



# Texoma Emmaus Community

Newsletter, October, 2013 Ed.

*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**

## *A message from the Board Chair—Steve Haid*

### • Newsletter news:

Please get your email information into the database to ensure continued electronic receipt of the newsletter.

Go to [www.texomaemmaus.org](http://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, Tx 75091

### UPCOMING WALKS

#### Women's Walk 85

Linda Allison—Lay

Director

February 20-23, 2014

#### Men's Walk 86

Paul Welborn—

Lay Director

April 3-6, 2013

### SAVE THE DATE

December 7, 2013

Lay Director Training

(see page 5)

February 8, 2014

Repair Day at

Texoma Baptist Camp

Who's in Charge Anyway??

There is only one right answer to that question, and it isn't me. Why can't I get this through my head? I must be a slow learner. God is in charge! Period! End of Story! Amen!

It is one of life's essential lessons that I must experience over and over again. Those of you that know me well know that I'm a problem solver (not unusual in men). I'm pretty much a left brain analytical person, and I worry a lot. I like to get all the facts, weigh all the possible outcomes, worry for a few days, and only then make a very deliberate decision about how to solve every problem. Of course, I don't call on God until it's clear that I am way over my head, and I am lost in the wilderness. Without fail, turning over even the toughest of problems to God always yields the best result. Why can't I go to God first? I kind of do, but I don't really fully relinquish control. I pray for guidance and for a situation to have a good outcome, but I don't really say "God, I give this up to you" until everything I've tried has failed. I need to do better with this, and I en-

courage you to do the same. After all, who knows better, the maker of heaven and earth and every living creature, or me? I trust God more than I trust me! "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." Proverbs 3:5 (KJV)

I am really enjoying my year as your board chair. With God's help, we successfully moved to the Baptist Camp in 2013, we lowered the Walk registration fee from \$200 to \$150, we had four wonderful Walks and brought many new Pilgrims into our Texoma Emmaus Community. We also had a successful Walk/Run fundraiser, and I would expect that to grow annually. There have been a few challenges this year too, but despite our best efforts to be in charge, God has repeatedly put us on the right path and richly blessed our community. Walk 84 was a wonderful example of what can happen when we let God take over. Though the Walk was smaller than normal, it was a wonderful Walk!! Closing was very moving and clearly Walk 84 was a meaningful ex-

perience for the Pilgrims and the team.

Even though we have had our final Walk for the year, there is still a lot happening. We have Gatherings coming up and board elections and preparations for next year's Walks. Please watch for the ballot for Board candidates and prayerfully consider your vote, and then vote! Please come and have fellowship with other members of the community at our last three Gatherings of the year. I always leave a Gathering feeling blessed and glad that I attended. Finally, be in prayer about who you can sponsor for our upcoming Walks, and then get their applications

in. Sponsorship is the most important job in Emmaus. Please share the wonderful experience you had when you were a Pilgrim with someone else who means a lot to you. You will be blessed beyond measure.

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." Psalms 118:8 (KJV)

Yours in Christ,  
Steve Haid

*A Message from our Vice-Chair—Charlie Philips*

**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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After the last two Walks completed in 2013, with Pilgrim counts of 18 and 13, I am concerned about the health of our Community. We now have in excess of 2,700 members but less than 1% of the community involved in sponsoring pilgrims. Our community simply doesn't exist without sponsors. You had a sponsor and I had a sponsor. Without sponsor's none of us would be a part of this Community. I remain unsure what it is that needs to be done to get this Community reinvigorated and producing Pilgrims again. I am open to your suggestions and hope that you will take the time to let me know. Those of us that remember waiting lists because our Walks filled early a few years ago, are having a hard time understanding why it has been quite a while since we have had a full Walk. There is always room for God's good work. I also know that we are the hands and feet of Christ in our Community. So, as I write this last article of the 2013 calendar year and look to the next year for the Texoma Emmaus Community, I also look to you brothers and sisters of Christ with due concern to the future of the Texoma Emmaus Community. Please share your thoughts with me as

*Welcome  
Women of  
Walk #83*

Jennifer Boon  
Linda Caldwell  
Darlene Callender  
Clara Davis  
Michelle Dunaway  
Tami Fox  
Jan Freeze  
Lois Lillico  
Dannette Lowes  
Amber McKnight  
Misty Nesyba  
Barbara Norby  
Shelby Page  
Karen Sledge  
Alice Tunnell  
Tamara Williams  
Loretta Wolfington  
Amy Wright

*Welcome  
Men of  
Walk #84*

Bill Brockelman  
Ivan Buchanan  
George Caldwell  
Rocky Crigler  
Jeff Crouse  
Ray Garrison  
Jonathan Hamilton  
Robert Martinez  
Gary Purdy  
Waymon Rose  
Johnnie Turner  
Joe Wiser  
Larry Wyrick

## *A Message from our Spiritual Director—*

Grace and Peace to you from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ!

My Emmaus Brothers and Sisters,

I pray you are daily receiving the grace that God has for you, and the peace that God intends for you.

I think many of us run through our days on a tight schedule - 7am Rotary Club, 8:30am Board Meeting, 10:00am doctor's appointment - you know - you have your list. There are a many ways to handle this kind of life – here are a few you might recognize:

the tough guy - "I will get through this day if it kills me, no matter what I have to do to myself or others to get it done..."

the whine-y grouse - "All of these things that I have to do - you wouldn't believe what other people are NOT doing so that I have to do all of this - and no, you can't help me..."

super man/woman - "Here I come to save the day!! Never fear, \_\_\_\_\_ is here, and we are going to make this work! Trust me, I have lots of experience..."

overwhelmed - "I can't do one more thing! Don't ask me to do anything else! I can't do what is on my list already - and you want me to do what??"

Paul has some suggestions for all of us with busy schedules in 1Thessalonians 5:16-19:

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.* NRSV

So what does that mean for us? Rejoice always – take joy, celebrate being ALIVE right now – this minute, both in the physical sense of life and breath in your surroundings, and the spiritual sense of life and breath in the Holy Spirit. – *Always* – not when the list is done, not after you get some sleep, not when

someone starts pulling their weight...

Pray without ceasing – stay in CONSTANT communication with God – really – like you have one of those special-agent-earbuds that connects you to someone on the outside who is giving you constant intel on what is happening, especially with direction on what to do next.

Give thanks in all circumstances – yes – ALL! When you are stuck in traffic and want to be home, say, "Lord, *thank you*, that I am not in an accident, that you have given me a car, that I have a job to come home from..." When you are having an angry confrontation with your boss/employee/spouse/fill-in-the-blank, say, "Lord, *thank you*, that you have given me this opportunity to learn from *you* and grow in my understanding of others. Give me your words and wisdom through your Holy Spirit..."

When you are faced with the devastating news of being laid off, or being diagnosed with cancer, say, "Lord, *thank you*, that I am not alone, that you are with me, and that I can face every terror of the unknown with you, who know all things..." When tragedy strikes, and a loved one is taken violently from you, you can say, "Lord, *thank you*, that you know the pain of my heart – that you are hurting with me – that this crushing of my soul is not forever – that even through this valley of the shadow of death, you are with me....

Do not quench the Spirit – *do not quench the Spirit*. The Holy Spirit is a resident in every heart of every believer who has received grace through Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life. A resident, and not a renter – *a resident, and not a renter*. The Holy Spirit has every right to weigh in on everything in your life – *everything*. Every behavior, attitude, understanding,

response, motivation, and expectation is reflective of who you are – and if you are a believer, you are Spirit-filled – so everything about you should reflect the presence of the Holy Spirit within you.

Just in case you are feeling overwhelmed as to how you will fulfill these four directives, receive these words of encouragement from the same letter:

*May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.*** 1Thessalonians 5:23-24, NRSV

We are not alone – God is with us – in life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us – We are not alone. God will accomplish in us all that we cannot.

And these words from the letter to the Romans:

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, even as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope, abounding in hope, by the power of the Holy Spirit.* Romans 15:13, NRSV & NIV combined

Dear ones, God intends us to be rejoicing, peaceful vessels of hope – pouring out the love of God – living out the love of Christ – and sustained by the breath of life and love that is the Holy Spirit.

I look forward to seeing you at the gathering in November, where we will celebrate the life God gives us, communicate in the love Christ offers us, and give thanks for all our circumstances through the Holy Spirit with us.

De Colores,

*Pastor Sam*

### *From our Agape Chair— Marianne Brummett*

We are closing in on the end of the year. But, that doesn't mean you have to stop making agape gifts for the Pilgrims for the upcoming year. By all means, get a head start and jump on the opportunity to be ahead of the program for next year.

We have had some really neat, flashy, creative, beautiful, inspiring agape this year. I love all the items that have been donated. I do know the pilgrims really do appreciate it too.

So, why not, GET out there and Sponsor and Make AGAPE!!! Hugs and LOTS of love to you all!!!

### *From our Secretary/Historian—Ellen Walker*

What a blessing the Emmaus Board has been to me. This Board does not sit back and hope for change. They are constantly working hard to make the Emmaus Community better and to share God's love. Isn't that new Emmaus' Facebook page great?

You are really missing out if you haven't been to the Gatherings. God's love envelopes everyone who attends. Is your cup running low? Candlelight service will fill your cup to overflowing, just like it did on your original Walk. Lonely? Upset? Depressed? Come join your Brothers and Sisters in Christ for a word from God, a song and a hug.

### *From our Supply Chair—Linda Lewis*

Supplies!!

As you know, supplies for each Walk are essential. Whether it is poster board, bags, glitter or spirals, each of these items play a small but important role during the course of the Walk. Once you put a bottle of sparkle, a marker and some pipe cleaners in a Pilgrim's hands, the Spirit moves and God works. Many items are necessary for each of our weekends and are purchased using camp fees and our gathering offerings. If you or your Reunion group would like to "adopt" a certain supply, let me know

### *From our Treasurer—Erica Sweetin*

God is awesome!!! And this community is pretty amazing, too. As treasurer, it has been great to see how far we have come financially, this year. The change in camp was a big part of the financial shift. Many people, team and pilgrims, have enjoyed the decreased walk fees and more people have had an opportunity to serve this year, with the addition of the new fourth day position, Kitchen CHA. What a blessing. Thanks to all of you that have supported your community this year with your generous donations,

### *From our Fundraising Chair—Darold Meyer*

I would like to remind all of you to put a tentative date of February 22, 2014 for our second annual fundraiser 5 k run. We are also talking about having a work day out at the camp for a fundraising opportunity serving a meal to the workers. We are looking for a new vender to make our shirts again, the last one went out of business. Keep buying shirts to help fund the community.

### *From our Database Chair-Robin Woodall*

The Texoma Emmaus database is only as good as the information it contains! Please make sure you log in and make sure your contact information is current.

Someone may be trying to find you!

Log into the Database: <http://tec.inetmember.com>

You will enter your email address and then your password, if you are logging in for the first time is: **tectec**.

## *From our Communications Chair—John Orozco*

Providing information about sponsorship is a part of my duties as communications chair for our community. We have well over 2,000 people that have attended a walk and are eligible to sponsor a pilgrim for a walk. Sponsorship is a very special opportunity to share the love and grace of our God through the Emmaus experience with someone that is ready to deepen their own spiritual walk. Please consider sponsoring someone that you know for one of the upcoming walks. The applications for 2014 have been updated and are on the website at [www.texomaemmaus.org](http://www.texomaemmaus.org). The opportunity to sponsor includes preparing your pilgrim for the walk and insuring that their family needs are taken care of as well as any other issues that might be a problem for the pilgrim to leave behind for three days. Yes, the sponsor is busy during the weekend bringing your pilgrim(s) to send off, staying for prayer over the crosses, attending candlelight, praying throughout the weekend, and attending closing. Also, it is very important to bring your pilgrim(s) to the Follow Up gathering and assist them in getting involved in a Reunion Group. Let's make an effort to provide an amazing experience for others that someone from the community provided for us. If I can assist you with any of this process, please let me know.

DeColores,  
John Orozco  
Communications Chair

## *From our Literature Chair-Gary Hinkle*

The Upper Room has some great resources to help you continue your "Growth Through Study". Here is the web address to some Emmaus resource books.

<http://bookstore.upperroom.org/cart/asearch.html?vid=20100311008&key=Emmaus+Library+Series&keyword=Emmaus+Library+Series>

I recommend the book "Sponsorship" by Richard and Janine Gilmore item #873 to anyone that is considering sponsoring a pilgrim next spring. Get it now don't wait till spring and these resources would make great Christmas presents to your Emmaus reunion group. John 13:17 "Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

DeColores!!!

## Lay Director Training Opportunity for Future LDs

Have you participated on a Walk to Emmaus Team and envisioned God calling you and using you as a Lay Director? If so, mark your calendars for this training event. Lay director training will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2013 at 4:00 P.M. at Grace UMC in Sherman for all interested in serving in this capacity in the future. Past lay directors and board members will be leading the training. Topics will include: team meetings, the role of the lay director, responsibilities before, during and after the walk and the schedule. Everyone is invited to attend

## *From our 4th Day Chair-Carolyn Cherry*

Wow, what a blessing this fall has been with the past 2 walks. They were small, intimate, bonded groups that God definitely formed for a purpose and He provided the Emmaus movement, too. No matter the number of pilgrims it still takes all parts of an Emmaus team, especially the 4th day team, to make a walk happen. I'm very proud of how all teams put themselves second making the pilgrims experience their top priority.

A huge DeColores thank you to those who served on 4th day and Cha teams for the 2013 walks. Please know your dedication to the Emmaus movement is not unnoticed. We have been blessed with a childcare coordinator for the Emmaus 4th day events. Tonia Herman has graciously accepted this position and is in need of a group of workers for each event. If you are called to serve in this area please contact Tonia @ 903-364-5388/903-423-0586 [toniaherman@yahoo.com](mailto:toniaherman@yahoo.com) or myself @ 903-814-0836 [mommycarolyn2@yahoo.com](mailto:mommycarolyn2@yahoo.com).

Kitchen bits.....after a year of preparing our own meals for the walks, the feedback has been positive and we will continue that agape with kitchen Cha teams. That being said we already have a reunion group who has signed up for Women's Walk 85 in February. I will be looking for a group of men to cook for the April Men's Walk 86. If you or your reunion group is interested in serving up some Emmaus "Love on a Plate" please contact me.

If you are struggling with deciding to say "YES" about serving the Texoma Emmaus Community on a 4<sup>th</sup> day team, conference team etc. I leave you with this verse from a friend..."If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done" Ecclesiastes 11:4

## *From our Newsletter Chair-J'Net Chambers*

On a hot summer night at Lake Sharon in 1999, a room was ablaze with candle light, the Jesus, Jesus song being sung and tears raining down my face as I made a late night walk. I came through the line and saw many people from my church and countless others. I saw my sponsor Ricky and his wife Vicky as she stood there holding their new infant daughter in her arms, their faces bathed in the candlelight. I will NEVER forget that. Every time I attend candlelight I think of them. I now know what a big sacrifice it is to leave your home on a Saturday night and stay out late just for that moment. This was not their only child and I can only guess that someone somewhere had their other small children. I think of Ricky and others holding my cross in their hands praying for me during sponsor's hour way after I had left the dining hall to begin my journey—Being away from his family, sacrificing his time for me. Oh how I was blessed.

As we close in on the end of 2013, I know Christ is alive and well in the Texoma Emmaus community. I know because I have seen His love in the face of the 2013 Pilgrims.

I urge each new member of the community to prayerfully consider sponsorship, working on a walk as a team member, CHA, or 4th day. Christ is counting on you.

### **REPAIR DAY AT TEXOMA BAPTIST CAMP—February 8, 2014 starting at 9:00 AM**

The Texoma Emmaus Community will gather to make some repairs to the camp. Bring yourself, your tools, and your willingness to be the Hands of Christ. Bring your appetite!!!! Dale Bryant is going to prepare some delicious Barbeque. And you are ask to bring a side or desert to be shared. A love offering will be taken to help defray the costs of the repairs. What a great 4th day opportunity. Our return to the Baptist Camp has been a financial blessing. Come on out and lend a hand to repair, dress-up, clean up, fix up, the facility to enhance the future walks. Enjoy good food, good fellowship and make some wonderful Emmaus memories. This is not a major "construction" project. No experience required.

*Dates to Remember*

Nov 9, 2013 6:30 PM

GATHERING

1st UMC, Whitesboro

December 7, 2013 4:00 PM

LAY DIRECTOR TRAINING

Grace UMC, Sherman

December 7, 2013 6:30 pm

GATHERING

Grace UMC, Sherman

January 25, 2014

GATHERING

1st Baptist Whitewright

February 8, 2014

REPAIR DAY AT TEXOMA BAPTIST CAMP

BBQ by Dale Bryant

February 16, 2014

SET UP –Women's Walk #85

Texoma Baptist Youth Camp

February 20-23

**Women's Walk #85**

Lay Director: Linda Allison

Texoma Baptist Youth Camp

FOLLOW UP TBA