



The Rainbow Connection

Volume 11 ~ Issue 4

April 2015

His Wounds

Jeff Bender, Community Lay Director

In John 20:24-29, we see Thomas continues to doubt the resurrection until he sees and touches the wounds in Jesus' hands and side. Jesus tells him that he believes because he has seen Him, but blessed all those who believe in Him yet have not seen. But, why did God not heal Jesus? Surely, His mere presence and later ascension would be proof enough for even doubting Thomas. The standard answer is to let the Apostles know it is "the" one and only Jesus. However, let me postulate another reason.

The wounds prove Jesus was one of us. As John states in John 1:14 (NIV), "the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." Jesus was wounded and broken, suffering on behalf of us all. His wounds are our wounds. His broken body is our brokenness. Through His blood we are forgiven. His crucifixion and resurrection completes the bridge to God through our recognition that He is "the way, the truth and the life." John 14:5 (NIV)

Those nails driven into Him fasten the planks of that bridge which is between our mortal lives and the Kingdom of God. As we learn in the Talk, The Priesthood of All Believers, we are to stand in the gap with Him. We stand in that gap with our own wounds until we take Jesus' hand and cross that bridge to final victory

De Colores,
Jeff Bender

Moving Day

Jeff Bender, Community Lay Director

As indicated in the last Newsletter, the Board was considering a move for the meetings and gatherings, to The Plains UMC. After some informal polling and hearing from the membership, the Board voted to move the meetings and gatherings to The Plains UMC. The April meeting and gathering, however, will be at the First UMC in New Lexington. The May 31st meeting and gathering, and thereafter,

Upcoming Schedule of Events

Gatherings at **New Lexington:
126 S. High Street
New Lexington, Oh 43764

**All gatherings at 3:00 with
Board meeting at 2:00**

****PLEASE READ ARTICLE
ABOUT NEW LOCATION FOR
GATHERINGS STARTING IN
MAY****

Dates for monthly gatherings:
April 26th
May 31st
June 28th

Men's Spring Walk #58:
April 16-19

Dates for Fall Walks #59:
Women's – September 17-20
Men's – October 22-25

Education Day:
May 16, 2015 @ 9:00am @ Sixth
Avenue UMC in Lancaster, Ohio

**Sponsorship Forms, Applications,
Newsletters and Additional
Information Available at:**
www.southernohioemmaus.com

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Please update your information if it
has changed in the past year. Send to
rbharkless@yahoo.com or
soemmausnewsletter@yahoo.com



will be at The Plains UMC.

We hope this move will make the meetings and gatherings more accessible to more of our members. Also, expect to have Education Day at The Plains UMC in November.

Education Day for May 16th will be at the Sixth Avenue UMC in Lancaster. Remember, Education Day includes Sponsorship training. Hope to see all of our new members, and those who want to renew their service, at the next Education Day.

De Colores,
Jeff Bender

The Ten Lepers

Dawn Tobin, S.O. Emmaus Women's Walk #57, Table of Mary

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well." Luke 17:11-19

Ever since my Emmaus Walk last September 2014, this story from the Gospels has been coming to my mind. Only recently did I pay attention to the repeated "nudges" from God and sit down to read the passage. While I do not know what God wants to say to you through it, I want to share it with you in faith that He *is* speaking. Are you listening?

I also want to encourage you: don't make my mistake and wait 6 months or 6 weeks or 6 hours to do something that God is prompting you to do. I am speaking of things that are obviously good that there's no way the devil would want you to do. Even if you don't understand why God wants you to do something, DO IT ANYWAY!! Once you obey him, God will show you more of his purposes. (Notice that the lepers were only cleansed *as they went and did what they would have done if they were cleansed*— that is, to show themselves to the priest, be pronounced ceremonially clean and restored to the community.)

As for me, I want to be like the leper who was cleansed who came back to Jesus, praising God. God did AMAZING, healing work during the Emmaus Walk I was privileged to experience. A matter that has caused me pain and hindered my relationships with God and others for nearly my whole life was unraveled and restored. PRAISE GOD— WITH A LOUD VOICE!!

I also want to thank each of you, including MANY people I have never met, for being the body of Christ to me in that time. Thank you for being faithful to God and for serving me, each of you in your own way. *I am humbled and grateful.* I received so many unique gifts— spiritual "treasures"— from God during the Walk, that I do not know how to begin talking about them, or thanking you. These experiences have encouraged me daily since that time. I want to reaffirm right now that I am counting on Christ. I want to yield all of my life to his pleasure and disposal. <http://seedbed.com> (a great resource)

De Colores,
Dawn



Satellite Gatherings

Lancaster Area

The Lancaster area holds their monthly gatherings on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm. They meet at the Sixth Avenue United Methodist Church at 1004 West Sixth Avenue, Lancaster, Oh. For more details or information please contact Donna Dickson at 740-687-1791 or ddickson9@columbus.rr.com.

Rio Grande Area

The Rio Grande satellite gatherings have moved to Grace United Methodist Church in Gallipolis at 6:30 on the fourth Thursday of the month. For more details and information please contact Rick Howell via phone 740-446-4624.

