



# GREATER SCIOTO VALLEY EMMAUS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE CHAIR

BY LANA MCGRATH

I can hardly believe it's December already! This year has flown by for me.

Looking back over this past year I am so very thankful, humbled and blessed to have served as GSVE Community Lay Director. I am eternally grateful to the Board and the Community! Each person who has stepped in and stepped up to keep GSVE alive and moving forward holds a special place in my heart. I look forward to serving in the Leadership position for 2024. I also want to thank and welcome the new board members for their commitment to serve. It's an exciting time for GSVE!!!

I so believe in this ministry because I have experienced for myself and seen and heard others whose lives have been changed by experiencing God's love in such a tangible way. Supporting Chrysalis gives me hope for the future of the gospel as young men and women grow in their faith.

As we move forward into 2024, I just want to encourage the community to continue to come to Gatherings, continue to serve, reach out to others about Emmaus and Chrysalis, and most importantly, continue to pray for direction and clarity in our next steps as a community. The potential to hold walks in a camp setting is so very exciting but will also take work and a commitment to serve intentionally.

We are beginning 2024 by holding Gatherings at different churches in an effort to bring awareness about the Emmaus ministry to others. If you think your church might be interested in "hosting" a Gathering please reach out to a Board member and let us know. The Board will

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also be considering the potential to change the day and/or time of Gatherings and community input would be helpful on this topic. All are welcome to attend board meetings which are held before Gatherings at 5:30 p.m.

Also consider the ways in which you can support the upcoming Chrysalis Flights in January and February. Their website is [southernohiochrysalis.org](http://southernohiochrysalis.org) and you can sign up for kitchen, prayer vigil and housekeeping. Candlelight for Chrysalis is on Sunday evenings of the Flights at 8:00. Yes, it will be dark and cold, so get a group together, grab a bite to eat and go to Candlelight together.....a great way to warm your heart!!

Once again, thank you all so very much for the support you give GSVE in so many ways! The Board truly believes God is moving in amazing and wonderful ways and we want to continue to be obedient to His plan. This is His ministry, not ours. We are here only as servants to Him to reach others in His name. May we always remember in all things, "Not I, but Christ"

Praying for all to remain safe and healthy during this Holy season! DeColores!!

Lana

# FROM THE BOARD...



BY AMY GRAND

Merry Christmas! Can you believe it's December and the end of 2023?!

This past year has welcomed new members into the community after 2 very successful walks. Both the women's and men's walks were small and intimate in number but sufficiently drowned in prayer. As most of you know, when God is preparing pilgrims and teams for a walk Satan attacks in any and every way he can. The board was resolute that both walks would take place and in the (paraphrased) words of Phil Howard; if even 1 meets the love of Jesus Christ in those 72 hours it will have been worth it. I believe the love of Christ was more than abundant to the pilgrims AND the team. From the beginning of team building for both walks we were hit with last minute scheduling conflicts or emergencies with the teams - I was reminded of 2 versus that I discovered when my father died; **Exodus 14:14** *"The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."* To put this verse into context, the Israelites were on the run from Egypt - they had the Red Sea in front of them and the Egyptian army behind them. There was nothing they could do in their own power - they were hopeless and overwhelmed; incapable of escaping on their own - they needed only to wait for God to move on their behalf.

The other verse(s) that I was reminded of came from the story of Gideon (found in Judges 6). As the teams prepared the registrations were coming in slow. So slow that we were asked if the walks would be postponed. We walked on - preparing, often while praying for the walks and the teams I would question "are we ready" - Lord, bring "so-n-so" onto the team" - and in those prayers Gideon came to mind. The weakest and most timid in the land - but God called him mighty; and then said "I will be there with you". DUH! wasn't that the purpose?! God had already gone ahead of us and all the glory already belonged to HIM! We say it for every walk don't we? Why are shocked that God shows up every. single. time. When really; it's just us that finally makes it to where He patiently waits for us. Every walk is exactly how God intended it to be. Every team member and every pilgrim brought together for a purpose - for "such a time".

The board has not yet set dates for the walks of 2024 - we were given the opportunity to hold walks at a local camp - Camp Koinonia. A committee was put together to look at the camp and troubleshoot the logistics. To weigh the pros and cons. The next gathering will offer a time to bring those to the community; and a question/answer period for the community. Will you join us?

We, like all of you; want to leave behind a stronger Emmaus Community. Our desire is that the community will outlive us - to continue the mission of strengthening the love of Christ in the local churches and our cities.

*"The Lord your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes."* **Deuteronomy 1:30.**

*"As God's people obeyed in faith, they would find triumph at every turn. Victory rests with the Lord."*  
**Proverbs 21:31**

DeColores!!

