

A Word of Grace

The newsletter of Grace Emmaus Community of Kentucky

January/February 2005

From the Lay Director

Greetings:

I pray this finds you well and with God in your fourth days. It is so exciting to see the pieces of the puzzle fit the right places as we begin to form the teams for our next walks. To watch Christy Woodall and Dennis Wood work to place people in their positions and matching their talents to the call. Which reminds me, if you haven't completed the form to serve on team, do it now. We can't place you on team till you do.

I recently read Zephaniah 3:17. It says "The Lord your God is with you; his power gives you victory. The Lord will take delight in you, and in his love he will give you new life. He will sing and be joyful over you." This is so awesome when you think about it. The same God that parted the waters and made pillars of fire, that made the walls of Jericho fall down and sent his Son to die for all of us, is singing for joy over me. Can you imagine what that song sounds like??? The music that song must make has to be so magnificent it is beyond our comprehension. And he is singing it for me!!!! That is such an awesome thought.

DeColores! Gary Stephenson

Coming Events

With the fall Walks and the holidays behind us, our Gatherings will return to the regular schedule of the fourth Saturday at 1st United Methodist Church in Corbin. We will be meeting Jan. 22 and Feb. 26. The schedule of events remains the same: steering committee meets at 5 p.m. followed by worship and fellowship at 6 p.m.

Bring some snack agape to share and be ready for a great time together with our brothers and sisters. Invite recent pilgrims or anyone you sponsored in the fall. Encourage them in their fourth days.

Fred Petke
Newsletter

From the Spiritual Director

Dear Emmaus Family,

As we enter into this New Year it is my hope that your Holiday Season was been truly Holy Days. Christmas is always, for me, a time that I get to remember who I am and who I belong to. The Carols that we sing at Christmas time are so beautiful, but as we read them we see just how important Christmas is to us.

The coming of the baby Jesus was not only the start of a life of Jesus who would some day face the cross. The coming of Jesus was the moment that God himself entered into the world in the form of a human. And it is more, it is the moment that he took all of creation, especially human beings, into his eternal life. It is at this point that we see that the love God has for us is so strong that he doesn't want to exist without us, so he does something to ensure we enter into this new realm of eternity.

Celebrating Christmas each year then becomes for us a re-enactment of this important event. With each ribbon and bow, each ornament and decoration we place out, becomes a symbol and reminder of what God has done at the birth of Jesus.

As we enter this New Year though, we put away or decorations and store them until the next Christmas. But as we do this, let's not put away our awareness of the reason God came to us in the form of a human being. He came that we

might come to know life in him and that we might be restored to a right relationship with him.

As a part of the New Year, it is a tradition (of the U.S. at least) to make a "New Year's Resolution." For many I know this will mean, an attempt to lose weight, an attempt at a new exercise program, an attempt to stop a habit, etc.

But as Christians I hope that you also remembered to resolve for the New Year a closer walk with Jesus Christ. We often over look this very important part of our life. Sometimes we remember to diet and exercise, but forget to pray and read the Bible. I know for myself I am making a New Year's Resolution to be more like Jesus. Not in word only, friends. This year I am studying what Jesus did and finding ways that I can so the same. Here is an example. Jesus gave the Good News to the woman at the well. The woman was to say the least an "undesirable." Who around me does society deem undesirable? How can I best minister to them? This is how Jesus ministered... so shall I.

Would you join me in this endeavor?

I hope that you each have had a wonderful Christmas celebration and that the New Year finds you happy, healthy and full of Joy.

Jim Savage,
Grace Community
Spiritual Director

Steering Committee Members

•Lay Director - Gary Stephenson, •Spiritual Director - Jim Savage •Treasurer - Ginger Richardson, •Secretary - Karen Dial
•Registrar - Suzie Savage •Team Selection - John Richardson •Kitchen - Ginger Richardson •Facility/Set-up - Tim Thompson
•Music - John and Stacia Carwell •Kitchen - Ginger Richardson •Candlelight - Craig Dial • Newsletter - Fred Petke