

Notes from the Lay Director:

October 2005

Springfield Area Emmaus News

Important Times to Remember

Pilgrims Arrive...Thursday 6:00 P.M.
Thursday Potluck for Sponsors & Pilgrims

Sponsor's Hour...After Thursday potluck

***Candlelight...Saturday, 8:30 P.M.**
***Closing Service....Sunday, 4:30 P.M.**
Carry-In Dinner following Closing

***The Candlelight and Closing Services are for members of the Emmaus Community only. Childcare is not provided. Out of respect for those attending, please do not bring children to Candlelight or Closing.**

THOUGHTS FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR...

In the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, many stories emerged. Deann Alford reported on one couple who provided ministry in a time of great need.

In T-shirts and pajama bottoms they'd worn for four days and shoes caked in New Orleans sludge, Christopher and Monika Sheppard arrived at Houston's Astrodome. In one arm was a cardboard box that held all they owned that the rising waters didn't snatch before they escaped. In another arm was their 16-month-old son, Jackson, quiet with fever and clutching a baby bottle.

They joined an ever-growing number of those made homeless when levees broke following Hurricane Katrina's rampage through Louisiana. Although the family owned a car, like many residents of the below-sea-level city who weathered the storm in their homes, they stayed because they had no place to go outside New Orleans and thought they could ride it out.

For more than two days they waited with hundreds of other storm survivors as the city around them plunged into bedlam. They ate pilfered food

and drank pilfered water that looters unloaded in piles to share.

Finally, the Sheppards were airlifted to a bus that transported them to the Astrodome in Houston, Texas.

Though the Astrodome provided shelter and at least some measure of safety compared to the anarchy of apocalyptic New Orleans, the sports arena was tense with dangers and full of vulnerable people, especially the aged....Hours after the Sheppards arrived, newlyweds Shane and Shelly Cole of Pasadena, Texas, married just nine days, entered the arena. On Wednesday night, the Coles had heard news about problems at the Astrodome. Shane, 35, a Baptist who came to Christ 10 years ago after serving in the first Gulf War, said he grieved for children living amid the Astrodome chaos. The Coles were using just one of their home's two bedrooms and could house a family.

"We've got to go down there," he told Shelly, a Messianic Jew originally from Wisconsin. "I know there's babies in there."

The first two families Shane approached in the Astrodome said loved-ones in Houston were picking them up. Then Shane saw Jackson and asked the Sheppards if they would like to stay with them. They gratefully accepted.

The Coles believe they were just following God's leading.

"We were obedient. That's all he required of us," Shelly said. "God will put the puzzle together. We were the link because God works through people. He wants willing vessels."

What strikes me most about this story is the faith or trust that took a risk. Two strangers who didn't know each other revealed faith. Faith always involves risk, otherwise it would be faith at all. Faith always calls forth obedience, otherwise it would be clothed in love.

Luke writes in the Book of Acts, *"And I have been constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"* (20:35)

Chris Farmer
Co-Spiritual Director
Springfield Emmaus Community

Fifteen years ago this month, a young man was drug to a weekend retreat by his wife. All he knew about it was that it was called Emmaus, it had created a big change in his wife and he didn't have 3 days to spare for something as meaningless as a spiritual retreat. BUT, he wasn't alone. His best friend and his father in law were being forced to go by their wives, too, or so he thought!

Something wonderful happened that weekend. Now, he had accepted Jesus as his Savior when he was 12 at Bible School, but on Saturday night he not only re-dedicated his life to Christ, he understood what it meant to be a Christian; how to be a Christian and prayed for God's guidance and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He had fallen in love with Jesus!

This man walked away from that weekend knowing that he was a new creature in Christ. He knew that his life was changed, his mind transformed. Now he was ready to start making the physical changes, though he didn't quite know how. He was praying and studying but he didn't know how or when the Lord was going to make all the good things happen.

About 3 weeks later, he was shopping at Sam's in Dayton. After a bad experience in the check out line, he got out to the car and looked over the receipt and noticed that they had charged him

twice for an expensive food item, so it was back inside for the refund. After another 15 minutes in line he got back to the car and noticed that they forgot to charge him for a package of hi-liters. "I'm not going back inside for another 10 minutes in line," he thought. "After all, it was their fault and it is only \$3."

He tried all 5 exits, and that car absolutely **refused** to leave that parking lot! "Okay Lord, I get it!" he said.

When he got up to the register, the same lady said "What's the matter this time?"

"You didn't charge me for these markers."

With a shocked look, she gave him his change and said "Thanks for your honesty and I'm sorry your having such a bad day."

