



## A Note from the Chair...

For one last time, greetings my dear friends. As I think back over the last year I realize how truly blessed I am to have had your support and prayers. I have enjoyed serving you and serving along side you. As the torch passes to the next servant I wanted to share with you a quote that describes how I would really like to be. It makes me realize how often I fall short. I am so looking forward to continuing to serve beside you in whatever capacity the Lord would have me. I think about our many conversations, both happy and sad and I feel so honored that you were there to hug my neck. I needed it.

This quote is worth thinking about, long and hard!

"O God, be Thou exalted over my possessions.

- Nothing of earth's treasures shall seem dear unto me if only Thou are glorified in my life.
- Be Thou exalted over my friendships; I am determined that Thou shalt be above all, though I must stand deserted and alone in the midst of the earth.

- Be Thou exalted above my comforts: Though it mean the loss of bodily comforts and the carrying of heavy crosses, I shall keep my vow made this day before Thee.
- Be Thou exalted over my reputation: Make me ambitious to please Thee even if as a result I must sink into obscurity and my name be forgotten as a dream.

Rise, O Lord, into Thy proper place of honor, above my ambitions, above my likes and dislikes, above my family, my health and even my life itself.

Let me decrease that Thou mayest increase; let me sink that Thou mayest rise above."

A.W. Tozer

*De Colores,  
Ed Ruggles*



### Thank You for Giving to the Lord . . .

The following servants have completed their three-year terms on the Greater Scioto Valley Emmaus Community Board. We want to say, very humbly, thank you for your service. It has been a gift of love.

Jeni Goedde  
Sandy Blakeman  
Tom Dishong  
Jon Mark Hall

Dale Stevens  
Cindy Sykes  
Tad Grover

## From Our Spiritual Director . . .

Opportunities to celebrate Christmas abound throughout our churches in the month of December. We hope you will be filled with awe and wonder as you reflect on the birth of God's Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. As you partake of the Christmas parties, caroling, cantatas, children's programs and Christmas Eve services, take a moment to experience the wonder of God's gift anew. These are important traditions that we pass on to our children and grandchildren. Christmas is in the air—do you feel it?

While I thoroughly enjoy the celebration of Christmas, I confess that I don't like to celebrate it too quickly on the heels of Thanksgiving, lest we rob Thanksgiving of its proper place, to draw us closer to Christ. After all, that's the real reason for Christmas. But in recent years I've given in to putting the tree up shortly after Thanksgiving and have even been known to go Christmas shopping the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Today, as I write, I'm reminded of the words in Luke 2:9-14, where we read, "Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared...

'I bring you good news of great joy for everyone!... You will find a baby lying in a manger, wrapped snugly in strips of cloth.' Suddenly the angel was joined by a vast host of others--the armies of heaven--praising God: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to all whom God favors." NLT

Christmas is a time to listen to and sing the story through Christmas music. Every year the Greater Scioto Valley Emmaus Community has a Christmas Music Gathering at our Emmaus home, Trinity UMC, in Chillicothe. It will be on December 20 at 7pm. **We hope to see you there.**

My year as Spiritual Director of the Greater Scioto Valley Emmaus Community has flown by. It's time to pass this duty to another. It has been an honor to serve the Lord and the community, and I have appreciated getting to know many of you. I hope to see you at Emmaus events in the future.

*Blessings,  
Neil Foster*

### Mom, I Have Some News

Mom, are you there?  
I have some news to tell.  
The strangest thing happened  
today at the well.

Mom, are you there?  
This isn't easy to say,  
an angel named Gabriel  
came and talked with me today.

No, I'm not lying,  
this is totally true,  
and now Mom there's more  
I have to tell you.

I know it's hard  
to believe what I say,  
but why would I make this up  
and ruin your day?

Mom, are you there?  
Please don't cry;  
believe it is happening  
I need you to try.

Mom, you taught me  
our God is always true,  
and because He called me  
it's what I must do.

Mom, are you there?  
Please don't be sad  
because I need your strength  
as we go and tell Dad.

