



From the Heart

A Bi-Monthly Publication of the Heartland Emmaus Community

November/December 2003

FROM OUR **Lay Director**

De Colores Darlene Burton

I wish...., I wish I....., I wish I would have...., I wish I would have said _____. Can you fill in the blank? Have you ever wished you would have shared from your heart with someone and told them of Christ and what He has done in your life? How He has helped you with the changes you couldn't make on your own. How He has helped you to become more Christlike in every area of your life. During this holiday season ahead, be aware and in tune with the many opportunities of seeing family, friends, new and old acquaintances. Don't waste this chance - - - you never know of the lives that could be changed for eternity by your not "wishing" but sharing your love, joy and peace of Christ with just one person who in turn will tell another and God only knows where it will lead.

Welcome the Pilgrims of Walk # 20. We are so delighted to have you in our Community and Walking closer with Christ.

God has blessed me in so many ways through these last two years as Community Lay Director, I just want to say THANKS to both Him and you.

We will be implementing sub-committees under several Board positions in the New Year. This will be done with several purposes in mind. - Community involvement, Board over burdened and just plainly, we need the help. There will be more information in next Newsletter.

As we did not have enough nominees for the five open Board positions, we accepted at the last Gathering the four who have volunteered. They are Scott and Beverly Bird, Dorothy Emery, Tammy Simmons and Terry and Peggy Tingle. We thank you and look forward to working with each and every one of you. Also, note we are missing one. Please be in prayer and seek from our Father an answer if that person is to be YOU. It is an awesome way to serve our Lord.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May your time with family and friends be a BLESSING to all. My prayer for you is that you will have a deep hunger and thirst to know God better each and every day of the new year.

FROM OUR **Spiritual Director**

De Colores Mike Whitney

Prevenient grace is described as the grace of God that goes before, working in your life before you ever realized He was around, drawing you to Himself. It is the Grace of God at work organizing circumstances and situations so you would one day see Him as Lord and Savior or discover the purpose He has called you to.

We have all experienced this aspect of God's grace when we go through a series of circumstances, that while we are in them we are wondering, "What have I done to deserve this?" We may not be excited about it and may not understand it, but when it's over and the dust settles we can see the hand of God was working drawing us to Himself. Or you may experience a series of circumstances and events that lead you to a real confirmation about His calling. If you have experienced this, you have experienced God's prevenient grace. This is what God does. This is what He loves to do. He loves to work behind the scenes and work out details that on the surface seem odd, uncomfortable or even down right horrible, but in the end we come to see Christ.

The scripture is full of illustrations demonstrating this aspect of God's grace. One that comes to mind that is familiar to us all this time of year is the Nativity. We probably all have a Nativity Scene that we put up at Christmas time. The Christ child is carefully staged in the center of the scene with Mary and Joseph set up like bookends on either side of the manger. Off to one side will be the shepherds looking on as curious bystanders while on the other will be the Magi lined up in sequence waiting to present their gifts. But have you ever stood back and wondered how these individuals got to this point and time? They all come from different parts of the world, different cultures and social ranks. Each one has a different set of circumstances that brought them here, but they are all here, in one point in time and history all for one reason, Jesus Christ. When you look at the different individuals and situations that brought them, you realize that God was at work orchestrating the circumstances to bring them all together for one purpose.

That is exactly what God is doing in your life. He is orchestrating circumstances to bring you center stage with your eyes focused on the Son. That is prevenient grace. So the next time you see circumstances begin to shift in your life and you don't really understand, take a look around, it may be God's grace at work drawing you to Himself.

Gathering Information

December 20th - 7:00 pm
GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH
 5409 NW 72nd St

Directions: Rte I-29 to NW 72nd St turn east. The church is on the right hand side about 1/2 mile from Rte I-29

Gloria Dei is looking forward to hosting this Gathering which is the Christmas Party for our community. Bring a casserole if your name begins with A-M, and bring a salad or desert if your name begins with N-Z. Enjoy singing Christmas Carols, and Christian fellowship

January 17th - 7:00 pm
Platte Woods UMC
 7310 NW Prairie View Rd

Directions: Take Route I-29 to the NW 72nd St exit west to Prairie View Road (first light after the interstate) and turn right (north) about 1/4 mile. The church is on the left.



