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*"Neither
do I
condemn
thee."*

**QUICK
MESSAGE**

**JUNE WOMEN'S
WALK STILL
NEEDS
PILGRIMS**

**FIND OUT THE
JOY OF
SPONSORSHIP!**

Jazz from Jim

A hhhh finally, the passing of another winter! The grass is already greening up nicely. Mild temperatures are persuading flowers to bloom. I've already spotted a lone dandelion right in the middle of our front yard, in full bloom, proudly celebrating the arrival of Spring! I'm quite sure he's soon to be joined by his unwelcomed offspring who in a matter of days will carpet our entire lawn. Oh well, we have to take the bad with the good. Life here in this fallen world is like that, we take the bad with the good. Nothing and no one is perfect.

By the time you read this, we will either be wrapping up the season of Lent, or it will have already passed. Lent is very beneficial to us as Christians. It's a time of soul searching and repentance. At least once a year, it's a good idea to take a good honest look inside ourselves and see if any house cleaning needs to be done. I think it's healthy for us to occasionally feel a sense of remorse for our sins. It promotes humility and reminds us of our need for a Savior. We live in a fallen world and not one of us is

perfect. The scribes and Pharisees came across a woman who wasn't perfect. She was caught in adultery. They seized the opportunity to put Jesus to the test. They brought her to Him to pronounce judgment upon her. It doesn't appear they were nearly as concerned about punishing the woman as they were tempting Jesus to make the wrong call. Jesus silently wrote on the ground and later replied, "*He that is without sin among*



you, let him cast the first stone at her." After a period of time, Jesus looked around and the accusers were gone. He asked the woman, "*Hath no man condemned thee?*" She said, "*No man, Lord.*" Jesus replied, "*Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.*"

It's interesting to note, the only person in the crowd that day who was worthy to "*cast the first stone*", chose

not to. He was the only one who was without sin, yet he chose not to condemn the guilty. His love and mercy prevailed. Those same words He spoke that day still ring true for us, "*Neither do I condemn thee ...*" No one is perfect, we all sin. Even as Christians, we often fall down. We may not have been caught in the act and thrown before the judge and jury but none the less, we would never qualify to cast the first stone.

Thank God for His unending grace and mercy. The longer I'm a Christian, the more I've come to appreciate and treasure God's grace in my life. God's grace is a center piece of the Emmaus movement. It's so important that each of us fully realize His grace has saved us from condemnation. As you wrap up the season of Lent and celebrate Easter, take time to thank God for His grace and expression of love to you ... "*Neither do I condemn thee ...*"

De Colores,

Jim

Musings from Maurice

"I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in, and eat with him, and he with me."

As Christians we believe that Christ is much more than just a great teacher and philosopher. He is first and foremost a Savior who conquered sin and death and rose again to share that victory with us. Unlike other religions, Christianity is not based on the teachings of its founder, but on Christ Himself. There is no mourning at His tomb, only rejoicing that it is empty. His resurrection is the grounds of our faith, our fellowship and our future.

The life of Jesus Christ divides the time line of history into BC (before

Christ) and AD (Anno Domini – Latin for "in the year of our Lord"). His death on a cross, followed by His resurrection, is the most important event of all time. At Easter, we celebrate the fact that His tomb is empty and that He is our risen Lord whose life-giving Spirit forever dwells among us.

Through faith in the resurrected Christ, we are given the promise of life eternal, which begins the moment we accept Him into our lives and continues forever. It is by His Holy Spirit we are drawn to humble repentance, and faith in

Jesus Christ. From that moment on, we have the assurance of a future as everlasting as Christ Himself.

In this new life, we are to enjoy fellowship and intimacy with Christ. "I stand at the door and knock," He said. "If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in, and eat with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20). A more astounding invitation we cannot have for with this one comes a fullness of life on earth and an everlasting life in heaven with our Lord.

Pastor Maurice Mitchell

MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS

MONTH	SPECIAL MUSIC	PIANO	SONG LEADER
APRIL	Adell Shoe	Susan Thompson	Denise Gregory
MAY	Darrin Tissandier	John Glaze	Cindy Bloom
JUNE	Cindy Bloom	John Glaze	Peggy Larkin
JULY	Christy Mitchell	Jennie Harner	Christy Mitchell
AUGUST	Peggy Larkin	open	open

Planning ahead! Do you have musical talent you would be willing to share with the Emmaus Community? As you can see, the months are filling up. We typically have two music specials at a Gathering and need a song leader and an accompanist. Although "piano" is listed, we can have guitar accompaniment...or any other instrument able to lead group singing. Keep in mind that the December Gathering is ALL MUSIC!

