



# The Rainbow Connection

Volume 11 ~ Issue 12

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## Happy Birthday

*Jeff Bender, Community Lay Director*

My wife and I love movies. We watch certain movies through the year. At Easter we watch *The Passion of Christ* and *The Greatest Story Ever Told*. During the Summer we usually make sure we watch *Elmer Gantry*, which was a favorite of Billy Graham. And during Christmas there is *The Grinch*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *It's a Wonderful Life*. But, our favorite is *The Bishop's Wife*.

*The Bishop's Wife* (the 1947 version) is a story about a newly minted bishop (David Niven) who is trying to raise funds for a new cathedral during the Christmas season. His schedule is so busy he has little time for his old friends, his old parish, and his family. After a stressful meeting he prays, and an angel (Cary Grant) appears who he adopts as his assistant. The angel doesn't assist the bishop as he expects, and the angel even becomes jealous of the bishop. I will not give away the whole story, but the sermon below started a tradition in our household.

*Tonight I want to tell you the story of an empty stocking.  
Once upon a midnight clear, there was a child's cry, a  
blazing star hung over a stable, and wise men came with  
birthday gifts.*

*We haven't forgotten that night down the centuries. We  
celebrate it with stars on Christmas trees, with the sound of  
bells, and with gifts.*

*But especially with gifts. You give me a book, I give you a  
tie. Aunt Martha has always wanted an orange squeezer  
and Uncle Henry can do with a new pipe.*

### Upcoming Schedule of Events

#### Gatherings at The Plains United Methodist Church:

3 North Plains Road  
The Plains, Ohio 45780  
(740) 797-4163

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

#### Dates for monthly gatherings:

January 31<sup>st</sup>  
February 28<sup>th</sup>  
March 27<sup>th</sup>  
April 24<sup>th</sup>

#### Sustaining The Spirit Seminar

\*January 23<sup>rd</sup> @ Sixth Avenue  
Church in Lancaster, 9am-12 pm

#### New Board Member Meeting

\*January 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 1:00 at Sixth  
Avenue UMC in Lancaster

(\*\*Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> will be a snow date)

#### Dates for Spring Walks #60:

Women's Walk – March 17 – 20  
Lay Director, Lena Bruno

Men's Walk – April 14 - 17  
Lay Director, Steve Rinehart

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Sponsorship Forms, Applications,  
Newsletters and Additional  
Information Available at:  
[www.southernohioemmaus.com](http://www.southernohioemmaus.com)



*For we forget nobody, adult or child. All the stockings are filled, all that is, except one. And we have even forgotten to hang it up. The stocking for the child born in a manger. It's His birthday we are celebrating. Don't let us ever forget that.*

*Let us ask ourselves what He would wish for most. And then, let each put in His share, loving kindness, warm hearts, and a stretched out hand of tolerance. All the shining gifts that make peace on earth.*

Each Christmas we hang a stocking for Jesus and explain its meaning to our children, and now the grandchildren. Happy Birthday Jesus and God Bless us all, everyone.

DeColores  
Jeff Bender

## **Blessings**

*Barb Harkless, Community Newsletter*

As we approach Christmas day, we all, even as adults, get those exciting feelings...those feelings of joy! As children we experienced that joy because of what we saw under the tree when we got out of bed wee hours of the morning; just like our children did, and now our grandchildren do today. However, I experience that joy now by not what lies under the tree, but what lay in a manger many years ago. I'm sure if we were all to agree on one thing, it would be that the Babe in a manger was truly one of our greatest blessings of all times.

From childhood to this very day, I have had numerous blessings; some very memorable, others I vaguely remember, and yet there are some I can't even recollect. My faults and failures I count as blessings as well; otherwise, I wouldn't have grown to be the person I am today. I am not perfect...I still have faults and fail from time to time, but God still continues to love me and bless me each and every day.

My life experience through Emmaus has been a blessing, even during the trials and errors of serving as the Community Newsletter Chair. It has been a great two years though, and I have got to admit, I think I'm going to miss serving as your Emmaus Newsletter Chair. Honestly, it was very stressful at times; but, it was also a wonderful growing and learning experience. I was on the Emmaus Women's Walk #21, and since then, I have served Agape/Logistics, AMD, MD, ATL, TL, ALD, LD, Board Member, and, in the Spring on Walk #60, I get to serve as Board Rep. That gives me, again, that feeling of joy! My sweet sister, Lena, being the Lay



Director, gave me the opportunity to be the Board Rep on this Walk with her. What a blessing!! I hope to be part of the Emmaus Community as an active member for many years to come. It is such a blessing to be part of this wonderful family of God.

As we all take the time to reflect on our past, including the bad with the good, we can be thankful, I'm sure, of the blessings we have gained over the years. But let us remember this Christmas season the greatest blessing of all, that babe born in a stable. Then 33 years later that blessing became greater, 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son . . .' Yes, the greatest blessing of all, God's only Son. He was the babe in a manger; then He was the sacrifice on a cross. Now He's our Savior, Prince of Peace, Emmanuel. Joy to the world!! Such joy! Such a blessing!

