

Wilmington Emmaus

Volume 30 Issue 1

January 2015



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM

Go for the
EMMAUS
GUSTO!
Stay involved!
Join a Share
Group!
Keep in touch!
Serve your
church!

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THE LIGHT

When growing up one of our family traditions was putting up the outside Christmas lights. When the attic door was opened in the garage, the car was backed out and the ladder in place, we knew it was time for the Christmas lights to be brought down. It would take all day to get them unpacked, untangled, strung out and tested to make sure each bulb still worked.

The one item that my sister, brother and I always looked forward to the most was the big wooden Santa in his sleigh and his reindeer. It had to be handed down ever so gently not to break a leg off of Rudolph.

Stringing the many strands of lights on the 40 foot pine tree in the front yard was the biggest task. Being that my Dad was a lineman for Dayton Power and Light, he climbed the tree with his spikes after it got so big that he couldn't reach the top any longer. Then the time came to turn on the lights, just like on the movie "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"! He would flip the switch and the whole village of Burtonville would light up. As you came down the hill and before turning the

curve, it looked like you were going to run right into the big tree of lights.

People came from all over the county to see the spectacular sight. We received fruit baskets and numerous cards over the years from the community just to say thank you for the time to bring Christmas joy. It had become a tradition for many families to come and see "the big tree" each Christmas season. One of the cards received was from an Airborne pilot. Our house was in the path of the Airborne runway. He said when he saw the upcoming lights from the big tree he started to smile because he knew he was home.

Now my husband, Dave and I carry on the tradition at our home with the lighting of our trees. A lighted cross is placed among the trees to remind others of the reason for the season.

Now that the Christmas season is behind us and all the lights have been packed up for another year, we can still let HIS light shine bright through our words and actions.

The receiver will come to see and know Jesus, the light of the world. His light shines continuously waiting

to give the receiver the greatest gift of all and to guide them home.

Early one Emmaus walk morning while sitting in the sanctuary, I remember looking at the stained glass windows and noticing how dark, cold and ugly they looked. It was still dark and dreary outside that morning. I couldn't even make out the design of the window. By the time the devotion was over the sun was starting to appear. As I sat and watched the window become filled with definition and beauty, it was transformed before my eyes. Something so beautiful that had been there the whole time but without the light shining behind it, it was hidden. God showed me something that morning I will never forget.

Jesus, THE LIGHT of the world, dismisses darkness and creates the most perfect beauty, whether it be in a tree, a stained glass window or in a heart. Let Jesus use you this year to draw others to Him.

Robyn Hinman

Robyn Hinman, Community Chair

JOY FROM JOY

Another year has come and gone. The anticipation for the holidays is over. Christmas decorations have been taken down and stowed away for another year. Time moves on so quickly. The stores were ready for Valentine's Day by December 26th. I remember in my youth, way back there, I would hear people say the older you get the faster time goes. Obviously, it really doesn't go any faster. There are the same number of days in a year, week, month; same number of hours in a day and day in a minute, regardless of your age. It is true, however, that it sure seems like time goes faster. I imagine it has a lot to do with our value of time. The older we get, we realize the less time we have and the years start feeling like they are flying by. Christmas is like that for me. It seems that we no

sooner get the decorations all put away than it is time to get them all out again. This year the season went so quickly that at our house we only decorated the tree, leaving all other decorations in storage.

2014 I had the opportunity to be a part of a production called "Journey to Bethlehem". It was a journey through several stops along the way to Bethlehem, a time spent in the market place of Bethlehem and ultimately to the Inn to see the Christ child. The very first stop was to listen to a character playing the part of Josephus. He made a statement that made a huge impact on those walking through. He reminded us of what we all knew, but just sometimes need to be reminded and put in perspective. He reminded us that the night Christ was born changed the

calendar of the whole world. Every day before the birth of Christ is considered B.C. (Before Christ) but after the birth of Christ is A.D. (Anno Domini) meaning in the year of our Lord referring to the year of Christ birth.

The Christ that we accept as Savior and whose sacrifice we celebrate every time we come together at Emmaus through Holy Communion is the center of everything we base time on. The world may deny his existence, society may not accept our praying to Him in public except in times of massive crisis, but the reality is that He is real, the events of his birth cannot be denied. Oh, What a Savior! 2015 years later here we are in personal relationships with Him! Aren't you glad you know Him!

Joy Stanforth

SHARING YOUR EMMAUS EXPERIENCE
By Gretchen Solt (Reynoldsburg Community)

It has been said that Christians live in a fishbowl. The world is watching each of us to see what is different about our lives. Non-believers scrutinize everything we do to see how our actions and motivations compare with theirs.

The same can be said about those who have attended the Walk to Emmaus and sometimes rightfully so. We may use words such as "De Colores," wear our crosses at functions other than Emmaus, or talk about the weekend in such a way that it appears to be a "secret" program. We may also turn people off by our excitement and eagerness to share how our Emmaus experience has enriched our lives. How we act and what we say about the Emmaus movement will speak volumes

to those who are not familiar with it.

We are all in a "community of faith" whether we have attended the Walk to Emmaus or not. We need to remember that Emmaus may not be God's plan for everyone. When talking to prospective pilgrims, it is important not to tell them that they need Emmaus, but that you would like to share this wonderful experience with them. It is also important to encourage couples to make an equal commitment so as not to put a wedge in a marriage.

