



Cross Point Emmaus

Second Quarter Newsletter

June 2018

Rev. David Minquus Community Spiritual Director

Wise and Unwise Sponsorship

How were you chosen for sponsorship? When that friend in church approached you and asked you if you knew about the Walk to Emmaus, how were you selected? Was the approach of your sponsor undergirded in prayer and discernment, or were you asked at the last minute to attend so that the walk would make?

As your Emmaus Board met in spiritual retreat at Cross Point Camp, we discussed three key areas of excellence that we wanted to have within our community. Bringing the best pilgrims (Sponsorship) to the best teams (Team Selection) and equipping them for an ongoing ministry within their local churches (Fourth Day). In this issue of our newsletter, we're primarily discussing Sponsorship. The two other key areas will be addressed in the near future.

Sponsorship is the most important job in Emmaus. It's a responsibility that all members of the Emmaus community hold in common, and yet it goes far beyond simply getting people to sign up. Sponsorship affects the quality of each Walk, it leads to directly supporting the health of the Community, and it also affects the churches from which each pilgrim comes. Truly, good sponsorship is the first act of agape before the Emmaus event ever begins. It is an expression of wisdom in discerning who God wants you to sponsor.

Wise sponsorship is purposeful and prayerful; unwise sponsorship is hazardous and undiscerning. Wise sponsorship begins with prayer, discernment, and more prayer. We need to worry less about how to persuade someone to attend, but rather, we put our trust in God, that He will motivate the persons brought to mind. Wise sponsorship eventually produces a balanced, theologically centered movement of the Holy Spirit, which is integrated into the life of the church in the community, and which is honored by (Continued page 4)



Spring Walks Set

The Board has set the Spring Walks for March 28-31, 2019 for the Men and April 4-7, 2019 for the Women.

If our walks become overflowing with candidates we will revisit opening up a second walk in the same year.

Shawna Carnahan—Community Lay Director

The Board of Directors recently had a retreat with Doc Hall of the International Walk to Emmaus. As many of you know Emmaus is governed by the Methodist organization called the Upper Room. They have recently developed new manuals for all departments of Emmaus. There are small and big changes that we will be striving to accomplish. Starting soon will be better and more communication in an assortment of avenues. Hopefully you will be better informed of things as they happen.

We also found out that we can add a walk coordinator to the walks. This will help tremendously with the outside teams so that things go smoother and it will equip and help new volunteer to feel part of the team and community.

Training is key to the Walks. The Upper Room has developed ongoing trainings for the community and volunteers for the walks. Our Emmaus community will be holding trainings throughout the year. We can bring in people from the Upper Room to facilitate these training. Many of us that have worked many walks have taken trainings for granted. We feel we don't need training any more or that we know all the procedures. Unfortunately this is not currently working to equip and prepare people to work the walks.

As a part of the changes from the Upper Room, our board is developing a Policy and Procedure Manual. This will also help things be more consistent while freeing us up of the usual problem solving. It will give us more time for trainings, being more creative with our gatherings, being more intentional about helping everyone walk through their Fourth Days, and more.

As you can see there is a lot going on and the board has their hands full as we walk through this process. We would love your help.

Sponsorship; What is it and how do I do it?

What a GREAT set of walks we had in #'s 105 & 106! For you that just completed your WALK TO EMMAUS, I'm sure you know someone that you would love to experience what you did during your recent weekend. Now is not to soon to begin thinking about who you would like to sponsor on the next walk, even though next March seems very far off.

That being said; there are several criteria you need to keep in mind. Being a sponsor involves more than just having someone fill out an application. Nor is intended to "fix" any issues or problems an individual may have. Some things to consider are:

