



Texoma Emmaus Community

*The two then explained to them what had happened on the road, and how they
had recognized the Lord when he broke the bread. Luke 24:35*

4th Quarter 2011

NEWSLETTER NEWS:

Don't forget to get your email information into the database so you will continue to get the newsletter electronically.

Go to www.texomaemmaus.org to enter your email address. If you need to receive a paper newsletter please send your mailing information to:

Texoma Emmaus
P. O. Box 665
Sherman, Texas 75091
www.texomaemmaus.org

Upcoming Walks

Women's Walk #77

Lay Director: Brenda Jones
March 1-4, 2012

Men's Walk #78

Lay Director: Ben Foytik
April 19-22, 2012

Women's Walk #79

Lay Director: Jan Boatright
August 9-12, 2012

Men's Walk #80

Lay Director: Fred Lehmann
September 20-23, 2012

A Message from the Chairperson Barry Ebersberger

Thanksgiving has passed. Advent is leading us into Christmas. Please, in all of the hustle and bustle, take time and appreciate the Grace upon Grace we have been given.

This will be my last letter as the board chair. What a blessing to have served with the people that have been on the board these past three years! I want to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to each of them for their Christian walk and service. It has been an honor to be amongst them.

The teams I have served with, board meetings, follow ups, gatherings, closings, candle lights, prayer events, training, personal conversations, e-mails and phone calls I have participated in...how great they have all been!

Next month five board members will roll off the board and five more will join. Please thank them and pray for them. I want to also thank those that said yes to be nominated and did not make it. You said yes and were willing to serve and I appreciate that. To those that were called and said "no". Know that I believe "no" is the right answer at times. Know that you were highly regarded and appreciated all the same.

Here are some things to be in prayer about (in no particular priority): our new community spiritual director, and an assistant spiritual director or two, pilgrims on upcoming walks, finances for the community (including printing and mailing this newsletter), future team members, 4th day servants, and that our community seeks and do the Lord's will with enthusiasm and joy.

My first year on the board I was the Gathering and Follow-Ups chair. I got to interact with many of our area church administrators when I scheduled our board meetings and Gatherings. I learned a lot and got to visit many churches I had never been to before. I liked that there were multiple denominations represented. I got to hear much wisdom through the messages given by the clergy. I also appreciated the hospitality and Christian servants at each place.

My second year I was the vice chair, which meant I chaired committees that put together our teams for the walks in conjunction with the Lay Directors in 2010. We also contacted potential nominees and put together the board ballot for 2010.

In 2011 I have been the chair. I had great predecessors to look at for guidance. The three years have passed by quickly and I have been blessed to witness a very active and loving God who works through incredible Christians in this area. The clergy who support this community need our prayers, support and appreciation. We ask much of them and they give much of themselves.

All in all, I am excited for this community! Are there issues?? Sure. The same is true in most of our lives I suspect. And the very same God that wants to help in our personal lives will be helping this community flourish. I look forward to future opportunities to serve & getting to know the many of you I have yet to be blessed to meet! God bless you & Merry Christmas!

DeColores!

From the Communications Chair Cathy Pugh

It has been such an honor to be your Communications Board Representative over these past 3 years and I want to thank each and every one of you for the love and support that you have shown me. Emmaus is an awesome engine renewing our Christian faith and growing our Christian leaders in the Church. I plan on staying very involved and can't wait to see where God leads the next group of amazing disciples through this awesome journey of life.

The Great Commission: *Matthew 28:16-20* ¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

I will be doing this as we feel that God has been preparing us all these years through the Emmaus leadership training and have begun our journey for becoming Awana Missionary's right here in North Texas/Southern Oklahoma area. Did you know that the United States has become the largest mission field in the World? How did that happen? Therefore go and make disciples of all nations! We have so much to do right here in is this nation and you can make a difference.

Plug in to this engine called Emmaus. Serve as 4th day being the hands & feet of Christ. Serve on teams as God leads lay director's to ask you to serve. Open your hearts to the people that are on the walks and are around you daily. Let the light shine that Jesus put in your soul and make a difference in your community and in your own church!! There's so much to do!!!!

