

From Our Co-Spiritual Director

SEEING GOD IN NATURE

In "Seeing God in Nature,"* I read these words, "Creation is a vivid expression of God's glory, power, and beauty. Those who recognize and appreciate the natural world as God's masterpiece are often quick to exclaim their admiration of it. How can we be silent in the presence of such magnificent beauty as a breathtaking sunset, a soaring mountain, or a raging river? ... Indeed, natural beauty is one of the unmistakable ways God reveals [God's] character to us. Isn't the fact that [God] wants us to know him enough to make you rejoice?"

Nature is, indeed, one of our most glorious means of grace, and it is up to us to take advantage of our opportunities to experience to the fullest God present in nature, or to forfeit those sacred moments in lieu of less fulfilling, less sacred and less rejuvenating thoughts, experiences, and moments.

In this hectic world in which we live –*albeit temporarily*– just about everyone has more task to accomplish than they have hours in the day. This means that we are constantly prioritizing, constantly determining what we will do and what we will omit, or save for another day. Yet too often, the things we really forfeit are those sacred moments that would add to our day rather than detract from it. We all do it, no matter how hard we try. It is one of the unintended consequences of abandoning God's model of a 24-hour Sabbath that is not negotiable and is not ignored or suspended for any reason, including death. Such a model is impractical but not impossible in 2014 America.

Growing up, one of my mother's favorite mantras was, "People do what they want to do," which meant that people make time for the things that really matter to them. She used those words to try to get me to rethink a goal or priority in light of the big picture. Sometimes, when I silence my thoughts and my spirit, I can hear God speaking those same words to me: "People do what they want to do."

It doesn't take much time to stop, turn around, and notice the sunrise or sunset, to notice a pretty flower on the side of the road, or to notice the lilt of a bird's chirp on a sunny day. When we take time to do that, it becomes relatively easy to find God lingering there, waiting for us to notice and say, "thank you." Despite all the missed sacred moments, God is *always* there, waiting, loving, and longing to share the moment with us.

This season of Easter and new life seems like an opportune time to decide that we will want to remember the Sabbath, to notice God in nature (and in all the sacred moments), to embrace God's love and beauty, and say "thank you, God!" Rather than *No-Doze*, and expensive vacations to exotic locations, taking daily Sabbath time and savoring the sacred moments will do more to refresh us than anything else. It is not a new concept. The Psalmist writes, in Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." I encourage us all to do that: to savor the sacred moments, and be refreshed!



De Colores!

Pastor Sherri Blackwell

*May 4, "Seeing God in Nature," in *Joy for the Journey*, Thomas Nelson Publishing, 2014, page 256.

FROM OUR COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR



Just about everyone I know loves when spring arrives. For many years of my life, spring meant one thing – Softball. One very important part of the sport is, of course, when you are up to bat. If you and your team do not connect with the ball well, you won't get on base. And if you don't get on base, you cannot come home to score.

With no score, you won't win any games. It's pretty simple. A critical aspect to batting is "Following Through". If you stop your swing just as you connect with the ball, it will barely make it past the pitcher and you are an easy out. If you stop your swing with a golf club at the moment the club head meets the ball, you will dribble the ball just barely out of the tee box. (I know both of these from personal experience!) But if you swing through the ball, and "Follow Through" with your swing as you strike the ball and continue to pull the bat around, the ball will go much farther, and you may even make it around home.

As sponsors, we need to remember to "Follow Through" with our pilgrims. If we stop our swing when we drop off the pilgrim on Sunday night, their walk may not go very far. But if we "Follow Through", and bring our pilgrims to the reunion, the gatherings, the social time after the gatherings, and to the next walk to serve, their Fourth Days will be an even larger blessing for them, their churches and workplace, and the Emmaus community. If we "Follow Through" and ensure they get into a share group (perhaps invite them to join yours!), we are helping them get on base. The Emmaus experience does not stop on Sunday night. We, as sponsors and as the Springfield Area Emmaus community, need to follow through with all pilgrims to get them off the bench and on the field. And get them on base, and around to home.

Peace,

Sue Neves

(937) 241-1020

Please note:

The Registrar needs Men's applications. The deadline to receive applications for the September Men's walk is 1 June. At that time, a determination will be made if there are enough potential pilgrims to hold the scheduled walk.

Gathering, May 18, 2014

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Emery Chapel Praise Band which was scheduled to lead the music at the May Gathering has had to cancel their appearance. We all look forward to a reschedule.

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.' "

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus."