1. Good sponsorship begins long before the walk. It is the first sign of AGAPE love. The experience the Pilgrim will have starts with how we approach and explain our sponsoring duties. The very first thing to do is to pray for and about the person you are considering. Then PRAY, PRAY, And PRAY
2. Keep in mind the WALK is not necessarily right for everyone. Their church experiences and their current state of mind may keep them and others from experiencing the full POWER of Emmaus.
3. Emmaus is intended for men and women active in their church who will gain a renewal, and the desire and vision to help move the church and their lives ahead and closer to Christ.
4. Good sponsorship supports the entire weekend with love and possible sacrifice on behalf of your Pilgrim. Some ways that you show support is by attending Send off, Candlelight on Saturday and closing ceremonies on Sunday. Other ways include prayers and letter written in support
5. Sponsorship must be intentional not haphazard. It is not something you do once and done but you are making a commitment to support that person on their journey.
6. Good sponsorship is the basis for the continued growth of Emmaus in attaining the aim of developing leadership qualities and the renewal of ministries
7. As a new member of the community you may not understand that when you sponsor; you will be bringing them to Crosspoint and making the bed for your pilgrim on Thursday. You might also need to run errands for their spouse, possibly babysit. Taking them home on Sunday. Bringing them to the 4th Day event and helping them get involved in a reunion group is a very important part of sponsoring.

As I said earlier the next walks are the last weekend of March and first weekend of April. But with summer vacations, back to school, Thanksgiving and Christmas time will slip away. The applications for Pilgrims, Sponsorships and scholarships can be found at www.crosspointemmaus.org under the forms tab. The applications need to be submitted about March 1st or sooner to insure being part of the Walks.

If you have questions call or text me at 580-229-6559> my Email is marshall.ray@att.net.

DeColores,

Ray Marshall. Registrar

Be Grateful

—By Sharen Hale

My goal is to find 72 things I can be grateful for during this season of Lent. Each day, writing something to reflect the gratitude of that thing or person. Today, I am grateful for a small group of people I call my accountability group.

Over the years I have had many accountability groups. Some have lasted for weeks, some for years. My current group was formed just a couple of years ago after their travel down the Emmaus road. Each week, gathering to share in our greatest moments and our sad failures, we hold each other to a higher standard to achieve more because of our love for each other and for God.

I have been reluctant at times in my public life to share those things in which were devastating to me such as a sick grandchild, death in my circle of friends or a miss chance to disciple someone. There, I am able to share my deepest pains and my greatest joys without fear of repercussion. Having a group of people reserve that place as a safe place to be honest and open has been a clear way to grow in my own faith.

What is an accountability group? It is a group of people who support one another in their journey of faith by encouraging, praying and being present for each other. Ways in which we hold each other accountable? What are you studying? We study the same devotional so we can share in the daily words from the author we are reading. What are you plans? The plan often includes “getting a plan”. In life, we often hurry through and are not intentional in our efforts to grow in our relationship with Christ. By being honest about your plan with others, they can help hold you accountable to it.

Safe places are important for us to be able to deal with our own hurts and grow from them. Accountability groups have moved me to the “far country” and moved me home. They have sat with me during chemo and been my ride in the snow. They have talked to me by the bedside of a sick child and cried with me in the loss of a friend. Accountability groups are serious. We are dealing with life and death issues that are confidential.

I'm grateful for mine. Item #1, Accountability.

Fees For Camp Walk fees are as follows:

Team fee, \$175

Pilgrim fee, \$190 (\$95 deposit)

These fees cover lodging, meals, insurance, literature, and some Walk supplies.

Volunteer

Please be praying about Volunteering.

Emmaus Walks cannot continue unless you get evolved. We can still use anyone who would like to help. If you want to work on the walks please fill out a volunteer sheet online and join the walk teams. www.crosspointpointemmaus.org



Cross Point Emmaus 2018 Board

Community Lay Director - Shawna Carnahan (2020)

Community Spiritual Dir. - Rev. David Mingus

Community Asst. Lay Dir. - Tem Barrett (2020)

Secretary - Shawna Harrison (2019)

Treasurer - Cherri Bradley (2019)

Kitchen / Snack - Deni Richards (2019)

Letter Agape / Prayer Room - Toni Hignight (2019)

Candlelight / Sponsor's Hour - Sharen Hale (2019)

Setup / Tear Down - James Young (2020)

Literature / Supplies - Bill Carlisle (2020)

Fourth Day - Randle Richards (2020)

Gatherings - Janice Sharp (2021)

Music - Sonya Morris (2021)

Table Agape - Martha Wilson (2021)

Registration - Ray Marshall (2021)

Newsletter / AV Tech - Colt Healey (2021)