Remember, good sponsorship begins in PRAYER. Keep those reunion groups strong and stay strong for one another.

DeColores!

Date scheduled for next Gathering:

January 14, 2012
FUMC Van Alstyne

Board Members

If you would like to serve in an area, or have any questions, please contact any of the Board members.

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Norm Deis Follow-Up and Gatherings
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Correnda Cantrell Newsletter
214-244-7261 rendy12@verizon.net

From the Vice Chair/Team Selection Dayle Roper

As the year winds up to a close, and everyone is busy with the Christmas season, I wanted to take a moment to say thank you to our community. As Vice Chair, I had no idea how much time I would be spending on the phone with so many of you! I called several of you for different reasons, and each of you blessed me with encouragement, prayers, and a "yes" or a "no". Thank you! Thank you for allowing God to work in your life and in our community.

Thank you to all that ran for a position on our Board of Directors. Your willingness to serve and commit to a three year term for our community is a blessing. I am pleased to welcome the following people to the Texoma Emmaus Board of Directors, beginning January 2012: Darold Meyer, Charlie Philips, Marianne Brummett, Erica Sweetin, and Ellen Walker.

Have a blessed Christmas, and a Happy New Year! DeColores!

From the 4th Day Chair Carolyn Cherry

Wow! What a blessing we have all received with the 2011 Walks that are now behind us. It's time to get things going for Women's Walk #77 taking place on March 1-4, 2012. Set up will be at 2:30 PM on Sunday, February 26, 2012. The CHA leader for this team will be Cathy Pugh & her team is ready & anxious to serve our awesome God through supporting our Inside Team and the Pilgrims on this Walk. For those of you who are able to help with set-up, send off, sponsor's hour, candlelight and closing on Women's Walk #77, **we need all of you!** I will be having some 4th day volunteers handling many aspect of the Women's walk for me, so I have assured them how committed our community is to helping out where ever there is a need. I would like to possibly have some church youth groups plug in through service by helping with set up and take down. Many years ago youth groups helped in these areas and it was a huge blessing to the community. If you or someone in your reunion group is active with youth groups, please communicate this need to them and let me know if they are willing to serve in this area. Be looking for your eblast as the next Walk approaches for the reminders of many chances to serve. Please log into the database to volunteer to serve on the 4th Day team. While you are in the database be sure to check your information and make sure it is correct. I would hate to miss you because your data is incorrect. DeColores!

From the Registrar-Steve Haid

The Lord blessed us mightily in 2011 with 121 new members of our community through four Walks. This has been one of our best years in recent memory. Why is that a good thing? Because we have 121 new and improved Christian leaders in the churches that make up our community. These leaders are doing great things at their home churches, and several of them have become active leaders in the Texoma Emmaus Community. We have two Walks coming up soon. Women's Walk 77 is March 1-4, 2012, and Men's Walk 78 is April 19-22. We already have several applications in for these two Walks, but there is still plenty of space. One of the primary goals of the Walk to Emmaus is to help develop Christian leaders in our churches. I encourage you to prayerfully consider who you know that might benefit from the Walk to Emmaus. Some of us are fresh off our Walk, and for others, it has been a while, but all of us can remember what a blessed event it was. Three full days of growing in Christ, three days of fellowship with other Christians, and three days of fun, music and food. Please consider sharing the joy you experienced at the Walk to Emmaus with someone else by sponsoring them for a Walk. You can find great information for sponsors on our website, www.texomaemmaus.org, along with the dates of all the upcoming Walks for 2012 and an Application. Don't forget, we are always in need of lanyards for the upcoming Walks & there are directions on our website. Many thanks to all of you who made lanyards for the Walks in 2011. I wish every member of our Texoma Emmaus Community a wonderful and blessed Christmas and New Year. DeColores!



From the Agape Chair Sherry Gaskill

My position on the board is Agape Chair. Did you enjoy receiving agape on your walk?? If so, then how about making some agape for future walks?? My group meets several times during the year to make agape & we have lots of fun doing it. Need ideas to help you get started?? You can go to texomaemmaus.org & move your arrow over agape. Two tabs will pop up (agape & lanyards) & click on agape. It will take you to "What is Agape?" If you click on the title, it will take you to 101 agape ideas. We are always in need of people that can make lanyards as well. If you click on lanyards, it will bring up the instructions on how to make them. I really hope you will give it a try—you just might enjoy it!! DeColores!

