

Blessed NOCC Community I've been feeling stuffy/sneezy and coughing most of this week. Lots of Kleenex and chicken soup but no relief. Kathy talked me into seeing the doctor today, so I went, and came out with a prescription for an antibiotic to resolve my condition-----bronchitis. I am sure I will be feeling more "human" soon. This image of the antibiotic, offers me a way to say a word about the New Zealand tragedy, and the topic of humankind's dis-ease of inhumanity. God has given us a prescription. I do not mean to sound simplistic here, but there is value in reminding ourselves that "it's a gift to be simple." The path into God is a path into simplicity, not complexity. So-----God has given us an antibiotic----and urges us to offer it to one another many times a day. No dose is too small. The antibiotic for the dis-ease of our inhumanity is love-----especially love energized by grace, an active, determined love. The love we see in Christ. You and I are not helpless bystanders to tragedy. God has grace-infused love to give us-----unlimited refills, and we are called to offer it to others. A young woman with a headscarf (Muslim? Hindu?) was working in the CVS today, administering prescriptions. I prayerfully held her, with thanksgiving, for the (especially today) VERY welcome presence of gracious love she was offering to all of us in need of healing.

SOUP SUPPERS OFF AND RUNNING---CELEBRATING FAVORITE HYMN TEXTS I was SO DELIGHTED by the favorite hymn text-talks shared by Laraine Walters, Courtney Holt, and Barb Schaecher on Wednesday. Hymns can speak to us deeply in our life situations, the glorious and the difficult. Two more folks are signed up to share this coming Wednesday---we have room for more if you want to]take 3-5 minutes to share. Our focus is on the words, not so much the music. But if you want to sing----feel free! Future dates, March 27, April 3, APRIL 10. LET ME KNOW WHICH DATE YOU PREFER!

INVITE FRIENDS to the many opportunities being offered in this Lenten/Easter season to share the gift of our life together in Christ

REGIONAL DISCIPLES SUMMER CHURCH CAMP DATES are listed on the Tall Oaks Web site.

DISCIPLES GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN DES MOINES---ROAD TRIP? The General Assembly of the Christian Church happens every 2 years in various cities from coast to coast. IT WILL NOT BE THIS CLOSE TO KC FOR AWHILE. So-----Rob is planning to attend a portion of the event July 22-23 and is happy to have company. Costs would include registration for the event, hotel room, food, etc. Be in touch with Rob if interested.

CHERITH BROOK WISH LIST As you can imagine, our friends at Cherith Brook are dealing with cold weather issues and needs related to feeding the homeless folks who stop in for a bite to eat and a shower. So shower supplies always needed, along with personal hygiene items. Cold weather items such as chap stick, cold meds, sleeping bags,

blankets, socks are always welcome. **BELTS OF ANY SIZE AND MEN'S AND WOMEN'S UNDERGARMENTS ARE ESPECIALLY NEEDED.** Items for the house/kitchen include rice, salt/pepper, sugar, creamer (Roasterie donates coffee) dish soap, and energy saving light-bulbs.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday 9AM Groups for all ages

Sunday 530PM NOCC Youth

Monday 6PM Troop 900

Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible group

Tuesday 6PM Pack 90

WEDNESDAY 6PM LENTEN SOUP SUPPER--Sign up in corridor

Wednesday 7PM Music Ministry

SAVE THE DATES

SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR HEALING AND WHOLENESS Sunday April 7 5PM

REZOUND BELL CHOIR IN CONCERT AT NOCC PALM SUNDAY APRIL 14 3PM

HOLY THURSDAY MEDITATIVE COMMUNON April 18 7PM

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP April 19 7PM

HE IS RISEN! April 21

NOCC Eastertide Weekend Retreat at Marillac Center in Leavenworth KS April 26-28

YOU, ME AND THE ENNEAGRAM Led by Lori Hall May 11 930AM May 16 630PM May 23 630PM

I may be wrong but I think nothing needs so much effort as prayer to God. If anyone wants to pray, the demons try to interrupt the prayer, for they know that prayer is the only thing that hinders them. All the other efforts in a religious life, whether they are made vehemently or gently, have room for a measure of rest. But we need to pray till our dying breath. That is the great struggle.

The Desert Fathers: Sayings of the Early Christian Monks

With you in Lent

Rob