

# The Emmaus Newsletter

## I Wonder...

Have you heard the song "Never Been Unloved" by Michael W. Smith? How many of us feel like the lyrics in this song - I have been ... unfaithful...unworthy... unrighteous...unmerciful... unreachable...unteachable... unwilling...undesirable...unwise...unbroken... uneasy...unapproachable... unemotional...unexceptional... undecided...unqualified...unaware... unfair...? Does any of this sound familiar? We all feel these things at times. And even during these times, when we have been "unfit for blessings from above", don't we remember the sacrifice God gave to us to "show that I have never been

unloved"? I often wonder how I can be so un... (you fill in the rest) so much of the time. Is my memory so bad that I can forget the sacrifice? I need worship, communion, music, prayer, and Christian fellowship to bring me back in line, and this is a continual process. At least I know that I have never been unloved. And I know that I will need to hear the message of this song again sometime. I wonder... how soon?

Only by His grace,  
Ken Frazier  
GCWE Board Chair

## Inside this issue:

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**Counting**  
**on ME!**

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## Important Chrysalis Update....

After much prayer and seeking advice from both the local Emmaus and regional Chrysalis leaders, I believe we need to grow and strengthen our Chrysalis Community our Fourth Day focus before we continue with our Flights. For now this means that the planned fall Flights will be postponed.

Hopefully very soon we will be scheduling a time of training with our Regional Chrysalis Director for both our Board and for our Community to help ensure we move forward following the model.

If you wish to join us for this training, you can contact me at [ogcbutterfly@gmail.com](mailto:ogcbutterfly@gmail.com) or call me at 918-994-2012.

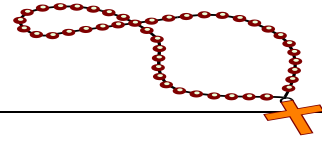
Please be in prayer for wise leadership and Divine guidance as we continue to build the Chrysalis/Emmaus Community.

Thank you,  
Patrick Fincannon  
Community Lay Director



- Nov Gathering November 13 at 7 pm at Bixby FUMC New Pilgrim Orientation at 6.
- Dec Gathering December 11 at Verdigris FUMC at 7 with old-fashioned caroling
- Jan Gathering January 8 at 7 pm at Owasso FUMC
- Feb Gathering February 12 at 7 pm at Christ UMC

## A Note from our Spiritual Director...



Greetings in the name of our risen Lord!

Walks 147 and 148 are now behind us! It is very exciting to see the number of lives that have been renewed, reenergized, and rededicated to serving the Lord in our local churches. It is truly wonderful what God can do when we open ourselves up to the possibilities that He has for us.

I was reading in the Gospel of Luke 18:1-8 last week how Jesus told the parable of the persistent widow. This widow who had been suffering from some un-named wrong, went to her local judge seeking justice. The judge who, as the scripture said, neither "feared God nor had respect for people" refused to hear her case, but this widow did not give up. She continued to pester the judge, until finally, in order to avoid the unpleasant publicity she was generating, he

gave her a hearing.

Jesus then reminds us that our loving God is always more ready to listen to our prayers, than was this scoundrel judge, however it doesn't hurt to be persistent! Let us be persistent in our prayers! Let us begin praying NOW for Walks 149 and 150. Let us pray that God will send us some sponsors for the many pilgrims waiting to go on the spring walks! Let us have the faith of a widow and pray without ceasing, and if we do, I believe God will hear our prayers and bring us blessings beyond measure this coming spring! Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful . . . . De Colores!



Rev. James Graham, Community  
Spiritual Director

### A note from the treasurer....

#### 2010 Financials as of 10-1-2010

General Operating Account:

Receipts \$27,517.98

Disbursements: \$18,543.67

John Baker Scholarship Account:

Balance: \$992.72

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes,  
Establish the work of our hands. Psalm 90:17

### Moving? Prefer to View the Newsletter Online?

**Yes, we decided to word this differently. It was confusing!!! We will send you an email announcement that the new newsletter has been posted, then you proceed to [www.greencountryemmaus.com](http://www.greencountryemmaus.com), click on newsletter, and then read and enjoy!!! This saves us postage costs!!**

**All we need is your email address! We will not share it with anyone else! Send it to [publications@greencountryemmaus.com](mailto:publications@greencountryemmaus.com)!**

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

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## Piety - Study - Action

I have one of those great pieces of Agape that we get on the Walks. It is a rubber bracelet that has Piety – Study – Action written on it and on occasion get it out and wear it proudly as a remembrance of Emmaus and once in a while someone will ask me what it promotes.

