

From Our Spiritual Director

GOOD INTENTIONS

'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' THIS IS THE GREATEST AND FIRST COMMANDMENT. AND A SECOND IS LIKE IT: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' -MATTHEW 22:37-39



"The road to [*that hot place*] is paved with good intentions." Most of us know the phrase and understand its meaning: that people may have pure and noble intentions but may fail to take action, or that those good intentions, when enacted, may have unintended consequences.

The Emmaus community works hard to create a Christ-centered, Spirit-led, God-connection for everyone involved with each Emmaus Walk. We carefully tend to each moment, each event. We pray for the pilgrims and work hard to create a safe space for transformative encounters with God. We end each weekend by welcoming the pilgrims into the Emmaus Community, and warning them to beware their Fourth Days as they depart. How is it, then, that we sometimes turn around and hurt some of these same individuals when they attempt to join in and serve others on subsequent walks? The answer is unintended consequences. For some in our community, this is part of their Fourth-Day reality; I am one of those pilgrims.

My own walk was life-altering: people I did not know sacrificed for me. They played music for me, cooked for me, cleaned up after me, and prayed continuously for me, for no other reason than because God loves me. I was so moved I wanted to do the same thing for others. So as soon as I could, I searched the sign-up sheets for a chance to serve in any way. I carried Spirit-fire residue from my own walk, so I cheerfully signed up... *to clean toilets!* When the day finally arrived, I got up in the wee hours of the morning, made the drive from Kettering (where I lived) all the way to Springfield. I even arrived *before* the appointed time! I went in the designated door, and found... *no one*. I walked around to discover sparkling clean bathrooms all over the church. The work was all done, and the clean-up crew had already departed the building. I was where I was supposed to be when I was supposed to be there, but the work was already done. I drove back home completely discouraged; the fire that had remained within me was effectively extinguished. No one called to say I wasn't needed. No one called to explain what happened. Nothing. Apparently, a group that often cleans bathrooms got the chance to clean the bathrooms early, and they simply went ahead and did it. *Good intentions...*

While it may seem a good idea for those who are experienced at some of the walk tasks to just "go ahead and do it," sometimes more harm than good results. After we have worked so hard to love our pilgrims, let us not be the ones who douse their enthusiasm! Let's follow our own advice and keep the main thing the main thing. Being efficient and getting things done ahead of schedule may sound enticing, but still may be ill-advised if the unintended consequence is hurtful to the most vulnerable among us, and it is hurtful to be left out. We invite pilgrims to sign up and join in after they come off their walks. Let's extend the courtesy –and then share the privilege– of serving God's beloved. Be it praying, singing, working in the kitchen, or cleaning the bathrooms, there is work enough, space enough, and grace enough... for *all* of us!



Pastor Sherri Blackwell

Thoughts From Our Lay Director



I was riding my bike to work this morning and I had a praise song running through my head, which is often the case when I ride. The song ***I Will Call Upon The Lord*** was playing in my head; this is no real surprise since our praise band at church just offered this song two days earlier. I was singing the words from the song over and over in my head as I pedaled away: "I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised..." About half way through my ride, it dawned on me that there is a second verse to the song and perhaps I should sing that: "I will magnify the Lord, who is worthy to be praised...." But my private concert was interrupted with this thought: How can I *magnify* the Lord? The Lord is bigger than life itself; "magnify" means to make appear larger. God is God, so how could I, a sinner, a mere human with limitations, *magnify* God? No sooner had I completed forming my question when God filled my mind with the answer: I can magnify the Lord, or make Him appear larger, in the eyes of others who do not see Him, or see Him as God. Through my actions, I can show others how big, how powerful, how loving and how awesome our God is. In the eyes of others, I can magnify the Lord by helping draw their attention to how great our God is.

In Emmaus, we are reminded of the endless and un-earned grace God bestows upon us. When we share agape love we are magnifying God in the eyes of the pilgrims. We are giving them just a small sample of God's abundant and unconditional love.

