

Near the Cross Emmaus



February 2012
Volume 7, Issue 2

Board of Directors Changes in 2012

With adjustments of outgoing Board members and inductions of new members, our NEAR the Cross Board of Directors has already been hard at work this year. Having Walk Dates and Lay Directors in place for 2012, the Board is anxious about what God has planned in the upcoming year for the NEAR the Cross Community. At their January meeting, new Committee Chairs were selected among Board members. The following will lead each committee and will be responsible for duties involved. If you would like to volunteer for any of the following committees please contact the Board Member Chair to see how you can get involved.

Candy Wray	Team Selection <i>Past Board Chair</i>
Jim Markley	Community Lay Director <i>Board Chair</i>
Sara Frazier	Agape <i>Secretary</i>
Jimmy Anderson	Comm. Spiritual Director <i>Spiritual Director</i>
Sherri Slaven	Transportation/Luggage <i>Treasurer</i>
Bob Rogers	Registrar
Shelly Fulks	Data Input
Keith Churchill	Kitchen
Betty Waser	72-Hour Prayer Vigil
Marion Fleming	Gatherings
Ted DeWeese	Music/Entertainment
Jeff Branch	Candlelight/Sponsor's Hour
Jim Stillwell	Supplies/Literature
Travis Emery	Facilities/Logistics
Haley Mitchell	Newsletter/Website
Tom McDonald	Reunion Groups/Followup

Agape Needed for Walks

It is time to start working on Agape for the spring walks. Here's how much is needed: 31 pieces for bed agape, 56 pieces for dining room or 77 pieces to bless the entire team and pilgrims. These numbers may vary but should provide enough for each walk. Please label agape with only the Reunion

name and city. Please do not put individual names on Agape, since it is to be given anonymously.

We also have opportunities for Individuals or Reunion Groups to sponsor a snack table during the walk for \$35. Contact Keith Churchill at 870-680-2571 if you are interested.

IMPORTANT DATES IN 2012

February 4

Monthly Gathering
Noon at FUMC Jonesboro

February 25

Orientation for
Walks #23 & #24
FUMC Jonesboro
*Orientation is open to
all members of the
Emmaus Community.

March 9 & 10

Walks #23 & #24
Training-Conference Room
Cornerstone UMC, J'boro

March 31

Walks #23 & #24
Training-Conference Room and
Support Teams
Cornerstone UMC, J'boro

April 12-15

Men's Walk #23
LD: Mark Belk

April 19-22

Women's Walk #24
LD: Linda Secor

September 13-16

Men's Walk #25
LD: Jim Markley

September 20-23

Women's Walk #26
LD: Shelly Fulks

We would like to thank our outgoing board members for their time spent serving our community: Lisa Chandler, Grant McDaniel, Mike Russell and Colleen Wise.

Eternal Food

Eternal Food

4th Day Talk Dixie Owens

I'm Dixie Owens, Noah's of Ark, Walk to Emmaus number 32, Table of Ruth.

When I attended my Walk to Emmaus I was just ending a year after doing a strenuous job in the church and was feeling burnt out.

Barbara and Perry Hope sponsored me. I had told them one day that I would like to work a Kairos Prison weekend and they said you need to go to an Emmaus walk first. I was expecting to have a nice leisurely, relaxing few days. I don't think I knew any of the Pilgrims on my walk.

My roommate was an older lady who was a professor from John Brown University. She was a very nice lady. We found it hard not to talk the first night since we'd never seen each other before.

The whole Emmaus experience was great! It was fun, a real growing experience. I made new friends. I loved the talks, the witnessing of personal experiences of those all around me. I loved the music, the sharing, the feelings of love and acceptance, the unconditional love of God that I experienced from every one.

It gave me a new lease on life and I came home and hit the ground running to whatever God would have me do.

That was about 25 years ago. I'm still turned on to the Lord. I try to stay tuned to Him, listen for his voice and guidance.

One of the talks at Emmaus is Growth Through Study. I've always loved to read. I started immediately going to Bible Study Fellowship which is an international Bible study. I wanted to know more about Jesus and study Him in a deeper way. I've done that for 25 years.

Each book we study is a school year in length. We've studied Genesis, The Life of Moses, Israel and the Minor Prophets, Acts of the Apostles, Romans, John, Matthew and Isaiah.

They have covered everything in the Bible except The Revelation to John. I've also done the Disciple Bible Studies. All of this has helped me in my daily life as well as teaching Sunday School and lay speaking.

This really met a need in my life. I hope it will encourage you to study, too.

At Emmaus we are encouraged to be a priest or God's representative out in the world. One day I had gone to the hospital to see my aunt who was in intensive care.

While in the waiting room, a lady and her son also came into the waiting room. The lady was shook up because her husband was having a heart attack. She was beside herself.

John 6:27

Her son wanted to calm her down, but he was real short with her because he was shook up, too. I quietly walked over to her and said, "would you mind if I prayed with you?"

She said, "oh please do." I asked her to sit down and I got on my knees in front of her, took her hand and began to pray. I asked the Lord to calm her spirit and give her the peace that is beyond all understanding and give healing to her husband.