It gives me pause to think what these three simple easy to spell, easy to say and difficult to do words mean in my life.

I began to wonder if the order of the words was important. Piety is usually defined as religious devotion and reverence to God. That would certainly be cause to make it the first. Isn't that the first commandment? Put God first! So I thought what a great place to start an explanation of my bracelet. God is first and foremost, never far from thought. Always within prayers reach. The entire foundation on

which the other two are built and come to prominence.

Study is the effort to read in detail especially with the intention of learning. God being first leads me to study His word in that pursuit to know His teaching so that I may learn. Knowledge is not the know all to end all. It is a starting point in which we make endeavors to, as best a human can, find meaning for our lives and how do we fit in God's Kingdom not how He fits in ours.

Long hours of study will not replace those moments in which we fall on our knees and lay our lives at the feet of our Savior and confess that no amount of study will come to replace the personal relationship we have with the Risen Lord. Turning our study to faith as we invite the inspired word of God into our hearts would to me seem to be the purpose.

Action – This to me is the doing of the study. When a director yells out ACTION! The stage has been set and waiting for the instruction to start. The actors know all their parts because they studied them and rehearsed them and are just waiting for the command. The whole scene moves in a coordinated effort to bring to life the image the writer and producer and director have envisioned. Think on this; writer, producer, director, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

So I concluded whoever listed these three important aspects of the life of a believer certainly knew the order was important. Perhaps in their piety they studied the Scripture and were drawn to action in the name of Jesus.

How about you? Are you accepting the challenge?

Wayne Hayes

Community Lay Director

## Another Scholarship Opportunity....

You know the kind of Uncle I am going to describe if you are lucky enough to come from a large extended family. That youngest Uncle, the one that was so much fun when you were a kid and he was still at home and in high school. But, as those things happen, he grew up, went away to school and then got a great job in another state. Still, there are always family holidays and trips to visit his growing family with those cute baby cousins. Then, of course, you grew up, got married, had a family of your own and maybe even moved to a far away city of your own. You see each other less and less until the only contact comes through your parents and the rare family reunion. It doesn't mean that you care less for this dear relative, just that you are a busy person with many responsibilities at work, at home, at church, maybe even in the Emmaus community. That was my story. Then came the call that my dear Uncle had terminal cancer. My brothers and I talked - our father, his brother, had died several years ago, so if anyone was going to visit him it had to be us. We decided to go to see him while we could still enjoy him and he could know that we came, instead of making a trip to a funeral. Together we visited Uncle Royce and his family in the Texas hill country. Imagine my surprise when

the kitchen was full of chickens. I asked Aunt Rose if they were a part of an Emmaus community and was told that they and the entire family had been on walks and that my cousins had been board members, lay leaders, and how did I know about all of that? What else could I say - "De Colores, Aunt Rosie". They were thrilled that I was active in my region. Uncle Royce died not long after our visit. After thinking about all of this, I decided that flowers would be overkill at his funeral. My brothers and I decided that a wonderful tribute to such a faithful man of God would be to scholarship a pilgrim on the Walk to Emmaus. We made that donation in his honor and a card was sent to his family to acknowledge the gift. My Aunt Rose was very touched. If you are thinking about an alternate to a floral tribute to someone you love who has gone home to be with our Lord, maybe a scholarship would be an idea you could use.

De Colores!

Judy Rowell, Gatherings Board Rep



## Candlelight Tears

Tears, I cried tears of joy,  
tears of joy  
I saw my Savior  
As He surrounded me  
I cried tears, tears of joy,  
tears of joy  
I saw my Savior  
Heavenly angels sang  
From God they came  
Then doves descended  
My soul was mended

Tears, I cried tears of joy,  
tears of joy  
I saw my Savior  
My eyes were opened wide to  
the surprise  
Of light eternal

Tears, I cried tears of joy,  
tears of joy  
I saw my Savior  
There on Holy ground  
His face I found  
There among the awe  
My tears did fall  
I saw my Savior

Tears, I cried tears of joy,  
tears of joy

I saw my Savior  
He revealed His peace  
He showed His love  
His grace did follow

Tears, I cried tears of joy,  
tears of joy  
I saw my Savior  
At the cross I knelt  
I revealed myself  
And felt the cleansing

Tears, I cried tears of joy,  
tears of joy  
I saw my Savior  
Praise I will sing to the mighty  
King  
My trials have ended  
Peace You gave my soul  
For now I know  
I saw my Savior

Tears, I cried tears of joy,  
tears of joy  
I saw my Savior!