**CHECK OUT THE UPDATED WEBSITE AT [GSVE.ORG](http://GSVE.ORG)**

**where you will find links to sign up for the 72 hour Prayer Vigil, Housekeeping, and Kitchen Help for the upcoming walks, info on future events and a whole lot more!**

## Christmas Peace

“Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”  
Luke 2:14

During the holiday season, we often encounter the phrase “Peace on Earth.” It shows up in popular songs such as “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day.” It appears on banners and Christmas cards. And, of course, we hear it read in church as part of the nativity story in Luke.

On the night Jesus was born in Bethlehem, an angel appeared to shepherds who were watching their sheep in the nearby fields. The angel announced the birth of the Savior, the Messiah. The angel told the shepherds that they would find the baby in a manger, a feed trough for animals, of all places. All of a sudden, a multitude of angels gathered, praising God with these now famous words: “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased” (2:14).

Notice that the angels celebrate peace on earth. At first, this sounds a bit different from the peace that we so often associate with Jesus: peace between us and God, peace in our hearts. Indeed, through the saving work of Christ, we can have peace with God, and we can experience the peace “which exceeds anything we can understand” (Phil. 4:7).

Yet Christ came to bring more expansive and inclusive peace. His mission was to establish the shalom of God. This is more than inner peace. It is more than the ending of war. It is even more than reconciliation between us and God. The peace of Christ includes all of these and more. It envisions a cosmos governed by God in which all relationships are fully loving and just. This shalom is centered in a right relationship with God, and it touches everything else in life.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, may we enjoy the peace we have with God through Christ. And may we be given a foretaste of the peace on earth that is yet to come. So, I think we need to ask ourselves:

In what parts of your life and work would you like to experience God’s peace today?

Blessings!

Pastor Dave

### Volunteer to help at a Gathering

#### Lead Worship

email: [Music@gave.org](mailto:Music@gave.org)

or

#### Share your 4th Day Story

email: [Info@gsve.org](mailto:Info@gsve.org)



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## DECEMBER GATHERING

Dec 2th 2023

## 2024 WALKS

In the Planned Phase -  
Pray with us as we explore next  
years schedule and opportunities.



## 2024 GATHERINGS

We begin to travel to increase  
community awareness.

Join us as we meet in Jan and Feb at:  
Harvest Center Church  
678 Kinnamon Lane  
Chillicothe OH, 45601  
(Located in the Pleasant Valley area)



WHO ARE YOU SPONSORING? TIME IS NOW TO BE PRAYING AND TALKING UP YOUR EMMAUS EXPERIENCE WITH THOSE THAT GOD HAS PUT ON YOUR MIND AND IN YOUR PATH. BOTH PILGRIM AND SPONSOR FORMS ARE ONLINE AT [GSVE.ORG](http://GSVE.ORG). WHAT'S KEEPING YOU? GET IT DONE. IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO REGISTER FOR FUTURE WALKS.

Volunteer opportunities for each walk will be available online. Check out [GSVE.org](http://GSVE.org)

# 2023 GSVE BOARD

## Executive Committee

Community Lay Director - Lana McGrath .....communityld@gsve.org  
Vice Chair - Cindy Moody .....vicechair@gsve.org  
Secretary - Bill Lee .....secretary@gsve.org  
Treasurer - Gary Jordan .....treasurer@gsve.org

## Clergy

Community Spiritual Director - Dave Burris ..... communitysd@gsve.org  
Clergy - Mark Gray ..... mark.gray@gsve.org

Clergy - Open

Clergy - Open

Registrar - David Strickland, Linda Jones .....registrar@gsve.org  
Purchasing - Joshua Ruggles .....purchasing@gsve.org  
Team Selection - Amy Grand .....teamselection@gsve.org  
Music - John Manasco, Sue Kelly .....music@gsve.org  
Agape - Cindy Moody .....agape@gsve.org  
Housekeeping - Jeff Brammer .....housekeeping@gsve.org  
Kitchen - Karen Edmonson .....kitchen@gsve.org  
Sponsorship - Jason Moody .....sponsorship@gsve.org  
Social/Outreach - OPEN .....outreach@gsve.org  
Leadership - Jerry Kunz .....leadership@gsve.org  
Community Trainer - Mike Matheney .....communitytrainer@gsve.org