~Chandra Lynn Smith 12-6-07

# Greater Scioto Valley Emmaus Christmas Gathering



Thursday, December 20, 2007  
Trinity United Methodist Church, 7 PM  
Bring a guest!

As always, our December gathering will be a musical celebration of our Lord's birth.

If you would like to perform vocal or instrumental music for this special occasion, please contact our Music Director, Peg Beekman, at 987-981-9805.

Bring cookies or finger food for refreshments following the Gathering.



# The Real Gift of Christmas

God created man in his own image because he wanted companionship. He was pleased with his creation. He walked side by side with man, and they spoke face to face. But when Adam sinned, a fundamental change in his nature occurred and he could no longer look directly at God. Man and God were irretrievably separated, and God mourned because he loved man dearly. He would do anything for man. But now, man could only see the image of God in his creation and in the things he did. He no longer lived in his constant presence. Even Moses, a man who God spoke directly to, could not bear to look directly on his face. God had him shelter in the cleft of a rock as he passed by, and Moses saw only the reflection of his glory. When Moses built the wilderness tabernacle and later when Solomon built the temple, there was a veil between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies because man could not look directly upon the presence of Almighty God.

Through the centuries, man drew farther and farther away from God. Sin became stronger and man's world became darker. God had a plan to repair the rift caused by sin in the heart of man. He still loved man, but waited for the day when man was ripe for the fulfillment of his plan. The faithful of earth waited with great anticipation for

God to send a Savior. They expected a great leader, a warrior king. But God's plan was greater than that.

In a desolate place, in an insignificant town, a baby was born to a weary young woman. He was meek and mild, completely innocent. He was the Son of God in human form. Finally mankind could look on God, because God took on the form of a man. He walked side by side with men and he spoke with them face to face of all the things of God that had been hidden for centuries. And the day he died, the veil that separated mankind from God was torn.

As believers in Christ Jesus, do we see the full glory of God? Not yet. But we can glimpse him through the torn veil, and we know that when this world releases its sin-powered grip on us, we will walk through that veil into the glorious presence of God, just like he planned from the beginning.

Look to the Star of Bethlehem. Keep the wonder and glory of Christmas alive in your heart. Celebrate his unimaginable gift. Walk with God.

Christmas blessings,  
Amy Edler

## 2007 GSVE Board Members

POSITION	NAME	TERM YR.	PHONE	eMAIL
Agape 1	Jeni Goedde	3	740-335-1905	<a href="mailto:cjgoedde@roadrunner.com">cjgoedde@roadrunner.com</a>
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Kitchen 2	Harley Barney	2	740-998-6523	
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Treasurer	Arla Bush	2	740-773-7865	

**Greater Scioto Valley Emmaus**  
c/o Trinity United Methodist Church  
24 S. Mulberry Street  
Chillicothe OH 45601

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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 2007 Gathering is the 20th.**

### **Visit the GSVE Website at [GSVEmmaus.org](http://GSVEmmaus.org)**

You can read current and past newsletters, and sign up on the prayer vigil or kitchen and housekeeping crews for walks.

## **Walks in 2008**

### **Men's Walk # 29**

Feb. 21-24, 2008  
Lay Dir., Dave Strickland

### **Women's Walk # 40**

June 26-29, 2008  
Lay Director, Laura Miller

### **Men's Walk # 30**

Sept. 11-14, 2008  
Lay Director, Danny Morris

### **Women's Walk # 41**

October 9-12, 2008  
Lay Director, Linda Morris

## **Election Results**

The following people were elected to serve on the Greater Scioto Valley Board. A board term is three years and it is a position of service. You will find you spend more time with the community members when you serve on the board. We hope that you find it an enriching experience.

David Burriss  
Candy Dishong  
Karen Edmonson  
Rick Harper  
Richard North

Jim Penix  
Savilla Ruggles  
Jim Skinner  
Lorri Stewart

We appreciate everyone who consented to run for these service positions and know that any of the candidates would be a great blessing to the board. We encourage all those active in the Emmaus Community to consider running for a board position. Several positions open each year.

The new board members are cordially invited to attend the December board meeting. Board meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. prior to each gathering and are open to all interested parties.

**Merry  
Christmas!**

