

Cross Point Emmaus

Cross Point Quarterly Newsletter©
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MMXX IIII Number I

February 11, 2024



"With God all things are possible." I truly believe that. I hope your 4th days are going well. We had a wonderful time at our January Gathering at the WOW church in Ardmore. A BIG thank you to Jim and Michelle Yeager – along with their church family – for hosting us.

This is Important: It is time to invite your pilgrim(s) to the next Crosspoint Emmaus walks which are Walk # 115, April 13 – 21, 2024, for the men and Walk #116, April 25-28, 2024, for the women. Our Lay Directors, Terry Pierson and Kellye Johnson are diligently working to begin training with the Conference Room team. It will all be for not without your pilgrims.

Applications can be found on the Crosspoint Emmaus website, crosspointemmaus.org under forms. Please complete your part as sponsor, with pastor signature, pilgrim's portion of the application and deposit. Turn all pages of the Sponsor/Pilgrim applications to Judy Roberts, our registrar, by March 16, 2024. The cost is \$280/pilgrim. Emmaus Walks are to help build leadership in our churches and a renewing of faith when considering a pilgrim.

Scholarships: If you are needing a scholarship for your pilgrim or for yourself if volunteering to help on the walks, please contact your local church and see if they can help. We were fortunate a few years back to receive a grant from Lake country UMC district that assisted many to attend the walk financially, but we have found ourselves short of scholarship funds lately. If you would like to donate to the scholarship fund, please reach out to any of the board members.

Photos and videos: I also want to mention something I noticed at the closing of the last walks. These walks are a cloistered environment. That means no photos or videos at any time during the walk. Please keep your phones in your purse or pocket. This also goes for those serving in the conference room. We ask the pilgrims to disengage from their phones therefore as mentors we need to do the same and set the example during the 72 hours. The only exemption is the Assistant Lay Directors who keep the weekend on schedule. In the spirit of cooperation and charity please keep this in mind.

With God all things are possible, and I have seen God make the impossible possible. Until we meet again.

Love in Christ,
Patty Tickel
Community Lay Director.

2024 Spring Walks

April 18-21 for the Men
April 25-28 for the Women

Emmaus Community Gathers in Ardmore!

The January Gathering was held on Saturday, January 20th, at the Wow Church in Ardmore with an estimated 60 folks meeting together for lunch and fellowship. We are so thankful to pastor Jim Yeager and his wife, Michelle, for opening their doors to the Emmaus community. The meal was an awesome selection of food provided by members of the community and it was delicious!! The worship music led by John Terry and Diane Pierson was phenomenal and the devotional given by Jim Yeager shared about the development of the Wow Church, the building itself, Emmaus' influence, and touched on how God had brought Jim, the church and all of us together for ministry in Christ and through Emmaus. Emmaus works to strengthen churches and church leaders and coming together from different backgrounds, denominations and working together in Christ was a clear part of Jim's message.



Personally, I was touched by how two of the worship songs were ones I had grown up singing in church as a child and then Jim's message motivated me to remember what God has done in my life and how He has shaped me (& all of us) through each phase in life and challenges using everything. (NOTHING is wasted!) God really brought the music and message together in an amazing way. There is nothing like the Holy Spirit working in each of us. I felt His presence among us very clearly.

Conference Room trainings have begun!

Walk Lay Directors Terry Pierson (#115) and Kellye Johnson (#116) have assembled the conference room teams following the team selection process – which included a lot of prayer, two meetings by the team selection committee, and Cross Point Emmaus board approval of the CR team. The Lay Directors have worked diligently to make the CR team member assignments. Board Representatives were approved on January 18th to serve on the walks; they are Randy Hendershott and Patty Tickel.

The first of four Cross Point Emmaus conference room (CR) trainings began February 10th in Davis at Pathway Church. The second CR training will be held on February 17th in Madill at the First Methodist Church, then March 9th in Healdton at First Christian Church, and April 6th in Ardmore at First Methodist. We are so grateful to these host churches, which have opened up their doors to our Emmaus community. Church support for the Emmaus ministry is important to continuing in this ministry of developing disciples and leaders in churches. It is awesome to spread the trainings out across southern Oklahoma area churches.

Hands and Feet team training will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 6th, followed by the **Commissioning Service at 4:00 p.m.** with the Cross Point Emmaus Community at the **Ardmore First Methodist Church Colvert Ministry Center** followed by a Gathering with a potluck meal provided by all who come!

