



### **A Note from the Chair...**

De Colores!

Hearing the Closing Comments of the men on Men's Walk #29 of was so spiritually powerful. Certainly lives were changed for eternity on the weekend. The Pilgrims came back for their Mini Gathering that followed on Thursday and after the Mini Gathering the men sang for all of us at the Gathering. Many, if not all of the Pilgrims shared their fourth day with us. We all had a great time. If you weren't at the Gathering, you missed it and...We missed you!

There is a Women's Walk coming up the last weekend in June. If you know a lady that would be interested in this walk, get an application to her now and avoid the rush!

Denise Kiger, our Ladies Registrar, will thank you for getting it in early.

Laura Miller will be the June Lay Director. Pray for her. Being Lay Director requires about as much work as giving your daughter a huge wedding. Being the mother of the bride and being Lay Director have a lot in common in that neither mind how much work is required of them because they are both involved in a labor of love. The difference is in a wedding, you work hard to give your daughter the wedding of a lifetime, but a Lay Director's work lasts throughout eternity.

When Clint and I married, we worked so hard to have the perfect wedding. And... It was. Or, it would have been perfect if I'd remembered corsages for my hostesses! But, I married a man who loves Jesus and loves me. Life just doesn't get any better.

I work on weddings around town and I never cease to be amazed at the lengths people will go to get what they want. They want things just right for their perfect day. Many times, brides with a lot of money spend it cautiously and those with little

spend it carelessly. But, in both cases, they want the perfect gown, tuxes, caterer, cake, photographer, band, and the perfect reception hall and of course it must all be perfectly decorated. After all of that, then they think of the church where they will marry, who they can get to perform the ceremony, and the un-churched bride wants to know how much "religious stuff" they can convince the minister to leave out.

Everything at the church has to be perfect for the big day.

Nerves may be on edge. Everything seems to be well thought out. The thing I don't hear about from the bride is the commitment she is about to make.

As Christians we need to remember- WE ARE THE BRIDE OF CHRIST. Our commitment to Christ should be first. It should be our central concern.

Do we put our "religious stuff" in its proper perspective or does it get pushed aside for the "comfort stuff"? When we truly give all of our service to Christ, it all becomes the "comfort stuff". It is then we can let go of our past failures (and forgotten corsages) and serve Christ with joy.

Again this month, we will meet on the fourth Thursday at 7:00 instead of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 7:00. (Remember, Gatherings are ALWAYS on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 7:00, except when they're not!)

Lovin' all that Emmaus stuff!  
In Him,

*Pat Arthur*

## ***From Our Spiritual Director . . .***

There was an article in the news recently that a mother received a very sad note from the Pentagon. The news was that her son has been killed while in battle in Iraq. She later wrote, "I can't begin to describe my grief. It was almost more than I could bear. For three days she wept, for three days she expressed her anger and loss, and for three days friends and neighbors tried to comfort her to no avail. The loss was just too great.

But after three days, the telephone rang. The voice on the other end said, "Mom! It is me! I am alive!"

She said, "I laughed. I cried. I felt like turning cartwheels. My son, who once was dead, is now alive. I am sure that no one could even begin to know how I felt.

Perhaps none of us could really understand how she felt but there were some who walked the pages of the new Testament who would have understood, because they experienced the same emotions themselves.

They witnessed his pain and suffering, and they watched as he bowed his head and said, "It is finished."

Friday and Saturday they mourned until finally on "the first day of the week, early in the morning," the scriptures say, "some women made their way along the path that led to the tomb wondering who would roll away the stone for them." When they arrived they found the stone rolled away and an angel told them, "You are looking in the wrong place. You are looking for Jesus among the dead. He is not dead. He is alive! He is risen even as He said."

This is what we celebrate during the Easter season. He is risen from the dead and what a difference he has made in our lives!

The apostle Paul writes, "Now brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel that I preached to you which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you.

"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: That Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, according to the scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter and to the twelve.

"After that he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

Then he appeared to James, then to all of the apostles, and last of all, he appeared to me."

After Paul gives this testimony, he turns his attention to us, "Listen, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep but we shall be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised imperishable and we will change."

What a wonderful promise!

Dale Evans once said, "I spent most of my life searching for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Then I finally found it at the foot of the cross.

In "Portraits of Perseverance": there is a story about a rich man who owned a great estate. He enjoyed riding on horseback through his estate enjoying his wealth.