"On the contrary," he said with a big smile. "I'm having a **great** day!"

I remember that day just like it was yesterday. I consider it a milestone in my life. That was the day that I **knew** the Holy Spirit was at work in my life. Since that day I've learned to recognize God speaking to me through the Holy Spirit. I've learned how to listen and hopefully hear the answers to my prayers and direction for my life.

Since the day that Becky drug that 38 year old 'good old boy' to Emmaus, my life has been in a constant state of change. I've done a lot of stumbling along the way but I depend on my Christian brothers and sisters to pick me up and point me toward the throne!

When I get to heaven, He's going to say "With a support group like Emmaus, I knew you'd make it!"

DECOLORES
ROY (John 14:31)

Walk Reminders...

During Walks the Agape box is located in the kitchen just inside the back door. Please do not put Agape on the table in the dining area. Also, please do not try to place agape in the mailboxes in the agape room. On Saturday night there will be containers for pilgrim and team agape located at the bottom of the stairs leading to the Sanctuary balcony. Please make sure the full name of pilgrims and/or team member is on all agape letters.

- 40 pieces Pilgrim only bedtime agape
- 65 pieces Mealtime and Bedtime
- Pilgrims receive personal agape **ONLY** in Sunday Packets
- Team receives personal bedtime, before talk and Sunday Packet agape
- Don't forget to write to Clergy for before talks
- Pilgrim agape should be in standard letter size envelopes only. (This includes pictures) large manilla envelopes or packages will not be given out and should be given to the pilgrim before or after the weekend
- Please alphabetize all agape. Use first & last name. Mark as Pilgrim or Team
- If Team bedtime, please be sure to write Thursday, Friday, or Saturday Bedtime

Bring agape to the Agape Room between Thursday evening and Saturday evening (BEFORE Candlelight Service) of each walk. THANK YOU!

Women's Walk # 45 Team November 3rd—6th

Rev. Bill Kelley S.D.	Means Of Grace
Rev. Jim Dickey S.D.	Sanctifying Grace
Mary Beth Cheeseman L.D.	Perseverance
Mary Casto A.LD.	Fourth Day

Mikie McMahan A.L.D. Priesthood of all Believers
 Belinda Montgomery A.L.D. Priority
 Diane Page M.D.
 Marty Scott M.D.
 Wilma Southward LOG
 Karen Speas LOG
 Mary Ahlborn T.L. Fourth Day Example
 Barb Baugh T.L. Life Of Piety
 Rita Chapman T.L. Grow Through Study
 Sarah Cogan T.L. Christian Action
 Becky Frantz T.L. Discipleship
 Barbara Mulkey T.L. Body of Christ
 Susan LaPrise T.L. Changing Our World
 Patty Aliff A.T.L.
 Diane Duncan A.T.L.
 Virginia Lewis A.T.L.
 Cora Marsenburg A.T.L.
 Cyndi Carpenter A.T.L.
 Pattie Mumma A.T.L.
 Joyce Penwell A.T.L.
 Beth Morter Board Rep.
 Rev. Myra Ary – Obstacles to Grace
 Rev. Dennis Moritz – Prevenient Grace
 Rev. Bob Scott – Justifying Grace

Operation Mississippi

A few Clark County men will be driving a semi to backwater small towns of Mississippi in early December to deliver gifts to adults and children alike. Our mission to help people who've been hammered by Hurricane Katrina is to deliver shoe boxes of personal care items, school supplies, small gifts and letters to as many men, women and children as we can. **Boxes are to be ready for pickup by November 30, 2005.**

Suggested Items: comb, brush, hair pick, vitamins, hard candies, small packs of tissues, toothbrush, toothpaste, colored pencils, crayons, small pencil sharpeners, pens, pencils, makeup, deodorant, small books or hand-held games not requiring batteries; notes of encouragement and love.

Avoid: war toys or items that could break, spoil, melt or leak

Operation Mississippi Label check type of box:

Adult ___ Man	Boy ___Age 11-17	Boy ___Age 4- 10	Boy ___ Age 0-3
Adult ___ Woman	Girl ___Age 11-17	Girl ___Age 4- 10	Girl ___ Age 0-3

Pack items in shoebox or similar sized box. Double-wrap box, preferably with inner wrap being gift-wrap. Place label on the outside of the box to indicate for whom the gift is intended. Gather

items. Determine drop-off location that is closest to you by using the contact information below the label.

