

# Cross Point Emmaus

Cross Point Newsletter©  
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## Greetings from the Cross Point Emmaus Board!

There are a few items that we need to make our Cross Point Emmaus family aware of:

First, we will be welcoming new board members come January of 2024. BUT I want to let those who will be retiring from the board: David Daniel, Gary Heller, Amy Heller, and Jay Grace, know how much we appreciate you serving on the Emmaus board. You are an important member of this Emmaus family, and we wish you the best. May you be blessed tenfold for your service. There are a few "Thank You!" I need to mention. Terry Kalister for cleaning and updating our laptops. Clayton Lodes and Tim Hill for the purchase of new larger TVs for the conference room. The First Methodist Church of Ardmore and Daniel Oyler for updating our sound equipment. The Rushings for their donation to purchase some new handheld radios for use at the camp. I'm sure there are others whom I need to thank and I apologize if left anyone unspoken. I love how this community/family supports Cross Point Emmaus.

Second, Being year end and if you are at the age the IRS suggests you take a Required Minimum Distribution from your retirement account. You might consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution to Cross Point Emmaus. You can ask your financial adviser about this. Our scholarship fund could use donations to help with partial scholarship for the next set of walks.

Third, Please be in prayer for the upcoming walks, Lay Directors: Terry Pierson and Kellye Johnson; Spiritual Directors: Trent Maness and Wanda Littrell. Walk dates are Men's #115 April 18-21 and Women's #116 April 25-28. Conference Room team training will begin February 10, 2024.

Please be in prayer for the pilgrim you plan to sponsor. Emmaus exists to inspire, challenge, and equip local faith communities for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities, and places at work. Emmaus Ministries expands participant's spiritual lives, deepens their faith and discipleship, and rekindles their gifts as Christian leaders for their churches and communities and be empowered to be the hands and feet of Christ. Who in your church would benefit going on the Walk to Emmaus? Deadline for Sponsor and Pilgrim applications is March 16, 2024.

Wishing you a holiday filled with lots of laughter and joy with family and friends.

Patty Tickel  
Community Lay Director

### Four Walks In Two Years...

Your Cross Point Emmaus Community has held three sets of walks in the past two years and has a fourth set scheduled for Spring 2024. The two Fall Walks and followed by two Spring Walks has been a lot of work, coming out of the Covid season, when we were on hold for so long with no Walks. In July, the Emmaus Board approved holding one set of Walks per year in the Spring, which means we'll have Spring walks in 2024 and then again in 2025.

### Pilgrim Sign Up Is Open...

If you have anyone you'd like to sponsor to go in the walk, don't wait until spring to sign them up!! Help get them registered so they will have a place at the table in 2024. A full walk is 36 pilgrims. Many Pilgrims need to plan ahead to ask off from work for their walk weekend. Don't let the excuse at the last minute be that they can't attend because they didn't have enough notice. Right now we don't have any pilgrims signed up. WHAT?? Yes, you read that right. Not one. Let's change that! Look around your church to see who is active and who may need rejuvenating from an Emmaus walk. Ask the Lord who would be good for you to sponsor. Ask the person if you can sponsor them. Get the newly updated application downloaded at [crosspointemmaus.org](http://crosspointemmaus.org) under 'forms'. Page 1 is for the pilgrim to complete and their pastor has to sign it. Then page 2 is completed by the sponsor and the sponsor mails both pages, with a deposit check, for either the total amount or half the fee. The remaining balance can be paid at camp at the walk registration.

### Team Selection Update...

Lay Directors (LDs) Terry Pierson and Kellye Johnson have been through the team selection process and the team selection committee has made recommendations to the Emmaus board which were approved by the Cross Point Emmaus board on November 29. A big thank you to each of the members of the team selection committee!! The board and I appreciate your help and insight. The LDs can now begin calling conference room team members. Hands & Feet (H&F) team members will be contacted early next year. There is still time to fill out an application for the H&F team if you'd like to help spread the agape love of God by making the commitment to serve in the Spring. The Volunteer form can be found at [crosspointemmaus.org](http://crosspointemmaus.org) under 'forms'. There is both a downloadable PDF or an online version.

### Christmas Present....

It might make a good Christmas present to offer to sponsor and pay part of someone's pilgrim fee. Think about it? Conference Room training begins in February. Let's get some pilgrims signed up...even before the end of the year!