One day while riding he came upon one of his tenants, named Hans, sitting under a tree. It was lunch time and Hans was getting ready to eat. Before he ate, he bowed his head and thanked God for his food.

The rich man looked at Hans while he prayed and noticed that all that he had to eat was a piece of cheese and a piece of homemade bread.

The rich man said with a sneer, "If that was all that it had to eat, I would not even bother to pray.

Hans said, "It is enough and God has provided it."

The rich man got ready to ride away when Hans said to him, "I had a dream last night and my dream was that the richest man in the valley will die tonight."

The rich man rode off but the words of Hans haunted him. He began to experience pains in his chest and he thought, "What if Hans was right?"

When he reached home he called his doctor and his doctor examined him and said, "You have nothing to be concerned about. You are strong as a horse."

So reassured, the rich man went to bed. The next morning there was a knock on his door and the messenger said, "Hans died last night." Truly the richest man in the valley died last night.

Paul wrote, "O death, where is thy sting? Grave, where is thy victory? Thanks be to God! He gives us victory through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We need to remember in this Easter season that the resurrection has made all of the difference.

De Colores,  
Les Grooms  
Spiritual Director

## 2008 Walks

### 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

## 2008 GSVE Board Members

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## Got Faith?

Ah...Spring! A time of refreshing and renewal. And Easter! Our holiest holiday, when we celebrate Christ's redeeming love and glorious victory over death. What a joyous time!

Well...ummm, actually, as I write this, I'm looking at a depressingly large pile of snow. Winter hasn't quite loosened its grip on southern Ohio. But...by faith, I know that in just a few weeks green things will shoot forth in newness of life. The trees will bud and the allergens will flourish...but that's another thought!

Do we really have to exercise faith to believe spring will come? If you had no long-term memory, if all you could recall was the cold dark months of winter, you would surely say yes, it takes faith to believe spring will come. But we do remember all the springs past and how the fountains of the earth rise annually with new life. We have rejoiced in the renewing of the earth and we are confident spring will return. So, is this faith or is it just common knowledge — no big deal?

Brothers and sisters, that's faith. Faith is not diminished because we have seen it born out over and over. On the contrary, it is strengthened and

## Newsletter Subscription:

Unfortunately, the USPS doesn't send out newsletters for free, so we have to ask for a nominal subscription fee from those who wish to receive theirs by snail mail. If you want to continue receiving the GSVE newsletter in 2008, please fill in the following form, enclose \$5 and mail it to GSVE Newsletter, c/o Trinity UMC, 24 S. Mulberry St. Chillicothe OH 45601. Be sure to include your zip+four code. If you were a pilgrim on a Walk in 2007, you will continue to receive the newsletter for one year at no charge. The newsletter is also available online in three formats.

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Walk No. \_\_\_\_\_ GSVE\_\_\_ or Other \_\_\_\_\_

increased by many evidences. So is our faith in the risen Lord increased when we see the mighty, omnipotent hand of God interceding in the affairs of man. The more we see God move, the more

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Permit # 2

Because Maundy Thursday is March 20, our March gathering will be on the fourth Thursday  
**March 2008 Gathering is the 27th.**

### **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.

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confident we are that He cares for us and has our best interest at heart.

What about you? Have you noticed how God is moving in your life or the lives of those around you? No? Maybe you're not seeing Him because you aren't looking for Him in the troubling situations you encounter. Remember, He said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world." [John 16:33b](#) He has already overcome our troubles. That happened one sacred day at Calvary. The innocent Lamb of God paid the price of our admission into God's presence with his life blood. His love held Him there, a willing sacrifice for my sins — for your sins. You have acknowledged His sacrifice and become a believer — a Christ follower. You didn't understand the full import of His sacrifice, yet you believed.

As you walk along the fourth day on the Road to Emmaus and beyond, you encounter the hardships of the world. You may stumble and falter. But look up in faith. Recognize that it is Christ who walks beside you. He offers sustenance along the way. He feeds our souls with goodness and mercy and He encourages our spirits with demonstrations of His love in many small and large ways. Look for them. Acknowledging them will build your faith and make the walk toward home easier.

Your faith will increase each time you see the hand of God working among us. Haven't seen it lately? Have you been to a gathering? Candlelight? Closing? He's there, and we rejoice to hear how He is moving and working among this fellowship of believers called the Greater Scioto Valley Emmaus Community. Next gathering is March 27<sup>th</sup>. Come and have your faith strengthened and enlarged.

See you there!

Amy Edler