



GREATER SCIOTO VALLEY EMMAUS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

FROM THE CHAIR

BY LANA MCGRATH

Ahh...the New Year!! So many folks making resolutions, bucket lists for the year, planning vacations, etc. But if you're like me, you're just trying to get the house back in order, finish off the leftovers and get back into the "regular routine" of things. That's enough for me at the moment.

However, one post on Facebook did get my attention as a friend posted "First thoughts that come to mind when thinking about 2023?" For me 2023 came with a few challenges that overall taught me about obedience and faith. The Lord has surrounded me with people to support, encourage and hold me accountable and with that has come spiritual growth and peace, knowing He provides in ways that I would never see on my own. He has shown me over and over that He goes before me and reminded me that He knows the plan, I just have to follow the steps He puts in front of me.

Our GSVE community is moving forward in obedience and faith as well, as we anticipate holding Walks at Koinonia Farms. The prayer, effort and consideration that has already occurred has been guided by the Holy Spirit and a team of servants ready to take the steps the Lord sets before us in His plan for this ministry.

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As we move into 2024, I ask that you uphold this community with your prayers, presence and gifts, whatever they may be, so that we can continue to provide the Emmaus experience to those who are longing to grow deeper in their relationship with the Lord and in Christian discipleship. There is work to be done and it will take obedience and faith to accomplish what God plans for us.

It has been an incredible honor and privilege to serve this past year as Community Lay Director. I am truly humbled by the Lord's grace and mercy in allowing me to serve and in guiding me in this role. I am looking forward with excitement and readiness for GSVE in 2024 and am praying you are too!

In His love and service,
Lana

FROM THE BOARD...



BY JERRY KUNZ

As I officially leave the GSVE Board of Directors, I would like to thank all of you for your support through the years. My first year of service on the Board was after my original walk back in 2007. I waited a year and was asked to serve on my first team as an Assistant Table leader. I can honestly say that serving on a team was so much better than my own walk as I was able to show Agape love to the pilgrims whom I served. I was next asked to be a table leader, twice, giving talks to the pilgrims. I do not remember what talks I gave but I know that I was SO NERVOUS! I DID NOT LIKE PUBLIC SPEAKING AT ALL!!! But God equipped me to present the topic and I know that it made an impact on those pilgrims. With time, the talks became easier and then I was asked to be on the Board! I jumped at the opportunity to serve in this capacity. And then I learned what it was like to be responsible for leading a ministry. I was a newbie and really never served much in a leadership capacity. But, just like the talks, God equipped me. I saw first-hand just how Satan attacks this ministry because he knows that it CHANGES LIVES AND SPREADS THE GOSPEL like no other!

Through the years, the attacks have intensified making the job as a board member and leader so much more difficult. I witnessed this ministry divided to the point of near destruction! But a small group of faithful stuck together to pull us through. We were making a comeback and Satan threw a new tactic... COVID 19! We were 1 week away from a men's walk when the entire country locked down. We were unable to do anything but pray. And Wait. A few faithful servants (GSVE BOARD) continued to meet monthly and pray for this ministry. We patiently waited and prepared for the time that we could resume the ministry. Many people abandoned us and told us that we could not keep this going. "Times have changed," they said. "People are not interested" in this type of ministry. But when we were able, we restarted. We had a few small walks but the Holy Spirit showed up in FULL FORCE and the walks were awesome!

As a board, we have been concerned with the attendance at monthly gatherings, willingness to serve on teams, sponsor pilgrims, and serve on walk weekends. For years, the board has discussed the possibility of a change in venue. We finally decided to form a Search Committee to look at potential sites, camps and other venues, including churches in the surrounding community. Then, if by coincidence, an opportunity was presented to the Board of a local Christian camp who has ample facilities and willingness to provide us an opportunity. I am speaking of Koinonia Farms Camp in Laurelville. We heard many stories of other Emmaus communities who hold walks at Christian Camps and how impactful it is in the great outdoors. The Search Committee visited the camp and then came back to the Board. The Board then sponsored a visit to the camp to evaluate the feasibility of moving our walks to this venue. From my perspective, the camp would be an ideal location for GSVE weekend walks and would transform the ministry here in southern Ohio. It will take a lot of work to make this happen.

So, I have decided to join the committee which will direct the transition to the new venue. Thus, I will still be serving the ministry that I love dearly in a different capacity. This ministry depends on the individual members who dedicate their gifts and time to do the work in the background. This is best accomplished through a team of people working together. In Emmaus, we do this through committees. Each board member leads a committee to do the work of the ministry. Each committee is in desperate need of willing members who will dedicate their gifts and time to the service of the ministry. So in 2024, GET INVOLVED! Volunteer for a committee! You will be so blessed, and the community will be blessed as we serve others! Have a Blessed New Year!