I reminded her that God said He would never leave her or forsake her, that God loves her, her husband and family so much that He gave His life for them. I prayed for things that would calm and comfort her.

Years before, I would not have been as bold as this. I didn't know the lady, had not seen her before and didn't expect to see her again. After the prayer I went in to see my aunt, then went directly home.

Several months later I had been walking at the mall and was going to my car when this lady grabbed and hugged me, kissed my cheek and began to thank me for praying for her.

She introduced me to her husband. She said, "I never could have made it without your prayers." I told her it wasn't me but the Lord who did everything. God is the one who heals and comforts. He

just allowed me to be there. She said, "if I ever have a time in my life again I want you there to pray for me. I looked for you the whole time we were in the hospital, but no one knew who you were." I am thankful that God allowed me to know that the man got well.

In order to keep my priorities straight I have to have a regular quiet time for prayer and Bible study. I choose early morning.

My Christian action has led me to serve on the "We Care Committee" at our church. We serve bereavement meals to the family of those who pass away. The family needs this service and they appreciate it so much.

As a result of this work, sometimes whole families join the church.

I grew up in a small church where it seemed like some people do everything. The church I now attend has a large number of people who volunteer to cook a dish. Several of the ladies who serve with me are here today.

When I see something that needs to be done in the church I take the initiative to get the job done. The people of our church want to serve and they are receptive to answer God's call. They just don't want to organize the tasks. I always seek the support of others.

I read somewhere that God never calls us to be a "Lone Ranger." He also calls others with a passion for the same project. When we do God's work God's way we never lack for support.

I have learned the skills

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and talents of those around me. They rarely turn me down when asked to serve.

Our church's mission is: **"Putting Jesus First in our Lives."** I strive daily to do this.

Down through the years I've come to love Jesus more and more. I hunger and thirst for His righteousness. I pray that someone, someday would see Jesus in me.

I encourage you to invite your friends to attend an Emmaus walk. You know and I know it's life changing.

One of the young adult classes in our church has really worked at getting the people in that class to attend Emmaus. It's made a difference in that class!

I can't say enough about going back and working an Emmaus walk in any capacity. I've served in many roles and loved them all.

Every walk provides a refreshing new wave of the Holy Spirit, building me up for returning to my church to serve our Lord.

Emmaus is a great way to build deep Christian friendships with people from throughout this area.

The scriptures tell us that "to whom much is given, much is required" (Luke 12:48b).

Those of us who have attended Emmaus, worked a walk and attended Emmaus activities have received much in

in teaching, love and encouragement.

There's no reason why we can't go back to our church homes and give love and encouragement to build up others.

Today I am 76 years old and I haven't stopped or even slowed down in 25 years since my Emmaus walk!!

DeColores!

Want to Work a Walk?

If you have not completed a NEAR the Cross Emmaus work application in the past couple of months, please complete and return a new work application to Registrar Bob Rogers. Applications can be downloaded from the website. The team selection committee does their best to have 1/3 new team members, 1/3 who have worked at least one time and the 1/3 veterans. We have grown so fast in the past few years, we ask that everyone fill out a new application each year so we

Proposed By-Law Passed

According to Article XI of our By-Laws, the Board has unanimously approved the following By-Law changes: *Section 4: Election of Board Members*
C. Returned ballots shall be received by the Secretary and opened and counted by three (3) Board members approximately one week prior to the November Board meeting at a time and place set by the Secretary.

EMMAUS SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship is the most important role in the Walk to Emmaus community. As a sponsor you will reflect God's personal love and commitment to the Pilgrim. God passes His love from person to person and you will underline that fact by passing on your Emmaus experience to another.

Your aim in sponsorship should not be to get all your friends to go or to fix everyone's problems but to build up the Body of Christ. Emmaus' purpose is to bring renewal to Christians so that they will go home and bring renewal to their homes, churches and communities.

Do you know someone who shows potential in Christian leadership? Do you know someone who yearns for answers to their questions and to find a deeper faith? Then that is who you should sponsor!

Anyone who has participated in the Walk to Emmaus (or other recognized Fourth Day Movements) may sponsor a Pilgrim. The only additional requirement is that you are confident you can fulfill all responsibilities. For a complete list of those responsibilities, contact our registrar or visit our website.

Follow these steps for sponsorship:

- Pray for God's direction in whom to sponsor and for their openness.
- Discuss the retreat with your potential pilgrim. Share what the Walk to Emmaus meant to you.
- Give them a registration form and follow up with them. But never force anyone to go on a Walk to Emmaus!
- Get a copy of the sponsor form and fill it out.
- Submit the completed form(s) to the registrar as soon as possible.
- Continue in prayer for your pilgrim and get started on your sponsorship responsibilities.

Near the Cross Emmaus

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Check us out on the web!

www.nearthecrossemmaus.org

From the website, you can post prayers & praises, print sponsor & work forms, find reunion groups and upcoming events. Also find our history, names of board members and assignments.