

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

What is this world coming to? I still haven't found out how many said "NO" and turned down the offer to be Springfield Community Lay Director before I was asked to think long and hard and maybe even pray about it. On one hand it is a distinct pleasure to serve because of all the terrific people surrounding us. On the other hand, it is still a little scary because a lot of decisions will need to be made and one or two may even be important. That is why I plan to rely heavily on a lot of folks with more experience and savvy. Of course, our main and best reliable leader will be Jesus Christ.

I truly appreciate the work done by all the past Springfield Emmaus leadership. At the 10th anniversary gathering we learned a little of the major effort it took for those with a vision to begin the Springfield Area Community. Since my original walk in 1998, I have admired the grace of those in charge and truly believe that our community has developed a style and culture that fits the intent of the Emmaus Walk very well.

We all have ownership in this style and culture. I trust that we can maintain what we have and only make changes that will enhance the 72 Hour and Fourth Day experiences. We have dedicated workers on the board and many more dedicated folks helping and ready to step in. Make yourself available to do whatever your physical abilities and time allow. Completing a 72 Hour Weekend from the first preparations to the passage into Fourth Days takes several hundred willing hands and feet.

And don't forget the "prayer" part. Put Jim Vineyard and God's team for Men's Walk #34 in those prayers. Remember, Jesus doesn't ask if you are able, only if you are available. He'll take care of the "able" part. Just ask Moses or Peter when you get a chance. Or you can ask someone at the next Gathering. See you there!

-Gene Porter

PRAYER WARRIORS NEEDED!

A major key to the life changing power of an Emmaus weekend is prayer. Having your name on an hour slot on the 72 hour prayer vigil, and then following through by actually praying at that time, is as important as being on a team, working in the kitchen, logistics, or anything else. In the past in order to be involved in the 72 hour prayer vigil you pretty much had to attend a gathering to sign up. Consequently, this left out those who would like to participate but couldn't make it to the gatherings. And so, effective immediately, we are asking for those who want to participate in walks in this most important way, to write, call, or e-mail us to give the time you would like to pray. We will write your name in that time slot. The prayer vigil runs from 6:00 p.m. on Thursday through 6:00 p.m. on Sunday of each Walk. Of course we want to fill all the time slots, but it doesn't matter if we have multiple name in some slots. We can't have too much prayer. Let's not forget those middle of the night slots. It's a special blessing to set your alarm to get up to pray. It's almost like having a private audience with the Lord. Let's flood these walks with prayer like never before. I believe we'll see even more miraculous things happening than we already have. **The next walk is Men's Walk # 34, from August 16th—19th.** If you are interested in serving in this way, please e-mail us at : masalaco@sbcglobal.net, give us a call at (937)969-8193, or drop us a line at P.O. Box 1, Tremont City, OH 45372.

-Larry & Mary Cogan

Reverend Dickey to Preach at HSUM

Jim Dickey, long time Spiritual Director on many walks and past pastor for HSUM, will be preaching at High St. on July 22nd. After the service and beginning about 12:00 Noon, he will have a book signing for his new book, *The Amazing Power of the Holy Spirit*. All interested are invited to meet and greet Rev. Dickey and have a book autographed. The book sells for \$16.95. There is a package deal including his autobiography with many useful stories of God at work for \$35. The autobiography by itself is \$21.

KAIROS MINISTRY

On September 14th—16th, the Kairos Prison Ministry will initiate the first Kairos Torch weekend in the Circleville Juvenile Facility. This is only the second Juvenile Prison Ministry to be started in Ohio and the first new youth prison ministry to start in over 5 years. This weekend is in need of Agape, (banners, posters, hand colored placemats, letters of encouragement and other artwork to be shared with the entire community). Items from 4th day communities and from church Sunday schools and youth groups are particularly welcome. Items can be sent or emailed to: David Dickinson, 6034 Pirthshire Street, Dublin, OH 43016, E-mail: Dickinson.1@osu.edu.

Thank you for helping make the youth from this new Juvenile Facility welcome into the Family of God.

SUPPLY ROOM STUFF!

Believe it or not, the discount stores will soon be having "Back to School" Sales / Bargains, which includes many of the items that we stock in the supply room. The Emmaus Board is trying to keep the costs down and any and all donations are welcome. We need the following: pens, black sharpies, yellow highlighters, colored markers, folders for notebooks. (we have notebooks from last year's donation), scotch tape, masking tape, Kleenex, sticky pads, combs, small toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes, ear plugs, small lotion bottles, contact lens holders, and contact lens solution. Thanks to my share group who supply items not given to us. This would be a good way for other share groups to give agape to the pilgrims if they want to share their love and are able to do so. Thanks from the Supply Room!

-Sue Stephens
(937) 323-3222

DARKE COUNTY AREA EMMAUS CELEBRATION!

Ten years or so ago many willing servants from Springfield actively participated in helping Darke County begin a Walk to Emmaus. Folks from the Springfield Area Emmaus became their advisors and the community became their sponsor. We opened up team positions for training and also held many positions on the Darke County teams until they became firmly established.

