



GREATER SCIOTO VALLEY EMMAUS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

FROM THE CHAIR

BY LANA MCGRATH

REMEMBER THAT TIME....?

Summer for me brings back sweet memories of riding bikes with my friends, going swimming, running around barefoot, summertime cookouts and family reunions. I LOVE summer and thinking back to those sweet memories!

Sometimes something that feels familiar brings back sweet memories and the feelings that go along with them. Thinking back to my Emmaus walk I remember the sweetest ladies at my table, uncontrollable laughter at bedtime, special sacred moments that are forever etched into my heart and soul.

What are the special memories you have from your Walk or Flight? Whom would you like to share the opportunity to have similar experiences? There are opportunities for sponsoring teens for the summer Chrysalis Flights and adults for the men and women's fall Walks. Who is God calling you to pray for and sponsor?

With the planning and formation of teams for these events also comes the opportunity to get involved and serve. It is such a privilege and blessing to be on the "serving" side of things too! The BEST way to get going is to come to Gatherings. Reconnect and help build the excitement that surrounds the Walks and Flights. If you're in a share group, get everyone to come together. Invite those who you are hoping to sponsor or are just curious about all this Emmaus talk.

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The teams for the upcoming events are forming now....they need the support of the Emmaus and Chrysalis community to pray for them, serve them and build the excitement to create those same precious moments and experiences for the participants.
See you at Gathering on June 15, 2023, 7:00 at Trinity UMC.

DeColores!!
Lana McGrath
GSVE Community Lay Director

*Help us upgrade the computers
and software used at the Walks.
Go to GSVE.org and look for the
computer.*



FROM THE BOARD...

BY JOHN MANASCO, MUSIC & TECH



What's important to you? I recently read an article about the most important things in life. Several of the items in the list most will guess would be there. Our relationships, mental and physical health, our time and those we love, all seem reasonable. The list was ranked in this order: 1) Your Relationships, 2) Your Authenticity, 3) Your Work/Life Balance, 4) Your Mental Health, 5) Your Physical Health, 6) Your Integrity, 7) Your Curiosity, 8) Your Time, 9) Your Contribution, 10) Your Love. As I was reading down through the expanded conversion on each item, I quickly realized this list applies to our life in Christ in much the same manner. Let's take a few of these items on the list and dig a little deeper.

Relationships are listed as #1 for a reason. We are social beings. Some are more outgoing than others, but we all need some level of interaction with our loved ones, family, friends and even our pets. I would consider relationships #1 on our list of important spiritual life items as well. We were created to have fellowship with God. When we break our fellowship with Him, he makes a way back to himself, if we chose to be restored. He even went as far as paying the price of our transgressions so we could be reconciled back to Him. God's value of our relationship seems extremely important to Him. Our relationship with Him should be extremely important as well. So should our relationships with each other. Jesus' comments on the greatest commandment was 100% relationship based. Love God... Love each other. Luke 10:27 (Manasco loosely paraphrased version).

We speak of authenticity as being your true self, not acting like something that you're not or trying to be someone else. Each of us should contemplate if we are really living an authentic Christian life. The term Christian came from the idea of being "Christ like". When I think about what I did today, do I see the actions that Jesus would have done? Paul gives us an awesome understanding of living the authentic christian life. "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." (Romans 12:9-13 NIV)

The last ones that I will dig into here are Time and Contributions. Yes, I realize that now I'm meddling. We have all heard that our calendar and check register tell the story of what we truly care about. We make time for and support the things that are important to us. I can waste countless dollars and hours of my time on the toys of my leisure, but stopping to help someone in need or dropping a couple bucks into the hands of the homeless, well, I have to take a moment to consider that. When I'm faced to give up something that I had to work hard to obtain, I understand what it took for me to acquire it. But I have little excuse when it comes to sharing the one thing that was given freely to me. Our purpose is to share the amazing story of Christ and his unmeasurable love for us.

As an Emmaus Community, we share this love in two primary ways. First the Emmaus Weekend events. The Walk is powerful and full of meaning and designed to stir the soul to action. Then secondly, hosting the Gatherings. This is the common meeting place for each of us to encourage, lift up and rally each other for the cause of Christ. Consider this, the Emmaus Gatherings are not as much for you as they are for the other pilgrim's. The Gathering is where the 4th day pilgrim's come to encourage the new pilgrims fresh off of their Walk as they make their transition back from that powerful weekend. It's also where the 4th day pilgrims come to receive the boost we need to engage with our local church and community as we continue our spiritual journey.

