

Greater Scioto Valley Emmaus



Greater Scioto Valley Emmaus Newsletter—December 2006—Volume 12, Issue 12

A Note from the Chair...

Where has this year gone? It seems just yesterday we were planning for the year 2006 and preparing for Men's Walk #25. Time passes so fast any more. We fill our platters so full. That's right, platters not plates. It seems that sometimes the platters aren't big enough either.

The holidays are here already with the hustle and bustle of "the season." At times I think about how much simpler times were 2000 years ago. Have our "modern conveniences" made our lives so much easier? Sure they have made life easier, but we still seem to mess up the "simple" part. Was it really so much "simpler" 2000 years ago? People scurried from here to there, returning to their respective homes from lands far away to be counted for the census, paying taxes, caring for others, making sure everything was being cared for, finding a place to stay for the night.

Joseph was a good man, caring for his family, returning to Bethlehem for the census, doing everything that was required of him, but still there was no place to stay, no place better than a

simple livestock shelter open to anyone and anything that may happen along. It wasn't a place fitting for the birth of a KING. But then again, it's not our plan, right? It's not about us, right? It's not for us to control or decide who or how or when. We need to let go and let God. He has it all figured out for us already if we just have the faith and trust in Him.

So when you have a moment during the upcoming Holidays, remember that Jesus is the reason for the season. He is and should be our focus and praise, our counselor, our redeemer, our precious Savior.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make this past year possible. Thank you for helping to further the mission of Greater Scioto Valley Emmaus to be a shining light for those who seek and search. Remember, we are the hands and feet of Christ. We may be the only Jesus someone may ever see.



DeColores!
Jon Mark Hall

From our spiritual director . . .

A Charlie Brown Christmas

My favorite TV Christmas special is “A Charlie Brown Christmas.” I do not know how many times I have watched it but I think it is marvelous. There are several reasons for my opinion (which may differ greatly from yours).

First, the characters are wonderful. All these kids represent people we know. We know of people who struggle with Christmas like Charlie Brown. We know the controlling, dominant, self-centered people like Lucy. We know the intellectuals like Linus. We know the naïve, innocents like Charlie’s younger sister, Sally. All of these people have quirks, just like we all do, and that makes them all lovable, each in a different way.

Second, the dialogue is wonderful. Consider lines like: “I never get what I really want for Christmas: real estate.” “Christmas is not only getting too commercial, it’s getting too dangerous.” “Do you think you have pantophobia?” “Pigpen, you’re the only person I know who can raise a cloud of dust in a snowstorm.” And the list just goes on.

Third, the characters all have problems, but Charlie Brown’s is the most obvious. He is willing to share his problem, while the others may not even be aware they have problems. Addressing Charlie’s problem is the plot, but it gets

tangled up in everyone else’s problem, and things begin to degenerate into chaos.

Finally, the solution to Charlie’s problem proves to be the solution to everyone’s problem. Charlie doesn’t understand Christmas until Linus recites the story of the shepherds getting the good news about Jesus. Things become clear to Charlie at that point and he sees the season differently. He even realizes the pitiful tree he picked out is not as bad as everyone says.

So often we’re like those kids. We get caught up in everything else and miss the reason for Christmas. We’re too busy trying to fulfill our own desires that we forget what this season is all about. Simple reminders, like reading the story from Luke chapter 2, can help us regain our perspective and understand why we celebrate. We celebrate because God loved us so much that he sent his only Son, Jesus, that whoever believes in him will have everlasting life. I hope your Christmas celebrations are wonderful and that you experience again the blessing of the Christ child.

God bless you.

—*Pastor Tad*

GSVE Christmas Gathering

7 PM, Thursday, December 21

is our annual Christmas musical celebration. The entire gathering will be a musical celebration of Christmas by many of our talented musicians. Following the gathering we will enjoy cookies and punch in the fellowship hall. Be sure to mark your calendar and bring a plate of cookies to share. You will be blessed.

New Board Members for 2007

Board Elections were held in November. The following individuals were elected to replace outgoing board members. Please give them your support as they serve you and our Lord on the GSVE board for the next three years.

