

# The Emmaus Newsletter

## I Wonder...

Remember on your walk how kind everyone seemed? How it felt to have everyone serving you in so many ways? How does someone learn to extend such kindness to others anyway? Does it come naturally? In his letter to the Galatians, Paul sets out the fruit of the Spirit. One of the fruits is kindness (sometimes translated "goodness").

Part of the joy of Emmaus week-ends for anyone who helps in any way comes from the kindness

they are extending to the Pilgrims. We have another set of Walks coming soon. It's time to prepare our hearts, minds, and spirits to extend kindness to a new set of pilgrims — to show them "goodness"—just like we experienced.

I wonder ... What other fruits of the Spirit will we find and use along the way?

Only by His grace,

**Ken Frazier, Board Chair**

## An Invitation

*"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"*

These words from Jesus found in Matthew 11:28 are an invitation that calls us to Him when we have exhausted all our efforts of self-healing and self-salvation.

We will never find within us the power, the grace or the Spirit to lift ourselves or become our own savior.

We are invited in these words to lay aside our human efforts and exchange them for a life lived in the presence of Christ. He goes on to say, *"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

In this life, easy yokes and light burdens are hard to come by, but Jesus has them custom-made for each of us. Won't you try them on?

De Colores!

**Wayne Hayes, Community Lay Director**

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- ♦ **August Gathering, Aug 13, 7 pm at Pryor FUMC**
- ♦ **Men's Walk #151 will be at Asbury UMC Sept. 22-25**
- ♦ **Sendoff, Thursday, Sept. 22 6:30 pm Asbury**
- ♦ **Sept. Gathering, Sept. 24, 7 pm, Asbury, Candlelight to follow.**
- ♦ **Women's Walk #152 at Asbury UMC Oct. 6-9**
- ♦ **Sendoff, Thursday, Oct. 6, 6:30 pm Asbury**
- ♦ **October Gathering, Oct. 8, 7 pm, Asbury, Candlelight to follow.**

# Praying for Oklahoma: Will You Pray with Me?

Dear Emmaus Saints,

The "New Christians" evangelism initiative is one that is conference-wide and is working on revival in our local churches, our communities, across Oklahoma, and beyond. We believe that we are at a crossroads and United Methodism needs to get back to the "mission" mindset of meeting people where they are, developing a relationship, and introducing them to Jesus Christ. We feel that the most important part of this is PRAYER. Emmaus communities are known for strong prayer, undergirding everything with prayer, and acting on what and where God is leading. We have developed some prayers that have been written by laity and clergy for the 2011 year. We are asking that these be prayed by everyone across Oklahoma at every opportunity. These are but a starting point. When we pray, we draw closer to God and see the mission fields as God does. Now, my question to each of you is: Will you pray with me?

## Week of August 7

**Focus:** Use our discomforts to strengthen us as GOD prepares us for his ministries.

**Verse:** *"Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went."* Acts: 8:4, NAS

**Prayer:** Lord, let our hearts, eyes and ears understand what you are preparing us for.

## Week of August 14

**Focus:** Use our gifts in UNITY for the growth and health of the body of Christ.

**Verse:** *"To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."* Ephesians 4:12,13.

**Prayer:** Lord, let us be humble, gentle, patient, understanding, and peaceful so that your Body may grow in strength and size.

## Week of August 21

**Focus:** Use examples, open doors and common ground to communicate the gospel.

**Verse:** *"For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you."* Acts 17:23, NIV

**Prayer:** Father, open our eyes, open our ears, open our hearts and let us see, hear and feel the opportunity YOU will provide us.

## Week of August 28

**Focus:** Our ministry as exhibits for Christ in untrusting times.

**Verse:** *"For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."* Matthew 11:30, NIV.

**Prayer:** Lord, teach us how to help others trust our God and to give Him our burdens.

De Colores,

Temple Diehl, Pastor, Elmore City UMC



## Motivated by Christ's Love

Along with millions of other people this past month, I took my family to see the exciting conclusion of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. In the movie, Lord Voldemort, Harry's arch nemesis, seeks out the Elder Wand, the most powerful magic wand in the world. With this wand, he believes that he will be invincible. Voldemort will do anything to obtain it, torturing and killing anyone who stands in his way. Voldemort does succeed in getting the wand. But once he attains it, he learns that ultimate power isn't always what it is cracked up to be.

Lord Voldemort is the antithesis of what it means to be a leader on the walk to Emmaus. We are motivated not by a lust for power or fame and fortune, but instead by Christ's love and the desire to share it with others. In Emmaus all the credit,

all the glory, and all the fame belongs to God. We are simply an extension of God's work in this world. In Harry Potter, Voldemort's name was usually not uttered, not because people couldn't remember it, but because he was so greatly feared. It was believed that uttering his name would bring misfortune upon you. In Emmaus, the pilgrims may never remember the name of those who served, but they remember the name of the One whom we serve. If we can do THAT by serving, then we've done our job!

In HIS service,

*James*

Rev. James Graham  
Community Spiritual Director

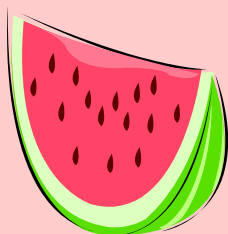


## Kairos Outside

Here's a note from Lori Tyler of Kairos Outside: I was just thinking we could ban together and help each other out. I think if ministries work together, more gets done. We have some outreach opportunities. I am involved in Priesthood Motorcycle Ministry. We also need volunteers for Torch to mentor some boys at the Tulsa Boys Home. That weekend will be in November. These boys are

wards of the state and not prisoners, though. They just need some sense of stability in their lives and someone who comes to see them. Men and women can mentor. They have to go through an approval. Thank you and hope to work with you. God bless.

