



A Note from the Chair...

De Colores Community,

Our March Gathering was incredible, and the Board meeting went well, too. The Holy Spirit was definitely making His presence known in our hearts. I just love this Emmaus stuff.

Hope to see ya'll on April 17th for the Gathering.

We are planning another Emmaus Picnic in September at the Clarksburg Field Days grounds. The exciting thing is this year we'll be making a weekend out of it. Huh, an Emmaus weekend. What a novel idea! We'll meet Friday night for a bonfire, camping and to start the hog roasting. The picnic will be on Saturday. Probably some will be able to attend both Friday and Saturday and some may only Friday or Saturday. But I'm sure whatever time you can spend at the campground will be fun. Bring the entire family. There are electric hookups and facilities. We are setting our date early enough for the entire community to be able to make plans for the weekend. So here is your official "Save the Date:" It's **Friday evening, September 26, and Saturday morning and afternoon, September 27.** Exact times will be determined later. Let's start praying now for good weather.

Did you know there are Emmaus Celebrations from time to time at different cities throughout the country and all Emmaus people are welcome? It might make a great getaway weekend to a city where you've never been before. There was one April 4-6 in Kerrville, Texas. I'll watch for the next one and try to keep you posted.

I want to tell you about a close friend of mine who always seems to be targeted. Targeted? For what - you ask. Targeted by people waiting on her in stores or in restaurants, constantly calling her by endearing names. Let me tell you, she is sweet and

dear and precious. But constantly being called sweet names by total strangers really bothers her. It bothers a lot of people. It happened again yesterday and she finally told the manager of the restaurant how offensive it was to be called Baby Doll by someone who doesn't even know her name.

That may seem pretty harmless to you, but imagine your server, usually a person you've never seen before, calling you Honey, Sweetie, Darling, Precious, Dear, Baby Doll, Sweetheart and more, over and over again. It happens to her a lot. Would you want to be constantly addressed by total strangers, with such endearing names? I'm sure it would quickly get pretty annoying. Wouldn't you rather hear it from someone really special, like your spouse? Wouldn't it be much better coming from them, than hearing it from a stranger in a restaurant looking for a bigger tip?

I wonder how it feels to Jesus to be called Lord, by people who have not given Him lordship of their lives? By people who can talk the talk but who don't walk the walk. Maybe it feels very empty to Him. When we call Him, "Lord," He knows our real relationship with Him. He knows if we really love Him or we are just wanting something from Him. Does He feel like my friend feels when the phony sweetness is poured on? He can spot the phony stuff.

Let's make an effort to GET REAL with Jesus. The relationship is worth it. When it's real, our endearing words will be music to His ears.

Hope to see you at the April 17th Gathering at 7:00 pm.

De Colores!

In Him,

Pat Arthur

From Our Spiritual Director . . .

The lectionary reading this year for April 6 was the familiar story from Luke chapter 24 about the walk to Emmaus. I always relish the opportunity to use the Emmaus text for a sermon.

What a week this had been for the followers of Jesus. It had started with his dramatic entry into Jerusalem. The crowds were gathered, palm branches were being waved and placed at his feet, and the crowd was crying, "Hosanna!" as he entered the city riding on the back of a donkey.

The next day he visited the temple area and found the money changers and traders in livestock cheating the people as they came to the temple to pay their annual tax and as they brought sacrifices to be made. He was angered and drove them out of the temple.

On Thursday night, he gathered with his disciples and had his last supper with them.

Then came the arrest, the illegal trial, the trumped up charges, and finally the crucifixion between two thieves.

After the crucifixion, the bottom seemed to fall out of the lives of the followers. All of their hopes and dreams disintegrated on Friday when Jesus died on the cross.

Early on Sunday morning the women rushed to the tomb and came back with the news that the tomb was empty.

The very afternoon of the report of the empty tomb, two people--Cleopas and an unidentified fellow traveler--set out for their home in Emmaus. I can't say for sure but I think that these two were utterly defeated and were throwing in the towel and going home.

On the way they met a stranger. It was actually the risen Christ but they did not recognize him. Part of the delight of this story is that we know something that the two travelers do not know. We know that it is Jesus who joined them.

Jesus and the two travelers talked about current events. The news was that the one that they thought would rescue them from the grasp of the hated Roman government had been crucified. They had hoped that he would be the one who would redeem Israel.

Jesus quoted to them from the wisdom of the prophets. He accused them of being slow to believe all that the prophets had spoken. They be-

lieved part of the word of God but not all of it. They were guilty of selective believing. Their understanding of the scriptures was based on preconceived assumptions.

This is the way heartbreak happens. We think that God should do something based on our preconceived idea of who God is and what His role in our lives should be. The problem is not with God but with us.

The two travelers reached the end of the journey and invited Jesus to join them in the evening meal. For some unknown reason, Jesus became the host of the meal for he broke the bread at the beginning of the meal. They immediately recognized him in the breaking of the bread.

After Jesus had left them, they talked about their hearts being on fire when Jesus revealed the wisdom of the scriptures to them.

The truth is God wants to set all of our hearts on fire. He wants to give us a burning passion for life. God gave to these two travelers a reason for living and an intense desire to share what they knew about the risen Christ. We know this because they could not wait until morning. The two travelers immediately headed back to Jerusalem.