Pat Cook
Denise Kiger
Laura Miller
Tony Siders
Richard Schumacher
Les Grooms (clergy)

2006 GSVE Board Members

POSITION	NAME	TERM YR.	PHONE	eMAIL
Agape 1	Cheryl Schomberg	3	740-776-7539	cschom@adelphia.net
Agape 2	Jeni Goedde	2	740-335-1905	cjgoedde@roadrunner.com
Chairperson	Jon Mark Hall	2	740-626-2791	halls@horizonview.net
Chrysalis	Joanne Charles	A	740-354-4494	jcharles@shawnee.edu
Computer	Kevin Pancake	A	740-703-8782	pancake@bright.net
Good Shepherd	Sandy Blakeman	2	740-456-4433	sanlee@roadrunner.com
Housekeeping 1	Dena Benner	1	937-981-4162	db0142@dragonbbs.com
Housekeeping 2	George "Pat" Miller	1	740-446-1537	pjmiller@frognet.net
Kairos	Jim Mathers	A	740-983-2120	jmathers@columbus.rr.com
Kitchen 1	Tom Dishong	2	740-596-4353	dishong@ohio.edu
Kitchen 2	Danny Morris	1	740-606-1562	capmorris@hotmail.com
Leadership	Kevin Pancake	3	740-703-8782	pancake@bright.net
Music 1	Peg Beekman	1	937-981-9805	pbeekman@hughes.net
Music 2	Community Committee			
Newsletter	Amy Edler	1	740-642-2938	amyedler@horizonview.net
Outreach	Neal Foster	2	740-998-6753	fosters@horizonview.net
Purchasing	Dale Stevens	2	740-335-2041	ww4625@dragonbbs.com
Registrar, Men	Ed Ruggles	1	740-998-4843	huge@bright.net
Registrar, Women	Karen Edmonson	3	740-998-5650	bedmonson@bright.net
Secretary	Cindy Sykes	2	740-993-2789	csykes@mail.gsn.k12.oh.us
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Social 2	Harley Barney	1	740-998-6523	
Special Projects	Phil Howard	3	740-820-8557	philandwanda@hotmail.com
Spiritual Director	Tad Grover	2	740-773-6640	tad@trinityumchurch.net
Sponsorship	LouAnn Drummond	3	740-993-4386	jerlou@bright.net
Treasurer	Arla Bush	1	740-773-7865	

Greater Scioto Valley Emmaus
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Gatherings are held at Trinity United Methodist Church, the third Thursday of the month at 7 P.M. in the sanctuary.
December Gathering is the 21st.

Emmanuel—God With Us

O come, O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel will come to you O Israel.¹

The nation of Israel was waiting for a Savior. They groaned under the oppression of the Roman Empire and they longed for a deliverer. They knew the scriptures and believed that the promised Messiah would come. But they pictured their deliverer as a warrior or a political leader—someone like David who led the Israelites to victory of the oppressive Philistines then ruled the nation for many years. After all, didn't the scriptures say the Messiah would be a descendant of David?

But that wasn't God's plan. The oppressor this Messiah would conquer was not an earthly power. This Messiah would conquer sin and the evil powers that separated mankind from God. To

accomplish His plan, He chose to send His Son as a human child. Think of it. Is there anything more innocent than a newborn? But a newborn is also the most helpless of creatures. Yet God Almighty chose to manifest himself as a helpless babe. He shed unimaginable power and glory to become frailty itself. Why? Why would He choose to come into the world as a helpless child? Because He longed for reconciliation with us. He wanted to be Emmanuel—God with us.

As for the nation of Israel, most of them missed the significance of this amazing advent. This too was part of God's plan. In their rejection of this lowly Savior, salvation became available to those (including most of us) who were not part of the nation of Israel. But God has not forsaken His chosen nation. The day will come then their eyes will be opened and they will realize that Jesus Christ is their promised Messiah—that He is indeed God with us.

May God richly bless you with His presence this Christmas season.

—Amy Edler

¹ 9th century Christmas carol