Additional Questions? Call Cliff or Sue Rodriguez, 8910 Bellefontaine Road
New Carlisle, OH 45344 937-849-1761

KAIROS

Who are Kairos volunteers? They are individuals who have completed a 3 day street weekend (Emmaus, Cursilo, Cum Christo, etc.) and represent a variety of Christian denominations focused on the common ground of giving inmates the gift of seeing Christ's love and forgiveness in their brokenness. The pay for these services is nonexistent but the fringe benefits are out of this world.

Want to become a Kairos volunteer or learn more about it? Call Sam at 937-399-3724.

Upcoming Kairos weekends are as follows:

Ohio Reformatory for Women - #24 – Nov. 17-20, 2005; #25 - May 18-21, 2006.

Ohio State Penitentiary - #1 – TBA.

Lebanon Correctional - #32 – March 16-19, 2006.

Ross Correctional #12 – February 23-26, 2006; #13 – August 17-20, 2006.

Marion Correctional - #18 – October 27-30, 2005.

Toledo Correctional - #5 – November 3-6, 2005; #6 – May 4-7, 2006.

A review of the above list shows that the number of institutions served is up about 30% from a year ago.

Commensurate with this growth is an increased **need for volunteers.**

Don't forget to check out the Kairos website during your next surfing session at www.kairosohio.org.

In His Love, Sam Poston

Pilgrim List - Walk #45

<u>Pilgrim</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Tammy Bauer	St. Patrick's	Tammy Titus
Thelma Browning	St. John Missionary Baptist	Louise Burley
Irene Buer	Lawrenceville United Church of Christ	Sue Papp
Mae Callahan	St. John Missionary Baptist	Cora Marsenburg
Sue Campbell	Indian lake Community Church	Jim Dickey
Carolyn Carr	Trinity Christian Center	Kim Clouser
Jeaniene Dixon	New Hope	Mark Dixon
Julie Driskill	N. Hills Church of God	Beverly Hess
Lisa Elzey	Northside Baptist	Karen Green
Mitzi Fenner	New Hope	Wilma Southward
Veronique Hutchinson	Freedom Road	Joe & Rita Chapman
Janie Jones	Grace UMC	Mary Ahlborn
Kathy Kearns	Fellowship Christian	Larry Cogan, Dan Warren, Jim Yoakem
Amanda Kincaid	Grace Lutheran	Sue Stephens
Debbie Knisley	Woodside CCCU	Don O'Brien
Kathy McClimans	Ginghamsburg UMC	Rod McKenzie
Carol Metzger	St. Raphael/St. Joseph	Rhonda Voorhees
Linda Miller	Indian Lake Community Church	Jim Dickey

Janice Mize	Covenant UMC	Douglas & Nellie Gardner
Beverly Nichols	Good Shepherd Baptist	James Cozar
Dawn Parcels	New Moorefield UMC	John & Barb Baugh
Terri Riddle	New Moorefield UMC	John & Barb Baugh
Diane Sark	Tremont City UMC	Walter Mock
Rita Scott	Northside Baptist	Harriet Bennett
Rita Shaffner	Freedom Road	Joe & Rita Chapman
Norma Shropshire	St. John Missionary Baptist	Louise Burley
Gaynelle Smith	New Life	P.A. Rummel
Rhonda Tatum	Good Shepherd Baptist	Charles Tatum
Mindy Tipton	New Carlisle Church of the Brethren	Marjorie Miller, Evelyn Shroyer, Diane Page
Helen Tolliver	St. John Missionary Baptist	Linda Stroder
Sherrie Tucker	N. Hampton United Church of Christ	Tony Tucker
Barbara Weddington	First Church of the Nazarene	Pam Peterman
Kathy Wells	Asbury UMC	Karen Coblenz
Mary Ann Wiebeck	Risen Christ Lutheran	Karen Speas
Peggy Winnenber	Grace Lutheran	Debbi Weatherman
Vickie Zettler	New Hope	Amy Lord
Claudia Merrill	Indian lake Community Church	Sally Dickey

Important Dates to Remember...Upcoming "WALK" Dates

<i>Women's Walk #45</i>	<i>November 3-6, 2005</i>	<i>Women's Walk #47</i>	<i>June 22-25, 2006</i>
<i>Women's Walk #46</i>	<i>February 23-26, 2006</i>	<i>Men's Walk #32</i>	<i>August 17-20, 2006</i>
<i>Men's Walk #31</i>	<i>April 27-30, 2006</i>	<i>Women's Walk #48</i>	<i>November 2-5, 2006</i>

All walk dates are tentative.

Attention GFS shoppers....

if you tell the cashier, you'd like your purchase to benefit Springfield Area Emmaus, the dollar amount will contribute towards the percentage of discount when we make purchases for walks and gatherings. Thank you!