

# Ashland Area Emmaus Community Newsletter

## **Good New Year to the Ashland Area Community**

*By Community Lay Director Fred Herr*

### **Colossians 1:3-23 The Message**

<sup>3-5</sup> Our prayers for you are always spilling over into thanksgivings. We can't quit thanking God our Father and Jesus our Messiah for you! We keep getting reports on your steady faith in Christ, our Jesus, and the love you continuously extend to all Christians. The lines of purpose in your lives never grow slack, tightly tied as they are to your future in heaven, kept taut by hope.

<sup>5-8</sup> The Message is as true among you today as when you first heard it. It doesn't diminish or weaken over time. It's the same all over the world. The Message bears fruit and gets larger and stronger, just as it has in you. From the very first day you heard and recognized the truth of what God is doing, you've been hungry for more. It's as vigorous in you now as when you learned it from our friend and close associate Epaphras. He is one reliable worker for Christ! I could always depend on him. He's the one who told us how thoroughly love had been worked into your lives by the Spirit.

<sup>9-12</sup> Be assured that from the first day we heard of you, we haven't stopped praying for you, asking God to give you wise minds and spirits attuned to his will, and so acquire a thorough understanding of the ways in which God works. We pray that you'll live well for the Master, making him proud of you as you work hard in his orchard. As you learn more and more how God works, you will learn how to do *your* work. We pray that you'll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul—not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy, thanking the Father who makes us strong enough to take part in everything bright and beautiful that he has for us.

<sup>13-14</sup> God rescued us from dead-end alleys and dark dungeons. He's set us up in the kingdom of the Son he loves so much, the Son who got us out of the pit we were in, got rid of the sins we were doomed to keep repeating.

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*Next Gathering is  
Friday, January 20th  
at 6:30pm  
South Ashland United  
Methodist Church  
Desserts to follow  
service.*

**Fourth Day Speaker**

is

**Junior Fitzpatrick**

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**Special Music**

**Lisa Trumbore**

**In the event of inclement weather, if the Ashland Independent School System is closed, then the Gathering will be cancelled.**

*As the incoming Community Lay Director I wish to personally thank Brian Poling for leading the AAEC and Board for the past year, we were blessed. Brian will be staying on the Board as the Past CLD and as an adviser and mentor. I also wish to thank the outgoing Board members of; Pam Berry Past CLD, Keith Moul, Ronnie Woodall, Chuck Conley and Jennifer Potter, for their hard work, dedication, faithfulness and to listening to God's guidance for the Community. You all have been a blessing to the Board and Community. God's blessing to all.*

*Also,*

*I would like to welcome newest members to the AAEC Board. Billie Evanich, Brian Daniel, Jeff Green, Anita Martin and Rev. Deacon Alan Williams. Thank you for your servanthood for God and to the AAEC.*

*Fred Herr, CLD 2017*

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### **Christ Holds It All Together**

<sup>15-18</sup> We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—*everything* got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body.

<sup>18-20</sup> He was supreme in the beginning and—leading the resurrection parade—he is supreme in the end. From beginning to end he's there, towering far above everything, everyone. So spacious is he, so roomy, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross.

<sup>21-23</sup> You yourselves are a case study of what he does. At one time, you all had your backs turned to God, thinking rebellious thoughts of him, giving him trouble every chance you got. But now, by giving himself completely at the Cross, actually *dying* for you, Christ brought you over to God's side and put your lives together, whole and holy in his presence. You don't walk away from a gift like that! You stay grounded and steady in that bond of trust, constantly tuned in to the Message,

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careful not to be distracted or diverted. There is no other Message—just this one. Every creature under heaven gets this same Message. I, Paul, am a messenger of this Message.

This passage from Colossians is long but one that I feel is appropriate for the beginning of a new year. As I read it I began to see a parallel to the Walk to Emmaus weekend and our Community. As a Community, we begin praying for the weekends long before we know who will be serving on the team or even the Pilgrims that would be attending. As a Community, we pray for all those in the Community as they continue their Fourth Days Walk.

During the weekend Walks, the Pilgrims begin to see the Love and Grace that God has wrapped around each one, and the Agape Love of others. In our Community, we see how God has used each one of us for his Kingdom. To grow our church communities, to make us disciples to all we encounter, to be the hands and feet of Christ for all, through Christian Action.

As we walk with Christ we continue to be changed to a life in concert with him. So during the New Year let Christ be the glue holding us together and our guide. Christ is the greatest gift we have ever received, let us never turn from that Gift.

DeColores,

Fred Herr, CLD

Let's pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

To sign up for the prayer vigil, click below.

Men's Walk. <http://www.3dayol.org/Vigil/GetVigil.phtml?pvid=12864&commid=633>

Women's Walk. <http://www.3dayol.org/Vigil/GetVigil.phtml?pvid=12865&commid=633>

Christ is counting on us!

### Spring Walk's

Men's Walk #38 March 16-19

Women's Walk #45 Mar 30 – Apr 2

### Fall Walk's

Men's Walk #39 Oct 5 – 8

Women's Walk #46 Oct 19 – 22

