

**Elizabethtown Emmaus  
Newsletter  
November 2002**

**DeColores,**

**From the Chairperson**

Blessed are those whose strength is in you. Who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. Psalm 84:5 The questions: **How is your journey? Are your fourth days blessed? Are you dancing with Jesus? Are you in a reunion group?** For you that have just come off walks 82, 83 and 84 I hope you will find a reunion group quickly with whom you feel comfortable sharing. For those of you whose walk number is smaller than 84 please invite our new family members to your reunion group or help them form new groups. *Day Four* describes reunion groups as "one of the chief values of the Emmaus movement-one of the greatest treasures the Walk to Emmaus contains." I know that to be true, for I have the best reunion group of Christian friends there are. Of course *Day Four* also reminds us that we must be looking for the means to accomplish living and growing in the life in grace for these groups to be worthwhile. In fact the book suggests that if we do not want to accomplish living and growing in grace that our group will likely fail. These groups are to be ones that keep you accountable about your life in piety, in study and in action. It is important to keep reviewing those aspects of your life if you really want to grow in grace. Another wonderful part of reunion group is that discussing where you were closest to Christ makes you more aware each day of his presence in your life. The more aware you become of Christ's presence in your life the more you will be aware of God's great love for you. Then there is that discipleship thing that we discuss in reunion group. Are you able each week to look back and say where you were a disciple and are you less able to spot discipleship denied? This reunion group stuff is tough but then the rewards of a life in grace are out of this world so it shouldn't be too easy. Then there is my favorite

part of reunion group. My group shares their prayer needs before we pray a prayer of Thanksgiving. I find it brings me closer to Christ each time I can pray over the needs of my Christian sisters. Of course, it is also wonderful to know that those sisters are praying for me. *Day Four* says, "these times together in your group reunion will become very precious to you." That is certainly an understatement. One of the talks on a walk mentions that to remain in grace one must maintain two relationships. The first relationship that must be maintained is with Christ and the second with Christian friends. Reunion groups are a way of doing both. These Christian friends in reunion groups will encourage you to stay focused on becoming a disciple and sharing God's love. In closing, page 44 of *Day Four* has four criteria for forming group reunions. First groups should be based on friendship. Second, you must make the effort to start or join a group. Third, every participant is equal and each member must participate. Fourth, groups can change. So visit a group or a number of groups until you discover a group of Christian friends that will hold you accountable.

DeColores, Bonnie

**A Note on Sponsorship**

The *Fourth Day* book that many received at the end of their Emmaus walks also has a bit to say about being a sponsor. The key to a healthy Emmaus Community and a successful Walk is ***sponsorship***. Remember these three keys:

1. Our sole purpose in recruiting Pilgrims should be the strengthening of our own congregations; **not** to get them saved or fix their emotional problems.
2. Each person is different. There are no expected results from the Walk other than experiencing God's love.
3. **Sponsorship requires a COMMITMENT;** before, during and after the Walk. Be prepared to disciple your Pilgrim during their Fourth Days.

**Emmaus Calendar**

NOV 2 - 7:00 p.m. Gathering @ MUMC  
DEC 7 - 7:00 p.m. Gathering @ MUMC  
JAN 4 - 7:00 p.m. Gathering @ CHUMC  
FEB 15-17 2003 Chrysalis #31  
MAR 13-16 2003 Men's Walk # 85  
MAR 20-23 2003 Women's Walk # 86  
CHUMC = College Heights United Methodist  
MUMC = Memorial United Methodist Church

**EMMAUS ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB**

As promised last month here is The Elizabethtown Emmaus Community website

["www.etownemmaus.org."](http://www.etownemmaus.org)

Please drop by and visit this fantastic site. It's really well designed and has a plethora of information. The site has forms, a list of contacts of board members, calendar of upcoming events, the monthly newsletter, a comprehensive list of Reunion Groups sorted by day, and links to the Upper Room.

It's a great site and, again, we in the community give a big hand and bunches of thanks to those who had / have a hand in the implementation and upkeep of this site (you guys know who you are).

## Inspirations from the editor

Here is a little something I found in my archives from a dear friend – you know who you are and I thank you for this inspiration at a time it was really needed. I pray that it blesses all of you like it did me. ENJOY – ed.