From the Follow-Up & Gatherings Chair Norm Deis

WHY DO WE HAVE GATHERINGS EVERY MONTH?

We joke among ourselves that we gather together every month just to EAT! Certainly the sharing of a meal and the table fellowship we experience are important to all of us. Though eating together is an important part of the gathering, some in our community would say they enjoy the music we share. We are blessed by a great number of musicians willing to share their talents in leading us in song. Still others might say seeing their Emmaus friends are the most important function of the gatherings. Many times Emmaus events are the only time we see certain people during our busy year. Friends, music, food, they are all important parts of the purpose of our gatherings.

Yet there is a larger purpose in our coming together. We come together to share the presence of Jesus Christ. In our community of believers the very depth of our commitment to Christ brings Him more present to each of us when we come together as a body. Our fellowship, our worship and our sharing of the bread and cup seem to bring us an enhanced experience of Christ's presence. Perhaps our remembrances of our three-day experience cause us to share on a deeper level. Perhaps our gatherings are another opportunity to bring worship and acknowledgement of the glory of God. Somehow the time we spend together just seems to be richer and more filled with the Spirit.

Certainly the three-day experience we have all shared is the most outstanding event in our individual Emmaus lives. The gathering together each month allows us to refresh our memories of our Walk. I know it can sometimes be difficult to find the time to go to the month's gathering. Perhaps the distances involved are difficult to overcome. Please remember, though, that gatherings are a vital part of the community's life. Many say Emmaus changed their life for the better. I believe our presence at gatherings and follow-ups changes the life of the Emmaus Community for the better as well. I hope to see you next time we gather.

DeColores!

From the Spiritual Director-Samantha Parson

Title: "Transition Time for Community Spiritual Director"

The Board would like to say "Thank you," to Rev. Phil Barton for his service and leadership as the Community Spiritual Director for the past two years. He is following the Lord into a new ministry opportunity in Oklahoma, and while he will be able to remain in fellowship and service with Texoma Emmaus on occasion, he will no longer be able to serve as the Community Spiritual Director. We are grateful for the prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness that Phil has shared with our Community. May your Fourth Days in Oklahoma be bright with many colors! The Board would like to welcome current Assistant Community Spiritual Director, Rev. Samantha Parson, into this new role in service to the Texoma Community. Samantha is excited and humbled to be able to continue to serve the Texoma Emmaus Community. She is in the process of compiling a clergy database in order to facilitate

Team, Gathering, and Candlelight service opportunities. The Upper Room has just established a clergy application and training process, so every clergy who intends to serve will need to complete the application found at: <http://upperroom.org/emmaus>. If you are clergy and would like to be included in this service database, please complete the application and send it as an attachment to Pastor Sam at: chpastorsam@gmail.com. Pastor Sam will begin offering Emmaus Clergy Training Events following the 2012 calendar approval at the Board Retreat in January. Watch for dates in the upcoming newsletter!

DeColores!



*"The Lord is
my strength
and shield;
my heart trusts
in Him and
I am helped."*

(Psalm 28:7)

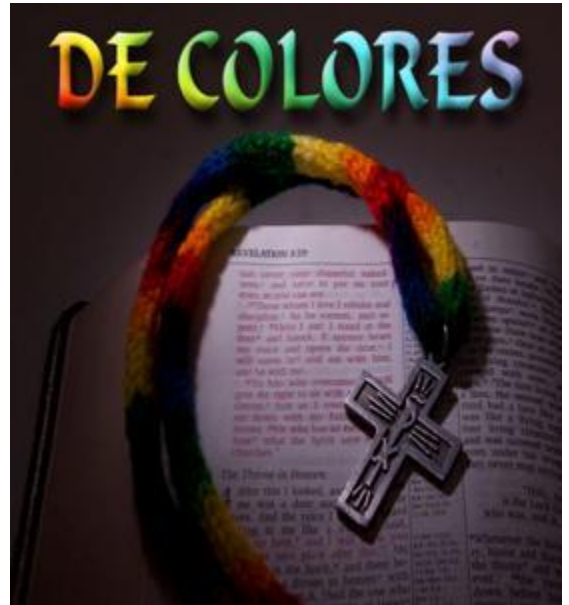
"Prayer! America's Strength and Shield."

