

March 8, 2009

Dear Encounter Alum:

It doesn't seem possible that the group that started in 1972 as "Love Eleven" (because it had 11 members) is now celebrating its 37<sup>th</sup> Season as ENCOUNTER, and is now 107 members strong. In honor of this wonderful accomplishment, the 2009 Sponsors decided that a Celebration Event was long overdue and so we are inviting you to be our guest and join us for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Encounter Alumni Celebration Dinner on Friday, April 10, 2009 at Main Street UMC at 6:00 p.m. Just for old-times' sake, the dinner will be Chicken Tetrazini and all the trimmings.

The evening promises to be a wonderful time to catch-up with old friends, share memories from tour, and celebrate the ministry that has changed so many lives over the last 37 years. As you might imagine, going back into the archives 37 seasons to get names and addresses has been a bit of a daunting task, and so it is our sincere hope that you will help us spread the word to all of your Encounter friends and family that this event is being planned. If anyone has NOT gotten a formal invitation by the end of March, please have them call Shelly, the church secretary, at Main Street at 618-462-2495 or Greg Gelzinnis, event chairman, at 618-550-9291. We do NOT want anyone left out!

With 107 students now involved, and an operational budget that exceeds \$100,000.00, we believed that this event would also be a wonderful spring-board to help us launch a brand new ALUMNI Scholarship. The spirit of the founders still echoes in our hearts that NO child should be denied the opportunity to experience Encounter due to finances – and so, who better than Alumni banding together, to provide the safety net that will insure now and into the future that this will remain our pledge. Please take a moment to prayerfully consider helping us launch this most important need-based Scholarship. As you will see, we have established levels for old and new Alumni alike.

As if all of this excitement isn't enough, we are also extending a special invitation to all of you to join us after dinner for the Good Friday dress rehearsal of this year's musical "Lion of Judah, Calvary's Lamb." Nothing would please us more than to provide our students with a standing room only crowd full of folks who believe deeply in the power of this most special ministry. We look forward to welcoming you "back home" to Main Street as our GUEST, and to help us celebrate Encounter - 37 Seasons and still going strong with God! Please RSVP below, but if you can't come, feel free to send a note that we will share with those in attendance.

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Please Clip and Return by Friday, April 3, 2009

Count Me In!!!                      Number of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Enco (I.E. 78-80) \_\_\_\_\_

My Current Address is:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Alumni Scholarship Fund** (Please Make Checks Payable to Encounter – Scholarship in the memo line)

Please indicate your level of giving:

**Founder's Circle - \$500+ \_\_\_\_\_ Angels - \$100-\$499 \_\_\_\_\_ 37 Fund - \$37 (\$1 for each season) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Good Shepherds - \$5-\$25 \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_ *So sorry that I can't make it this year, but here is my current address and Alumni Scholarship Gift*