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The Common Bond

The Newsletter of the Cumberland and Robeson Central Office

April 2014

Upcoming Events

April 6
Central Preconference in Winston-Salem. Flyer on aanorthcarolina.org/events.

May 5
Sandalwood Group's 20th anniversary.

May 18
Spring Fellowship and District 51 committee meeting at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 1601 Raeford Rd., Fayetteville, hosted by One Day at a Time. Meeting at 1 p.m., 2 p.m., speaker, 3 p.m. fellowship.

May 21
The Central Office Council will meet at 6:30 p.m., conference room at 310 Green St., Fayetteville.

May 23-25
Sandalwood Group campout at Jordan Lake. \$20 per tent site. Details:
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June 1
District 51 Grapevine Committee workshop. Speaker, Jennifer from state committee. 1-3 p.m. Hope Mills Methodist, 4955 Legion Rd.

June 22
Central Office's Founders Day Celebration, 1-5 p.m. Paradise Acres. Details:
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Reel sobriety

How movies can reinforce the AA message

It seems that since I joined AA, I see the program in almost everything. Songs, books, television shows, but especially movies.

I'm not talking about movies that portray alcoholism or AA.

I'm talking about regular movies. The kind most people would never associate with the AA message.

Yet I keep finding the program in unlikely places.

My favorites are movies where I spy a chance for some AA reflection or teaching. Some of you will no doubt think I'm a little crazy, some may determine that I'm stretching a point to make these fit. And everybody will notice that I don't go to as many movies as I used to, since my best examples are, er, classics.

But here's a short list of movies that teach me AA lessons.

"Field of Dreams"

In this one first released in 1989, a farmer hears a voice that tells



him to build a baseball field in his cornfield. So he does. Since Iowa is big corn country, losing the income from the crop makes many question his sanity. But in the middle of the night the Chicago White Sox baseball players banned from baseball for allegedly throwing the World Series, come to play.

But this is just the first bit. Another revelation sets the farmer out for Boston to find a famous reclusive author and takes him to a Red Sox game. At the game, another revelation sets

them off to find a former major league baseball player who never got an at bat in a major league game.

The aging author who is embittered, finds serenity at the field and is invited by the players to join them as they leave for heaven. The old-time player, rejuvenated to his youth, gets his at bat. But all this culminates with the farmer coming face to face with his deceased father.

The two had a falling out as the son grew up. The farmer regrets the

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Central Office Board

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Ray V.
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Duncan K.
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Office manager/secretary
Linda C.

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Sandalwood
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Dan. A.
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(vacant)
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Freedom in Growth
Amanda K.
Keep It Simple
Liz M.
Principles Group:
Charles K.
Little Group
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Pine Run
Craig
Seekers of Sobriety
Darlene D.
Spring Into Action
Mark P.
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Jeff
Turning Point
John L.

Services

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Jim H.
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Central Office Council drops Bladen County from organization

At the January meeting, the Central Office Council voted to cancel Bladen County's membership due to lack of participation.

Bladen County had not named its member to the board and groups had not named members to the council. No one from Bladen had participated in meetings.

Bladen County was expected to join the Wilmington organization in March.

Central Group says Thank You to celebration supporters

Central Group would like to offer a heartfelt thank you. All the support we received from friends, family members, and visitors near and far who came to help us celebrate our 68th Anniversary in January 2014 was greatly appreciated. It is because of you that our annual celebration is always a success and this year was no different. You all have proven once again how grateful we all are to be a fellowship who continues to practice our three legacies: Recovery, Unity, and Service. This is what it is all about.

Sincerely, Central Group

District 51 events for spring

The Spring Fellowship, hosted by One Day at a Time will be at Holy Trinity Church, 1601 Raeford Rd., Fayetteville. District meeting at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. Ed W., of Raleigh will speak, 3 p.m. fellowship and food.

June 1, Jennifer of the state committee will speak at the Grapevine committee workshop at Hope Mills United Methodist Church from 1-3 p.m. Finger food provided.).