Chrysalis Reps - Kris Liles, Rochelle Barney.....chrysalis@gsve.org

## **New GSVE Board Members for Class 2024**

Aaron Grand

Joe McQuinniff

Patty Malone

Michelle Rout

Bill Jones

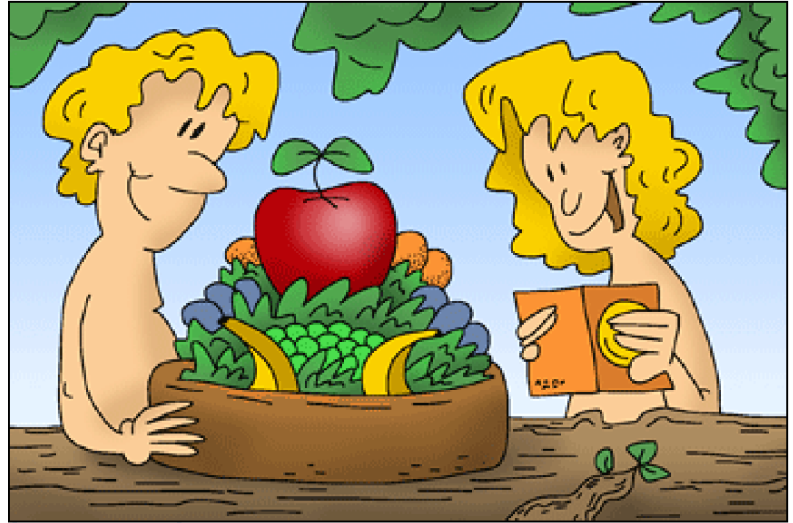
Jody Wilson \*

\* appointed to fulfill a vacancy on the board for class 2023.

# JUST FOR LAUGHS...



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(See Genesis 3)

12-08-2014

IT'S FROM THE SERPENT ... HOW NICE OF HIM TO THINK OF US

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12-29-2014

MY NEW YEARS RESOLUTION THIS YEAR IS TO DO THE THINGS I SHOULD HAVE BEEN DOING LAST YEAR



FOLLOW US

<https://facebook.com/GreaterSciotoValleyEmmaus>

**VISIT [GSVE.ORG](http://GSVE.ORG) to sign up TODAY!**

# QUESTIONS ???

## **IS GSVE LEAVING CHILLICOTHE?**

GSVE is based in and will continue to be focused on the ministry of the Chillicothe and surrounding communities. Holding our Walk Weekends at a nearby facility with cabins and conference accommodations is what we are considering.

## **WHERE DO YOU WANT TO HOLD THE WALKS?**

Koinonia Farms is located east of Laurelville, OH. This beautiful location in the Hocking Hill area is the ministry built by a local christian family with strong ties to Chillicothe. It was built during the Covid pandemic shutdown and they continue to build new accommodations and features. They want to offer the use of their facilities as a ministry gift to GSVE. They are excited to offer a partnership with us to share the gospel and promote christian discipleship.

## **WHY CHANGE VENUES FOR THE WALKS?**

There are a number of ongoing reasons, the most pressing being that our numbers continue to decline, both in service and pilgrim participation. We've been given an opportunity to revitalize and grow by pivoting the experience to a camp environment which allows for communion with God's beautiful creation, without distractions from the outside world.

Additionally, Trinity UMC is growing their ministries and much of the space we have been accustomed to using is no longer available particularly to accommodate the growth we pray and hope for in GSVE.

## **WHY SO FAR AWAY? I'M CONCERNED ABOUT COMMUNITY SERVING**

This venue will come with the need for a commitment to intentional service. We anticipate that there would be a "live-in" logistics/kitchen team. The camp has ample space to house additional servants. We would encourage car-pooling when coming to serve for just a few hours. Both the Love Community and Southern Ohio Emmaus currently hold their walks at camps, so it is definitely not impossible. Also, locally we have found no other affordable facility that has the needed accommodations.

## **WHY CHANGE NOW?**

The future of GSVE has been prayerfully poured over by many people for a long time, even before Covid brought us to a screeching halt. While some Emmaus and Chrysalis communities are thriving, many, like GSVE, are struggling. The evidence of the need for a ministry like ours is evident in those communities that are doing well. In Matthew 9:37-38 Jesus tells the disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." The purpose of Emmaus is to support the spiritual formation of Christians seeking to know and experience God more fully. As laborers we must continue to pray and go into the "harvest" of believers so that they may continue to grow in their faith and walk with the Lord.

## **WHAT ABOUT GATHERINGS?**

Our hope is to seek out churches that are willing to host Gatherings so that we can reach others with the ministries of Emmaus and Chrysalis. The Board is evaluating elements of Gatherings, such as day of the week and time of day and would love to have input from the community on this topic. The two Gatherings in the park were well attended and we definitely have multiple outdoor resources for better weather. GSVE is an ecumenical organization and we need to show our support in strengthening disciples within other churches, not just inviting them on the Walks.

We encourage you to send additional questions by email to [communityld@gsve.org](mailto:communityld@gsve.org).  
**Come to the December Gathering for open discussion and voting.**