



GREETINGS TO THE EMMAUS COMMUNITY

Recently as I looked out my office window I saw a huge spider web, covering the entire window. I removed the web and the following morning I looked out in the bright sunlight only to see this beautiful huge spider web once more. It seems that the spider had just spent the entire night rebuilding all that I had destroyed the day before.

Edward Hays says in his book *Pray all Ways* that “a spider rebuilds her web each time it is broken or removed, seldom moving its location but choosing to rebuild it with patience. She reweaves its broken strands each time they are broken. She waits, in patience, for dinner to come into her white cosmos of tiny threads...

Like the spider, we too must return again and again to rebuild our webs by bringing together the threads of our lives and uniting them to the divine center within. Without such work, our lives become disconnected, unpeaceful and broken. Perhaps the next time we see a spider’s web, we can see it as a spiritual classroom and not simply something to be swept away.”

This past week I observed another spider patiently going back and forth spinning her web and I was fascinated with the intricate design she was weaving together. God also weaves the threads of life we spin into an intricate design that reveals our entire life tapestry. Very often summer becomes my time to reflect upon the work of God in my life, church and in The Emmaus Community. The threads of our life in the Emmaus Community are woven together at the center by our Emmaus Walk experience. The powerful God moments of our walk become some of the strongest threads in our life tapestry which are linked together by our willingness to be a servant to the new pilgrims, and our attentiveness to be the Emmaus Community gathered in love to worship our Lord and Savior.

Walking through the woods one day I found a number of spider webs that seemed to be shining in the sunlight. They seemed to be like jewels glistening with the wet morning dew. I was really enjoying looking for them and paying close attention to the God moments this walk in the woods was producing—that is—until I ran right into a spider web that had been woven across the path I was walking on. I then had to concentrate getting the sticky cobweb off my arms and out of my hair. It seemed as if my God moment had turned into a trap by the enemy. How could that be?

That experience taught me to make sure that I am paying attention to the path that I am walking on. If I continue to keep my eyes glued to the big God moments of the past then I will often fail to see the enemy’s trap that is set on the path in front of me. Rather than walking in the steps of Christ that would have taken me around the trap I step right into the trap because my eyes were looking toward the big God moments. Often these traps entangle us in issues that divide the community, creating a need in some for human control rather than allowing the freedom of God’s love to lead the community into a divinely inspired unity. When dissension threatens to disrupt God’s work in our life it is time to concentrate on getting the sticky cobweb of the enemy’s trap out of our way. It will take prayer, confession of our lack of spiritual attentiveness, releasing our need to control others and asking for and accepting God’s forgiveness.

The Emmaus Walk is truly an instrument of God where the agape love of God in Christ is revealed to us through the power of the Holy Spirit. Our Springfield Emmaus Community needs to bring together the threads of our lives uniting them with God at the divine center of our Emmaus Community. This summer is a time to pay attention to God’s spiritual leading for our Emmaus Community as we are woven together in unity and love.

De Colores,
Carolyn Peacock, Community Co-Spiritual Director

A MESSAGE FOR CANDLELIGHT

We, in the community all remember the wonderful events of our Walk that brought us into a closer relationship with the Holy Spirit...the talks; the clowns with the sound of the hammer hitting the nails; dying communion freeing us from our burdens; the music; and the candlelight service, which gave us a sense of the Holy Spirit being all around us so thick we felt and perhaps saw it. Of these we as a community, have only the privilege of being a part of the candlelight service. But, as participants in it, we must be very sensitive of how we act so as not to interfere with or grieve the Holy Spirit. We must keep in mind that the Spirit's presence is there specifically for the pilgrims. We should do nothing to distract the pilgrim's attention from his presence.

Before the candlelight service, the Pilgrims are in the conference room laughing, singing and having fun! Then they walk out into the hallway and meet the Community, where they receive a ton of expressed love. By the time they get to the front of the sanctuary, they are overcome by the experience of receiving God's blessings and are usually in tears. They feel the presence of the Holy Spirit and stand in awe of what they are seeing — many loving people who have loved them through the darkness.

This is when, we as a Community, need to be especially sensitive. We must not interfere with the emotions that Christ has placed upon the Pilgrim's heart.

How must we respond? When the name of our city is called out, we should **just lift our candles**. This is not the time to cry out and bring attention upon us and away from the Holy Spirit. Even candles of a different color bring special attention to the candle holder. Christians, it's not about us, **it is all about the Pilgrims**. It is a time for quiet reverence because we are in the presence of the Holy Spirit, who is working upon the hearts of the Pilgrims. Following the Holiness of Candlelight, many Pilgrims go to the altar to accept Christ for the very first time or to rededicate their lives to Christ. We do not want to be held accountable for interrupting the intentions of the Holy Spirit. Do we?