I love seeing the Facebook post's and comments about the upcoming Walk's scheduled for this fall. You can see in the comments the expression of memories that impact these individuals as they encourage others to take their Walk. The Walk's need your support in both time and contribution. These weekend events are just the beginning. The Gatherings are the milestones on the journey where we check in with each other and encourage each other. You are needed just as much at the Gathering as you are in supporting the "Walk" weekend. One cannot exist without the other. So, I encourage you to come to the Gatherings. Give a little of your time and resources to make the gospel a priority. "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another..."Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV

CHECK OUT THE UPDATED WEBSITE AT 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!

FROM THE COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

WRITTEN BY DAVE BURRISS

Scars!

“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” - 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

I looked at my left knee I see scars. Once hideous, it is now a very long and perfectly straight diagonal line, quite different from its initial appearance. Although the doctor seemed to feel a bit sorry that the scar ended up so long, it did not bother me then because it was a reminder of God’s grace to me during that time. It continues to be so today. That reminder pushes me to serve God continuously. I want to give my all to someone who not only gave his all for me on the cross but also continues to keep on giving. We have a God that continues to care for us in spite of our sin. Such love should draw us to him!

Scars come in all sizes shapes and forms. The ones I just mentioned are the ones on my left knee. Four surgeries now and each one has its own story of injury, pain and recovery. People have scars we see and those we don’t. Some are emotional, others are relational, and yes some are spiritual.

But today I want to tell you about a lady, who has suffered emotional and physical scars. It is these scars that tell a story of a women that had emotional scars of the death of his first husband. She has also had the scars of her health. These scars are a war map, battle scars of a fight that she continues to fight. These scars are the scars of needles, scalpels, IV’s, surgeries, procedures, and the battle for health. For her, these scars don’t define her health, they define her determination and the strength of her faith. She is the living embodiment of Job. She knows, no matter what she faces, she does not face it alone, but with God by her side.

To me her scars are part of what makes her beautiful. Her scars are beautiful to God as well. God knows her struggles, God knows her determination and God knows her heart! It should be obvious to you by now I am talking about my much better half Veronica. She has often said, “if God leads you to it, God will see you through it.” God has been with her in the dark valley and he will be with her on all the steps of her journey.

Perhaps you have important scars too. Scars that marked a time in your life when your health was failing or when a sudden accident occurred. Perhaps your scars are not physical like mine are, but emotional. You have memories of difficult moments in the past that have shaped your life.

“These scars are meant to draw us closer to the Lord, not further from Him. They shape us into better servants for his kingdom. When God’s grace is extended to us in the form of healing, we are able to reflect on who we are and what we can become as his sons and daughters. We have a God that continues to care for us in spite of our scarred past. Doesn’t that make the scars beautiful?”

Prayer: Dear Lord, please give me the strength to know how to serve you each day and follow through with it by making the most of the time you have graciously given to me. Let the trials in my life remind me of your goodness. Amen.

Blessings

Pastor Dave

UPCOMING EVENTS '23

Jul 20- GSVE Board Meeting 5:30 pm
GATHERING/POTLUCK DINNER
7:00 pm Trinity UMC

SUMMER CHRYSALIS FLIGHTS

July 8-10 Girls Chrysalis Flight
July 15-17 Boys Chrysalis Flight

2023 WALKS

Sept 14-17 Women’s Walk #60

Lay Director - Michelle Conley

Oct 12-15 Men’s Walk #44

LayDirector- Jamie Rout

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CHECK OUT THE UPDATED WEBSITE AT GSVE.ORG

Please fill out the form to subscribe so that we can update your contact info

2023 GSVE BOARD

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

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Clergy - Open

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Leadership - Jerry Kunzleadership@gsve.org
Community Trainer - Mike Matheneycommunitytrainer@gsve.org

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

WE NEED LOTS OF HELP FROM THE COMMUNITY DURING THE WALK WEEKENDS. VOLUNTEERING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT WAY FOR THE BOARD TO SEE WHO IS INTERESTED IN SERVING ON A TEAM IN THE FUTURE! GO TO GSVE.ORG TO SIGN UP



**Help Replace our Computers.
Donate at GSVE.org**

JUST FOR LAUGHS...



VISIT GSVE.ORG to sign up TODAY!