De Colores,  
Melissa Grace, Assistant Community Lay Director

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### Price Increase Notice

Cross Point Camp notified the board of a price increase beginning January 2024. Here are the new prices for the weekend, partial lodging, and meals.

***Weekend lodging and meals: Pilgrim fee \$280. Team fee \$225***

***Meals only for the weekend without lodging: \$86.50***

***Lodging for one night with 3 meals: \$72.00***

***Price per meal if you come to work for a day(s) and eat with the Hands and Feet team:***

***Breakfast \$9.00 Lunch \$11.50 Dinner \$12.50***

## Greetings in the name of Jesus!

*“Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still; teach the righteous and they will gain in learning” (Proverbs 9:9).*

We should always seek to learn more, always look to become wiser, and always yearn to be more righteous. In the spirit of desiring more, fourteen Cross Point Emmaus clergy gathered at Cross Point Camp on October 26th for Emmaus Spiritual Director Training. Thank you to those who paid for our day at Cross Point camp, which allowed all clergy to attend at no cost to themselves. Also, thank you to Daniel Oyler and John Terry for coming out and leading us in our time of praise and worship.

We enjoyed fellowship. We worshipped. We celebrated Holy Communion. We spent some time sharing and getting to know each other. We invested a large chunk of time praying for one another. We shared a meal together. And finally, we had a time of training, centered on the responsibilities of Weekend Spiritual Directors and Assistant Spiritual Directors, beginning with team training sessions and running all the way thru the Emmaus weekend. It was a very good day, and we hope to make it a yearly event.

I want to mention the very first point I stressed during our training. I mention it here because it is something we all need to know and take very seriously. That point is: After prayer, sponsorship is the most important part of Emmaus. Pastors have to know who in their congregations are being sponsored, because pastors are supposed to sign the applications of all pilgrims from their church. Pastors and sponsors have to know that each pilgrim is spiritually, emotionally, and mentally ready to attend a Walk to Emmaus Weekend.

Sponsors and pastors, most of us have seen the Holy Spirit do wonderful things on Emmaus weekends. The Spirit of God can do anything, and I have no desire to try to put God in a box, but there are a few things that the Walk to Emmaus is not. It is not marriage renewal for struggling couples. It is not for people who are inactive in their local church. It is not evangelism. It is not for non-Christians or fence sitters. It is for believers. It is for Christian leaders and disciples, to further encourage and equip them to return to their churches and serve the Lord more knowledgeably and passionately, and to also become servant leaders in the Cross Point Emmaus Ministry.

The continued ministry of the Walk to Emmaus, our local churches, our families, and communities will all be best served if we take sponsorship very prayerfully and seriously. As I said, after prayer, sponsorship is the most important part of the Walk to Emmaus. So if you haven't already, begin praying for the teams of Men's Walk #115 (April 18-21) and Women's Walk #116 (April 25-28), which are taking shape now. And begin praying for the pilgrim or pilgrims you will sponsor; those who are wise, yet seeking to become wiser still, and those who are righteous, yet still teachable and yearning to learn.

De Colores,  
Rev. Steve Littrell  
Cross Point Community Spiritual Director

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Greetings Emmaus family!

I am grateful for the opportunity to be the next lay director for the men's walk #115! I am thankful also for all the prayers that have been sent out on my behalf as I am looking to put together this team. It's like putting a puzzle together and thinking you know what the picture looks like only to find out you have some pieces missing and the picture is not looking like what you thought! Well I have some pieces missing on the team! Would you consider not only praying but stepping up and say saying I will go! Please consider filling out an app and being a blessing to some pilgrims and letting God bless you for saying yes!

De Colores!  
Terry Pierson

Do you remember some of the excitement that you experienced when you went on your walk? Waking without an alarm clock . . . daily worship and communion . . . agape . . . bountiful food and snacks . . . discussions you had with those at your table . . . candlelight . . . and the list goes on. For all those things, it took a community to help create “the best walk ever” for you.

For walks 115 and 116, more help is still needed from the community to help the new pilgrims have a similar experience. Are you willing to serve on the hands and feet teams and/or sponsor a pilgrim? If so – and you have not filled out an application or started conversations with potential pilgrims whose names have crossed your thoughts and prayers – please do so. There is work to be done and joy to be had by all.

