

# Near the Cross Emmaus



April 2014  
Volume 9, Issue 4

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF NEAR THE CROSS

### UPCOMING EVENTS

May 3

Community Gathering  
FUMC Jonesboro  
At Noon

June 7

Community Gathering  
FUMC Jonesboro  
At Noon

July

There will not be a  
Community Gathering  
due to the 4th of July  
Holiday

October 2-5

Men's Walk #33

October 9-12

Women's Walk #34

#### COMMUNITY LAY LEADER

Marvin Day  
mday@jonesborocw.org

#### COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIR.

Marion Fleming  
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#### TREASURER

Melissa Russell  
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#### SECRETARY

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#### REGISTRAR

Pam Slaven  
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#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Haley Mitchell  
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### WALK #31

Danny Blankenship	Mountain Home
Gary Brooks	Caraway
Jonathan Brooks	Cherry Valley
Jim Clifton	Corning
Mark Cloninger	Brookland
Jerry Cobb	Jonesboro
Allen Craig	Jonesboro
John DeFries	Paragould
Johnny Deiss	Jonesboro
Andrew Gerstner	Jonesboro
Larry Goodman	Osceola
Steven Greer	Jonesboro
Jim Greuel	Jonesboro
Jason Hartsell	Jonesboro
Gary McBee	Osceola
Perry Patterson	Jonesboro
Patrick Pike	Jonesboro
Brian Stahl	Leachville
Casey Turner	Jonesboro
Michael Warnick	Paragould
Charles Williams	Blytheville
Gary Wrinkle	Lake City

### WALK #32

Jackie Blanchard	Walnut Ridge
Cindy Craig	Jonesboro
Stacey DeFries	Paragould
Diann Dennis	Cherokee Village
Pat Glascock	Jonesboro
Jessica Halk	Cherry Valley
Chasity Henry	Paragould
Denay Hoskins	Jonesboro
Mallorie Hughes	Batesville
Felicia Johnson	Jonesboro
Monica Jones	Mountain View
Stephanie McDaniel	Jonesboro
ShaLana McElroy	Nixa, MO
Susan Merideth	Jonesboro
Ruby Mills	Mountain View
LaQuitta Nelson	Lake City
Danna Ramsey	Jonesboro
Lisa Richardson	Paragould
Claire Smith	Paragould
Sara Speir	Jonesboro
Jamie Stahl	Leachville
Tiffanie Turner	Jonesboro
Pam Wicher	Greers Ferry
Cyndi Williams	Brookland
Jesse Wrinkle	Lake City

## PREPARATIONS FOR FALL WALKS

After our 2014 Spring Walks came to a close in March, plans began underway immediately for our 2014 Fall Walks. Lay Directors Bob Turman and Sara Frazier will be meeting with the Team Selection Committee very soon to start piecing together teams to serve on Walks #33 and #34. If you are interested in serving on the Fall Walks visit our website at [www.nearthecrossemmaus.org](http://www.nearthecrossemmaus.org)

and download a worker application. Please fill out and mail back to our Registrar Pam Slaven as soon as possible.

If you cannot work a full walk weekend but still would like to help with luggage, transportation, Candlelight, etc. please visit our website and contact the board member responsible for that area. Any help is very much needed and greatly appreciated.

## from the church, for the church

So Emmaus comes from the church, and it returns to the church. It is a blessed cycle. It is like the water cycle, which continues to renew the land. The rain falls, filters down to streams and rivers that lead to the ocean, and replenishes the earth. It is then drawn back into the atmosphere where the water is released again in the rain. The relationship between the Walk to Emmaus and the church is a blessed cycle of renewal. The church created Emmaus, and Emmaus exists to renew the church—not the church named on a roadside bulletin board or listed in the registry of denominations, but all the churches and denominations that bring pilgrims into the Emmaus experience. The church and Emmaus live in a relationship of continuing renewal. The church, through Emmaus, quenches the pilgrims' thirst for spiritual depth; pilgrims in turn, return to the church to help meet its

spiritual renewal. Each is a blessing to the other.

The church brings people to the Walk. Emmaus returns them to be intentional disciples of Jesus Christ and agents of renewal. Pilgrims return to local congregations, their primary places of discipleship and to their homes, places of employment, and communities. Many pastors and other church leaders testify that the participants on the Walk to Emmaus return to offer themselves as selfless servants, employing their gifts and graces where they are needed in the local congregation. This is as it should be. An Australian pastor says of Emmaus, "The encouragement Emmaus gives in choosing, using and giving people experience in being leaders is found in few other activities of the church. I have found Emmaus to be the best program for helping persons realize their leadership potential."

-The Emmaus Library  
Coming Down from the Mountain



 Find us on  
**Facebook**

**This is a closed group to keep in touch and share our 4th Day experiences, study material, prayer requests and praises. This is not an official page of the NEAR the Cross Board of Directors.**

## What happens in Emmaus reunion groups?

Persons traditionally refer to the follow-up groups as "group reunions" or "reunion groups," though they have other names as well, such as "fourth day groups," "accountability groups," "share groups," "discipleship groups," and "Christian support groups." The follow-up groups have a common purpose: our perseverance in grace. Group members reinforce one another's desire to maintain constant communion with Christ and contact with other Christians who share a vision of life lived wholly in the grace of God.

Emmaus group reunions meet at regular times, usually weekly for an hour. The meeting consists of persons' sharing the stories of their

walk with Christ during the past week. The pattern on the reunion card, which everyone receives on the third day of the Emmaus Walk, guides the sharing.

First, each person reviews his walk with Christ through the practice of the threefold discipline of vital piety, study and service. Second, each person reflects on the ways she has experienced Christ's presence and calls to action. Third, each person shares plans for living out his or her discipleship in the week to come. The meeting concludes with announcements and closing prayers. During the group meeting, members listen to one another, celebrate the grace of God in each person's life, and reinforce

each person's commitment to living in union with Christ in all facets of daily life. The members express that reinforcement through gentle accountability, encouragement and support.

Men and women commonly form separate groups. But many groups form without regard to gender. Some people prefer groups that include men and women. Still others enjoy the advantages of meeting as married couples. Most groups are all laity, some include clergy and few are all clergy.

If you are interested in being a part of a reunion group contact your sponsor or NEAR the Cross board member Jason Chandler at [jaclac@att.net](mailto:jaclac@att.net) or 870-919-5744.