

# Near the Cross Emmaus



January 2013

Volume 8, Issue 1

## CONGRATULATIONS

Newly Elected  
Board Members

**Shane West (clergy)**

Lake City

**Marvin Day**

Jonesboro

**Jason Chandler**

Jonesboro

**Kathy Price**

Beebe

**Pam Slaven**

Jonesboro

## SPRING WALKS AROUND THE CORNER

Walk dates have been set for Men's Walk #28 to be February 28-March 3 and Women's Walk #28 to be March 7-10. We have a shorter period of time to sign up pilgrims with walks scheduled roughly six weeks earlier than usual dates. The Board has approved 25 pilgrims as the maximum for any Walk, with the remainder going on a waiting list. Conversely, Walks will not proceed without a minimum of 15 pilgrims by five days before the scheduled start of any walk.

Who will you sponsor?

The aim of a sponsor should not be "to get all my friends to go," to fill up the three-day event, to fix people's problems, or to reproduce one's own religious experience in others. Rather, the aim of the sponsor is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who, in turn, will bring new life and vision to the work of the church in the congregation, home, workplace and community. The aim of sponsorship is to build up the body of Christ.

## THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

In western Christian tradition, January 6 is celebrated as Epiphany. It goes by other names in various church traditions. In Hispanic and Latin culture, as well as some places in Europe, it is known as Three Kings' Day. Epiphany is the climax of the Advent/Christmas Season and the Twelve Days of Christmas, which are usually counted from the evening of December 25th until the morning of January 6th, which is the Twelfth Day. In following this older custom of counting the days beginning at sundown, the evening of January 5th is the Twelfth Night.

In traditional Christian churches Christmas, as well as Easter, is celebrated as a period of time, a season of the church year rather than just a day. The Season of the Church year associated with Christmas actually begins with the first Sunday of Advent, four Sundays before Christmas Day.

Advent is marked by expectation and anticipation in preparing to celebrate the coming of Jesus. Christmas begins with Christmas Day December 25 and lasts for Twelve Days until Epiphany, January 6, which looks ahead to the mission of the church to the world in light of the Nativity. The one or

two Sundays between Christmas Day and Epiphany are sometimes called Christmastide.

For many Protestant church traditions, the season of Epiphany extends from January 6th until Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent leading to Easter. Other traditions, especially the Roman Catholic tradition, observe Epiphany as a single day, with the Sundays following Epiphany counted as Ordinary Time. In some western traditions, the last Sunday of Epiphany is celebrated as Transfiguration Sunday.

## Community Gathering

Saturday, Jan. 5

FUMC Jonesboro

### SPRING

February 28th-March 3rd  
Men's Walk #27

March 7-10  
Women's Walk #28

### FALL

September 12-15  
Men's Walk #29

September 19-22  
Women's Walk #30

## Community Lay Leader

Jim Markley

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## Registrar

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## Newsletter

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**Check us out on Facebook!**

**This is a closed group to keep in touch and share our 4th Day experiences. This is not an official board page.**

# 4th Day Talk

## 4th Day Talk

### Bob Turman Speaks at Gathering

October 2009 was a special date and time because that was my pilgrim walk with my son. It was one year earlier that I lost my daughter and he lost his sister; so I was down and needed reviving. Our walk was special and I'm sure every walk is.

I sat at the table of Mark the table directly behind where my son sat. As I watched him and his re-action to every situation the "pride would just swell more and more" The dying moments... candle light...the skits... the talks...and food....and snacks...I recall a funny moment before we went to send off when my son was talking and mentioned that he needed to get snacks to take with him. I don't recall who all was there during the time, but someone said "Don't worry about bringing snacks. There will be a few snacks there."

Seeing my son mature in his faith that 72 hours still brings tears to my eyes and my heart swells with pride and love. Even more today than yesterday. He was on fire for the Lord and eager to speak the Gospel.

David Belk, Lay Director of Walk #17, asked my son and I to work the fall walk in October 2010. He agreed and attended a practice meeting or two and was really excited and happy looking forward to it. But it was not meant to be. It was about the middle of September 2010 when he was diagnosed with cancer. I saw him slowly becoming sicker day by day as the Chemo took its toll. I never heard him once say,

"Why me Lord?" As most of you know he passed away April 3 2011. But what you may not know is that my brother-in-law passed away March 29 2011 and my mother-in-law a few weeks after Todd.

As I have been reflecting on my Pilgrim walk and this Fourth Day talk previous Fourth Day talks kept coming into my mind. Recalling the peaks and valleys and that we can't stay on a mountain experience nor the valleys.

This year my wife and I were fortunate enough to take a trip to Europe visiting Switzerland and several villages in Germany. The country is absolutely beautiful, words can't do it justice. In Berne, Germany the mountain are so magnificent, the wonders of the world. The apps of Switzerland and Germany are breath taking. We were fortunate enough by taking trams up the mountain tops to pass cows grazing, mountain goats, little farms houses sitting on the mountain side with steams and water falls flowing down into the valley. It took me back to Sound of Music; I wondered why God couldn't have given us some of that beauty back home instead of the flat lands.

We were told that Mt Pilatus was named after Pontus Pilate. So the group decided to take a tram almost to the top. As we ascended into the clouds, would floated by higher and higher until we reached the summit.

After reaching to summit, which was a place with gift shops, food, motels, we were told that only a very few people climbed to the top. So my wife, Billie, and I decided we would climb a little ways. The air got thinner as we climbed. Each plateau had a resting place where we would stop to catch our breath. However, after a while Billie wanted to go back down, but I wanted to make it to the top. After all, this was my only chance to do it or be there again. I wanted to soak up all the beauty. Each area I stopped, the scenery

had a different view, and they all were magnificent. My attempt to describe the beauty is inadequate and my eager attempts do not do it justice! With each of my stops I felt compelled to climb higher and higher until I reached the top.

After reaching the top, I marveled and was in awe of the view. Soaking up all the glorious surrounding, peacefulness and feeling closer to Heaven & God. Instantly I felt the presence of my children there with me. I didn't want that feeling to go away. I wanted it to last forever. I constantly think of my children. This was a special moment.. After praying, I began to descend slowly to meet up with the others at the gathering place where we were to meet.

The bus ride back to the motel gave us all time for reflection. Reflecting on the journey and sites, my mind drifted back to the time I began reading through the Bible. At the beginning there was chaos, void of anything. Gradually life began with human beings. The next to emerge were sin, forgiveness, repenting and the stories and life of the entire servant.

Beginning with Adam and Eve I thought about how our journey is with the Lord. Each step we take we are learning more about our Lord and Savior. And we become closer to God as more is revealed to us. The more we learn we begin to obtain a different view of what God has in store for us. Our desires of wanting to reach out to others by trying to be that "true servant" , serving others by our sacrifices and giving of our self in the servant hood of God. Each and every day we should climb to that next level, higher and higher studying the word of God.

DeColores!

**Outgoing Board Members:**  
**Ted DeWeese (clergy)**  
**Tom McDonald**  
**Bob Rogers**  
**Jim Stillwell**  
**Betty Waser**

**Thank you for your time and servant hood to the community!**