

**Elizabethtown Emmaus
Newsletter
December 2003**

**From The Community Lay Director
Decolores,**

**“In the morning, O Lord, you hear my
voice; in the morning I lay my requests
before you and wait in expectation.”
Psalm 5:3**

The Walk to Emmaus is all about growing Christians as more effective leaders in their local churches. After participating on your own personal Walk, Emmaus continues to provide training through service opportunities.

One opportunity to grow as a leader is to serve on a team. By serving in the kitchen, on agape or in the conference room Emmaus offers the opportunity to submit ourselves as servants and in so doing we learn more and more about how we can be more effective as the hands and feet of Christ.

With the completion of the October Chrysalis and Emmaus Walks we start a new cycle of preparation. Andrea Nichols and Geoff Clark have accepted God's call to lead Chrysalis #33 in February. Mark Riordan and Heather Holthouser have accepted God's call to lead Men's Walk #90 and Women's Walk #91 in March. Bobby Smith has accepted God's call to lead the R.E.C. in May. Please join me in praying over the next months as these servants "wait for the Lord".

Another opportunity is to serve on the Board of Directors of the Community. The Elizabethtown Community has two Boards of Directors; one for Emmaus and one for Chrysalis. As a working board each board member takes on a specific responsibility in support of the activities of the community. No job is more important than another; whether we are the hands or the feet, we learn more about

being part of the body of Christ.

The Emmaus board has thirty members and elects one third of the board every year for a three year term. As the year ends and one group leaves, another group begins in a constant cycle of regeneration. Please join me in thanking the following board members as they complete their three years of service: "Charlie" Allen, Flint Farley, Judy McKenzie, Ron Myers, Bonnie Russell, Larry Russell, Peggy Salmon and Bruce Seymour. Also, please extend a word of encouragement and keep in your prayers the eleven people who will serve as board members from 2004 through 2006: Colleen Bagley, Angela Brown, Fritz Giesecke, Lydia Giesecke, Marie Holthouser, Brad Langford, Meg Langford, Belinda Nunn, Frankie Nunn, Junior Whitfield and Sharon Whitfield.

It is fitting that as the Elizabethtown Emmaus Community celebrates its 20th anniversary next year that one of the pilgrims of Walk #1, David Dozer, will be the community's 2004 Chairperson of the Emmaus Board and Community Lay Director. David has accepted God's call to serve this community; please keep him in your prayers throughout the year.

When I started my term as Chairperson in January I knew that I could only handle the position responsibilities if I looked to Christ for my strength. It has been an honor to serve the community; thank you for the opportunity.

Your brother in Christ,
Ron Smith, Walk # 67, Table of John

Child Care Donations Requested

As a reminder to the community, child care is provided at all Gatherings and Candlelight Services. The community pays for qualified child care services and supervision of the Gymnasium at Candlelight services as a service to the community. If you use this service a "love" donation is appreciated to offset the cost of providing this service.

**Community Members Only at Candlelight
Services**

The Candlelight service is a means of grace wherein God's love is shown to the Pilgrims in what may be a new and unique way. We ask that only members of the Chrysalis and Emmaus community attend Candlelight Services. Child care and the Gymnasium are made available so that children will have a place to be during the service. Please do not bring children of a candidate to a Candlelight service; their presence can be a distraction from the intended purpose of the service for both the candidate and other pilgrims on the Walk. Please give the pilgrims the entire weekend to focus on their relationship with God.

**Volunteer for Spring Emmaus, Chrysalis and
REC walks!**

If you are interested in working on an Emmaus, Chrysalis or REC team you must fill out and send in a volunteer sheet. For the Emmaus Walks the volunteer sheets are held for three years. If you have not filled out a volunteer sheet within the last couple of years, you need to send in a new sheet. All the volunteer forms are available at the web site at www.etownemmaus.org – just click on the "forms" link and print the form on your printer.

EMMAUS CALENDAR

December 6 @ 7:00 p.m. Gathering – CHUMC
January 3 @ 7:00 p.m. Gathering – CHUMC
February 7 @ 7:00p.m. Gathering – CHUMC
February 14 – 15 Chrysalis #33
March 6 @ 7:00 p.m. Gathering – CHUMC
March 11 – 14 Men's Walk #90
March 18 – 21 Women's Walk #91
April 3 @ 7:00 p.m. Gathering – MUMC

Inspirations from the Editor

In keeping with the tradition I seemed to have started during my tenure as the editor of the E'town Emmaus Community newsletter I would like to give praise to God for allowing me this opportunity to share some of the articles I have been privileged to receive over the past several years. God is Good...and All the time... I thank the Lord for wooing me into a relationship with Him, for not giving up on me as I refused Him and went my own way. I thank Him also for this tool we call Emmaus which opened my eyes to His love for me and His Mercy and Grace. What a Joy this new-found love has been in my life. I give Him thanks for all the absolutely wonderful people He has brought into my life and my family's lives. And I'd like to thank each of you – God's children for accepting me just as I WAS and helping me to grow and learn and love with His type of love. May God Bless each of you and may He forever Hold and Keep and Bless you all richly. I wish each of you a Joyful CHRISTMAS and a Happy and prosperous New Year. If we never see each other again I will certainly see you in the New Jerusalem.

I hope each of you has plenty of holes in your quilt, read on and Enjoy, Ed.

As I faced my Maker at the Last Judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls.

Before each of us laid our lives like the squares of a quilt in many piles. An angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life.

But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares was. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in everyday life. I saw hardships that I endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich color

and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened. My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air. Finally, the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth.

The others rose, each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been. My angel looked upon me, and nodded for me to rise.

My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life, and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness, and death, and false accusations that took me from my world, as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me.

And now, I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was.

I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes.

Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image, the face of Christ. Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, "Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My Life, My hardships, and My struggles. Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you."

May all our quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through. God Bless.

**Elizabethtown EMMAUS Community
P.O. BOX 2070
Elizabethtown, KY 42702
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**