Back to my bike ride... just after God replied to my question, my eyes too were opened. Just then was when I realized that I was no longer riding in the dark. In fact, the headlight on my bike was no longer necessary. Logically, I know that the morning brightens gradually. That simply isn't how it seemed to me this morning. I was riding in the dark, then God spoke to me to answer my question, and then it was light. Coincidence? – I think not. I think Our God Is An Awesome God.hmm, I guess I know what song will be in my head for tomorrow's bike ride.



In His Service,
Sue Neves

♪ I WILL MAGNIFY THE LORD ♪



Chrysalis

There will be a Chrysalis Hoot held on **December 14** at Piqua Greene Street UMC. All Butterflies are invited. It will have a Christmas theme.

The next **girls flight is January 18-20, 2014** and **boys flight is February 15-17, 2014**. It is not too early to getting applications for

these flights. Who do you know that would benefit from a Chrysalis Flight?

Remember to keep your Next Steps going!

Tom Dever
Chrysalis Representative



Meet Your Board Members



My name is **Cecilia Swindler**. My husband, David, and I will have been married ten years on June 19th. In our blended family we have six children and nine grandchildren. I am a graduate of Appalachian Bible College, Cedarville University, and Wright State University. After having retired after thirty-nine years of teaching, I am now a caretaker and occasionally tutor. David and I are members of Crossroad Baptist Church, where I teach the women's Sunday School class and we both work with AWANA. I teach a Studies in Faith class at Oakwood Village in Assisted Living. I enjoy singing, cooking, camping, reading and signing. Chocolate almond is my favorite ice cream. I have really enjoyed my involvement with the Emmaus community, where I have made many friends and have participated in share groups. My position on the Emmaus Board is that of **Sponsorship for the women**. Blessings and prayers, Cecilia

Kitchen Volunteers

I want to thank all of the wonderful members of the community that helped make the recent Men's Walk a truly successful undertaking. You all co-operated so well as a fine team in the kitchen. It was an awesome undertaking for me, you made it "almost" easy. We learned to economize and we will continue those efforts, but never will we shortchange the Pilgrims. We must remember it is all about their experience that we must consider and follow our hearts in all that we do to allow them to meet their Savior in all of His glory and grace.

From what I heard from some of the helpers, some of you didn't know about the need for help on Wednesday afternoon, checking in and storing the supplies and the need for help on Thursday, most of the early part of the day. We place our kitchen items where they belong and make up meat/cheese trays, prepare the egg casserole and fruit trays for Friday morning plus helping with the Thursday evening meal for the new Pilgrims and their sponsors.

Keep those times in mind when you sign up to help for the next Walk. If you plan to serve/escort the meal on Saturday evening it is not necessary to sign up. We just need the Kitchen helpers to register their names and phone numbers so we will be assured of adequate help. That will make everything less confusing. By the way any new Pilgrims from recent walks that have not helped on a Walk are welcome. There is always someone to help you learn the routine.

Thanks again, all of you. I truly look forward to each Walk and being a faithful servant for our Savior.

God bless you.



Jean Grumbling
Kitchen Coordinator



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!

The theme of the December Gathering, December 8, 2013, is to praise the Savior and His birth with music. If you would like to participate in glorifying the Lord Jesus with your talent, please contact the Board Music Chairperson, **J.C. Howell** at 215-1741 or j.c.howell@sbcglobal.net.

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11

Write an Article

Do you have a Fourth Day experience, a memorable Christmas event, a humorous anecdote, or a message you would like to share with the Emmaus Community? Submit a newsletter article to jahlborn@woh.rr.com.

**PRAISE GOD
FROM WHOM
ALL BLESSINGS
FLOW! Amen**



Important Dates

2014 Walks

Women's Walk #69—Feb 20-23

Karen Packer, Lay Director

Next Gathering

Nov 10, 2013

Future Dates

Dec 8, 2013

Jan 12, 2014 Feb

Feb 9, 2014

PLEASE NOTE: Provide your cell phone numbers to our database manager, Rick Clark, 937-508-9740 or rclark104@woh.rr.com.