For more information, contact Emerging Ministries Board rep Gail Mangan at [gailho@usa.net](mailto:gailho@usa.net).

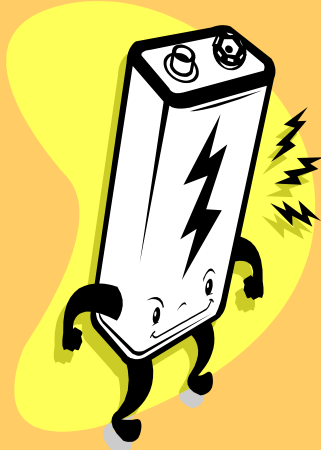


**August Gathering**  
**August 13 7 pm Pryor UMC**  
**Bring your favorite summer snack!**  
**Childcare available!**

## Fall Walks Are Approaching!

The teams are training with resolve and faith to prepare themselves to do God's work as He leads them. Time for us to get charged up and prepare as well.

September 22-25 for the men and October 6-9 for the women, both at Asbury UMC. Perhaps your reunion group would like to provide agape for the pilgrims or come together as a group to help with set-up or in the kitchen.



There is always a need for TA's or help with resetting the church. The bottom line is that there are hands and feet needed to demonstrate radical love for the Pilgrims.

I have heard it said before that we are "Christ with skin on." We become transformed into workers for the Kingdom, and in doing that, we become the vision of Christ so that all glory and honor goes to Him.

**Wayne Hayes**  
**Community Lay Director**

## Spring 2012 Walk Dates, Location Set

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU is in order!

Bixby UMC has answered the call to be our hosts for Walks 153 and 154 to be held April 19-22 and May 3-6 in 2012.

I know Lay Directors Susan Kiser and Johnnie Jarred are getting excited and would appreciate all your prayers of support and lift up those pilgrims who we have not even met yet.

If you have not updated your information on the IMS database, please do so if you desire to work in any capacity either as support or team. We may not know your correct contact information.

De Colores,

**Wayne Hayes**  
**Community Lay Director**

### Green Country Walk to Emmaus 2012 Spring Walks

Men's Walk #153

April 19-22

Bixby UMC

Women's Walk #154

May 3-6

Bixby UMC

Start praying now about just who God might be calling to participate in these walks. Get your sponsorship information ready to go!

## Giving A Most Wonderful Gift – Sponsorship: Step 2

In the last newsletter, I began writing about sponsorship of a long-time co-worker. I ended by saying, *"I will pray and wait to see if she returns the application form which is like receiving an RSVP to the Emmaus invitation. I will also pray and wait to see if God will choose to renew her through Emmaus or in another way."*

Since then, my friend has shared Emmaus with others at her church and said two more who are active in church have expressed interest in attending Emmaus. All of these new pilgrims are members of a church that is new to our Emmaus community. Recently, when I arrived at work, there were two Emmaus applications along with checks waiting for me. My friend has assured me that her application will follow soon and I have no doubt, since she has recruited two others.

So now there are three pilgrims, and I can only sponsor two. This reminded me of the fishermen who cast their nets and Jesus filled them so full, they could barely pull the

nets into the boat. I thought I would be sponsoring one, possibly two and now I have three! No problem. I asked a friend from my reunion group to help me welcome these pilgrims. We have decided to call them and meet for dinner in the next few weeks to get acquainted. This will give us an opportunity to share more about our Emmaus experience, reassure them, and answer any questions they may have.

Like the fishermen of long ago, when we cast our nets, we can never imagine how they will be filled. I believe God has great plans for these pilgrims. I have been blessed by involving my reunion group. I look forward with anticipation to meeting these new pilgrims that God has placed in my path.

I look forward to sharing more about this journey in the next newsletter. Until then ...  
De Colores,

**Belynda Clanton, Registrar**

## Reunion Groups Serving Together

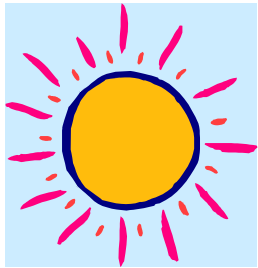
The fall walks are approaching. This is a great time for reunion groups to serve together. Opportunities abound in ways reunion group can serve and help with preparations before, during and after the walk. Please pray, not just if, but where your reunion group can serve together for the walks. Opportunities include: facilities set-up and breakdown, kitchen, dining room, Team Assistants, Saturday night gathering and candlelight, snacks, letter sorting, Fourth Day and making agape. Boston Avenue United Methodist Church has an "Agape Party" a month before the walks.

The church will host an "Agape Party" in August. If you would like to bring a snack to share and join them in making agape for the fall walks, please contact Cindy Cunningham at 918-749-7040 or [cunnij6@att.net](mailto:cunnij6@att.net) for the date and time. Agape parties are a good way of strengthening the Emmaus community within your church. So, let's "get the party started" . . . and plan for a time to gather and serve the pilgrims who will attend the walks.

**Beth Baggett**

**Fourth Day/Reunion Groups Board Rep**

Need to contact us?  
 Here is our mailing address:  
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