That's why we need to keep a low profile. After we go down the center aisle of the church to say goodbye to the Pilgrims, we must quietly exit in order NOT to be an interference. Should you want to continue conversations, be thoughtful and immediately leave the sanctuary. You can always talk with your friends outside the church.

God asks us to make this time of reverence. Please honor it. We need to be obedient and sensitive to his leadings.

Thank You, Springfield Community

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR SUPPLY ROOM

Pocket folders
Antibiotic cream or spray
Tums
Benadryl
Contact lens cleaner

Cough drops
Ibuprophen
Shaving cream
Steno Pads
Ear plugs

SPRINGFIELD AREA EMMAUS DIRECTORY UPDATE

Following the Walk in August, a new directory will be published. If you have moved, have a new phone number (or name), or know of someone in Emmaus whose directory information needs to be changed, please let John Ahlborn know ASAP. Email: jahlborn@woh.rr.com or telephone 322-1958.

The Color Of Blue

The children of Israel were to make tassels on the corners of their garments with "a blue thread in the tassels". (Numbers 15:38). The tassels reminded them to "do all My commandments, and be Holy for your God." (v. 40). The blue thread — the color of the Heavens above — spoke of his immeasurable power and saving grace.

We still need reminders today. In the fuss and frenzy of our busy lives, we easily forget God and His plan for us. We forget that He lives within and around us with eternal affection. It helps to have something to signify his presence. Blue can be one of those things.

"The first step is to remember," says Aslan in S. C. Lewis' *The Silver Chair*. Aslan, a figure of Christ, tells Jill to "remember the signs" he has given her.

If you learn God's signs — like the significance of the color blue — it is easier to remember God's love. Blue can remind you of the invisible realm above and all around, unseen and yet as real as anything you can see. A mountain lake, a glacial crevasse, an alpine forget-me-not, a cerulean sky, a brilliant butterfly — all remind us of Heaven and God's unfathomable love. When we see blue, think of God's love, and especially His love for you. — David Roper

**SPRINGFIELD AREA MEN'S EMMAUS WALK #40
PILGRIMS, SPONSORS & TEAM LIST**

Pilgrim

Forest Applegate

Brian Barrett

Charlie Bush

Al Conley

Michael Cunningham

Kyle Dickinson

Michael Ferryman

Jeff Gilliam

Mark Gordin

Chuck Graham

Jerry Hammond

Bryon Hollenbeck

Steve Infante

Duane Isaccs

Bob Johnson

Jack Kramer

Jamie McGuffey

Jason Myerscough

Ryan Ray

James Richards

Robert Scott Sr.

James Shadoan

John Smith

Doug Terrell

Ian Webb

Paul Whiteford

Sponsor

Lynda Johnson

Robert Jones

David/Teresa Fout

Bryan Reed

Starr Huff

Joe Jackson

Steve Ryman

Miranda Gilliam

Bill Crist

Deron Blakely

Derf Page

Bennie Johnson

Dan Moss

Deborah Issacs

Dave Johnson

Ed Jones

Amy McGuffey

Trudty Tyras

Mike Spaldin

Kristi Richards

Norman/Dedria Moore

Chip Comer

Bill Crist

John Chambers

Terry Kaffenberger

Dene Voorhees

Team

Rev. Bill Kelley (S.D.)

Rev. Walter Mock (A.S.D.)

Jeff Cheeseman (L.D.)

Gene Porter (B.R.)

Dewy Casto (A.L.D.)

Randy McHenry (A.L.D.)

Elmer Penwell (A.L.D.)

John Ahlborn (LOG)

Miles Pullins (LOG)

Derf Page (M.D.)

J C Howell (A.M.D.)

Rick Clark (T.L.)

Vic Neves (T.L.)

Bill Pinkerton (T.L.)

Lynn Montgomery (T.L.)

Mark Bennett (T.L.)

Dana Johnson (T.L.)

Terry Johnson (T.L.)

Keith Bowen (A.T.L.)

Joe Jackson (A.T.L.)

Wes Wilson (A.T.L.)

Richard Eash (A.T.L.)

Don Rayome (A.T.L.)

Rick Weber (A.T.L.)

Wil Brandon (A.T.L.)

Clergy

Deb Holder

Sherri Blackwell

Jeff Allen

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www.highstreetumc.com

UPCOMING GATHERINGS!

*August 15, 2010 at 7 PM
September 12, 2010 at 7 PM*

REUNION:

*September 12 @ 6 PM
Walk #31, Dan Warren LD
Choir Room*

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP:

After each gathering, there will be a time of fellowship and food.

2010 WALK DATES:

Women's Walks

60 NOVEMBER 4-7

Men's Walks

40 AUG. 12-15
LD: JEFF CHEESEMAN

HELP!

*We are in need of applications.
Please consider sponsoring a pilgrim!*

I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.

Psalm 119:14