Decolores, Jerry Kunz

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT [GSVE.ORG](https://www.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!

JANUARY 2024

FROM THE COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

BY DAVE BURRISS

Epiphany

“Going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.” Matthew 2:11-12

Wise men, astrologers, magi – all names for those men who went searching for a king with only a star to guide them and a prophesy to direct their way. It seems a strange quest, this following a star, this search for a newborn king. Yet, follow they do. These magi, search where the star will lead. The journey will cover a thousand miles with an uncertain destination. Yet they set out in a search not only for a king, a promised messiah, but a search for meaning and purpose. They will be surprised as they discover their destination is not a palace, but a humble home in Bethlehem.

Arriving in Bethlehem, they lay their treasures down. Being warned in a dream – they return home in another way. There is a sense that all of us, having gone to Bethlehem and arrived at Christmas, dare not return by the route we have taken. Christmas ought to change us, ought to cause us to be like those who are wise and be different from whom we were before we met the Christ.

It ought to bring us to a place of changed lives. Christmas, encountered in all of its fullness, does change us. It causes us to take stock of our lives. It asks us to look at the values we are living by and rid ourselves of those that have neither merit nor value. Christmas ought to cause us to return home a little kinder, more generous . . . less fearful and more faithful. For if it doesn't we haven't truly encountered the Christ.

The star continues to lead seekers to God's truth, to kneel at Bethlehem's child and leave as new people . . . People who have been set free from yesterday's sins, failures, fears and doubts. Set free to live and love more graciously with a generosity of spirit and with hope in their hearts.

Blessings Pastor Dave

Volunteer to help at a Gathering

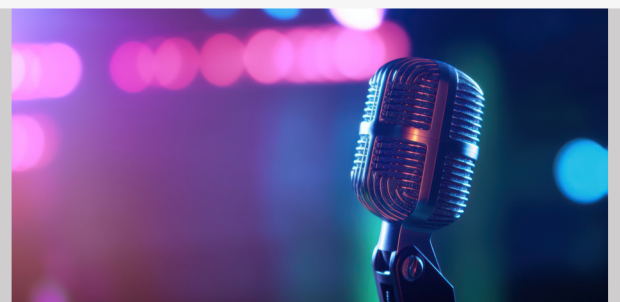
Lead Worship

email: Music@gave.org

or

Share your 4th Day Story

email: Info@gsve.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

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)



GIRLS CHRYSALIS

Jan 13th - 15th.

BOYS CHRYSALIS

Feb 17th - 19th.



2024 WALKS

In the Planned Phase -

Pray with us as we explore next years schedule and opportunities.



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. 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

2023 GSVE BOARD

Executive Committee

Community Lay Director - Lana McGrathcommunityld@gsve.org
Vice Chair - Cindy Moodyvicechair@gsve.org
Secretary - Bill Leesecretary@gsve.org
Treasurer - Gary Jordantreasurer@gsve.org

Clergy

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

Registrar - **David Strickland**, Linda Jonesregistrar@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 Moodyagape@gsve.org
Housekeeping - Jeff Brammerhousekeeping@gsve.org
Kitchen - **Karen Edmonson**kitchen@gsve.org
Sponsorship - Jason Moodysponsorship@gsve.org
Social/Outreach - OPENoutreach@gsve.org
Leadership - **Jerry Kunz**leadership@gsve.org
Community Trainer - Mike Matheneycommunitytrainer@gsve.org

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

Rolling off the Board in 2024

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...

I WANT MORE OF YOU
AND LESS OF ME



He must become GREATER, and I must become LESS
John 2:20



FOLLOW US

<https://facebook.com/GreaterSciotoValleyEmmaus>

Hello BIBLE, it's me.

hope i
get past
leviticus
this year

THE DEJA-VU BIBLE STUDY

THE DEJA-VU BIBLE STUDY - Attempting
to read through the bible this year..... AGAIN!

Whoopsie

The Back Paw - Jeff Larson



1 Cor 6:12

"I'm allowed to do anything," but not
everything is helpful.. I won't allow
anything to gain control over my life.

VISIT GSVE.ORG to sign up TODAY!

QUESTIONS ???

IS GSVE LEAVING CHILLICOTHE?

No. 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. Monthly Gatherings will be held at various churches in the Chillicothe area.

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?

Gatherings will be held in churches in the Chillicothe area 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 all area churches, not just inviting them on the Walks.

We encourage you to send additional questions by email to communityld@gsve.org.