

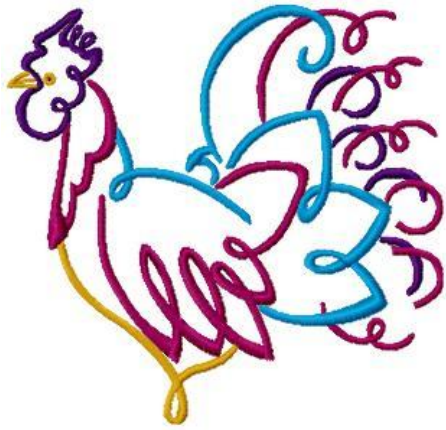
The recent passing of Senator Edward Kennedy caused me to take a moment and reflect on the seemingly large number of cultural and political icons who have passed away this summer. Whether you agreed with their politics, liked their music, or felt they were a frivolous Hollywood star each of these people had an impact on the history of the social landscape of our country. With the passing of these people we have lost some of the "holders of our history" which is not a good thing for any culture.

This is much the same thing that has been happening in our Emmaus community. We are allowing many of the holders of our community's history, former Weekend Lay Director's, to slip away because we are not offering them a viable place in our community. For some reason, as an Emmaus community, we think that when a person has served as the Weekend Lay Director (WLD) they have reached the pinnacle of their progressive servanthood and need to do nothing but sit back, smile wisely, and offer sage advice to those who are still on that journey and this is the opposite of what we should be doing. These men and women are a part of the rich legacy that makes our community a wonderfully blended tapestry of many different people. They not only know the history, but they *are a part of the history* of our community and much like family's who share that history with each other through the tales and stories amidst laughter and tears we need to do the same thing instead of looking at a walk as an isolated event where the WLD is finished with their Emmaus journey at the end of that walk. Every one of us is continually beginning a new step in our walk with Jesus. How we might approach that journey at each level of spiritual maturity might be very different from how we did it before. So just because someone has been a

WLD does not mean they are finished growing in their spiritual maturity and should therefore be viewed as able to start again in their progressive servanthood. Our Heavenly Father has given us a set of gifts and talents that He intends for us to use in helping to bring people to Christ. They are not disposable talents to be used only once and tossed aside. They are gifts and talents which we continually strengthen and develop along the journey. We need to offer these past WLD the opportunity to serve on a team in whatever capacity God calls them to serve and allow them to use these gifts from our Lord for His glory.

Did you know that they refer to themselves as "Old Buffalos"? As for me that does not conjure up pictures of value and worth in my mind, but rather something demeaning and negative. I see a picture of a very old matted buffalo chewing slowly on the plain out by him/herself. Before we lose too much of the rich history of Tidewater Emmaus let's make a place for these men and women and view them as viable candidates for continued progressive servanthood instead of someone who has served their purpose and there is no place for them in our community to continue to grow in service to our Lord. Let us, as a community, continue to build a history where no member is standing by him/herself feeling that there is no place for them in Tidewater Emmaus. When we walk together with Jesus and use the gifts and talents with which our Heavenly Father has blessed each of us we create a tightly woven tapestry called TWE. A tapestry that is beautiful and strong and always ready to glorify our Father.

DeColores—
Lynn



Fall Walk Dates

Men's Walk: October 15th - 18th

Pilgrim Application Deadline: October 1st

Women's Walk: October 22th - 25th

Pilgrim Application Deadline: October 8th

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! CALLING FOR ALL AGAPE!

The fall walks are right around the corner and it's time to gather up the agape. The pilgrims and teamers need to be showered with agape. Remember that feeling of love every time you walked into the Talk room or Dining room and found some new trinket.



Agape comes in many different forms: hand crafted items, "Pass It On" clothes pins, jewelry, book marks, key chains, pins, pens & pencils, etc.

It is also the letters and notes from friends, family and people we don't even know that mean so much.

Please take some time to make, buy, or write some Agape.

Agape should be brought or sent to Wakefield by Thursday.

And the most important Agape – Pray, Pray, Pray!

Train Talk Aug 09

Welcome to a new school year and for many the start of New Beginnings within the church. Although many of us have been on vacation, entertained family and friends, enjoyed the many activities this world has to offer, I trust we haven't fallen short in continually training our minds and hearts to be a Servant of Christ.

DeColores
Jack

Training 101

The DeColores Story

We have all heard the DeColores story and some of us more than once. It is such a wonderful example of how God plants seeds that it bears telling over and over.

De Colores is a Spanish expression, which means in colors. If there are sad or dark moments in life, there are also others when we see everything in color. The realization that we are being loved by God in a way that is unparalleled and unconditional, creates in our inner self, a feeling that is like an incredible rainbow. After this experience, life is not the same; we have a new vision of the world, we act differently and we discover in the Christian community the many faces of Christ.



Indeed, as the prism decomposes white light in a scale of various colors, so do those who are around us. Everyone of us has a different color, each one reflects an aspect of Christ. De Colores calls forth this joy caused by the discovery of God's love and the presence of Christ in ourselves and others.

However, we must say that if we have come to use that expression, it is rather by coincidence, because of the song titled "De Colores" which was very popular at the time of the first Cursillo held on the island of Majorca (a beautiful island off the coast of Spain in the Mediterranean Sea where spring is a real explosion of colors).

That song, a children's folk song, expresses the joy of living and exalts the beauties of creation. It was readily adopted by the first cursillistas who were returning home on a bus, singing and rejoicing, when the weather turned. They found themselves in a frightening storm with lightning and thunder that had them huddling together in the bus on the side of the road, and even halted their singing. When the storm was over, the clouds parted and the sun peeked through. As the tension lessened, one cursillista looked out the window at the farm the bus had broken down in front of and saw a rooster resplendent in color in the sparkling aftermath of the storm.

The pilgrims began to sing the song "De Colores", praising God and rejoicing in the shining colors of the countryside and that little rooster. As they walked the 20 miles home along the mountain roads, they sang "De Colores" over and over creating about 70 new verses.

Its popularity carried over from one Cursillo to another and it ended up becoming the theme song of the Movement though not officially recognized. Since then it has become one of the traditional songs as well as a traditional greeting within the Cursillo, Emmaus and Chrysalis Communities.

In addition to the rooster believed to be the original catalyst for the song, it has been adopted as the symbol for Emmaus. This magnificent creature of God symbolizes Christ's resurrection by rising early in the morning. The crowing rooster, radiant in color represents the many colors of God's love.

When the world falls around us and we feel that God has forsaken us, we need to ask, "who has forsaken who"

Board News

It is that time where we begin to make plans for the upcoming year. There are currently 5 members of the board rolling off. In November we will elect 2 women and 3 men to fill those positions. Applications for the board may be found online at the TWE website. Additionally they will be available at the Gathering in September and then again at both the men and women's Closing in October. All applications must be postmarked by November 1, 2009 to be considered for the ballot.

If you are considering having your name placed on the ballot for a board member position please spend time prayerfully considering your decision. The term of a board member is three years. When you are a member of the board you agree to serve in whatever capacity the Community Lay Director requests. You are expected to attend all Gatherings, Candlelights, and Closings. Each walk has a member of the board on the weekend to serve as the board rep. You could be asked to serve in this capacity on an Emmaus weekend. The board meets a minimum of 9 times a year and it is anticipated that all members will be present at these meetings. It is a large commitment of a member's time and should not be entered into lightly.



Gathering
Saturday, September 19th
6:30 pm
Deep Creek UMC
141 N George Washington Hwy
Chesapeake, VA

Please bring food agape!

Please use www.MapQuest.com for directions from your home.