

The Emmaus Newsletter

I Wonder ...

Christmas! New Year!
Here we are again! But ... what have we learned from our past experiences during these holiday times?

Bertrand Russell said, "It's a healthy thing now and then to hang a question mark on the things you have long taken for granted."

So, I have some questions for this season! Why? How? Who? When? Why and how will we mark this season? Who will we do things with (or for) and when? Is now the time to show and share what we believe love is?

Dale Evans Rogers once said, "Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas."

As disciples, isn't that supposed to describe us - love in action? And don't we know in our hearts what Christmas ought to be?

Very simply, it is about light ... and about love. As we journey toward the light, may our thoughts be prayers, and our spirits be love.

What better way to reflect His light?

Only by His grace,

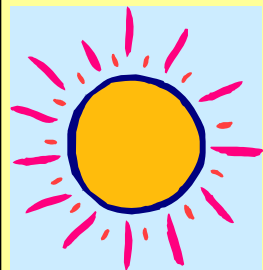
Ken Frazier, Board Chair

Let Jesus' Light Shine Through You

There is a song that goes like this:

We who are walking in darkness, have seen a great light, a great light ...

Let us remember that Jesus is the light of the world, and this season let's be sure to shine His light to others.



Luke 8:16 says that "No one lights a lamp and hides it in a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, he puts it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light."

How will you let Jesus' light shine through you?

Blessings,

Jeanne Kelly

Board Rep, Prayer

Inside this issue:

I Wonder 1

Jesus' Light Shines 1

Praying for Oklahoma 2

Advent 3

Emmaus Board 4

- ◆ December Gathering, Dec. 10, 7 p.m., Verdigris UMC
- ◆ Team Orientation for Walks #153, #154, Dec. 17, 8:45 a.m.-noon, at FUMC Broken Arrow
- ◆ January 2012 Gathering, Jan. 14, 7 p.m., Christ UMC
- ◆ February 2012 Gathering, TBA

Praying for Oklahoma: Will You Pray with Me?

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. Will you pray with me?

Week of December 4

Focus: Forgiveness of our sins.

Scripture: *"John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." Mark 1:4*

Prayer: Lord, forgive us as we forgive others. May your love shine brighter than our human failing. Amen.

Week of December 11

Focus: God's desire for all to be saved.

Scripture: *"The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9*

Prayer: God, when we get impatient, remind us it is not our plan but yours. We wait expectantly for your will to be done. Amen.

Week of December 18

Focus: Those who do not feel saved.

Scripture: *"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all." Titus 2:11*

Prayer: Almighty God, you are the savior. You are the one who brings peace and life eternal. Let our hearts be comforted by that promise. Amen.

Week of December 25

Focus: The birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Scripture: *"For my eyes have seen your salvation." Luke 2:30*

Prayer: Lord, we love and praise you this day. May the Christ child be born anew in our hearts, and may this be the first Christmas for those who did not know you. Amen.

De Colores,

Temple Diehl, Pastor, Elmore City UMC

Advent: A Time of Preparation, Waiting

It is Advent! That time of preparation and waiting for the hope that is expressed best in Jesus Christ to reignite in us an optimism for the new year. As we wait, and watch for the coming of the Christ child, I'm always excited by the bustle of activity that goes on around me. Everyone is busy shopping for gifts, decorating their homes and sanctuaries, going to parties, and busy working away to meet end of the year deadlines. However, in the midst of this flurry of activity, I want to remind everyone that advent is about waiting. Waiting for the revelation of the Christ child to be made known. Waiting for the coming hope of Christ to be made manifest in this world. Waiting for hunger, pain, wars, disease, oppression, and worry to become a thing of the past.

We have a role to play in alleviating all of these things. But during Advent, we realize that without Christ, none of our efforts are successful. It is the Christ child who brought hope into the world. It was the birth of the baby Jesus that caused the angels to say to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid -- I bring you good news of great joy for all the people!" Because of Christ we CAN be joyful despite these struggles. Helen Steiner Rice wrote the following poem:

May the Blessings of Christmas Be Yours

The blessings of Christmas are many,
More than words can express,
Enough to fill every longing heart
With untold happiness.
And the greatest of all blessings
Is the Christmas revelation
That Jesus Christ was born this day
To bring the world salvation.
And that is why this message
Is written here to say
That you are wished the blessings
Of the Holy Christmas Day.

May the peace and joy that only Christ can give be with you all this Christmas and in the year to come!

De Colores!

Pastor James Graham, Community Spiritual Director

Happy Holidays and Seasons' Greetings!

May the Spirit of the holiday season be upon you as we celebrate this special time of the year. Best wishes for a blessed Christmas. May 2012 bring you much joy and happiness. Happy New Year!



GREEN COUNTRY EMMAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Ken Frazier..... | Board Chairman..... | 918-438-1431 |
| Wayne Hayes..... | Community Lay Director..... | 918-622-5531 |
| Patrick Fincannon..... | Chrysalis Community Lay Director..... | 918-994-2012 |
| Rev. James Graham..... | Community Spiritual Director..... | 918-607-9384 |
| Gail Stunkard | Agape/Dining Room..... | |
| Hugh Lokey | Candlelight, Sponsors Hour | 918-520-4731 |
| Gail Mangan..... | Emerging Ministries/Secretary | 918-371-9997 |
| Duane DaPron | Newsletter..... | 918-671-3896 |
| Kathy Crow..... | Gatherings | |
| Daryl Worley..... | Kitchen..... | |
| David Cleveland..... | Literature..... | 918-440-5783 |
| Wilson Rubottom..... | Music, Entertainment..... | 918-371-9077 |
| John Miller | Facilities, Set-up..... | 918-314-1433 |
| Jeanne Kelly | Prayer..... | 918-230-2891 |
| Belynda Clanton | Registrar | 918-740-5911 |
| Beth Baggett..... | Reunion Groups/Fourth Day..... | 918-855-2081 |
| Tera Askey | Transportation/Housing/IT | |
| Layne Herring | Treasurer..... | 918-519-3119 |