Newest Cross Point Emmaus Members

Dedra Blankenship	Issac Barnes
Valerie Brown	Laprell Becks
Sydney Butler	Richard Brown
Lauren Carnahan	Tony Burch
Amber Chavez	Duane Churchill
Tammy Cooper	Steve Foster
Amanda Dial	Kim Gaddy
Kristal Emery	Timothy Gonzalas
Sharon Foster	Maurice Hawthorne
Stacey Gibber	Matt Henshaw
Lori Guinn	Brett Ishcomer
Zella Harden	Tom Kapella
Judy Hazlitt	Kyle Kennedy
Gail Henderson	Kevin Kerr
Lee Ann Habben	Chris Klein
Debbie Henshaw	Del Lynch
Tamla Hill	Johnny Mullins
Ramona Liddell	Bronson Ortiz
Kimbra Lowden	Jerold Phillips
Janet Mauldin	Gary Pruess
Jan McLeod	Silvestre Resma
Christen McMurry	Denver Rushing
Phyllis Mixon	Jeff Singleton
Jessica Moore	Bob Strunk
Amanda Ortiz	Donnie Young
Cathryn Phelps	
Cleta Phillips	
Kinzie Ray	
Carol Resneder	
Leah Rushing	
Pennie Shipley	
Amanda Thompson	
Lisa Washer	
Mildred Whatley	
Karen Woodruff	

(Page 1—Wise Sponsorship)

a variety of churches as an effective instrument for conveying God's grace, the call to committed discipleship, and our unity in Christ.

Unwise sponsorship eventually will produce a harvest that becomes more a burden than a blessing for the church; a movement that has become a religious fringe group or a parachurch apart from the established church in the community. At best, such groups benefit the individual involved, having no impact upon or relationship with the churches in the community, thus forfeiting the purpose of the Emmaus movement. At worst, such groups benefit themselves at the expense of the church, breeding division instead of unity within the body of Christ and intolerance instead of tolerance among Christians of different religious expressions.

To best act as a sponsor, we ask that sponsors do not serve as team members on Emmaus Weekends with the people you are sponsoring. If you choose to serve as a team member, then it is important that you find others who will sponsor your candidates. Team members cannot support a participant during the event in the manner intended, such as Sponsor's Hour, the Prayer Vigil, and Candlelight. Confusing the roles of team member and sponsor in relationship with a participant diminishes the value of both roles. The absence of sponsors during their weekend, gives the participants the space they need for their own interaction with and experience of God during the event.

Wise sponsorship also does not end at the end of the walk. When your pilgrim returns from the Walk with the glow of joy on their face so bright that it's nearly blinding, that's when your work as a sponsor really kicks in. It's your blessing to help the participant reenter their church and follow through on the fresh hopes, dreams, decisions, and changes they have felt called by God to make. That implies that you will remain in relationship with your participant, praying with them, following up with them, encouraging them to remain active in Emmaus Ministries through prayer and service, explaining and modeling progressive servanthood, and even offering assistance the first time they desire to sponsor someone on their own. You might need to call them to remind them of an upcoming Gathering, or to invite them to continue meeting in a group reunion. Maintain contact with your participant after the walk.

Sponsorship is an act of love for God, for the participants, for the Emmaus community, and for the church. It is a living demonstration of agape love. Through sponsorship, we become instruments of God's design and prevention grace.

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When I went on my original walk #64, a couple invited me and said they would love to sponsor me. I knew by the form I had to fill out there would be a fee, but I never paid one. It was the sponsors and/or a scholarship that provided me the opportunity to attend Cross Point Walk to Emmaus #64.

Many times since my walk, I have sponsored pilgrims and have paid there fee toward the weekend. There have been times, however; that I could not afford to pay for the fees so I chose not to sponsor. Recently in a discussion with other board members, I found out this is a common thought of many in our community. It has become a tradition for sponsors to pay for their pilgrims fees, but it is not required as a sponsor.

When sponsoring a pilgrim, the responsibilities include caring for the family that remains at home during that weekend, their pets and other things they would normally be caring for if they were at home. It includes sending out letters requesting the letters for your pilgrim, bringing your pilgrim to send off, sponsors hours, present at candle light and then again at closing. Being a sponsor includes the ride home, the discussion of the weekend, the fourth day meeting and beyond. Sponsorship includes helping your pilgrim integrate into reunion group, understanding who and when to sponsor their friends and how to volunteer. Although it is helpful to many pilgrims to have funds available for their weekend, it is not required.