Thank you Emmaus family and community for all your support, encouragement and agape love that you have shown me the past two years as your Newsletter Chair. Believe me when I say "it truly was a blessing being able to serve." I pray that you all will be as blessed as you choose to, or continue to, serve in this family and community called Emmaus. I also pray that you all have a very Merry CHRISTmas and a safe and Happy New Year. God bless you all!!

De Colores,  
Barb

## Satellite Gatherings

### Lancaster Area

The Lancaster area holds their monthly gatherings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:ddickson9@columbus.rr.com).

### Rio Grande Area

The Rio Grande satellite gatherings meet at the 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.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
to our Emmaus Community and Families!*



## 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.*

<p><b><u>Spiritual Director</u></b> Ricci Arthur 395 Mae St Logan, Oh 43138 740-385-4127 pastorric@aol.com</p>	<p><b><u>Newsletter</u></b> Barb Harkless (2015) PO Box 52 Haydenville, Oh 43127 740-385-4359 <a href="mailto:rbharkless@yahoo.com">rbharkless@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p>Note: Each board member's name is followed by the year their term ends</p> <p><b>Updated: January 1, 2015</b></p>
<p><b><u>Asst. Spiritual Director</u></b> Karen Crawford 60 Pomeroy Rd. Athens, Oh 45701 740-593-8541 <a href="mailto:pastorkaren@richlandumc.org">pastorkaren@richlandumc.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>Agape</u></b> Suzette Shuster (2017) 622 Eastern Avenue New Lexington, Oh 43764 740-621-6754 <a href="mailto:suznlf@gmail.com">suznlf@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Logistics</u></b> Steve Rinehart (2016) 33324 Knox Rd. Logan, Oh 43138 740-380-6850 <a href="mailto:ritapeanutrinehart@yahoo.com">ritapeanutrinehart@yahoo.com</a></p>
<p><b><u>Board Chairperson</u></b> Jeff Bender (2015) 4500 Coonpath Rd. NE Lancaster, Oh 43130 740-215-1791 <a href="mailto:bendej1@gmail.com">bendej1@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Outreach</u></b> Chuck Shuster (2017) 622 Eastern Avenue New Lexington, Oh 43764 740-621-6753 <a href="mailto:cshusternlpd@gmail.com">cshusternlpd@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Social</u></b> Sarah Zinn (2017) 512 Madison Avenue McArthur, Oh 45651 740-596-3263 <a href="mailto:zinns01@gmail.com">zinns01@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b><u>Vice Chairperson</u></b> Heather Pullins (2016) 142 S Center St. West Jefferson, Oh 43162 614-307-4227 <a href="mailto:hpullins@columbus.rr.com">hpullins@columbus.rr.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Women's Registrar</u></b> Kim Russell-Reed (2015) 12804 Twp. Rd. 1001, NE, Crooksville, Oh 43731 740-808-7081 <a href="mailto:k12russell@yahoo.com">k12russell@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Supplies</u></b> Jeff Cupp (2016) ___ Culver Street. Logan, Oh 43138 740-603-2081 <a href="mailto:jeff-cupp@hotmail.com">jeff-cupp@hotmail.com</a></p>
<p><b><u>Treasurer</u></b> Alice Money Penny (2016) 1450 Ginder Rd. NW Lancaster, Oh 43130 740-756-9148 <a href="mailto:buckeyept@columbus.rr.com">buckeyept@columbus.rr.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Men's Registrar</u></b> Rita Rinehart (2016) 33324 Knox Rd. Logan, Oh 43138 740-380-6850 <a href="mailto:ritapeanutrinehart@yahoo.com">ritapeanutrinehart@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Worship</u></b> Emma Hockenbery (2015) 7280 Gregg Rd. West Jefferson, Oh 43162 614-843-1919 <a href="mailto:emma19marie@yahoo.com">emma19marie@yahoo.com</a></p>
<p><b><u>Secretary</u></b> Debbie Brookins (2016) 44 Columbia Road Albany, Oh 45710 740-698-6818 <a href="mailto:brookins.debbie@yahoo.com">brookins.debbie@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Sponsorship</u></b> Bill Butterworth (2017) 525 SR 143 Albany, Oh 45710 740-856-0771 <a href="mailto:butterworthw@yahoo.com">butterworthw@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Music</u></b> Tom West (2015) 9727 Old Rushville Rd., Rushville, Oh 43150 740-569-7342 <a href="mailto:jatbwest@yahoo.com">jatbwest@yahoo.com</a></p>
<p><b><u>Good Shepherd</u></b> April Butterworth (2017) 525 SR 143 Albany, Oh 45710 740-856-0772 <a href="mailto:aprilbutterworth@yahoo.com">aprilbutterworth@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Literature</u></b> Lena Bruno (2016) P.O. Box 87 Haydenville, Oh 43127 740-974-2612 <a href="mailto:lena_bruno@yahoo.com">lena_bruno@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p>Being the hands and feet for  Jesus Christ as we serve!</p>

**Southern Ohio Emmaus**

c/o Barb Harkless  
P.O. Box 52  
Haydenville, Ohio 43127

*RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED*