

Near the Cross Emmaus



January 2011

Volume 6, Issue 1

Next Gathering to be Jan. 8

Meeting at Jonesboro FUMC

We will start at noon on Saturday the 8th, moved back one week from our traditional date of the first Saturday in the month due to the New Year's Holiday. Ring in the new year, meet new friends and renew old acquaintances while enjoying a tasty potluck lunch. Rev. Herschel Richardson has lined up an interesting fourth day speaker, followed by Holy Communion open to all attendees.

Tentative future Gathering dates (subject to approval):

Jan. 8 at Jonesboro FUMC

Feb. 5 at Jonesboro FUMC

March 5 at Jonesboro FUMC

(no meeting in April due to men's & women's walks)

May 7 at Jonesboro FUMC

June 4 at Jonesboro FUMC

(no meeting in July due to Independence Day holiday)

Aug. 6 at Jonesboro FUMC

Sept. 10 at Jonesboro FUMC

(delayed due to Labor Day)

Nov. 5 at Jonesboro FUMC

(no meeting in October due to men's & women's walks)

Dec. 3 at Jonesboro FUMC

New Directors Welcomed

Five new directors will join the Board in January. They are:

Rev. Jimmy Anderson—A native of Dallas, Jimmy is a retired Methodist minister, attending the Cherokee Village UMC. He is a graduate of the Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth. He and his wife Lois have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Jeff Branch—Jeff has a degree in accounting from ASU and a Juris Doctorate from the U. of A, Fayetteville. He is a partner in the Paragould law firm of Branch, Thompson, Warmath and Dale, P.A. Members of the Paragould UMC, he and Teresa have three sons and a daughter.

Keith Churchill—Keith works in engineering at Hytrol. He graduated Caraway High and attended ASU. He and Selicia are members of the Caraway UMC. Combined they have 4 children and 5 grandchildren. Keith was a Pilgrim on Near the Cross Emmaus' first class in September 2006.

Jim Markley—A descendant of Chief Massasoit, Jim's ancestors befriended the Pilgrims and helped them through their first difficult year in 1620. He grew up in Massachusetts and Rhode Island before earning his degree at Valdosta State in Georgia. He was co-founder of Best Conveyors, which has plants in England and Australia, as well as Jonesboro. Jim and Gale have 4 children and 1 grandchild. They attend the Bay UMC.

Sherri Slaven—If you've ever admired the way the Emmaus trailer is organized, you can thank Sherri. She has worked side-by-side with her husband Andy in setting up our walks. A native of Hickory Ridge, Sherri graduated Cross County High and earned an Associate in office management at ASU. She and Andy together have 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

Important Dates

**Jan. 7: Board Retreat,
SW Church of Christ,
6:00-9:00 pm**

**Jan. 8: Board Retreat
continues, 9:00 am-noon
Jonesboro FUMC**



**Jan. 8: Gathering, noon,
Jonesboro FUMC.**



**Feb. 5: Gathering, noon,
Jonesboro FUMC.**



**March 5: Gathering,
noon, Jonesboro FUMC.**



(All walk dates tentative until
confirmed Jan. 1)

**Mar. 31-Apr. 3: Men's
Walk, Mt. Zion Camp.**



**April 7-10: Women's
Walk, Mt. Zion Camp.**



**May 7: Gathering, noon,
Jonesboro FUMC.**



**Sept. 29-Oct. 2: possible
Walk date.**

Oct. 6-9: possible Walk.

**Oct. 13-16: possible
Walk. (Board will pick 2 of
the 3 dates, after coordinating
with Mt. Zion Baptist Assn.)**

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712 Buttry Drive
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Pilgrim Class of 2010 Still Glowing

(Editor's Note: These interviews were made from a random selection of Members who completed their Walks in the fall of 2010).

Leslie Tucker, Central Baptist, Jonesboro—"Getting away from life's distractions opened up clearer, sweeter communication. I put more priority on the time I spend with God in study and prayer, so I will hear Him better. I feel such a closeness to Him. I want to help others and I am more aware of service opportunities in my church."

David Malone, Cherokee Village UMC—"Everything has changed for the better, and I would like to take church participation up a couple of notches. My friends say I sparkle! I want to spend more time in the Word and with Jesus. I'm in the Red Rooster Group at church, and there are a couple of men I would like to sponsor this year."

Callie Wagner, Tuckerman UMC—"At first, I didn't want to go, but we got to having a good time. Before I left, I was just going through the motions at church, but after I got back home, I'm having a real relationship with God. I plan to try a couple of reunion groups, and I have someone in mind to sponsor on the next men's walk."

Bob Taylor, Heber Springs Christian Church—"I am totally better since the walk with a new focus and direction. People say they can see a difference in me. Since I started reading the Bible regularly I'm amazed at how much you can get from just two verses. Now I'm going to church and Sunday School more. Having the Lord in my heart helps me at work, too."

Rhonda Smith, Connection Ministries, Blytheville—"I have never felt so much love as I did on my walk. It was such a moving experience. Tim Fulks, our pastor, has asked us to do a devotional for the core members of our church, who pray over members who are sick, as well as visitors who are on our card list. The walk was such a wonderful experience for me that I would like to work a walk and sponsor a Pilgrim."

**Jan. 22: Orientation.
Feb. 18-19: Training.
March 12: Training.**

**ALL workers for spring walks must commit
to attend Orientation and Training!
Mark your calendars!**

**Near the Cross
Emmaus**

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