) Thanks to Steve Roe

who, while he still owned his printing company, printed our newsletters at no cost as an gift of agape. What a savings to the community. By the way, Steve has moved to Florida now. I'll bet he really misses our winter weather, don't you?

So, as I turn the reins over to our new editor, in those famous closing words of Roy Rogers, "Happy trails 'til we meet again and may the Good Lord take a likin' to you!"

John M Glaze



WERE YOU WONDERING?

* There have been 60 generations of people since Jesus' birth about 2000 years ago.

* Charles Dickens wrote the famous *Christmas Carol* in 1843, and the world was introduced to Tiny Tim and Scrooge. In that same year, the first Christmas card was produced in England.

* Dickens and Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, introduced many Christmas customs to England and, consequently, to America, including Christmas trees, decorations with lights, and plum pudding.

* From 1649 to 1658, Oliver Cromwell banned the Christmas festival in England--possibly in reaction to the virtual disappearance of any spiritual significance.

* Evergreen trees and wreaths have been used as symbols of eternal life since the ancient times of the Egyptians, Chinese, and Hebrews. After the coming of Christianity, evergreens took on a more spiritual significance and were thought to scare away the devil.



Christmas in..... England

In England coins are baked inside the Christmas pudding. The person who receives them in his portion is supposed to have good luck the next year. "Crackers," party favors with small trinkets inside, are used at each place setting at the table. A tradition of pulling the "crackers" so that the trinkets spill out has been popular for decades.

Merry Christmas

Ireland

A candle is placed in the window on Christmas Eve as a welcome light to all who, like Mary and Joseph, may be in search of shelter.

Merry Christmas

France

The night before Christmas, French children polish their shoes and leave them by the fireplace. They hope that le Pere Noel, or Saint Nicholas, will fill them with candies, nuts, and fruits. He also brings a basket of gifts, carried on his back. After midnight many families gather for an all-night dinner.

Merry Christmas

Iceland

Many people customarily light huge bonfires that burn throughout Christmas night. Cemeteries are decorated with thousand of festive lights and candles.



Wilmington United Methodist Church
61 E. Main St, Suite 4
Wilmington, OH 45177

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

calendar - december 2000

Emmaus - Wilmington UMC

12 Board Meeting - 6:00pm
Special Gathering - 7:00pm
"Christmas Dessert Night"
(Singing starts at 6:45pm)
Copy deadline for Jan. Newsletter

When attending a gathering or closing, you may wish to bring food to share during the fellowship time following these two events.

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December Gathering

Traditionally, our December Gathering is given over to the musical celebration of Jesus' birth. This year is no exception. Scott and Cyndi Amen have been working to bring to the community an

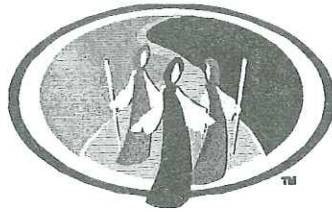
evening filled with joyous music to celebrate Christmas! We will have an abbreviated Joys and Concerns time and will celebrate Communion in addition to the music. Let's fill the church! Following the Gathering, (when Emmaus meets, Emmaus eats!) we will share our usual time of fellowship. This month's theme is **"CHRISTMAS DESSERTS."** Please bring Christmas cookies or other Christmas delights to share!

Chrysalis News

FAITH IN FLIGHT - For an energetic evening of praise, why not drop by our FAITH IN FLIGHT CHRYSALIS HOOT? Hoots are held at Grace United Methodist Church in Washington CH, the 3rd Monday of every month. By the way, thanks to our Chrysalis Youth for sharing in our November Gathering! Great job!

**WILMINGTON AREA
EMMAUS BOARD MEMBERS**

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OPEN	Men's Registrar	
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Cindy Seip	Co-Music	937-927-5438
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Shannon Stryker	Women's Good Shepherd	
Chuck Tabor	SD	937-393-4653 cdtabor@bright.net
Sandie Wingo	Co-Music	937-486-3694



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM

Wilmington
Area
Emmaus

Special Edition

A special edition of the Wilmington Emmaus Newsletter to inform you of some very exciting happenings at Wilmington Emmaus that we just know that you will want to experience for yourself!

*To be in Christ
is redemption,
but for Christ to be in you
is sanctification.
To be in Christ
is to be fit for heaven,
but for Christ to be in you
is to be fit for earth.*

**Come
to the**



**In The
PARK!**

Picnic in the Park

It's time to just have fun with each other!

23 October 2000 at 5:30 p.m. the whole community is going to gather for PICNIC IN THE PARK!

Three shelter houses have been reserved in Wilmington Park (entrance across from Long John Silvers). Bring your own meat! The community will provide charcoal for anyone who wants to grill. *Bring other food to share.*

We will have fellowship until time to head to the church for Candlelight!



**THE
NOVEMBER
GATHERING
IS A
PRAISE
SERVICE
WITH
CHRYSALIS!**

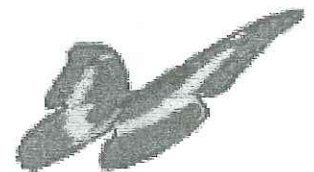
IT'S TACO NIGHT at the November 14 **Gathering!**

Beef and taco shells will be provided! Just bring something that goes with TACOS!

Faith in Flight Chrysalis will be leading us with praise song before the Gathering to warm you up!

A special *Next Steps* speaker which is the equivalent of our Fourth Day Speaker and special music as only Chrysalis can produce.

Don't even be surprised if you are treated to the Chrysalis version of Pharaoh, Pharaoh!



Don't Miss The Miracle!



The Christmas Gathering scheduled for

12 December 2000
at 7:00 p.m.

is already in the planning, led by Scott and Cyndi Amen. They will be building the Gathering around this theme.

Bring your favorite Christmas deserts to share with the community after the Gathering.

Pilgrim UpDate

Need to know who has been added to Women's Walk 60 and who has had to cancel?

It's real easy! Go to our website at www.wilmingtonemmaus.org/update.htm and check.

Waiting List UpDate!

The waiting lists for both men's and women's walks are very short. If you have been waiting to sponsor someone or your pilgrim is waiting for a spot to open in another community, now is the time before the list grows!

Send you applications to
Mike Halley 2229 Ogden Road
Wilmington, Ohio 45177
(937) 383-3270

Karen Morgan P.O. Box 419
Waynesville, Ohio 45068
(513) 897-5541

I asked God to take away my pain.
God said, No.
It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.
God said, No.
Her spirit was whole, her body was only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience.
God said, No.
Patience is a by-product of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is earned.

I asked God to give me happiness.
God said, No.
I give you blessings. Happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain.
God said, No.
Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow.
God said, No.
You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful.

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy in life.
God said, No.
I will give you life so that you may enjoy all things.

I asked God to help me LOVE others, as much as HE loves me.
God said...
Ahhhh.....Finally you have the idea.

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