

**Elizabethtown Emmaus
Newsletter
August 2002**

DeColores,

Blessed are those who strength is in you. Who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. Psalm 84:5
For those of you whose journey this past month did not include our July gathering you missed a special blessing. Your chairperson had forgotten that Bob Wood, our spiritual director, was out of town. When I got upstairs after the board meeting I could not find a clergy so Glen Higdon in a loud voice asked if there were any clergy in the house. A group of Radcliff United Methodists were thrilled to introduce their new pastor Reverend Art Leach. I did impose on Rev. Leach to lead the prayer of praise and requests and to lead us in communion. Rev. Leach was so very gracious to serve us and I thought I had "done good." Little did I realize who was really in control at gathering.
Larry Russell volunteered to speak about his pilgrimage to Estonia and how on that 4th of July weekend his respect for freedom was new found. He mentioned the Estonian's pride in their first new church in 100 years, a United Methodist Church. We were then blessed by Rod Brown and Jimmy Garcia who shared their trip to Nicaragua and their prison work with Rev. Scott Martin in that country. Their testimony was a blessing to us all. Then, God let us know He was in charge of our gathering all along as Rev. Leach shared with us prior to communion. Rev. Leach relayed that he had been in study with the minister at the United Methodist church in Tallin, Estonia, and that he was a close friend of Rev. Scott Martin. How small is the world for the ! That gave everyone goose bumps and a realization that God was there among us to share his heavenly banquet. Christ was again represented in the breaking of the bread and the drinking of the cup and our journeys were most beautiful for it that Saturday.
DeColores, Bonnie

NOTICE

Notice (again): Just 3 months give or take a few weeks until our fall walks. Don't forget we will need agape for 3 Walks and Chrysalis. Mitzi Lynch, our Chrysalis Community Lay Director, says about 150 pieces for Chrysalis and 120 pieces for each of our Emmaus walks. Please keep the Lay Directors Sean Redding, Peggy Salmon, Randy Allen, Kim Strange and Collette Starks in prayer as they prepare their teams to do God's work this fall.

EMMAUS CALENDAR

AUG 3 – 7:00 p.m. Gathering @ CHUMC

SEP 7 - 7:00 p.m. Gathering @ MUMC

NOV 2 - 7:00 p.m. Gathering @ CHUMC

OCT 5 – 7 Chrysalis #30 Campground

OCT 10 – 13 Men's Walk #82

OCT 17 – 20 Women's Walk #83

OCT 24 – 27 Women's Walk #84

*****PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF
LOCATION FOR THE SEP GATHERING*****

Note from the Board of Directors

Beginning with the Fall 2002 walks we will be limiting the number of pilgrims to 48 per walk. We are trying this to see if we can have more meaningful, less rushed walks for our candidates. The board felt the entire walk would benefit and the pilgrims would bond more with the team in smaller numbers. We do hope to see more of our candidates in reunion groups and at monthly gatherings as a result.

Inspirations from the Editor

I got this just today on my email and just had to share it with my dear brothers and sisters. We all need this carpenter to come over and build a bridge or two for us Enjoy... ed.

The Story of the Carpenter

Once upon time two brothers who lived on adjoining farms fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side by side, sharing machinery, and trading labor and goods as needed without a hitch. Then the long collaboration fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference, and finally it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days work" he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there I could help with? Could I help you?"

"Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor, in fact, it's my younger brother. Last week there was a meadow between us and he took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll go him one better. See that pile of lumber by the barn? I want you to build me a fence, an 8-foot fence, so I won't need to see his place or his face anymore."

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you." The older brother had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing, nailing.

About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job. The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped. There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge, a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work handrails and all, and the neighbor, his

younger brother, was coming across, his hand outstretched.

"You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done," the younger brother said. The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge, and then they met in the middle, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox on his shoulder.

"No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother.

"I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but, I have many more bridges to build."

REMEMBER THIS:

God won't ask what kind of car you drove, but He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

God won't ask the square footage of your house, but He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, but He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.

God won't ask about your social status; He will ask what kind of class you displayed.

God won't ask how many material possessions you had, but He'll ask if they dictated your life.

God won't ask what your highest salary was, but He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

God won't ask how much overtime you worked, but He'll ask if your overtime work was for yourself or for your family.

God won't ask how many promotions you received, but He'll ask how you promoted others.

God won't ask what your job title was, but He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask what you did to help yourself, but He'll ask what you did to help others.

God won't ask how many friends you had, but He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask what you did to protect your rights, but He'll ask what you did to protect the rights of others.

God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, but He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.

God won't ask about the color of your skin, but He'll ask about the content of your character.

God won't ask how many times your deeds matched your words, but He'll ask how many times they didn't.

God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Salvation, but He'll lovingly take you to your mansion in Heaven, and not to the gates of Hell.

God won't ask how many people you forwarded this too, but He will ask if you were ashamed to pass it on to your friends.

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