

# THE EMMAUS NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Issue 17 - Published Monthly - June 2008

## GREEN COUNTRY WALK TO EMMAUS

### From Your Community Lay Director

How interesting that our theme for this month's Emmaus Newsletter is "Priesthood of All Believers". It's interesting because we have a new Community Spiritual Director and Assistant Community Spiritual Director to introduce!

You remember from the "Priesthood" talk we are challenged to consider how we can be a 'Priest', a representative of Christ, to others –

(re-present Christ to others). I know there are countless times I have been blessed by Christian brothers and sisters who have been 'Priests' in my life during difficult times. When others have reached out to me with love and support my faith is boosted and I am encouraged in my walk with the Lord.

That, of course, is a main point of the Priesthood talk. We are entrusted with the mission of re-presenting Christ in our world and reaching out to others as Christ would. Who is the 'we' in that last sentence? - All Believers! Lay people and Clergy alike.

The talk reminds us that is biblical and what the church is all about.

May you be blessed in your 4<sup>th</sup> days as you walk with the Lord and 're-present Christ to others!

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Speaking of the Clergy.....

We are so thankful for the clergy that faithfully serve in Green Country Emmaus and I want to let you know we have a new Community Spiritual Director. *Rev. Dick Bland* has served Centenary United Methodist Church in Tulsa for 24 years. He has also served many times on Green Country Emmaus weekends after attending his original Walk in San Antonio TX. We are very blessed that *Rev. Bland* has agreed to serve Our Lord as our Community Spiritual Director.

We also have a double

blessing as *Rev. Tommy Seale* has agreed to serve as the Assistant Community Spiritual Director. *Rev. Seale* is Pastor at Meadowcreek UMC in Collinsville and was on Green Country Walk #15.

I would ask the Community to lift these 2 servants up in prayer as they begin their work and bless us in their roles as our Clergy leadership!

De Colores,  
**Steve Williams**



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### Important Information

- June Gathering— First UMC of Broken Arrow—June 14, 2008
- July Gathering— Meadowcreek United Methodist Church, Collinsville, OK—July 12, 2008
- August Gathering—Redeemer Covenant—August 9, 2008

## From Your Spiritual Director—Prevenient Grace

Years ago in seminary we studied the books of Barth, Buber and Brunner. As I recall one believed you had to search for God and you would eventually find him. Another believed that you would search and God would meet you halfway. The third believed that you simply turned around and God was there. The third always appealed to me. This is what prevenient grace is. It is the grace that God holds for us even before we acknowledge His presence in our lives.

Wesley likened the three graces, prevenient, justifying and sanctifying grace to a house. Prevenient grace is the porch, justifying grace the door and sanctifying grace the rooms inside.

Realtors refer to the curb appeal of a house. The front of a house or the porch welcomes us. Prevenient grace is the curb appeal of faith.

The writer of 1 John says: "We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19 Prevenient grace is the key to our heart which is held in the hand of God. It is prevenient grace that calls us into relationship with Him.

When one of my grandsons was eight years old he asked me about baptism. I told him that baptism was something that followed inviting Jesus into our hearts. He replied, "*I invited him twice Grandpa, just to make sure he would come.*" He had already

experienced prevenient grace in his life.

God Bless You!

Dick Bland

Community Spiritual  
Director

June Gathering  
First United  
Methodist Church  
Broken Arrow  
Saturday, June 14  
7pm  
112 East College  
Broken Arrow, OK

Bring Your  
Favorite Dish

### Moving? Prefer to Receive the Newsletter via E-mail?

If you are moving, please give us plenty of advanced notice to help keep our postage costs down.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Old Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**New Address:**

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### CHRYSALIS FLIGHTS



Girls Flight is July 10-13  
Boys Flight is July 24-27

It's not too Late!

## Priesthood Through Service

As I thought about this article, I thought back to my walk #107, and I remembered all those Agape gifts, the food servers, the prayer warriors and the vast numbers of people that we never seen, like the cooks, dishwashers, the team assistants and oh so many others. Than on Saturday evening as we went for our evening devotional, all those people that were there to lift us

up and express their love for us. Yes, even now it brings a lump in my throat, a tear in my eye and a reminder of the Great Love God has for me.