Sandy Warren  
GCWE # 140  
Table of Martha

# Little Susie



You haven't heard from me in a while as it has been a very busy year and an even busier summer. As fall begins I like to remember the summer season which is my favorite. My hummingbirds came back very close to on schedule, just a few days late. I counted the days until their return. Then they set up their nests and began to build their families. As the summer progressed, I continued to fill their feeder and they continued to drink the sweet nectar that God has designed them to eat.

Our hummingbird feeder is mounted on a pole just two feet outside of our breakfast nook window so we have a wonderful view of the birds and they are very used to our presence. In recent weeks I've become aware of Little Susie as I've now named her. She is one of the hummingbirds that we've noticed has taken up the habit of sitting on a perch only about 18 inches from the feeder. Much of the day you'll see the other hummingbirds zooming in for a quick drink and then buzzing off for more fun and adventure and many times you'll see them go to nearby trees to perch and preen their feathers and clean their beak. Not Little Susie! She sits steadfastly on the nearby perch most of the day to be close to the food and only occasionally flies away.

You see Little Susie has some visible physical differences to her body. Whether it is damage done by the world or whether it is the way God made her she still has figured out His wonderful secret. If she stays close to the food source that gives her life she will thrive. It is amazing; she is so beautiful even in her imperfection.

You may wonder why I always want to write about the hummingbirds, but it is because God never fails to speak to me through them. Little Susie is so wise and we could learn a lot

from her. When the world batters us or we are hurt from things unseen, staying nearer the food of God's Word and love that God gives us is what will bring us healing. Like Little Susie our physical or emotional scars may not disappear but we can thrive anyway. God can also still use us as a vehicle of love.

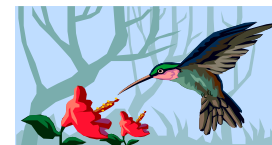
I devote part of my time in the summer to cleaning and filling this hummingbird feeder on a regular basis so these tiny birds will have the sweet nectar that brings them life. Just as these tiny birds are designed to drink sugar water or flower nectar, we are designed to feed on God's Word and receive God's love. We as fellow Christians are many times the method in which others need to receive the sweet nectar of God's love through us they so desperately need. This can look like so many different things. Going to a funeral or court with a friend, helping them with their children when times are tough, encouraging them when all seems lost, being the friend that will listen and not try to fix them, sometimes it means holding them accountable in love, sharing their joy at the birth of a baby or a promotion and yes even serving on Emmaus Walks or sponsoring someone and bringing them to these joy and love filled weekends. These actions sometimes take the same dedication it takes me to fill this hummingbird feeder. I always get a blessing out of it! Remember too, we can only share this love if we stay close to the feeder ourselves and continue to allow God to fill us up with the sweet nectar of His love.

1 John 4:19 *We love because He first loved us.*

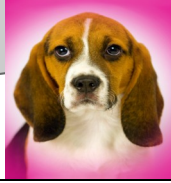
De Colores!

Liz Merrill

GCWE #102



## Ranger Did it Again!



I haven't spoken of the Beagle Boys in awhile so here's an update. Life on the lake brings with it many adventures and advantages for man and beast alike. Well, Ranger is our survivor beagle whom is true to his breed. Beagles were bred to hunt and so does the Ranger! I mentioned the cat and mouse chase game he plays with squirrels before and lo, and behold, it wasn't a game after all. He finally caught one and it lost its life in the battle. So does Ranger's other victims if he is lucky enough to catch them! Kinda sad, actually. Well, our unlucky neighbors across the wooded lot have several beloved creatures that they refer to as pets including dwarf bunnies and chickens. Since Ranger's arrival on the peninsula, he has managed to hunt and frighten to death one of their prized hares and one proud rooster. Then a couple of weeks ago, he did it again! He, despite the fact that we have an invisible fence with the shocking collars whom his male master thinks are not necessary all the time, proceeded to attack and kill two of their adored hens. Yes, he did it again! Our neighbors are understanding to a point, but I wouldn't blame them if they didn't put a bullet through his thick head!