I believe with all my heart that the Walk to Emmaus is a wonderful ministry bringing many into a close relationship with Christ. But the main focus of Emmaus is to train others to go back to their

churches, places of work and homes, sharing the love of Christ. By trying to be like Christ in every way and using tools we have been given as a result of an Emmaus weekend, the world will notice and others will follow Him.

I pray that each one of us will allow our experience to be a positive influence on others. Allow God to guide you in talking to others about the Walk to Emmaus. But most of all, remember that the world is full of people who need Jesus but don't know about Him. Bringing others to Christ is our mission as Christians. With the help of the Holy Spirit, those seeds that have been planted in our hearts through our Emmaus experience will grow and blossom so that others will know the greatness of God.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHALICE

Father, to Thee I raise my whole being
a vessel emptied of self. Accept, Lord,
this my emptiness and so fill me with
Thyself, Thy Light, Thy Love, Thy
Life that these Thy precious Gifts
may radiate through me and over-
flow the chalice of my heart into
the hearts of all with whom I
come in contact this day
revealing unto them
the beauty of
Thy Joy
and
Wholeness
and
the
serenity
of Thy Peace
which nothing can destroy

*Copied from
Wilmington Area Emmaus
Newsletter, January, 1994.*

STROLL DOWN MEMORY LANE

What was happening 20 years ago? FORTY-ONE ladies were preparing to go on their Walk To Emmaus. Ladies Walk #34 would take place 26-29 January 1995, with Betty Bishop as Lay Director. There was no A/V (Audio/Visual) person on the team. Back then, there was no Powerpoint being used! Each person giving a talk created their own A/V in the form of POSTERS! They were lots of fun—trying to add a poster to the board while not letting your other posters fall to the floor was a real challenge. And some of the posters appeared as though the speaker's 4 year old child had created them.

Speaking of the floor—bedding accommodations were six inch foam mattresses placed on the floor. It's not that the snoring was worse back then, there were just more snorers.

The movie shown on Thursday night was called "IN REMEMBRANCE" and lasted about 45 minutes. Candlelight on Saturday night? No battery operated candles! Back then (in the olden tymes) we used little lanterns which ran on a lamp oil. They were beautiful, if slightly dangerous. Let's just say there are stories of some ladies' hair catching on fire.

The same love of God shined forth through each speaker throughout the weekend! The same friendly smiles as pilgrims were served their meals—no, that hasn't changed. The food is every bit as delicious as it was back then, too. We had a different song for singing grace before and after meals—unfortunately it sounded too much like "EDELWEISS" from the SOUND OF MUSIC, so it had to be changed!

Pilgrims still sang, "LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE" to the Emmaus Community as an act of agape on Saturday evening. The community still snuck in for closing during the singing of "Amazing Grace." Once returning home, the pilgrims/community members were just as excited as you were. They wanted to share Emmaus with family & friends.

The GOOD STUFF—it just doesn't change.

PRAYER LIST

Prayer was requested for these people at our November Gathering. Please join us in intercession for return to health, overcoming adversities of life, recovery from loss. Pray for the pilgrims who will be on Men's Walk #60, pray that God will soften hearts of those who will be invited to this walk. *NOTE* These names taken from verbal requests. Please excuse us if we made a

mistake.
David Barber
Ron & Liz Bogan
Nathan Cotrill
Farmers harvesting
Fire Service Men's Group
John & Velman Flint
US Government
Donald Hahn
Family of David Hall
Lois Hall

Charlene Hamann
High School Youth at Wash. CH
Robert Jordan
Our Military
Phillip Pennewitt
Sandy Quigley
Bill Snowball IV
Kathy Snowball
13 Death Row Men on recent Kairos
Janet Workman and her sister
Bob Yorick

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:
January 13
7:00pm
Singing starts at
6:30pm

Wear your nametag!
Bring a snack to share!

RECIPE FROM 20 YEARS AGO

Gourmet Potato Casserole

3 3/4 cups boiling water
1 stick margarine, melted
2 1/3 cups milk
6 cups instant potatoes
1 3/4 cups sour cream
1/4 cup grated onion (optional)
3 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

Mix all ingredients together saving one cup cheese for the top. Place in a greased 9 x 13 inch baking dish. Sprinkle the remaining one cup cheese over the top. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-60 minutes, or until golden brown. Remove from oven 10 minutes before ready to serve. Add more milk if mixture is too dry.

(Used to be served at Saturday lunch)

Devotion

(Jesus said), This poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.

Read: Luke 21:3-4

Appearances can be misleading. The real worth of a gift is found in the heart of the giver, not the market value of the gift. Jesus knew the truth about the poor widow and the rich people who gave to the temple treasury. The poor woman's gift of two copper coins seemed meager, but it was all she had. Everything. The rich offered what they could spare and gave much less.

We need to give our best. This is the way to unite our action with God's will. If we want to know God's generosity, we need to be generous. If we want to know God's love, we need to love deeply. If we want to know God's forgiveness, we need to forgive willingly. If we're sharing God's gift, there's no reason to twist the attention and credit to ourselves. It's not about us. If we're offering God's love, there's no reason to hold back or play it safe. God's love will grow in us and never diminish as we give it away.

*From "Forward, Day by Day" Vol. 80, No. 2, used by permission.
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800-543-1813 or visit
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