



**CO-COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS**

Dear Friends

**"God is your refuge, the High God is your very own home." (Psalm 91:9)**

These are deeply disturbing days. The economy, not only in our country but around the world, is in a tailspin. People are losing jobs they once thought secure. The national health care system is priced beyond the reach of more and more people, making "choice of physician" a laughable notion. Home values are continuing to decline, eroding the greatest source of wealth most of us possess. Things have gotten to such a pass that couples who want to divorce are having to put their plans on hold because their home, the greatest common asset they have to split (if it is worth more than they owe) won't sell.

However the declining economic conditions are only the symptom of a fundamental change in the global arena. These sufferings are the birth pangs of a new order and we do not know what the world will look like on the other side.

However the people of God are used to times of upheaval and change.

Think back to the days of the wilderness wanderings. Whenever the pillar of cloud stood still, the people pitched their tents. The next day, before the sun rose, the trumpet was sounded, the ark placed on the shoulders of the priests and the fiery, cloudy pillar led the way through the narrow gorges of the mountains, up the rocky hillsides and over the burning sands. They had little time to rest before the command came again, "Away! This is not your haven of rest! Onward to the Promised Land!" Even wells and palm trees could not keep them long. Their only lasting home was in God. The pillar marking his presence was their only roof and the burning flame by night their common fire-side. They had to go on, ever on, change their only constant, never being able to say, "Here is our home, now we are secure."

How different from the life experience of many of us who have spent our entire lives within a few miles of home.

Yet we are finding that change is coming to us, changing the economic and social landscape

around us even as we stay in one place. In the midst of this change we need to find the faith to say, along with Moses and David, "Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations."

We as Christians know no change as far as God is concerned. We may be rich today and poor tomorrow. We may be sick today and well the next. We may be happy and joyful this week and distressed and sorrowful the following. But there is no change in our relationship with God. He who loves us today will love us tomorrow. Our mansion of rest, our lasting and only true refuge is in our unchanging God.

We may lose everything this world considers of value but there is one thing we can never lose and that is the reality of the hope that we have in Jesus Christ.

In fact Paul triumphantly embraced the change. He wrote to the church in Philippi:

"Yes, all the things I once thought so important are now gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ as my Master, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant. I gave up all that inferior stuff so I could know Christ personally, experience his resurrection power, be a partner in his suffering and go all the way with him to death itself. If there was any way to get in on the resurrection from the dead, I wanted to do it. But there is far more to life for us.

*We're citizens of high heaven! We're waiting the arrival of the Savior, the Master, Jesus Christ, who will transform our earthly bodies into glorious bodies like his own. (from Philippians 3, The Message)*

On that great day, we who have journeyed on this earth through change, abiding in God, will see the greatest and most wonderful change of all. And find the rest that lasts forever.

God's blessing and peace be with you all

Bill Kelley

Co-Spiritual Director



## OVERVIEW OF THE PILGRIM APPLICATION PROCESS

- 1) A completed application (with the \$20.00 non-refundable registration fee) is sent to the main office at the High Street UMC or directly to one of the registrars.
- 2) The application is numerically logged on the waiting list for future walks. All spouse applications are flagged when logged into the process.
- 3) The first 50 applications (including the first 6 available spouse applications) are sent a formal invitation to the upcoming walk. A self stamped response card must be returned to the registrar within 10 days. This card asks for one of three responses:
  - Yes – to attend the upcoming walk
  - No -- but invite to the next walk
  - No -- move the application to “inactive” status
- 4) Two weeks after the invitations are sent out we will begin to call those who have not returned the response card. (The first 36 “yes” responses become the next Emmaus Pilgrims)
- 5) When an applicant has refused three invitations - a new number is assigned at the bottom of the waiting list
- 6) If a person decides to change from “inactive” status, they must start a new application process.

\*\*\* If you become aware of ANY changes in the contact information for your future pilgrim (or yourself as the sponsor), it is very important that you notify the appropriate registrar with that new information

Thank you,

De Colores -- Juanita Jenkins & Betty Yoakem (Mens' / Women's' Registrars)

## WEST OHIO CHRYSALIS

West Ohio Chrysalis is trying to raise money to purchase a projector and laptop to use a Chrysalis flights to do power point presentations and they are asking all caterpillars if they would like to donate to this fund. Anyone in the Chrysalis or Emmaus communities who would like to contribute may do so by sending donations to:

West Ohio Chrysalis  
415 W. Greene St.  
Piqua, Ohio 45356

Thank you, God will bless you for all your help.

John Baugh  
WOC Representative

## THANK YOU!

"Thank You" for the prayers and cookies for the weekends at Ross Correctional and Lebanon Correctional. They were both wonderful God Honoring weekends. Also know that weekend # 8 at Lucasville took place March 26th - 29th. Walter Mock is serving as a clergy on that weekend.

De Colores,  
Jim Vineyard

## INVITATION!

Everyone in the Emmaus Community is invited to Katy Roark's commissioning service  
**on Sunday, May 16th at High Street UMC.**

She will be commissioned for a service term of 2 to 5 years in overseas Kingdom work.

Thanks,  
Katy Roark

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

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Springfield, OH  
Permit No. 27

*Newsletter e-mail:*  
info@berners.com

*Find us online:*

**[www.spfldemmaus.com](http://www.spfldemmaus.com) / [www.highstreetumc.com](http://www.highstreetumc.com)**

### UPCOMING GATHERINGS!

**Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 7 PM**

**Sunday, May 10, 2009 at 7 PM**

**Sunday, June 14, 2009 at 7 PM**

### 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.**

### 2009 WALK DATES:

#### Men's Walks

#37 April 23-26 LD: Tom Myers Jr.

#38 August 13-16

#### Women's Walks

#56 June 25-28 LD: Barb Baugh

#57 November 5-8

### FROM SOCIAL

We still need Share groups to step up for June's Gathering & June's Closing for Walk# 56.

Please contact Johnnie Williams 399-9886

### REUNION OF WALK #41

**On April 19th**  
**Choir Room @ 6 PM**

For info contact: LD, Selena Martin  
Tel: 323-9613

### DATE CHANGE DUE TO EASTER SUNDAY

The Emmaus Gathering for April will be held on April 19th, 7:00 PM at High Street UMC.

It will be a celebration of praise.

If you would like to participate in the event, please contact Sue or Vic Neves at:

767-2976 or 241-1020 OR EMAIL: FARMAMA@NETZERO.NET

