

The Marathoner

By: Glenn Currier

What is a marathoner?
The dictionary has it as
someone who participates
in long-distance races.

Is it the measured miles
and calibrated time
slope of the hills, bends in the route
that make a marathoner?

Or is it about heart?
Willingness?
Seemingly small choices
each minute of the race?

If that is the measure of a marathoner
I know such a participant.
He gathers his spirit
rises, enters, engages.

A faithful pioneer of practical wisdom
disciplined by stumbles, returns, recoveries,
day by day, week by week,
decades of new beginnings.

Not a solitary man doing as he pleases
he runs with *us*
glances back, spurs and nurtures
reaches us with a hand up.

Some notice his sardonic humor
or his impish grin
but within, a man of value,
a gentle disciple of listening.

A husband,
fathering many a man,
we have needed
the faithful service
splashed upon our path
by this
tenacious
marathoner.

*Dedicated to my dear friend Ed Stofko
March 23, 2010*