

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

"Wow!" and "Awesome!" were only a couple of the expressions heard at the closing for Men's Walk #34. Some with a little more to them were, "I know I will be a better husband now" and "a better father" and "I have more light now", "Jesus showed up". I loved all of the reactions. A phrase heard a couple of times was a desire to "pay it forward". A businessman who knew the importance of priorities and thought he had them all in place found out that he needed to put God at the top of the list. Most of us know that but we need to keep being reminded of it. "Life" seems to have a way of crowding out some of the most important priorities.

But back to the weekend. We continue to be amazed by an amazing God. We pray to the Holy Spirit and what do you know, He shows up and takes over in spite of our human frailties. How many of us have said we could never give a talk but we did and someone needed it. So, all you folks who still think you could never give a talk, don't limit God and what the Holy Spirit can do with you. Someone needs to hear your story no matter how unimportant or difficult you may feel about it. As one man put it after his walk, "quit arguing with God. You are worthy because God says so." Whether the men were new Christians or long time believers, all were amazed, surprised, and made glad with a closer relationship to Jesus and determined to do something about it. That is what it is all about.

-Gene Porter

A CAPPELLA SINGING GROUP FORMING: Ever thought that you would like a "Ministry in Song" to share God's Love. A new mixed vocal A Cappella singing group is being formed to spread the love of God throughout Clark County and the surrounding area. We are looking for 12 *experienced* vocalists that have the ability to read music and some solo performance. Prefer Emmaus Walk experience, but not required. The group will be lead from within, so each member will be given the opportunity to direct and lead selections. Group will rehearse weekly until repertoire is established. **The cast will limit ministry outreach to outside Sunday morning worship hours.** If you are interested in this type of ministry, call Dennis Carter, (937)624-9000 before October 31, 2007.

SHARE GROUPS

If you have room in your Share Group, please contact a Good Shepherd to let them know:

Women's - Mary Ahlborn (937)322-1958
Men's - Sim Bowen (937)605-1066

"I was a stranger and you took me in" - who said that and how does it apply to your share group? There is a great need to help new (and a few not so new) pilgrims

SECURITY ANNOUNCEMENT...

Please be aware that 30 minutes after the conclusion of our monthly Gatherings and 45 minutes after the conclusion of a Walk, I begin locking the church doors. Once I lock a door I tend to not go back to check them. On occasion I have needed to check something else nearby a previously locked door and found the door opened (from the inside) again. Please, for security reasons, do not attempt to go out of a locked door. Also, if you think it is after the 30/45 minute mark, please exit the church via the kitchen door. This will save you many steps of walking to one of the main level doors, only to find them locked and having to walk back. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Mike Morris
Co-High Street Representative

WHAT IS THE EPIPHANY MINISTRY?

Epiphany Ministry, Inc. is an ecumenical Christian ministry for young men and women who are in the custody of juvenile justice facilities. The weekend models on which it is based are: Chrysalis, Cross, Cursillo, Happening, Kairos Prison Ministry, Tres Dias, Vida Nueva and Walk to Emmaus. Our purpose is to manifest God's love to incarcerated youth, known as "Stars" through a three day short course in Christianity and an on-going follow up program. Each Epiphany weekend involves a team of adults and youth from the Christian community who work together to show the love of God to those attending.

God's love has been revealed throughout history, especially in the life and atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. In church history, Epiphany is traditionally celebrated on January 6th marking the arrival of the Magi in search of the Christ Child. "Epiphany" is a Greek word meaning "Appearance". The coming of the Magi marks the time when God is manifested on earth to the entire world through Jesus Christ.

As in the first Epiphany, we can know the coming of God's love in our lives and introduce His love to others.

The Epiphany Format:

Co-Ed Team Participation (18 Years And Older)
3 or 4 Meetings on Saturdays (One inside the Institution required) 4-6 Hours
2 Clergy Talks
6 Lay talks plus Fourth Day talk on Sunday
Other Meditations by Lay and Clergy Participants
Lots of Prayer
Weekend begins on Friday morning and ends on Sunday afternoon
Commissioning Service on Thursday Evening

Team Is Responsible For: All Food Items, posters, prayer chain, bookmarks and pass it on cards, placemats, letters, other items that can help lead a young person to the love of Christ, meal tickets (\$5 Per Meal-6 Meals Per Person for Weekend and 25 Persons), other items as deemed necessary by the State Board