Just A Reminder

Barb Harkless, Community Newsletter

As I am doing this Newsletter, I just happen to think of the Prayer Vigil, not knowing for sure if it is full. So, just in case it isn't, please check the website to see if there are any spots left, and if so, which I am hoping at this point there aren't, please take a slot. This is such an important part of the Emmaus Weekend, if not *thee* most important part. We want the pilgrims to have an awesome experience, a journey they will always be grateful for. As we all pray, we are coming together as the Body of Christ and we are able to serve in a mighty way. There is *power* in prayer; and through the Holy Spirit, great and wonderful things will take place at Camp Akita this weekend.

1 John 5:14 says...*This is the confidence we have in approaching God, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*

Colossians 4:2 says...*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.*

For our Emmaus Community, God's Word tells us in Acts 1:14 that "*They all joined together constantly in prayer.....*", so you see, we have such a great privilege and we should take advantage of being able to do something so free and awesome, even though we may not physically be together, we are together in mind and spirit. There is no greater treasure than to be able to freely pray for each other, our brothers and sisters in Christ, which includes the pilgrims of Walk #58 this weekend. Remember, the 'backbone' to Emmaus is *PRAYER!*

It's not a matter of why, when, who or where; but, no matter what, always begin with prayer!!

DeColores,
Barb



2015 Southern Ohio Emmaus Board of Directors

This is the current contact list of our Board of Directors. Keep this list so you can contact the board with questions concerns, and ideas. Please keep the board in your prayers as they serve the Lord and our community.

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|--|---|---|
| <p><u>Spiritual Director</u> Ricci Arthur 395 Mae St Logan, Oh 43138 740-385-4127 pastorric@aol.com</p> | <p><u>Newsletter</u> Barb Harkless (2015) PO Box 52 Haydenville, Oh 43127 740-385-4359 rbharkless@yahoo.com</p> | <p>Note: Each board member's name is followed by the year their term ends Updated: January 1, 2015</p> |
| <p><u>Asst. Spiritual Director</u> Karen Crawford 60 Pomeroy Rd. Athens, Oh 45701 740-593-8541 pastorkaren@richlandumc.org</p> | <p><u>Agape</u> Suzette Shuster (2017) 622 Eastern Avenue New Lexington, Oh 43764 740-621-6754 suznlf@gmail.com</p> | <p><u>Logistics</u> Steve Rinehart (2016) 33324 Knox Rd. Logan, Oh 43138 740-380-6850 ritapeanutrinehart@yahoo.com</p> |
| <p><u>Board Chairperson</u> Jeff Bender (2015) 4500 Coonpath Rd. NE Lancaster, Oh 43130 740-215-1791 bendej1@gmail.com</p> | <p><u>Outreach</u> Chuck Shuster (2017) 622 Eastern Avenue New Lexington, Oh 43764 740-621-6753 cshusternlpd@gmail.com</p> | <p><u>Social</u> Sarah Zinn (2017) 512 Madison Avenue McArthur, Oh 45651 740-596-3263 zinns01@gmail.com</p> |
| <p><u>Vice Chairperson</u> Penny Canter 505 N Pleasant Street New Lexington, Oh 43764 740-605-1835 pennycanter@hotmail.com</p> | <p><u>Women's Registrar</u> Kim Russell-Reed (2015) 12804 Twp. Rd. 1001, NE, Crooksville, Oh 43731 740-808-7081 k12russell@yahoo.com</p> | <p><u>Supplies</u> Jeff Cupp (2016) 200 Norwood Avenue, Apt. A3 Logan, Oh 43138 740-603-2081 jeff-cupp@hotmail.com</p> |
| <p><u>Treasurer</u> Alice Money Penny (2016) 1450 Ginder Rd. NW Lancaster, Oh 43130 740-756-9148 buckeyept@columbus.rr.com</p> | <p><u>Men's Registrar</u> Rita Rinehart (2016) 33324 Knox Rd. Logan, Oh 43138 740-380-6850 ritapeanutrinehart@yahoo.com</p> | <p><u>Worship</u> Emma Hockenbery (2015) 7280 Gregg Rd. West Jefferson, Oh 43162 614-843-1919 emma19marie@yahoo.com</p> |
| <p><u>Secretary</u> Debbie Brookins (2016) 44 Columbia Road Albany, Oh 45710 740-698-6818 brookins.debbie@yahoo.com</p> | <p><u>Sponsorship</u> Bill Butterworth (2017) 525 SR 143 Albany, Oh 45710 740-856-0771 butterworthw@yahoo.com</p> | <p><u>Music</u> Tom West (2015) 9727 Old Rushville Rd., Rushville, Oh 43150 740-569-7342 jatbwest@yahoo.com</p> |
| <p><u>Good Shepherd</u> April Butterworth (2017) 525 SR 143 Albany, Oh 45710 740-856-0772 aprilbutterworth@yahoo.com</p> | <p><u>Literature</u> Lena Bruno (2016) P.O. Box 87 Haydenville, Oh 43127 740-974-2612 lena_bruno@yahoo.com</p> | <p><i>Being the hands and feet for Jesus Christ as we serve!</i></p> |

Southern Ohio Emmaus

c/o Barb Harkless
P.O. Box 52
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED