



COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

Life is like opening a new book; each month brings us new chapters in our life with many new possibilities as well as challenges. As I open a new book I have bought, I look forward to seeing what has been written on the pages. A while ago I bought a book and when I began to skim through the pages I was struck by the fact that many of the pages were still held together in bundles of ten. Now this book is not new, in fact I bought it at the half-price book store and it seems that who ever owned the book before me, never took the time to read the entire book. The pages that stuck together did so because the cutter did not cut the pages completely through leaving edges stuck together.

Out of curiosity I decided to see just what one bundle of ten pages had to say to me. The book is Kathleen Norris' *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith* and the pages were a wealth of information on Bible Study and Worship.

According to Kathleen Norris, Bible Study is a time of sharing the faith as you read and savor the Word of God. One day she showed up at a Bible Study Session with her nearly new Oxford Annotated Bible and found that every one else had well-worn Bibles reminiscent of her grandmother's Bible, with the cracked binding and broken spine. She soon discovered that these women knew things about the faith that they had not learned through study but through living a lifetime of faith in love and prayer.

When living out the Christian faith in love and prayer one needs not only Bible Study to sustain them but also the experience of corporate worship. That is, the coming together each week to experience worshipping with other Christians. Not just reciting the liturgy, prayers, singing the songs and listening to a sermon but to truly EXPERIENCE worship where God is being praised, worshipped and adored, where worship places the congregation right into the throne room of God.

Kathleen Norris says that "Worship requires people with open ears and hearts. At its root, the word 'liturgy' simply means 'the work of the people'" The liturgy of our

Emmaus Community gatherings include our singing, listening to Fourth Day testimonies, prayer times, becoming informed on the various areas that make up our Emmaus Community and sharing in a scripture, meditation and Holy Communion. The Emmaus Gathering time is like a touch-stone for us each month, rooting us in the Emmaus Community of faith and moving us through a cycle of worship, reminding us of God's great love and grace that he has for us. When we truly experience worshipping God, our spirits soar and there is a joy that rises up from within us creating an atmosphere of joy and turning a new page in our life together.

Just think what I would have missed out on if I had not opened Kathleen Norris' book and looked in those stuck together pages. In the coming months open the pages of God's word to you, open up the pages of The Bible and begin to enter into a time that will be filled with adventures in worship where you will find the need to give thanks to God for all the many blessings He has given to you. This month of November brings us to just such a time.

We come to our Thanksgiving Table this year saying thanks to God for all the blessings we have encountered through this year. When I think back over this year I am most thankful for the prayers of people from all over this country who have been keeping me in prayer as I have gone through surgery and chemotherapy treatments during the last five months. A Special thank you goes to this Springfield Emmaus Community your prayers, cards and calls have meant so much. Some of you called just at the right time with just the right words that reminded me how much God cares for me. I have been truly blessed by this community of faith.

De Colores,
Carolyn Peacock
Community Co-Spiritual Director

SPRINGFIELD AREA EMMAUS WOMEN'S WALK #54

PILGRIM	CHURCH NAME	SPONSOR
Allison Allsopp	Rossford UMC	Cindee Johnson
Connie Alston	Huber Heights Baptist Temple	Dean & Shirley Settles
Erin Beatty	First Pentecostal Church of God	Sim Bowen
Irene McGill Bell	St. John Missionary Baptist	Louise Burley
Terri Belliveau	First Christian	Teresa Ehalt & Selena Martin
Kim Berg	Covenant Lutheran	Ellen Smith
Diahann Blackburn	Greater Grace	Anthony Blackburn
Susie Blair	Southgate Baptist	Teresa Ehalt
Crystal Burgel	Urbana Church of the Nazarene	Kelly Oberg
Donna Burton	Nation Chapel UMC	Cindee Johnson
Tammy Chamberlain	Lake Avenue Christian	Jacob & Silke Berner
Leana Combs	Victory Temple	Pattie Mumma
Robin DeStefano	Westville UMC	Kellie Miller Konakkuran
Sabrina Dixon	New Hope	Jeaniene Dixon
Betty Ealey	High St. Church of the Nazarene	Carolyn Brewer
Jeanette Ferrell	St. Raphael	Teresa Ehalt
Sherry Fout	None Listed	Nancy Feltner & Teresa Fout
Pamela Freshour	First Christian	Cathy Boyd
Pattie Fuschino	Grace Lutheran	Jill Anon
Martha Goodbar	Petre Baptist	Marvin Flory
Marcie Hall	Bethel Apostolic Church	Kellie Miller Konakkuran
Mary Henderson	Restored Life Ministry	Pat Baker
Cindy Hensley	St. John Missionary Baptist	Dot Higginbotham
Holly Holcomb	New Hope	Mandy Holcomb
Angelika Holland	Fellowship Christian Church	Wilma Stone
Gail Jenkins	Freedom Road	Rita Chapman
Terri Kaffenbarger	N. Hampton Community Church	Shirley Settles
Debi Knull	Urbana Messiah Lutheran	Penny Berlin
Mairy McKinley	Second Baptist	Bette Brown
Lori Mishler	First Pentecostal Church of God	Sim Bowen
Mary Palmer	Freedom Road	Janet Bostick
Shari Powell	The Bridge	Ellen Smith
Kristi Reed	New Life Church	Diana Campbell
Carl Rice	High St. Church of the Nazarene	Virginia Brown
Tonia Snyder	Urbana Church of Christ in Christian Union	Teri Phillips
Trudie Wyatt	Emery Chapel UMC	Marta Kennedy

Team List

Lay Director	Betty Yoakem	Table Leader	Donna Freeman
Board Rep	Mary Casto	Table Leader	Sharon Williams
Spiritual Director	Rev. Carolyn Peacock	Table Leader	Pat McBeth
Co-Spiritual Director	Rev. Sherri Blackwell	Table Leader	Karen Packer
ALD	Barb Baugh	Ass. Table Leader	Rhonda Crist
ALD	Millie Luttrull	Ass. Table Leader	Yolanda Bell
ALD	Rita Chapman	Ass. Table Leader	Barb Gathers
LOG	Mary Cogan	Ass. Table Leader	Corina Bowen
LOG	Viki Hyslop	Ass. Table Leader	Alma Glenn
Music	Janene Pearson	Ass. Table Leader	Bonnie Blumenshine
Music	Diane Page	Ass. Table Leader	Stephanie Carnes
Table Leader	Lori Vineyard	Clergy	Rev Cindee Johnson
Table Leader	Pat Dever	Clergy	Rev Deb Holder
Table Leader	Cheryl Jurkat	Clergy	Rev Marcia Rummel

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

For those of you who attended October's Gathering -- weren't we blessed with the powerful and spirit-filled message that Pastor Bill Kelley gave to lead us into Communion with our Lord? His God-given message was "What you believe is important!"

Pastor Kelley's message personally touched me. I lay in bed that Sunday night considering how that message concerned me and our Emmaus community. We, as individuals, and as an Emmaus Community must—have to—will support what we truly believe. We will stand up for our beliefs or let them pass us by. What do we do? Is that sort of like the question we are asked during our Emmaus weekend closing? Can Christ count on us? Will we be there for Jesus? During our Closing service, when we replied, 'Christ is counting on us, and I am counting on HIM! ARE WE? We must pray about the answer we gave, and sincerely question what Jesus has received from us during our Fourth Days. "What we believe is important!"

On a similar note....in December, we are having a Praise Gathering which may last a bit longer than ordinary Gatherings. Although we may be tempted to leave before the Communion service, please remember how blessed we are to have many spirit-filled clergy in Springfield Emmaus who do an awesome job to lead us into the presence of God. Please plan to stay and receive a blessing not only from the singing but also from our Communion service. Each spiritual message and each Communion service is essential to our Spiritual growth. "What you believe is important."

Yours in Christ,
Larry McMahan

A HUMBLE PLEA!! We are running very short on food for each Gathering. Please remember ---

'WHEN EMMAUS MEETS, EMMAUS EATS!'

FOCUS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We all recognize that an overseeing group such as a Board of Directors is essential to guide any complex organization; however, let's emphasize that the ownership of the Springfield Area Emmaus Community resides in the community. Without your active support, cooperation, input and prayer, our Community would not be nearly as robust as it is. The success and health of Emmaus in Springfield is evidence that the Holy Spirit acknowledges our efforts.

Eighteen years ago Springfield Area Emmaus held its first Walk to Emmaus in November 1990. Throughout the years, each Board has played a significant role in assuring each Walk stays focused on 1) Jesus Christ, 2) prayer, and 3) the Upper Room Emmaus Manuals.

1) Jesus Christ – The Messiah, the Son of God, the basis of our faith and our being. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men." John 1: 1-4 "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

2) Prayer was, is, and always will be the foundation of the Walk to Emmaus. When Emmaus began in Springfield, we were met with obstacles that only prayer could override. We have seen the results of praying Teams, praying Boards, and a praying Community throughout the years. Prayer is a mighty weapon and protector. God loves us so much. He wants us to share our hearts' desires with Him. God has shown His mighty love towards His children through Emmaus.

3) The Upper Room Manuals - Part of each Team's preparation consists of reading and following the information and guidance as stated in the Team Manual and in accompanying articles of Sustaining the Spirit. (Both are required reading for team members.) The documents provide a clear understanding of the role and responsibilities of a team member. One of the items in the Canon of the Emmaus Team states, "I will serve in humility and gratitude for the opportunity to be here, and remember that the Holy Spirit calls for my love, patience, kindness, gentleness and self-control in all things!" The Canon ends with, "I shall pray, 'Not I, but Christ.'"

We are confident that these principles reflect the attitude not only of team members, but also of our Community as a whole. It has been a blessed eighteen years and there's so much more of God's glory to come!!

"The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you." 2 Tim 4:22

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UPCOMING GATHERINGS!

Sunday, November 16, 2008 at 7 PM:
Gathering

Sunday, December 14, 2008 at 7 PM:
Gathering

Starting in December gatherings will be held on the second Sunday of the month.

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.

Questions??

If you "hear" something that causes you concern regarding Springfield Area Emmaus and want to find the answer, please contact any Board member. Board meetings are held prior to each Gathering at 5:30 PM in the Carr Room and are open to all Emmaus members.

WALK DATES:

Men's Walks

#37 April 23—26, 2009
#38 August 13—16, 2009

Women's Walks

#54 November 6—9, 2008
#55 February 19—22, 2009
#56 June 18—21, 2009
#57 November 5—8, 2009

Emmaus Directories

New directories current through June 2008 are now available for \$1.00 donation. The small donation is to cover printing and paper costs. To date we have 3,514 members in the data base. If you have a name change, a new address or phone number, please contact John Ahlborn, tel: 322-1958 to update the data base.

*This is the day the LORD has made:
let us be glad and rejoice in it.*

Psalm 118:24