

LETTER FROM OUR COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

"First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:1-4

During this election year, our senses are overwhelmed by the deluge of ad campaigns on television, radio, newspaper and let us not forget the barrage of signage that peppers our communities. While the democratic process is a hallmark of our country, the primarily negative nature of the recent years can be quite disillusioning even to the most diligent among us.

The person in my life who had the most influence in my attitude and participation in the voting procedure was my high school political science and US history teacher, Mrs. Simmerman. I remember her exhortation that if you do not participate then its your loss. "If you don't vote, you don't have a right to complain!" That was 33 years ago and it still comes to mind when I get discouraged to go to the polls.

The scripture in 1 Timothy 2 gives specific instructions to petition, pray, intercede and give thanks for "kings and all those who are in authority". While we do not have kings, we certainly have leaders in our nation, states and communities. As Christians, followers of Jesus, we have a responsibility to be obedient to the word whether we agree with those leaders or not. The truth is, we may not believe these people are worthy, that they are anything but faithful, however, the only one who can make a change in them or make good out of a seemingly hopeless situation is God.

So let's join together as a community of believers in agreement:

To pray for the success of our leaders for the good of the people.

To pray for unity among our Emmaus community and the Church as a whole.

To pray and agree that political stance not be a reason for discord in our ranks, ever.

Come, Emmaus family, and let us join together and be a voice for unity, and be an example to live a "tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity" so we can lead others to "come to the knowledge of the truth". To know God's agape love and amazing grace!

See you at the gathering Friday, May 18th at 6:30pm!

Blessings,

Sandy

Welcome New Pilgrims

Women's Walk 47

**Kelly Holbrook
Renee Waddell
Jessica Roe
Gail Harbour
Kathy Distel
Stephanie Wright
Brianna Mullen
Eva Wolery
Laura Cooper
Amber Brown
Brittany Almon
Lauren McCoy
Cheryl Halstead
Mikki Larch
Rebecca Wood**

Men's Walk 39

**Mike Martin
Dave Worthington
Jeremy Hamm
Carl Gleichauf
Phil Wilks
Ryan Radabaugh
Dave Wood
Jeff Williams
Tony Hamilton**

New Gathering Format begins in May

We are going to try a new program for the Community Gatherings beginning with the May gathering. We will still have our potluck meal to encourage fellowship time as we break bread together. However, we will begin having the worship service in the Fellowship Hall instead of moving to the Sanctuary. SAUMC holds their contemporary service in the Fellowship Hall so it is equipped for use. Our hope is that we can make a better use of our time together and be respectful of those who have longer drives.

We hope you join us as we begin this new program schedule!

**Friday, May 18th -Potluck Dinner/Dessert 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall
Worship to begin approx 7:00pm also in the Fellowship Hall**

Letter from Cindy Poling

It is my pleasure to share about our AAEEWW #47. Being the Lay Director during this past weekend has been such an honor in my life. I have honestly loved planning and praying and putting the team together. I loved meeting with them in small groups and during team meetings. It just brought so much joy to my life. I chose women of the Bible for table names, then placing my table's leaders at the table they most resembled in their Godly walk. As I watched them interact and give their talks my heart felt like it was glowing because GOD had done such a marvelous job.

We had 15 awesome women pilgrims to lead and work with. They were so eager to cooperate and learn and supported each other like I have never seen before. I began feeling those connections from the very beginning. They felt comfortable to laugh along with me about my mistakes and they bonded very quickly with their fellow table members.

Time away with God is sometimes hard to put into words. We all felt like God had put us all together and we began to feel His presence as the weekend unfolded. We were "ALL IN" this weekend and of course there were some tears, but they didn't all come from deep emotional blessings, some came from laughter that was uncontrollable at times. Remember laughter is sometimes the best medicine!

We just felt overwhelmed by the love our community members poured out on us there was many volunteer hours that made this weekend possible. When had some very "colorful" presentations by our ASD's as well as we were touch deeply when Rev Lisa Shinn shared each day what the day would unfold for us. Day one was we were God's BELOVED Daughters. Day two we are FORGIVEN & FREE, and day three we are ENPOWERED!

We are changed indeed; we will no longer be slaves to fear, because we have learned he is a Liar. We all left this weekend understanding and believing we are mighty warriors for God.

Thanks to all who served to make this possible.

DECOLORES

Cindy Poling

Hello Ashland Area Emmaus Community,

Being the Lay Director of Men's Walk #39, I was very apprehensive. So many things to do that are geared to make this a spiritually moving experience for the pilgrims. Little did I realize that God had his own plans. I was able to witness His presence in everything during the 72 hours. The pilgrims, Carl, Jeremy, Tony, Mike, David, Dave, Ryan, Phillip, and Jeff experienced the love of Jesus Christ firsthand. You as a community blessed all of us in the conference room so much that we will never be able to thank you for all that you did. Your love was felt by all.

DeColores,

Marc

Ashland Area Emmaus Men's Walk #39

Table of Servants

**May Gathering, Friday the 18th at 6:30 pm
South Ashland United Methodist Church**

**Music provided by
The Artrip Family gospel group**

**Special music
Christy Artrip Bellomy and Brian Poling**

**4th Day speaker
Donna Herndon**