NOW IT'S A -- **"LOOK WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE!!"**

On Saturday, August 4, 2007, from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Darke County Area Emmaus will celebrate their 10th Anniversary at the Oakland Church of the Brethren, 8058 Haratio Harris Creek Rd, Bradford, OH 45308. Light refreshments will be served during the social/reunion time from 5:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m., followed by a praise and communion service at 7:00 p.m. If you need directions to Oakland Church of the Brethren, please contact Mary or John Ahlborn at 322-1958.

UPCOMING GATHERINGS!

- Sunday, July 15th at 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, August 12th at 7:00 p.m.**
- Sunday, September 16th at 7:00 p.m.

**Please Note that the August Gathering is the 2nd Sunday because of the Men's Walk ending on the 3rd Sunday.

Food & Fellowship: After each gathering, there will be a time of fellowship and food. If you plan to stay, please bring a dish to share.

Walk Dates

Men's Walks

- #34 August 16-19
- #35 April 24—27, 2008
- #36 August 14—17, 2008

Women's Walks

- #51 November 1-4
- #52 February 21—24, 2008
- #53 June 19—22, 2008
- #54 November 6—9, 2008

*All Walk Dates Are Tentative

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

Are you going through some very difficult days in your life in which your spiritual life seems to be drying up and problems pressing in on you, beating down on you like the burning rays of a desert sun? Highway 50 stretches across the high desert of northern Nevada across country so bleak and barren that it is termed "The Loneliest Road in America." It drifts down into valleys full of alkali dust and then climbs into rugged mountains whose slopes bear little more than sagebrush and an occasional stunted pine tree. All along the sun beats down with a deadly heat that made this the most feared stretch that the "49ers" faced on their road to riches in California.

The ironic thing is that the country through which they traveled held as much gold as the nuggets along the creeks and rivers of "The Golden State." You just couldn't see it. Modern mining methods take tons of that seemingly valueless dirt, grind it into fine sand and then use cyanide and zinc to extract the gold.

God tells us through the Apostle Peter "...You may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith, being much more precious than gold, may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." (1 Peter 1: 6, 7) He looked at the heat of affliction, the mountains of adversity and the astringent dust of mortality and saw something even more valuable than gold in them. He encouraged the Church then to look beyond the present suffering to the faith that was being formed and tested in their hearts through that suffering and to the glory that is going to be revealed when Jesus comes again.

The "faith processing" experience is necessary for all of us if we are to have the treasure of a true, mature faith. So don't give in to life's troubles. You may not see in them the valuable kernels of real faith but they are there if you just keep on mining the experience. To have that kind of faith is far more valuable than gold.

I pray that you are part of a share group with others who can help you with a biblical perspective on what you are going through. If not, JOIN ONE NOW! You'll be glad you did!

Your friend and Spiritual Director
-Bill Kelley

More Notes from the SD

(like Means of Grace – its never over till its over!)

Praise God for the team and pilgrims of Women's Walk #50!

What a movement of the Holy Spirit!

Mary Casto, you are a GREAT LD!

Rev. Bob Scott – what a joy to work with you as Co-Spiritual Director!

Please be in Prayer for the August Men's Walk and for our selection of the next Co-Spiritual Director for the Springfield Emmaus Community. The Leadership Committee will be meeting on July 5th concerning this.

Praise God for the wonderful leadership of Rev. Chris Farmer as Co-Director for the past several years. He helped us deal with some potentially difficult problems that were not so because of the work of God through him. Please let him know how much you have appreciated his excellent work.

That really is all for now!
-Bill Kelley

From Purchasing...

if anyone is planning to AGAPE salad from Dole for a walk please contact Jennifer Anderson (janderson137@woh.rr.com or 399-6773) at least two weeks prior to a walk so that we do not double order. Thank you!

High Street
United Methodist Church
230 East High Street
Springfield, OH 45505

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We're On the Web!
<http://spfldemmaus.com>
You can also see our
Newsletter at
www.highstreetumc.com

Newsletter e-mail:
pascot@prodigy.net

EPIPHANY REPORT

The Epiphany Ministry at Franklin Pre-Release center has begun having a worship service led by volunteers (clergy & lay people) every fourth Thursday at 6:30 p.m. They are asking for musicians and preachers to lead the worship experiences. I have been asked to bring the message in June and October. God is opening doors!

The Ohio Reformatory for Women has worship services on Saturdays at 1:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in addition to Sundays. I have been privileged to bring the message at a Saturday and two Wednesdays worship experiences so far this year. Praise God for His opening the doors!

There will be a weekend at the Ohio Reformatory for Women from August 16 – 19, 2007 and at the Madison Correctional institution from September 20-24, 2007.

Thanks to those who answered the call for supplies and personnel to provide those things that were necessary for the upcoming years ahead for the Epiphany ministry in Ohio. Your quick response has made the difference.

Anyone who wishes to be a part of this ministry, please contact me for more information.

-Rev. Ray Harper