SPRINGFIELD AREA EMMAUS

WOMEN'S WALK # 70

June 19-22, 2014

LD: Millie Luttrull - Perseverance

ALD: Libby Hammond - Priority

ALD: Sue Neves - Fourth Day

ALD: Verna Reed - Life of Piety

LOG: Karen Speas

LOG: Cheryl Jurket

Music: Diane Page

Music: Marty Scott

SD: Rev Carolyn Peacock - Means of Grace

ASD: Rev Jeff Smalley - Sanctifying Grace

ASD: TBA—Prevenient Grace

ASD: TBA—Justifying Grace

ASD: TBA—Obstacles to Grace

TL: Janet Schillinger - Priesthood of All Believers

TL: Joyce Isley - Christian Action

TL: Lechell Raines – Grow Through Study

TL: Ellen Morgan - Changing our World

TL: Lisa Nettleingham - Discipleship

TL: Kathy Robbins - Body of Christ

ATL: Judy Spanel

ATL: Anna Whetstone

ATL: Robin Smith

ATL: Susan Holladay

ATL: Stacey Cameron

ATL: Tammy Masters

Board Representative: Judy Delledonne

ALD—Assistant Lay Director

ASD—Assistant Spiritual Director

ATL—Assistant Table Leader

LD—Lay Director

LOG—Logistics

TL—Table Leader

“The purpose of Emmaus is to renew the church as the body of the risen Christ in the world through the renewal of Christians as faithful and committed disciples of Jesus Christ.”

—*The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus*, Second Edition, 2001, p. 2

An invitation to the Emmaus Community

It takes "All" of us doing God's work to keep this Emmaus Community strong. Where are all the Lay Leaders' (men and women)? Wouldn't you like to hear how your team and your pilgrims' Fourth Days are going? Someone in your walk may need your support again. Call, let's set up a reunion; reconnect, bring them back. YOU come back, get them involved. YOUR job isn't finished just because your walk is over. This Community needs all of us to stay strong.

Bring a dish and lets celebrate this ministry on 5-18-2014. Call me if you need help—

- call your team

- call your pilgrims!

Let's fill GOD' S HOUSE again.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Delledonne, Outreach

937-284-7112

937-206-3088



PILGRIM LIST
Women's Walk # 70
June 19-22, 2014

PILGRIM

Bobbi Allen
 Molly Barnes
 Darla Bires
 Angela Brown
 Tammy Clawson
 Abbey Dixon
 Beanie Evans
 Sheila Fambro
 Kelly Funderburg
 Carrie Gifford
 Judi Hunter
 Jenny Jackson
 Hayli Karg
 Denise Kuhn
 Jennifer Leggett
 Cathy Lynch
 Christi Nutini
 Betty Reed
 Lisa Richards
 Buffy Roberts
 Kelly Rowlands
 Brenda Russell
 Angel Sherrock
 Linda Slusher
 Linda Sollars
 Mary Stewart
 Shirley Stewart
 Shelby Vincent
 Val Watson
 Katie Webb
 Stephanie White

CHURCH

Buckeye Gospel
 My Church
 Apostolic Gospel Church
 St. John Missionary Baptist
 Grace United Methodist
 Terre Haute United Methodist
 New Life of Springfield
 House of Prayer
 High Street United Methodist
 Ledbetter Rd. Church of God
 Crossroad Baptist
 Middletown Church of God
 None Listed
 Potter's House of Springfield
 Simply Church
 St. Teresa
 None Listed
 Mt. Zion Baptist Church
 Grape Grove Church of Christ
 United Methodist – Victory Dr.
 Ginghamburg
 Restoration Worship Center
 None Listed
 First Christian
 Lafayette Methodist
 St. John Missionary Baptist
 Lafayette Methodist
 None Listed
 Potter's House
 Apex
 St. John Missionary Baptist

SPONSOR

Lacey Cron
 Sim & Corina Bowen
 Teri Turvy
 Dorothy Higginbotham
 Stacy & Jacob Erne
 Teri Phillips
 Gail Houston
 Kwaunisha Moore
 Sam Poston
 Libby Hammond
 Chris Hunter
 Michelle Rockfield
 Michelle Rockfield
 Amy & Jared Erne
 Deb Hicks
 Cecilia Swindler
 Teri Turvy
 Verna Reed
 Nena Dillon
 Nena Dillon
 Linda Fox
 Nena Dillon
 Linda Pack
 Cecilia Swindler
 Karen Ressler
 Dorothy Higginbotham
 Carolyn Peacock
 Linda Fox
 Peg Link
 Roberta Blosser
 Mary Suggs



Don't forget:

- 1. Mother's Day, May 11**
- 2. Gathering moved to May 18 in honor of Mother's Day**