

# The Emmaus Newsletter

## All Saints Day

November 1 was All Saints Day. Most of us know this as the day after Halloween — the day when our children are a little green around the gills from all of the candy they have eaten, and we feel a little guilty for having sampled a little too much of the candy ourselves? All Saints Day is the day in the church when we remember and honor the saints of the church who have gone before us.

We are all saints by our baptism in Christ. So Nov. 6 we will light a candle on the altar in memory of all of those departed saints who have gone to their heavenly home since last year.

Recently, we added one more name to that list as I officiated the memorial service for Johnny "Bucket" Burchette. He was a wonderful man with a tremendous faith, and a firm believer in prayer. After the service, one of his family members came up to me and said, "Pastor, I want you to know that I am praying this church will grow and prosper so much that you'll have to build on to this fabulous building again!" That is a wonderful prayer, and it reminds me of a story!

A very timid woman wanted to

participate in her church's visitation program, but was petrified by the thought of actually visiting somebody. The pastor, sensing her anxiety, recommended that she pray before each visit. He noted God's promise to give peace which surpasses all understanding. A week later, the woman was walking on Cloud Nine.

She jubilantly told the pastor, "You were right — prayer works! Before each one of my visits, I prayed that the people wouldn't be home, and they weren't!"

I am struck by the difference between the woman in the story, and the woman at Johnny's memorial service. What are you praying for? God DOES answer prayer. Are you praying that we will be blessed in growth and prosperity the coming year? Are you praying that God will use you to be a part of that growth or are you praying that "no one will be home?"

I hope you pray for all of the good things to come to us in the coming year and that God will use you to help make it happen!

Prayerfully yours,

**Pastor James Graham**  
**Community Spiritual Director**

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- ♦ **New Pilgrim Training, Nov. 12, 6 pm, at Faith UMC**
- ♦ **November Gathering, Nov. 12, 7 p.m., at Faith UMC (Child care will be available for youth ages 10 and under)**
- ♦ **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., site 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. Now, my question to each of you is: Will you pray with me?

### Week of November 6

**Focus:** Be prepared to show God's saving grace in every moment.

**Scripture:** *"Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." Matthew 25:13*

**Prayer:** God, open our eyes to your time and place. Give us words in each moment to speak of you. Amen.

### Week of November 13

**Focus:** Forgiving others for their wrongs to us.

**Scripture:** *"Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt." Psalm 123:3*

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for your mercy. Help us show mercy to those who have hurt us. Amen.

### Week of November 20

**Focus:** Increasing faith.

**Scripture:** *"And what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power." Ephesians 1:19*

**Prayer:** Lord, increase our faith. Pour out your love like a river upon us. Let it overflow into our words and lives. Amen.

### Week of November 27

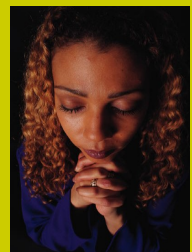
**Focus:** A thankful life.

**Scripture:** *"God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:9*

**Prayer:** God, help us to notice the gifts you have given us and give us grateful hearts for our lives and for the gift of your son in our lives. It is in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

De Colores,

Temple Diehl, Pastor, Elmore City UMC



## I Wonder ...

I attended a leadership conference recently, and one of the speakers asked the group, "What tense is fear?"

Of course, most of the group on hand said "present." The speaker then said: "NO! It is not present tense, it is future, and we aren't there yet!"

We live in the present. Mark Twain put this into perspective when he said, "I am an old man and have known a great many troubles but most of them never happened."

What do we fear? What do we worry about? (Didn't Jesus have some instructions about fear and worry?) Haven't we in the Emmaus community had a short course on this? Remember the Priority talk and the three questions: How do you spend your

time? How do you spend your money? What do you think about? And then the punch line, "That is your priority!"

I wonder ... Do we realize that whatever we focus on grows? So, fear and worry are negative. What if we decide to really live in the present — and focus on the positive?

Maybe we could spend more time giving thanks and praise. Maybe we could notice people around us, the beauty of nature, and the joy of living. What would it be like to re-focus on what our priorities should be? What if we could give up the fear and the worry? I wonder what we would be like?

***Ken Frazier, Board Chair***

## Welcome Aboard!

We would like to lift up in prayer, as well as congratulate, the newest members of the Green Country Walk to Emmaus Board of Directors: Daryl Worley, Tera Askey, Becky Dotson, Gail Stunkard, and Kathy Crow.

These persons have been elected by the community at large. We also want to welcome and lift up Hugh Lokey, who has graciously accepted an appointment to fill a vacancy created by our dear friend and servant, Bob Gates. Due to work changes, Bob found it necessary to step aside. We send him all our prayers and best wishes. We will miss him on the Board but will rejoice in seeing him at gatherings and walks.

Our thanks also go to those who have

served on the Board these past three years and now will rejoin the community at large: Freda Heath, Skip Ray, Russ Riffle, Judy Rowell, and Ken Frazier.

The new members will join the Board in December and Ken will be with us until January 2012, at which time he will nominate a replacement as Chair. We have been through a lot over these past three years as many other members have on those Boards that have helped guide Walks. Personally, I have enjoyed each and every one of the members and know I will see them frequently.

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

## Change in Obtaining Prayer Requests

Effective immediately, to get current prayer requests for the community, go to [www.greencountryemmaus.com](http://www.greencountryemmaus.com) and click on the "Prayer Requests" tab on the left side of the site to see those in need of prayer.



### GREEN COUNTRY EMM AUS 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
Freda Heath .....	Agape/Dining Room.....	918-286-1743
Hugh Lokey .....	Candlelight, Sponsors Hour.....	918-520-4731
Gail Mangan.....	Emerging Ministries/Secretary .....	918-371-9997
Duane DaPron .....	Newsletter.....	918-671-3896
Judy Rowell.....	Gatherings .....	918-231-0875
Russ Riffle .....	Kitchen.....	918-639-8806
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
Skip Ray.....	Transportation/Housing/IT .....	918-824-1739
Layne Herring .....	Treasurer.....	918-519-3119