Make contact with the Central Office

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Sober thoughts

(Helpful quotes for the AA way of life)

Remember —
when life's path
is steep, keep
your mind even.
—Horace

Experience is a
hard teacher
because she
gives the test
first, and the
lesson after-
ward.

— Vernon Law

Better by far
you should for-
get and smile.
Than you
should remem-
ber and be sad.

— Christina Rossetti



Movies: Making amends, sponsorship among themes

Continued from page 1

distance that had come between them before his death.

All his travels and efforts allows the farmer one last chance to play catch with his dad.

What I get from this is putting into action the 8th step, "Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them"; and the 9th step, "Made direct amends to such people when possible, except when to do so would injured them or others."

The entire movie is really about making amends. The embittered author makes amends in his journey to the field. His fame had become a burden, the ball park lifts it away. Amends are made to the old player who never got his chance in the majors. But it's all about the farmer who goes to any lengths to rectifying his bad relationship with his dad. I cannot think of this movie without thinking about amends.

"O Brother Where Art Thou"

This is a comic retelling of "The Odyssey" set in Mississippi during The Great Depression. The main character is Ulysses Everett McGill – Ulysses being the Latin translation for Odysseus.

I get a whole slew of Big Book out of this one. A blind prophet tells them they will find a great treasurer, but it is not the one they seek.

Through their travels they deal with their pasts admitting their faults to their fellows as they seek to clear away the wreckage of the past. So there is a bit of the 1st step as they admit they are criminals. In the retelling of what brought them all together there is both the moral

inventory taking of the 4th step and the admitting the exact nature of their wrongs to the group's members. This gives us the 5th step. We also see the 3rd step when Ulysses' cohorts get baptized in a lake. Ulysses later on has to confront his own shortcomings and turn to God, and is saved in a flood of almost biblical proportions.

True to the prophet's words, the treasure they find at the end is not the monetary one they had sought, but is truly priceless.

"Star Wars"

The original trilogy, "Star Wars: A New Hope," "The Empire Strikes Back" and "Return of the Jedi" teach me about sponsorship and the 12th Step with acceptance also thrown in.

Think about it, Obi-Wan Kenobi in "A New Hope" becomes Luke's sponsor enabling him to learn the Power of The Force. Obi-Wan teaches him how to follow the way. Luke takes the 3rd step in deciding to be guided by The Force. In a sense he has a new employer.

In "The Empire Strikes Back," Yoda becomes Luke's new sponsor – think of it as getting a new home group. He leads Luke through the steps to becoming a Jedi. Luke also learns to face his fears and also to accept, although this is not fully realized in "The Empire Strikes Back."

In "The Return of the Jedi" Luke has accepted that the evil Darth Vader is actually his father. He has also accepted his own limitations and become comfortable in his own skin. Armed with this knowledge he sets to 12th Step Vader. He urges his father to turn his life around and turn back the ways of the Jedi.

In the climactic battle, Vader rejects the dark force. Vader sacrifices himself to save his son and thus is redeemed.

"Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade"

Since I'm dealing with George Lucas, then I must turn to this movie about the legend of the Holy Grail.

I mostly train on the movie's climax to illustrate principles.

The villain tells Indiana, that it's time to ask yourself what you truly believe. He shoots Indy's father. Now only the cup of Christ can save Indy's father's life.

Indy must overcome several deadly traps. But finally, to get to the cup he must literally take a leap of faith.

The villain follows him, and teaches us a bit about stinking thinking by picking the wrong cup and dying.

Indy saves his father. Thus, the 2nd Step "Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore our sanity." In this case, it restores life. Also, the 3rd Step, "Made a decision to turn our will and lives over to the care of God as we understood him."

Finally, Indy's love interest who aided the villain, tries to take the cup out of its sanctuary. The floor opens up and swallows her. Indy tries to save her, but he cannot because she is obsessed with getting the cup. Indy, with the cup just out of reach, then tries to claim it for himself. With his father holding onto to him, Indy makes one more try. But his father advises, "Indy, let it go" (think Let Go, Let God). Indy does and lives.

Now that's a leap of faith.

