



Heartbeats along the way: The Zion-directed Heart

*"Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion."
~ Psalm 84:5*

Psalm 84 is a song about the great joy of worship in the Temple. Its verses express many beautiful thoughts about being in God's presence on earth. I've included it on the back of this note. You've heard the statement, "All roads lead to Rome." In this psalm the verse above expresses a far better destination and declares that all who love the Lord can find their way from wherever they are to the presence of God in the Temple.

We are like this psalmist on a journey to a holy place and we have our own set of directions to arrive at our 'temple,' the Spring Garden Campus. We've been on this pilgrimage since March 4, 2012, and now our destination is just beyond that gentle rise. Not in our eyesight yet, but within our heart-sight. The recent CUMC Building Committee BLOGs, posted on the website, give us some very encouraging news. By mid-September, the Timothy Grass that now covers the ground will be replaced by earthmoving equipment scraping, digging, and re-forming our land to prepare for construction. As the earth is reshaped, all the many legal and financial processes that finalize the building plan, which are moving in parallel, should be completed so that the actual building can begin.

Surely this news calls for offering prayers of rejoicing in our God! Surely, also it calls for prayers of safety and blessing on all engaged.

Prayer. How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts! We are so grateful that You have inspired, strengthened, encouraged, and led us on our journey toward that Holy Place from which we can worship You and serve Your children for the next generations. Let our hearts always find our way to You.

~ cl reynolds

Psalm 84
How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed. For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.