Treasurers Report

September - November 2003

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Closing Balance 8/31/03 | \$2,476.69 |
| September Income | \$3,511.00 |
| September Expense | (\$904.50) |
| Closing Balance 9/30/03 | \$5,083.19 |
| October Income | \$5,653.26 |
| October Expense | (\$10,091.76) |
| Closing Balance 10/31/03 | \$644.69 |
| Less Scholarship Fund Balance | (\$550.00) |
| Funds Actually Available - 10/31 | \$94.69 |
| November Income as of 11/21/03 | \$395.66 |
| Outstanding Expenses from Walk | (\$1,800.66) |
| Shortfall as of 11/21/03 | (\$1,310.31) |

Walk #20 is complete but we still have some bills that we cannot pay! We are \$1,310.31 short of being able to pay everything in November. Fortunately we are able to push off paying several of these bills until December and possibly January. We still have shirts that will be on sale at the December and January gatherings. Sale of our remaining shirts could cover our shortage if we have really strong sales. Please continue to pray that all we do through Heartland Emmaus will be to God's glory and thank the Lord for provisioning us to help with His work. Amen.

Newsletter Editor

This is my last newsletter I will be putting together for the Community. I just wanted to say a word of thanks for the opportunity to serve in this way. This has been a very rewarding experience for me and I have enjoyed working with the Board of Directors over the past several years. But as life is constantly changing and priorities get rearranged it is time for me to hand this over. It is my prayer that someone will accept the challenge of newsletter editor and not let this method of communication end. Please call me if you are interested in helping with the January/February 2004 issue. 816-743-9253 - Nancy Worthley

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FROM OUR Lay Directors

De Colores Leonard Bechtold

As all of us that have been on the Walk to Emmaus have done, The Pilgrims of Walk #20 were ask to answer two questions on that Sunday afternoon. What has this weekend meant to me? and What do I plan to do about it? Well I would like to take this opportunity to answer those two questions myself. When I arrived (Sorry! Leonard Bechtold, Platte Woods UMC, Table of Servants.) on Thursday I thought what am I doing here. When I was asked to be the Lay Director for this walk I said yes immediately. But as time went on I got to thinking is this really what I should be doing. Then I decided to heed the words from a portion of my talk. Trust in God and he will give you everything you need. And that He did. Then as the men participating on this walk started showing up Thursday evening I could see the excitement and the uncertainty in their faces. But most of all I saw men that were willing to give up three days to come on this walk, not knowing what was going to happen, to come to a closer relationship with their God. And as the weekend progressed I saw groups of men that have never met before this weekend discuss the talks together, make up posters and skits together, fellowship together, sing together, but most important worship and pray together. I saw God there that weekend in the hearts and the faces of all that were there. I learned that only God could bring this many men from so many different backgrounds and churches and have them study, praise, and worship Him as only brothers in Christ can. I also came away from this weekend with a new appreciation of what God has done for me and what I need to for God.

Now what am I going to do about it. A friend of mine e-mailed me the Monday before the walk and told me that sometime this weekend to look into the pilgrims eyes. I had forgotten that until Sunday morning. But as I was putting the crosses around the necks of the pilgrims that afternoon I had the opportunity to look in their eyes. And what I saw was a fire burning for God. And that just renewed my fire for God as well. So I plan to take that renewed fire and begin serving the Lord in a more passionate and loving way, and strive to keep the fire burning throughout all of my fourth days.

It was truly a honor and a blessing serving you during the weekend. And I pray that God blesses you throughout all of your fourth days, and that you all keep God's fire burning in you.

De Colores Lisa Morris

I looked up the word "Emmaus" once and found it meant "warm springs". I immediately thought of the warm mineral springs in different parts of the world that people visit to soak in and find relief from their ailments. It dawned on me that we "soak" in the Emmaus experience and find relief from our spiritual ailments. As we soak, we draw nearer to Jesus, the Great Physician and the source of our strength. We enter into the Emmaus experience at the advice of a Christian friend thinking we are pretty spiritually healthy. On the journey, however, we find some places where we ache; sometimes we find places where we have been bruised; and sometimes, we find places where we have gaping wounds. As we soak in the warm springs of Emmaus and bask in the Son's light, we are healed, refreshed, renewed. We are made ready to go into our fourth days and serve the One who came to serve us. I pray that all the ladies of Heartland Emmaus Walk # 20 had a good "soak" and that they continue to soak in the love, mercy, and grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

*The Heartland Emmaus Board of Directors
wishes you and your family
a blessed and happy holiday season*

Chrysalis Reminder

This is a reminder for those that are interested of the upcoming Chrysalis Flight. It will be held at Platte Woods United Methodist Church, 7310 NW Prairieview Rd., Platte Woods, MO 64151. It will be held Dec 28-31, Sunday-Wednesday.