### Do You Know Bailey's Jesus?

God recently allowed me to see Jesus through the eyes of someone seeing Him for the first time. Having the advantage of knowing how the story ends, we can easily forget the cost of our redemption and the love of our Savior.

Every year we attend a local church pageant at Christmas time, which tells the story of Jesus from His birth through His resurrection. It is a spectacular event, with live animals and hundreds of cast members in realistic costumes. The magi enter the huge auditorium on llamas from the rear, descending the steps in pomp and majesty. Roman soldiers look huge and menacing in their costumes and makeup.

Of all the years we have attended, one stands out indelibly in my heart. It was the year we took our then three-year-old granddaughter, Bailey, who loves Jesus. She was mesmerized throughout the entire play, not just watching, but involved as if she were a player. She watches as Joseph and Mary travel to the Inn and is thrilled when she sees the baby Jesus in His mother's arms.

When Jesus, on a young donkey, descends the steps from the back of the auditorium, depicting His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Bailey was ecstatic. As he neared our aisle, Bailey began jumping up and down, screaming, "Jesus, Jesus! There's Jesus!" Not just saying the words but exclaiming them with every fiber of her being. She alternated between screaming his name and hugging us. "It's Jesus. Look!" I thought she might actually pass out. Tears filled my eyes as I looked at Jesus through the eyes of a child in love with Him, seeing Him for the first time. How like the blind beggar screaming out in reckless abandon, "Jesus, Jesus!", afraid he might miss Him, not caring what others thought. (Mark 10:46-52) This was so much fun. Then came the arrest scene. On stage, the soldiers shoved and slapped Jesus as they moved Him from the Garden of Gesthemane to Pilate. Bailey responded as if she were in the crowd of women, with terror and anger. "Stop it!" she screamed. "Bad soldiers, stop it!" As I watched her reaction, I wished we had talked to her

before the play. "Bailey, it's OK. They are just pretending." "They are hurting Jesus! Stop it!" She stood in her seat reacting to each and every move. People around us at first smiled at her reaction, thinking "How cute!". Then they quit smiling and began watching her watch Him. In a most powerful scene, the soldiers lead Jesus carrying the cross down the steps of the auditorium from the back. They were yelling, whipping, and cursing at Jesus, who was bloodied and beaten. Bailey was now hysterical. "Stop it! Soldiers! Stop it," she screamed. She must have been wondering why all these people did nothing. She then began to cry instead of scream. "Jesus, Oh, Jesus!" People all around us began to weep as we all watch this devoted little disciple see her Jesus beaten and killed as those first century disciples had. Going back and forth between her mother's lap and mine for comfort, she was distraught. I kept saying, "Bailey, it's OK. Jesus is going to be OK. These are just people pretending to be soldiers. She looked at me like I was crazy. In my lap, we talked through the cross and burial. "Watch, Bailey, watch for Jesus!"

The tomb began to tremble and lightening flashed as the stone rolled away. A superbowl touchdown cheer couldn't come close to matching this little one's reaction to the resurrection. "Jesus! He's OK. Mommy, it's Jesus!"

I prayed that she wasn't going to be traumatized by this event, but that she would remember it. I shall never forget it. I shall never forget seeing Jesus' suffering, crucifixion, and resurrection through the eyes of an innocent child.

Following the pageant the actors all assembled in the foyer to be greeted by the audience. As we passed by some of the soldiers Bailey screamed out, "Bad soldier, don't you hurt Jesus." The actor who portrayed Jesus was some distance away surrounded by well-wishers and friends. Bailey broke away from us and ran toward him, wrapping herself around his legs, holding on for dear life. He hugged her and said, "Jesus loves you." He patted her to go away. She wouldn't let go. She kept clinging to Him, laughing and calling His name. She wasn't about to let go of her Jesus.

I think God in heaven stopped what ever was going on that day and made all the angels watch Bailey. "Now, look there! You see what I meant when I said, 'Of such is the kingdom of heaven?'"

Bailey's reaction should be our reaction every day. When we think of Him, who He is, what He did for us, and what He offers us, we have to say how can we do anything less than worship Him.