When serving on the Hands and Feet team, do you remember some of the talking, discussing, and conversing with the first-timers working with you – learning about their experiences after their conference room experience? Or for those in Conference Room, do you remember similar conversations with the pilgrims learning about their days prior to coming for the weekend? And then, Jesus joined your conversation – no matter where you were serving . . . How exciting was this?

When you ponder the Biblical text, have you thought about who might have been at home preparing a meal for Cleopas and his traveling partner as they walked the 7 miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus? Or if that person even contemplated an extra person might be joining them at the table – perhaps like the kitchen staff might when someone shows up to help for only part of the weekend?

Cleopas and his traveling mate were anticipating certain things to happen – and they did not happen as they thought they would . . . No matter where you are serving on the team or how many times you have served, there are still times when we might anticipate our next steps / duties only to be surprised by what the Holy Spirit does when we say “yes” to serving as part of a team.

Sharing some commentary from The Voice Bible translation regarding the Walk to Emmaus: The story isn’t really over; it’s just begun. The life and ministry of Jesus that Luke . . . recounted is the mustard-seed stage of the kingdom of God that continues to grow and grow and grow. Now it’s time for this Kingdom to fill the world.

For Walks 115 and 116, it is time for the teams to be finalized to the best of our ability without anticipating changes that may occur as we share some of Luke’s joy with our fellow team members through training and later with the pilgrims who are coming. There will be many opportunities for all to recognize Jesus walking beside and with us as well as the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst. And for those that sponsor a pilgrim, there will be joy listening to them recount their weekend on the drive home and in the days to come.

The invitation to complete an application, sponsor a pilgrim, and/or work as part of the team is open. Let’s share the joy of the kingdom of God as best we can and help it continue to “grow and grow and grow” filling the world.

De Colores,  
Kellye Johnson, Lay Director for Walk 116

*“We say this all the time: the  
walks run on prayer!”*

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

We hope you can enjoy us at the next Gatherings!

**January 20**

**12:00 PM**

**WOW Church**

Please bring a dish or dessert to share with the community. The gathering is set for Noon, due to the conference team having trainings.

## CANDIDATE & SPONSOR APPLICATIONS

Applications for Pilgrims/Sponsors are **due March 16th**. Please start mailing your applications. We are ready and eager!

**We are also receiving applications that are incomplete. Here are the requirements, prior to the submission of an application:**

1. **Signature of Candidate** Applicant
2. **Signature** of current **candidate's Pastor**
3. **Deposit amount of \$140 (check or cash) or full price of \$280**
4. **Completed "Sponsor Sheet"**
5. **Signature of Sponsor**

An application that is received without the above requirements is not considered submitted. Please understand that as a Sponsor, you are responsible for obtaining the Candidate Application (with all signatures) from your Candidate and then submitting that application with your sponsor application and payment (minimum deposit amount—paid by candidate, church, or whomever), to the Registrar. The candidate should not be submitting any form directly to the Registrar, as this is reserved for the Sponsor.

If you have any questions, please contact Judy at [muchhuntin@hotmail.com](mailto:muchhuntin@hotmail.com) or 580-504-7924.

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## CHURCHES' CANDIDATE ATTENDANCE

We have received many questions regarding the selection of candidates (pilgrims). All applications are carefully processed and prayed over. This past Walk, the Board focused on filling vacancies rather than the process of the written model. We, the Board, are committed to following the Emmaus Model for successful leadership. Below is an extract from Emmaus Ministries Community Manual:

*"There should be no more pilgrims from one church than there are pilgrim tables in the conference room. Pilgrims from the same church should be at different tables. This facilitates each pilgrim's having his or her own experience. Limiting the number of pilgrims from one church on a Walk also helps the Community develop its diversity, which is part of The Upper Room Walk to Emmaus model. Church diversity should be monitored by the Registrar, who should make note of this diversity for the person who prepares the table assignments. Sponsors should be informed of the necessity of church diversity so they do not expend all of their energy trying to get many people from one church to attend a particular walk event. The Board of Directors of the Emmaus community should adopt these diversity guidelines as policy to protect the Registrar, thus allowing the Registrar to carry out policy instead of being placed in the apparent position of establishing policy."*

Cross Point's Walk to Emmaus events have six (6) table groups in the conference room. Based upon the Model, there *should be* no more than 6 pilgrims from one church on a particular Walk (six men and six women). Pilgrim applications are accepted on a chronological basis; therefore, we will consider the first 6 applications from a church for each set of Walks. Applications exceeding this limit will be carried over to the subsequent Walks. The Registrar will notify the Sponsors of any holdovers and in the event that a selected candidate can no longer attend, the next chronologically received applicant will be contacted, and so forth.