Chrysalis is a Christian experience like The Walk to Emmaus, except it is geared to youth. You have to be in your Sophomore year in high school through your Freshman year in college. It is open to any denomination. If you know of a youth that is ready expand their Christian experience I urge you to go to the Chrysalis web page at www.crosswindschrysalis.org and download an application from there. It will be a truly awesome experience for them.

Yours in Christ, Robert Bertoncin

REUNION GROUP ACTIVITIES

| Time | Location | Contact | Name | For |
|----------------------------|--|--|------------------------|-------|
| <u>Monday</u> | | | | |
| Noon | Platte Woods UMC, Library | Sharon Horton 816-741-1128 | Wings | Coed |
| 7:30 PM | Gloria Dei Lutheran Church | Robin Musgrave 816-468-6018 | Babe Chicks | Women |
| <u>Wednesday</u> | | | | |
| 7:30 AM | Platte Woods UMC, Parlor | Coby Gaulien 816-741-5543 | SON Worshipers | Men |
| 11:00 AM | Platte Woods UMC, Parlor | Kathy Hopper 816-741-8598 | Wildflowers | Women |
| <u>Thursday</u> | | | | |
| 8:00 PM | Zimmerman Home | Suzanne Zimmerman . . . 816-858-2655 | Soul Sisters | Women |
| 11:30 AM | Bank of America 1200 Main, 14th floor | Sam Adams 816-587-2596 | Downtown Disciples | Coed |
| Noon | Jake Edwards BBQ 51st & Main | Greg Rackers 816-714-2623 | Midtown Men | Men |
| 4:30 PM | Platte Woods UMC | Sonja Buttron 816-741-0577 | BG's | Women |
| 6:15 PM | Gashland UMC | Darlene Burton 816-468-9670 | Grace Seekers | Women |
| 6:30 PM | Taber Home | David & Lisa Taber. 913-441-2238 | Bonner Believers | Coed |
| <u>Friday</u> | | | | |
| 7:00 AM | Hy-Vee 135th & Antioch | Bruce Chyka 913-851-0732 | TBD | Men |
| 6:30 PM | Homes of Kuhn & Reed | Jeff & Rita Reed 816-941-2208 | COR Family Group | Coed |
| 7:00 PM | Aldersgate UMC | Bill & Valerie Rowe 816-246-7499 | Southside Servants | Coed |
| | | Warren & Janet Miller . . . 816-966-8972 | | |
| 7:30 PM | Homes of Pease & Hummel | Pease 816-741-2850 | TGIF - To God In Faith | Coed |
| | | Hummel 816-420-9596 | | |
| <u>Alt Friday</u> | | | | |
| 6:30 PM | Dvorak Home | Mary Dvorak 913-782-7575 | TBD | Coed |
| <u>Saturday</u> | | | | |
| 7:00 AM | Gloria Dei Lutheran Church | Phil Brandis 816-587-1615 | Roosters | Men |
| 7:00 AM | Gashland UMC | Jim Colwell 816-468-8618 | Hounds of Heaven | Men |
| 7:30 AM | Liberty UMC | Mike & Cara Pilch 816-781-8887 | Liberty Angel Wings | Coed |
| 8:00 PM | Burger King in Cameron | Leslie Cook 816-583-4031 | Pumpkin Sisters | Women |
| <u>Alt Saturday</u> | | | | |
| 9:00 AM | Winstead's 435 & Nall | Tamara Smith 913-906-0336 | COR-Footsteps | Coed |
| <u>Sunday</u> | | | | |
| 5:00 PM | Leawood UMC Room 226 | Rick & Delane Cohen. . . . 913-381-5004 | Steadfast LUMC | Coed |

VISION STATEMENT

At Heartland Emmaus of Kansas City, our vision is to be servants of Jesus Christ and His local churches by:

- ♥ Increasing the number of Christians who experience the "Walk to Emmaus"
- ♥ Strengthening our walk with Jesus Christ through reunion groups, gatherings and active servant hood
- ♥ Communicating through word and deed the ecumenical, inclusive, Christ-centered outreach of Emmaus



Heartland Emmaus of Kansas City
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