



The Rainbow Connection

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Prodigal Son or Dutiful Son?

Jeff Bender, Community Lay Director

The story is cited many times during an Emmaus Walk. A young man requests his inheritance from his father who gives it to him. He spends it on wine, women, and song and is left with nothing. He hits rock bottom as he sleeps with the pigs, “not what a good Jewish boy should be doing” according to Pastor Ricci Arthur. He decides to return home, expecting his father to at best give him some menial position. Instead, his father welcomes him with open arms and throws a party at his return. The dutiful son is seriously unimpressed, but his father reminds him that the same was always available to him, he only needed to ask.

A year ago my father passed. He was far from being the dutiful son. According to his classmates, he was a wine, women, and song kind of guy. So much so, he flunked-out of college in his first year. My grandfather took him back in and he helped him turn homes for a few bucks until he landed a job with a major manufacturer. My father worked for that company for 32 years. He went back to college and earned a degree while working to support 5 kids; one boy, me, and four girls.

Unlike my father, I was the dutiful son. Good grades, athletics, class president, and as constant as a clock. Unlike my sisters, my father could find me in my room or by just making 2 or less phone calls. When my girlfriend, and wife of over 35 years, became pregnant, my father just said one thing and had one question: what do you need and when is the wedding? My folks and in-laws helped us. But, there was no doubt what I would do. I worked and went to college, both undergrad and grad school. When I was young my grandfather and paternal uncle were judges. I have been a lawyer for 30 years and a Magistrate for 10 years, exactly what everybody at my last class reunion expected.

Regardless of your story, just like with my dad, and his dad, God is always willing to accept you as you are and make things work-out. *Romans 8:28(NIV)* tells us, “and we know in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” If you are wondering, then go back home, return to your Holy Father and find your purpose.

DeColores
Jeff Bender, Board Chair

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:
November 1st
December 6th (Christmas Party)

*****Education Day*****
November 14th @ The Plains
UM Church at 9 am

Dates for Fall Walks #59:

Men's – October 22-25
Jeff Bender, LD

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

Prayer Vigil sign-up on Emmaus
Website for Men's Fall Walk #59



New Members

Jeff Bender, Community Lay Director

When I was at the end of my Walk, what the Community Lay Director said is a blur. In fact, I do not even remember who the Community Lay Director was that spoke at Closing. So, hopefully, I was able to communicate one main thing to you, *Read* the Newsletter!

Let me again welcome you to the Southern Ohio Emmaus Community. As a member you can now attend all the events of the Community (i.e. summer picnic and monthly gatherings) and weekend events of each Walk. It is highly recommended that you attend the next Education Day on November 14th, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. which is currently scheduled at The Plains United Methodist Church where the monthly gatherings are held. No RSVP is required, just show up. At Education Day you will get a top-down outline of the Team, Agape, and Logistics responsibilities when working a Walk. Also, you will get a quick description of the Board positions and how a Walk is put together. Finally, you are now eligible to sponsor a pilgrim for future Walks. We ask that you not sponsor anyone, without an experienced co-sponsor, until receiving training on Sponsorship at Education Day. If you cannot make the next Education Day, there are other Education Days held twice per year in the month following the Men's Walk.

As is stated during the Walk and at Closing, your first responsibility is to your individual church and family. Also, it is important that you take time to stay in touch with others of the Community through Gatherings (both Community and Local) and Share Groups. However, if you have the time and energy, we would love for you to work on the Walks. Before becoming a team member in the Conference Room we require that your Walk have taken place one year prior, and as aforementioned, attend Education Day. You may work Agape or Logistics at the next Walk. If you are thinking of working in the Conference Room, it is highly recommended to stay a weekend doing Agape or Logistics in order to see what goes on during a weekend first. I found it very helpful, both as a new Assistant Table Leader and soon as a Lay Director. Keep reading the monthly Newsletter for more information.

De Colores,
Jeff Bender, Board Chair

Sponsorship

Jeff Bender, Community Lay Director

The days are growing shorter signaling the start of Fall and our Fall Walks. It is time to focus our energies and our prayers on the pilgrims and the teams. Also, those sponsoring pilgrims after much prayer need to get ready to fulfill the responsibilities of a sponsor. If you attend a closing, you will hear the Lay Director talk about how Sponsorship is the back bone of the Walk. My wifew and I are sponsoring a young man that I know at work, and have found it to be a blessing along with a great responsibility.

We had the young man and his family over for dinner on a Sunday evening a couple weeks ago. We did this so my wife, who will be watching over his family, could meet his wife and children since the young man, along with myself, will be on the Walk. They hit it off so well, his children were asking him when they could come back. This was a great blessing to us. Also, however, that means a relationship has been formed that is for a lifetime.