We greatly appreciate your understanding and support, as we are preparing and hoping to steadily grow our Community and hold regularly scheduled Walks.

Kenna Johnson  
Newsletter & A/V Tech

## SPONSORSHIP CHECKLIST

Here are a few suggestions for recruitment that should increase your effectiveness, help you properly interpret Emmaus, and carry out your responsibility in sharing God's grace as a sponsor.

1. When you are talking to a married person, you should talk with both husband and wife. We want both husband and wife to make the decision together. Their applications should be turned in together.
2. Remember, the Walk to Emmaus is not for everyone. These three days cannot rectify every problem marriage, enthruse every disenchanted church member, cure disturbed persons, or make saints of sinners. The Walk to Emmaus is designed to change environments through Christian leaders. Pilgrims should not only know where the path is, they should already be walking on it. We don't need just any candidates, we need the best.
3. Feel free to share with a potential applicant what Emmaus meant for you as fully as will help, realizing that all explanations will fall short. It is not that we are not allowed to tell what went on, but that it is difficult to explain. We want their experience to be fresh, especially for Candlelight and agape letters, which will hopefully be surprises.
4. Do not assume the person you are sponsoring will experience the same things you did. Each of us is at a different place on our spiritual journey. For some, the Emmaus experience will be a mountaintop, a new beginning. For others, it will be a strengthening for the journey they are already on. We must not pre-judge our candidates or set them up with unhelpful expectations.
5. As part of assuring your applicant that you are personally interested in their attending, make plans to take them to Cross Point Camp for Send-Off. Please remember that there will not be a meal for the pilgrims upon arrival. Make sure that you pilgrim has had a meal prior to arrival at the camp. Do not arrive before 6:30pm and not after 7:15pm. You transporting them, helping them with packing and registration, and participating in the Send-Off and Sponsor's Hour, are a form of prayer and sacrifice.
6. During the weekend, you and your family become an important resource for the pilgrim's family. Leave your phone number with their spouse. Do something special for them during the weekend like giving them a few hours during the day for personal time. Share a meal with them. Let the pilgrim's spouse know that you love and care for them.
7. You have responsibilities to the pilgrim. Pray for him/her during the weekend.
8. Write your pilgrim letters of prayers and sacrifice, and make sure others do likewise, especially those closest to them. A sample agape letter request is available online also. When gathering letters from loved ones, please write the letter "F" in the top right corner of the envelope, so they are given priority. Each pilgrim needs **at least 12** letters.
9. Support your pilgrim with your presence at Candlelight and Closing.
10. After the Walk, stay in contact and support the pilgrim you sponsor during their Fourth Day. Be responsible for getting them to the Fourth Day Gathering following their Walk. Take them to at least their first Gathering and Community Training. Help them become involved in a Group Reunion as soon as possible. (2012)
11. We ask that an individual sponsor no more than two pilgrims per Walk, but if no one else is available from your church to help sponsor, please contact the Board and we will be glad to assist with making beds on Thursday night and other needs.

## On the Road to Emmaus

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles 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

### PAYPAL DONATIONS & FEE PAYMENTS

Do you know that you can donate monetarily to our Community through PayPal? You may use this feature to pay team and candidate fees, or donate for any designated purpose (snack agape, scholarship fund, general fund, etc). You may also choose to setup reoccurring donations. Visit our website and click on "Donate," or login to your own PayPal account and send your donation to "info@crosspointemmaus.org." Please specify what the donation or payment is intended for, *in comments/purpose*. You may also scan the QR Code to donate on a mobile device.



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**Note: If you have anything to add to the next quarterly Newsletter, send your copy or photos to [info@crosspointemmaus.org](mailto:info@crosspointemmaus.org). All submissions will be subject to editing.**

Most members of the Cross Point Emmaus Community receive Newsletters and information by email. Please ask your Emmaus friends if they receive the Newsletter. We do not want to accidentally omit anyone.

*If you use gmail, please check your "Promotions" folder for our emails, or you may select "all mail" to see all inbox folder contents.*



WALK TO  
EMMAUS  
THE UPPER ROOM®