To volunteer for a monthly Gathering or for the December Christmas Gathering, contact JENNIE HARNER at 937-987-2518 or harnersewing@yahoo.com.

Did you or someone you know attend your walk in another community? Please send your contact information to RANDY RILEY to put in the Wilmington Emmaus Community data base!

crriley@cinci.rr.com

What is Anonymous Servanthood?

Below is an article from the Summer 2002 issue of the UPPER ROOM WALK TO EMMAUS NEWSLETTER:

Anonymous servanthood is what Christ is referring to in Matthew 23:31-46 (see also Matt. 23:1-5 and John 3:30). The concept of anonymous servanthood is contained in Paul's letter to the church at Corinth (1 Corinthians 12:12-31). The Bible clearly affirms the importance of loving service.

Emmaus puts much emphasis on anonymous servanthood. Those who serve behind the scenes to support those in the conference room demonstrate this on the weekend. The many anonymous acts of love and service make a major impact on the pilgrims.

Another aspect of anonymous servanthood in Emmaus is to liken the support people to a hedge of protection around the cloistered conference room group. This hedge of protection serves as a barrier to Satan and his workers in their efforts to thwart the conference room team in building Christian community with the new pilgrims. The Emmaus movement considers anonymous servanthood as an important step in leadership development. Anonymous servanthood is the model Christ provides for us. Learning to serve quietly and anonymously will be difficult for some, but serving anonymously helps us to grow closer to Christ. Anonymous servanthood can be a thrilling experience and can be a life-changing opportunity. Increasing our efforts in anonymous servanthood allows the Christ in us to become more evident to those around us.

A life of love and anonymous servanthood extends beyond the three days of the Emmaus weekend into the fourth day of the Emmaus Walk. This life should be exhibited in Reunion Groups, Gatherings, the local church, the home, the work place, the city, the state, and the nation. When it comes to anonymous servanthood in Emmaus and elsewhere, remember the words of Christ found in Luke 10:35: "Go and do likewise." (NRSV).

Women's Walk to Emmaus – June 24-27, 2010

Your next opportunity to experience and display ANONYMOUS SERVANTHOOD during an Emmaus walk will be in June! How will YOU be the hands and feet of Christ? Here are some suggestions:

24 Hour Prayer Vigil: sign up on the chart available usually the two Gatherings prior to a walk. You will choose an hour (or more) during the Walk weekend during which you will lift up the team and the pilgrims.

Carry Luggage: Do you remember that when you arrived for your walk someone met you and your sponsor at the car and carried your luggage into the building?

Mealtime and Bedtime Agape: Are you "crafty?" If you remember, there were little trinkets or hand-crafted items left on your bed and by your place at meal times. Some folks take this on by themselves while others use this as a group activity for their Share Group.

Logistics (set-up, clean, tear-down): These are the folks who show long before the pilgrims and inflate the mattresses, and do all the myriad of chores to turn the *(continued on page 4)*



Wilmington Area Walk to Emmaus
Wilmington United Methodist Church
PO Box 191
Wilmington, OH
45177

SEE YOU AT THE GATHERING! April 13
Bring a snack to share afterwards—
when Emmaus meets, EMMAUS EATS!
Don't forget to wear your NAME TAG!
This helps everyone to learn your
name much more quickly!

church into a conference room, a dormitory and a first rate restaurant. During the weekend, they show up to clean bathrooms and always whilst the pilgrims are in a different area of the building. On Sunday morning, an army of them shows up to vacuum, clean and reset the building to be a church for Sunday morning services. Never underestimate the importance of the Logistics Team!

Agape Room: These folks help the Agape Room Chairman separate the letters of agape that arrive for the pilgrims and the team. They carefully separate the team agape into FOUR separate bags (the team receive agape each night) and the pilgrims Sunday bags. They also prepare trays of bedtime and mealtime agape.

Kitchen: A bit harder to perform this task anonymously as these are the folks who show up to prepare and serve each meal as well as conference room snacks.

Attend Candlelight: Possibly the most popular duty of the community is attending the worship time on Saturday evening, followed by the time of sharing love with the pilgrims.

Write Pilgrim Agape: Oh, this is one of the hardest for folks in this day and time.....to sit down with pen in hand and put expressions of Christ's love into words. We have all become so used to picking up the telephone and yet not really expressing our love and expressions of appreciation for others.

Attend Closing: So many of us only attend Closing when we have sponsored a pilgrim, or when we know a pilgrim. Try going to a closing when you have no familiarity with any of the pilgrims. You will be blessed and your anonymous attendance will bless the pilgrims!

Anonymous Servanthood—not for the weak or the lazy!