You will be the first contact on Thursday with your pilgrim. You will bring in their bedding and luggage, and making their bed. You will provide them with their first meal of the weekend and their last. You will pray over their cross, and during the weekend pray for your pilgrim and the others through the weekend. You will be there on Saturday night to give them a big hug and smile. On Sunday you will either get the blame or blessing as your pilgrim gives their first Fourth Day talk. You will share communion with your pilgrim. You will take your pilgrim home. And you will bring your pilgrim to his/her first gathering on the following Sunday at The Plains UMC. For the rest of your pilgrim's life, and into eternity, you will always be your pilgrim's sponsor.

In the Justifying Grace talk we find out from Luke 15:7 (NIV), "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." We are joyous in sponsorship as with each conversion or renewal there is "a party in heaven." Let the party begin.

De Colores,
Jeff Bender, Board Chair

Pray For Pilgrims and Team

Barb Harkless, Community Newsletter

It has been brought up in the past that Community members would like to be praying for the pilgrims and for the Team as the Walk approaches and if possible for the list of names be put in the Newsletter; so, trying to honor that request, and yet at the same time respecting the privacy of the pilgrims, here are the first names and first initial of their last name (pilgrims), and first and last names of the Team. I hope this is helpful to everyone for their prayer time and for agape. The list is subject to change as we know some pilgrims come in late and situations can arise for Team members as well, being someone may have to be replaced. This is why prayer is important, but also realizing that each individual and each Walk is part of God's plan, not ours. God's grace is sufficient and His blessings enormous if we continue to put our faith and trust in Him. The list for Team and Pilgrims are as follows:

- ✚ **Team...***Lay Director*, Jeff Bender; *Spiritual Directors*, Steve Krumm and Doug Flinn; *Board Rep.*, Floyd Tacket; *Asst. Lay Directors*, Nate Wince, J.B. King, Bob Hockenbery; *Music Directors*, Jeff Weaver and Ron Harkless; *Table Leaders*, Dennis Childress, Bill Butterworth, Jeff Cupp, Chuck Shuster, Ron Ramey, Richard Boucher; *Asst. T.L.*, Adam Danielson, Shawn Maynard, Dwayne Hawk, Steve Rinehart, Glen Goins, Gary Mummey; *Agape*, Lou Childress, Abby Dickerson, Jo Young; *Logistics*, Rita Rinehart, Melissa Collinsworth, Brian Mecum.
- ✚ **Pilgrims...**Frank Anderson, Doug Durant, Dave Goslin, Dan Kemp, Doug Ramey, Larry Pinstock, Clarence Wright, Jeff Whaley, Rick Shepperd, Gary Jensen, Bob Harner, Stan McFarland, Ben Archibald, Eli Burchfield, Jason Babbert-Messer, Tony Mills, Mark Reed, Isaac Heiss, Brian Miller, Mike Quail, Rob Mitchell, Bob Jones, Zach Burchell, Steve Webb, Casey Moss, Chad Snyder.

A total of 26 pilgrims... PTL ☺



Quiet Comfort

I have calmed and quieted myself, I am like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content. *Psalm 131:2*

So many psalms are about battles, doubts, and trouble, or about thanks, joy, and praise to God in worship. But this psalm is different, much quieter.

Instead of portraying a king celebrating a victory or a priest leading worship in the temple, this psalm pictures a young child consoled and comforted by its mother. Think of a child who fell and skinned a knee and now, having been soothed and comforted, is able to fall asleep in its mother's arms. In a way like that child, the psalmist is humble and at peace, not haughty or concerned with great matters, able to rest and trust in God's comforting care.

God's promises and care are indeed what calm and quiet our souls, like a toddler safe in the comfort of its mother's embrace. The promise here is that when I fall down and get hurt, or even cry out my frustration in a tantrum, God will be there to pick me up and say, "There, there; it's alright." I experience that quiet comfort when I read this psalm and picture myself in the lap of my God, soothed, comforted, and at peace like a little child.

I experience that quiet comfort when I read Jesus' words: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27).

In what ways does God comfort you?

Lord, calm our thoughts and quiet our souls. Jesus, help us to rest and be at peace with you. Amen.

Charles Stanley

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.



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><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</p> <p>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 suznlfd@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> Heather Pullins (2016) 142 S Center St. West Jefferson, Oh 43162 614-307-4227 hpullins@columbus.rr.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) ___ Culver Street. Logan, Oh 43138 740-603-2081 jeff-cupp@hotmail.com</p>
<p><u>Treasurer</u> Alice Moneypenny (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>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