Sharefaith

From the Treasurer-Ronnie Cole

Hesitantly I write this article because I'm sure each of you has been through your own church's stewardship campaign and you're as tired as I am about hearing about finances. It started at our church in September and by the end of November I was questioning my religion and still trying to connect the dots between "worship" and "we need money!" However, since we in the Emmaus community do not have a stewardship campaign, I can make this appeal short and sweet. "We need money!" Many of you generously gave donations at walks and gatherings this past year and for those donations we are extremely grateful. You are not the choir I'm preaching to, because I'm sure you gave as you could and saw fit. I'm addressing those that are not regular attendees at TEC functions but have walked and lived through the Emmaus experience but did not, for some reason, choose to support our effort financially. We need your help! Expenses at walks continue to increase and we are basically at a break-even point with walk fees. Other expenses include insurance, license fees, newsletter printing and mailings, day care for gatherings, just to name a few, and while some of these are about the same as last year, some are also increasing. Your board instituted a volunteer policy of a \$1 offering per board member at each of our board meetings the past year. So far, we've had 100% offering participation at every meeting and although this may not seem like much, it amounts to almost \$150 extra to our treasury funds annually. So while you are thinking about the holidays, please think about a gift to your Emmaus community. We need & would certainly appreciate any help financially you could give us.

DeColores!



From the Newsletter Chair-Correnda Cantrell

The Texoma Emmaus Community Newsletter is printed/issued quarterly 4 times during the calendar year. During the year, the Newsletter is mailed out **twice a year** & is mailed to approximately 1,700 Emmaus members.

- Newsletter is issued on March 15th & is sent electronically.
- Newsletter is issued on June 15th & is **mailed** & also sent electronically.
- Newsletter is issued on September 15th & is sent electronically.
- Newsletter is issued on December 15th & is **mailed** & sent electronically.

The approximate cost of **mailing** the Newsletter each time is around \$1,500.00. This amount includes the cost for printing & postage. In order for us to continue to **mail** the Newsletter twice a year, the Texoma Emmaus Community Board of Directors would like our Emmaus members to consider helping with the cost. It has been suggested that we include a sponsorship/donation page in the Newsletter. It would read as follows: the following people have contributed by sponsoring this Newsletter. For example, if 100 people would donate only \$20.00, the Newsletter would more than pay for itself. If you would like to contribute by sponsoring the Newsletter, please make all checks payable to Texoma Emmaus Community & put in memo portion of your check the following: **Sponsor Newsletter**.

The Texoma Emmaus Community Board of Directors would ask that you prayerfully consider this opportunity.

DeColores!

**Women's Walk #77
March 1-4, 2012
Team Members**

Lay Director

Brenda Jones

Asst Lay Directors

Barbara Meyer

J'Net Chambers

Jan Boatright

Spiritual Director

Tom Lackey

Asst Spiritual Directors

Judith Brandt

Cherie Wallis Jackson

Leon Veazey

John Wilks

Table Leaders

Jamie Haid

Carolyn Cherry

Dayle Roper

Wanna Kniss

Zetta Smith

Colleen Reilly

Asst Table Leaders

Jackie Bozeman

Barbara Knapp

Lisa Dietz

Mimi Paxson

Susan Fielder

Erica Sweetin

Music

Patti Gardner

Betty Benjamin

Board Rep

Sherry Gaskill

Cha Leader

Cathy Pugh

**Women's Walk #77
March 1-4, 2012
Candlelight Saturday,
Closing Sunday,**

Pilgrims

Brenda Brummett *Shelby Morrison*

Debra Dehorney *Carolyn Dosier*

Kathy Shewmaker *Carolee Smith*

As you can see we still have room for more.

Get your pilgrims signed up today!!

**Texoma Emmaus Community
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