Then, it hit me! I am so glad my heavenly Father and Master doesn't sit in heaven and exclaim, "She did it again! She has confessed that to me so many times and now here she goes again!" He promises us in Isaiah 43:25 that "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remember your sins no more." And I like The Message's Psalm 32:1-2 "Count yourself lucky, how happy you must be—you get a fresh start, your slate's wiped clean. Count yourself lucky—God holds nothing against you..." Wow! That is why it is called a life of piety and not perfection! Thank you Lord!



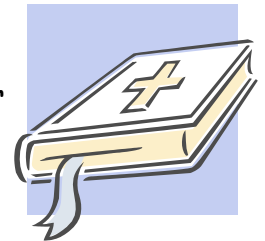
Cathy Herring  
Newsletter Board Rep

## Christ is Counting n Me!

Thank you, God, for the times I get it right, and by Your grace, forgive for the times I don't. I need to be accountable to others to keep my commitment *to grow through study* so I recently joined a small group to focus on the New Testament. The first week my study helped me when talking to a coworker who lost a friend to suicide. The next week, after reading the book of James and studying how Jesus calls us to lead a transformed life, I was given the opportunity to support a Christian family member who had made a personal witness to a group of non-Christians.

*I am counting on Christ* and believe, as promised, that God will provide us with the right words to say at the right time. I also know that *Christ is counting on me* to do my part, to keep myself prepared for *Christian action* and service. I am thankful for God's nudging to enroll in this Bible study group and I am looking forward to week three!

De Colores,  
Belynda Clanton  
GCWE Registrar



# Refreshed!!

As the most recent men and women's walks are just finished, I am once again refreshed by the Pilgrims' sharing, encouragement of one another, and enthusiasm of what Christ was showing them as they journeyed ahead into their Fourth Day. It is always a great joy listening to the men and women share about "what their Emmaus weekend mean to them" and "what they intend to do about it." Hearing about the Pilgrim's expectations before the walk began and then seeing their faces as they described how they recognized the Lord during the weekend was a sweet reminder for those of us who have attended a Walk to Emmaus over the past several years.

Nobody expects to meet the risen Christ on a weekend walk. Most expect it to be like any other retreat, here one moment, gone the next. What sets the Three-day Emmaus weekend apart from other retreats is the importance of the "Fourth Day". The Fourth Day meeting follows each weekend walk and is an opportunity for the men and women to find and form Reunion Groups or Accountability Groups. This group gives us the opportunity of reuniting over and over for prayer, support, and encouragement. The purpose of Emmaus is not to provide ongoing emotional thrills or spiritual highs, but rather coming down the "mountain" and working in the valleys. Let's face it, there will be difficult days ahead. God doesn't want us going through those times alone.

As the scripture states in Hebrews 12:1 & 2, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily tangles and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Au-

thor and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the throne of God."

In Hebrews 11, we are told about the saints that have gone before us. They were real life examples of those who have persevered. They bear the testimony and power of faith and God's faithfulness. The 'race marked out for us' is not a "short sprint". It is a long distance journey. Having friends along the way to encourage, listen, REFRESH, and pray for us helps us focus our eyes on Jesus.



If you are seeking a reunion group to join, please contact us

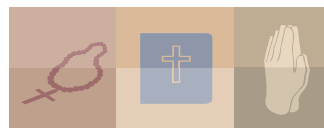
so we can coordinate efforts and help you connect you to a group.

At the most recent gatherings, sign-up sheets were passed around asking for information regarding reunion groups. Thank you to so many who filled out the information. It is helpful to us as we update information regarding the reunion groups and also informs us of others who are seeking a group to join. If you didn't get a chance to fill out the information, please contact me through the Emmaus website and we can update your information and/or help you find a Reunion Group.

In Christ,

Beth Baggett

Fourth Day/Reunion Groups Rep.





# Give Thanks!



## GREEN COUNTRY EMMAUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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