Those people that did all the behind the scenes work for Walk #107 were being the priest to all of us pilgrims. Since that time I have seen many of you doing the same jobs and "BEING A CHANNEL OF GOD'S GRACE" , and "MAKING CHRIST REAL FOR PEOPLE" .

A Special Thank You to all of you who make these walks the best thing that has happened in our lives. May I encourage all of you to be "SERVANT ORIENTED" in the future  
w a l k s .

DeColores Jerry Wilm

## Kairos Korner

### Kairos Fall 2008 Opportunities NOW!!

*"...(I was) in  
prison and you visited  
me...I tell you, when-  
ever you did*

*this for one of  
the least important of  
these followers of  
mine, you did*

*it for me!"*

**Matthew 25: 36 & 40**

Opportunities to serve as Kairos team members and volunteers (men and women) are needed across the state for the Fall 2008 Weekends for incarcerated youth, adults and their family members. Sev-

eral opportunities are in nearby communities and just a short drive away. This is a life-changing Weekend for them and for you!!

There are also opportunities for servants to bake cookies, make agape, pray, and attend Closing (similar to an Emmaus Closing). **COOKIES** are the only tangible evidence of God's unconditional love that we are allowed to give residents! **MANY** cookies are needed. Recipes and guidelines can be found on the Kairos website. **CHILDREN'S AGAPE** really touches the residents!!! Letters, placemats and posters are needed. These should

be signed with only the child's first name and age. And, of course, **PRAYER!!!** Pray for the residents, the prison staff, the teams and all volunteers. **CLOSINGS** are very powerful and unforgettable!! Applications forms and due dates can be found on the Kairos website.

For information on Kairos opportunities statewide, Closing applications, cookie guidelines and recipes, and more, visit the Kairos website at <http://www.kairosoklahoma.org> or contact Rita Henze at 918-592-2531 or 918-557-6215 or at [rjhenze@cox.net](mailto:rjhenze@cox.net)

**GREEN COUNTRY EMMAUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Tom Sorrels.....	Board Chairman.....	918-355-1120
Steve Williams.....	Community Lay Director.....	918-494-0037
Rev. Dick Bland.....	Community Spiritual Director.....	
Rev. Tommy Seale....	Assistant Community Spiritual Director.....	
Connie Lucie.....	Agape/Dining Room.....	918-254-6717
John Owen.....	Candlelight, Sponsors Hour.....	918-524-9473
Cathy Herring.....	Emerging Ministries/Secretary.....	918-519-3120
Gary Bennett.....	Facilities, Set-up.....	918-691-3589
Ed Taylor.....	Gatherings.....	918-627-4254
Jerry Wilm.....	Kitchen.....	918-342-2863
Murray King.....	Literature.....	918-369-1402
Pat McGuire.....	Music, Entertainment.....	918-343-2827
Liz Merrill.....	Newsletter.....	918-398-7555
Anita Harshman.....	Prayer.....	918-494-0029
Bob Brooks.....	Reunion Groups/Fourth Day.....	918-355-8714
Shelley Covey.....	Registrar.....	918-749-7616
Giles Gere.....	Transportation/Housing.....	918-299-5741
Brenda Nickels.....	Treasurer.....	918-455-0668

CHRYSALIS/JOURNEY CONTACT: Nancy King, 918-419-2587 or [nancyking04@cox.net](mailto:nancyking04@cox.net)

KAIROS CONTACT: Rita Henze, 918-592-2531 or email [rjhenze@cox.net](mailto:rjhenze@cox.net)

TORCH CONTACT: Leslye Leslie, 918-521-1419 or email [jwleslie@valornet.com](mailto:jwleslie@valornet.com)

**IT'S NOT TOO EARLY**

Spots are already filling up fast for the September/  
October Walks! Have your pilgrim in mind? Get the  
applications in now !

Need More Information? Call the Registrar—Shelley  
Covey at 918-749-7616 or email

[walkregistrar@greencountryemmaus.com](mailto:walkregistrar@greencountryemmaus.com)

Enrollment forms can be found at  
[www.greencountryemmaus.com](http://www.greencountryemmaus.com)