Our church began donating to a church fund for Emmaus. Those funds are available for each pilgrim the church sponsors. Since our fund began, we have heard of several other churches who help with funding for pilgrims.

Sponsorship must begin with understanding if your potential pilgrim is ready. Many times I've said "the Holy Spirit will know when they are ready." This is true. I do believe that if there is something/unresolved/ongoing in their life or has been in the last six months to a year, it may not be the right time for them. Those of us who want to love someone into a healthy place in their lives, often send them to Emmaus in hopes it will "fix" the situation. After many walks seeing the struggles of some pilgrims who were not ready to be there, I find that Emmaus is not the place to "fix" but rather to help build leaders for the local churches.

Ask your pastor when you feel you have found your next pilgrim for the next set of walks. Your pastor will help guide you and them in the timing of their own walk. Together, we can help bring others into the Emmaus Community and send them back to their churches ready to build the Kingdom!

DeColores!

Sharen Hale

Sponsors Hour/Candle Light

Welcome new members of the Crosspoint Emmaus! We are so excited for you to join us on your Fourth Day! We pray that through the Walk to Emmaus you have discovered a new and exciting relationship with your Lord and Savior!

On your walk you received a lot of information about our community and the international organization of the Walk to Emmaus. If you have any questions, feel free to contact your sponsor, table leader or one of our board members. We are here to help you on your Fourth Day. Contact information for the board members is on our website.

Please join us at the Gatherings. There you can reconnect with the members of you walk and also get to know the rest of the community. Gatherings are a time to eat (please bring a dish to share if you can), socialize, worship, hear Fourth Day testimonies and celebrate communion. At some gatherings we will have extra special activities.

We hope you have joined a Reunion Group. They will be key to helping you walk through the tough times and celebrate the good things that God is doing in your life. If you find that your Reunion Group is not working out for you, due to time, personality differences, etc. you can ask your sponsor to help you or contact Randal Richards on our board. His contact information is on the website. Again, we say WELCOME! **Crosspoint Emmaus Board**

Check Your Email and Contact Information

We at the **Newsletter** get several emails and mailed newsletters back every month. It is a shame to miss this marvelous literary masterpiece, but nearly as bad to miss out on the valuable information contain



within.

People change email servers and move and forget to have mail forwarded or (even worse) neglect to inform their friends of their new addresses. The **Newsletter** is not offended by this (but we could work ourselves up to it), however your "real" friends do miss you and

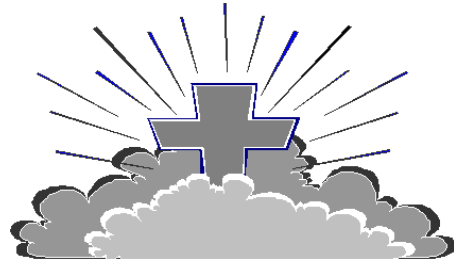
want to keep in touch.

Take some time to visit the website and check your contact information (tap the "click here" on the opening page to view or update.



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Cross Point Emmaus

On the Road to Emmaus

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

—Luke 24: 13-16, 28-32

DeColores!

We're on the web
crosspointemmaus.org

Contact Information

Note: If you have anything to add to the next quarterly Newsletter, send your copy or photos to Colt Healey at colt.healey@hotmail.com or mail to: PO Box 2120, Ardmore, OK 73402. Please be mindful of space considerations, relevancy, and credit as necessary. No copyrighted works can be included without permissions. All submissions will be subject to editing as to length and content.

Most members of the Cross Point Emmaus community receive Newsletters and information by email. If you do not have an email address, then we send the Newsletter by U.S. mail. If you receive the Newsletter by regular mail but also have an email address, then please let us know by sending a note to: info@crosspointemmaus.org

Also, please ask your Emmaus friends if they receive the Newsletter? We do not want to accidentally omit anyone.

Volunteer

Please be praying about Volunteering.

Emmaus Walks cannot continue unless you get evolved. We can still use anyone who would like to help. If you want to work on the walks please fill out a volunteer sheet online and join the walk teams. www.crosspointpointemmaus.org

Sponsorship

Please be praying about who you want to sponsor. Emmaus Walks cannot continue unless you get evolved with sponsorship.