The long discouraging walk to Emmaus had become a joyous run back to Jerusalem with renewed strength and encouragement.

What a great message for all of us, Can you remember the time when Jesus was walking with you and you did not recognize him? Then came the day of realization when your eyes were opened and you now know that He was with you all of the time.

What would getting on the road mean to you? Maybe you have been traveling fast and furious and it is taking a toll on your spiritual life. Maybe you are drifting from God. Hope is not lost and Jesus wants to re-energize you for the journey. Buckle up and rely on Jesus to get you through the dangerous sections of the road of life.

The two travelers to Emmaus got back on the road to be witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus.

De Colores,

Les Grooms
Spiritual Director

2008 Walks

Women's Walk # 40

June 26-29, 2008

Lay Director, Laura Miller

Men's Walk # 30

Sept. 11-14, 2008

Lay Director, Danny Morris

Women's Walk # 41

October 9-12, 2008

Lay Director, Linda Morris

Hats Off

Our host church, Trinity United Methodist, has a policy that hats, especially ball caps, are not to be worn inside the church. So we ask that whenever you enter, whether to worship or to serve, please remove your hat. Let's comply with this simple request from our gracious host.

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Cast Iron Christians

Think about a cast iron skillet. An alloy of iron, carbon and silicon – very common earthy elements -- is melted and poured into a mold to shape into a useful item. Cast iron is not highly refined and shiny like stainless steel. But it's tough, useful and enduring. Its fruits are some pretty good things: fried chicken, fried potatoes, corn bread, gravy. Mmm! Doesn't it make your mouth water?

I still use my mother's and grandmother's well-used cast iron skillet. It's sleek, black and perfect for its purpose. But it didn't look like that when it was new. Then it was kind of a dull dark gray. And it would gather rust spots by just sitting in the cupboard. You see, raw cast iron is very susceptible to oxidation. The iron readily converts to iron oxide when exposed to moisture in the air. And the carbon and silicon in the iron are like speckles or lumps of impurities scattered throughout the material. The iron is in grains that are surrounded by flakes of carbon. Carbon and silicon in the amounts contained in cast iron are undesirable elements in steel. You may think of them as impurities. But these impurities are a part and parcel of cast iron, so it has to be seasoned to be useful.

To season cast iron, you rub on oil (or some form of grease) and put it in a hot oven. The cast iron expands when heated and the oil penetrates and reacts

with the carbon and silicon, forming a protective coating to the iron. Let's see—oil—that usually symbolizes the Holy Spirit. And heat—usually analogous to trials and tribulations.

But if you've ever had a new cast iron skillet, you know that one seasoning usually doesn't do it. As soon as you wash the skillet or scratch its surface in any way, the seasoning layer is damaged and it begins to rust again. You have to keep seasoning it. Every time you use the skillet, you apply heat and oil to add to the seasoning effect. The oil gradually penetrates the surface with each reheating until it reaches a depth where moisture no longer penetrates.

I think you can see the picture of a Christian in the cast iron skillet. We are made of common material, formed by the Master into a useful shape when we accept Christ. But we are raw—unseasoned, and prone to corruption—oh, we're still skillets—errr... Christians, when we are marred by the rust spots of sinful thoughts and deeds. But we aren't very useful until we are seasoned. We are seasoned by the application of the Holy Spirit, obtained through life in the Body of Christ, prayer, study, worship and Christian action. And the Word of God penetrates our surface when we are heated in the trials of life.

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Permit # 2

See you at the next Gathering, **April 17, 2008, 7 PM** at Trinity UMC, Main and Mulberry Sts., Chillicothe OH.

Visit the GSVE Website at GSVEmmaus.org
You can read current and past newsletters and sign up on the prayer vigil or kitchen and housekeeping crews for walks.

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The heartaches, physical pains and trials that beset us all expose our inward selves to the oil of the Holy Spirit so that the impurities in us can be converted to material that strengthens us and makes us useful in God's kingdom.

Cast iron has another characteristic that makes it perfect for skillets. It's tough. The carbon between the grains makes it resistant to shattering. You can drop it or drop something on it and it doesn't break or dent. Seasoned Christians are resilient, too — when we fall we get up, unbroken, uncrushed by the weight of the struggle. So be like the Apostle Paul when adversity comes. Count it all joy and rejoice that you are counted worthy to suffer and grow — seasoned like a cast iron skillet.

While we walk on this earth we have the treasure of God in earthen vessels, vessels that are prone to decay. But when we step into eternity, our bodies will be changed into incorruptible bodies that will shine with purity. Until then we endure the heat and we praise God that He is able to make us into useful vessels for His service.

I pray that you will endure the heat and the chastisement we all must sometimes face and grow in the grace of God.

DeColores,
Amy Edler

Parking

If you are serving on a team or in the kitchen, we ask that you do not park in the parking lots behind the church on Sunday morning. Please have consideration for the worshippers at Trinity. If you are a team member and parked there during the rest of the walk, please go out early Sunday morning and move your car to the Horizon parking lot across the alley behind and slightly west of the church.