Monthly Reunions (at Least 4 per Year) to reinforce the love of God
Usually 2 weekends per institution
Anyone going into the Institutions must have a Driver's License or State ID
Must be willing to follow the directions of the Institutions
There are some restrictions on attire

The following Ohio Institutions have Epiphany Programs:
Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW)
Marysville, Madison Correctional Institution (MACI), London
Franklin Pre-Release Center (FPRC), Columbus
Scioto Village Juvenile Correctional Facility (SOJCF)
Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility (MAJCF)
Marion Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility (MOJCF)
United Methodist Children's Home (UMCH), Columbus

If you wish to participate in this Christian outreach to our incarcerated young people, please contact Rev. Ray Harper, Epiphany Representative to the Springfield Emmaus Board.

PLEASE NOTE

Everyone needs to know that children shall not be present for Candlelights or Closings! It is distracting and possibly disrupting to pilgrims who have been away from their families for the weekend. We wish child care could be provided but the facilities are not available at the church during weekends.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

The start of the new school year always makes me remember the look of a new box of crayons, where the tips are all sharp and there is a rainbow of colors to choose from. Each crayon has such potential to be a part of a wonderful creative process, as the student becomes an artist creating a picture that only their mind has thought of.

Before long, the crayons are well used, some have become broken, they all have lost the sharp tips and some of the papers are torn off. Instead of reading the descriptive names of the colors they now become known as just plain reds, blues, and greens, etc. There is still the potential to create wonderful pictures, but it doesn't seem to hold as much excitement for the artist because the crayons are old and broken. It just isn't as much fun to use them as it is to use the new ones.

We might look at the end of our Emmaus walk as if we were each given a new crayon box with the sharp tips and brilliant rainbow colors to begin sharing in God's creative process in our lives. The descriptive names of the rainbow colors are the various groups and meetings we have not only in our own church but also in our Emmaus Community. These are the places where we have the opportunity to be the creative ones with God directing our thoughts as we begin a new year of Sunday School, Choir, Bible Studies, Prayer Groups, Mission Outreach Projects, along with our Men and Women's Walks, Share Groups and Emmaus Gatherings. Which crayon will you pick up and begin to create with God directing your gifts and graces for your church and this Emmaus Community?

When I was younger I was very afraid of making a mistake, or appearing foolish or dumb because I didn't do things like everyone else. But I have discovered through the years, that God gave each one of us different gifts and graces and that each one is needed to be used in the Body of Christ. Your gifts and graces are needed in our Emmaus Community as we spread the good news of Jesus to others.

The other night as we worked on the church budget, I was writing figures as I listened to what was being discussed. Before I knew it I had written the wrong numbers down and had to start erasing what I had written. But it wasn't just a simple eraser job. My pencil was old and the eraser was hard and instead of making my paper clean, it created a big black smudge which meant that when I wrote on top of it I couldn't see the numbers.

As I struggled trying to get a clean spot, one of our dear members saw what was happening and gave me her really nice pencil with an eraser that worked. I used it to clear up that smudge and then I could write the numbers that were correct and see them without any trouble.

Don't let your fear of making mistakes or feeling foolish keep you from the greatest joy God has for each one of us. That joy comes when we use the spiritual gifts and graces that God has given to us to enhance the entire Body of Christ. Don't try erasing the past mistakes with a hard heart that controls others with anger putting smudges on other people's hearts. Instead let the love of God flow out of you as you step into using God's ways to help others become the person they are to become in Christ.

As I begin my time with you as one of your Community Spiritual Directors I look forward to what God has in store for the Springfield Emmaus Community.

*De Colores,
Pastor Carolyn Peacock*

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<http://spfldemmaus.com>

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Newsletter at

www.highstreetumc.com

Newsletter e-mail:

pascot@prodigy.net

PRAYER VIGIL

If you are interested in being a part of the prayer vigil during a walk, please e-mail or call Larry Cogan (masalaco@sbcglobal.net or 937-969-8193).

REUNIONS SCHEDULED

WW #37 (Dixie Selman, LD)
September 16th, 6:00 p.m.

WW #38 (Melody Boyd, LD)
October 21st, 6:00 p.m.

UPCOMING GATHERINGS!

Sunday, September 16th, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 21st, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 18th, 7:00 p.m.

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

#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*