Volunteer applications are still being accepted...

Not all Hands & Feet team members have been able to be contacted yet. The LDs have left messages (voice, text and/or email) but have not been able to speak with several people yet. If you are planning on working, please get with Terry Pierson 580-220-8737 (men's walk), Kellye Johnson 817-992-6773 (women's walk) or Melissa Grace 580-465-9040 (applications come to me and then go to LDs). Volunteers are still needed for the Hands & Feet team. The Emmaus Board voted to hold only one walk a year in the Spring, so sign up to help if you are able to!! Cost to serve is \$225/volunteer.

De Colores!

Melissa Grace, Assistant Community Lay Director

SNACKS!!!

It's approaching quickly. That time of the year when new pilgrims will experience the love and grace of our Heavenly Father. I don't know about you, but to be a part of a large community to help facilitate such a wonderful experience for others is exciting! One of the ways we can all be of service, whether we are actually working or not, is by providing amazing snacks. It's a little bit of heaven on earth when pilgrims walk out those conference room doors to a beautiful table of wonderful food. Be a part of making this possible by going to our website, at crosspointemmaus.org, and sign up to help supply snacks. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated also.

Cheryl Heller

Cross Point Emmaus 2024 Board

Community Lay Director - Patti Tickel
 Community Spiritual Dir. - Rev. Steve Littrell
 Community Asst. Lay Dir. - Melissa Grace
 Secretary - John Terry
 Treasurer - Jerold Phillips
 Kitchen / Snack - Cheryl Heller
 Letter Agape / Prayer Room - Bebe Lodes
 Candlelight / Sponsor's Hour - Rev. Trent Maness
 Setup / Tear Down - Randy Hendershott
 Literature / Supplies - Bill McAngus
 Fourth Day - Rev. Toni Hignight
 Gatherings – Rev. Sharen Hale
 Music - Becca Glaser
 Table Agape - Terry Pierson
 Registration - Judy Roberts
 Newsletter / AV Tech / Media - Kenna Johnson

PRAYER VIGIL SIGN UP BEGINS

Just a reminder about the prayer vigil for the upcoming Walks. You can sign up online or by choosing a time on the prayer vigil poster, which will be available at the gatherings. The hard copy prayer vigil will also be available at both Send Offs. Let's fill all the slots!

Please pray for all the team and pilgrims!

Bebe Lodes

SET UP AND TEAR DOWN VOLUNTEERS

I would like to thank the Crosspoint Emmaus Community for electing me to serve on the Emmaus board. It will be my privilege to head up the Setup/Teardown team. It would be a major help to me and the Emmaus community and the Pilgrims if some of the members will be able to come over a little early on Thursday April 15th at 1 o'clock to help get all the supplies out of the shed and to the correct locations before the walk. I would also ask that on Sunday April 28th around 1 o'clock if some people might be able to help move items back to the shed. This is an opportunity to serve the Emmaus Community and our Lord as we are called to do. "It is also an opportunity to see where the shed is located."

Looking forward to the upcoming Walks numbers 115 and 116.

In His Service

Randy Hendershott

Crosspoint Walk to Emmaus #29

Table of Peter

TABLE AGAPE

Greetings Cross Point Emmaus family!

Luke 6:38 "Give and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over!" When you give with agape love God will bless you! Please consider making something for table agape! I know from personal experience what a joy it is to receive these gifts of agape love! The Crosspoint Emmaus website has a list of 100 ideas of things you could make! We ask for 70 pieces for each walk. Thank you for your support!

Terry Pierson

Greetings Emmaus family!

Wow! We have now had our first training for the conference room teams! I am excited!

1 Thessalonians 5:17 says “Pray without ceasing.” Keep praying for our team members and for our pilgrims! We need pilgrims to have these walks. Pray for guidance on who you could sponsor or help someone sponsor.

Thank you for your prayers and support during these past few months. Keep the prayers coming and let God move!

De Colores!

Terry Pierson Men’s Lay Director Walk #115

LITERATURE AND SUPPLIES

Let me introduce myself:

Bill McAngus, Cross Point Walk to Emmaus, Walk 89, Table of Thomas. I’m married to Reinee and we have one son, Matthew, who is a senior at OU. We live in Pauls Valley and attend the Wynnewood Methodist Church. I am retired from the Wynnewood Refinery and Reinee is retired from the medical field. We enjoy going to Branson and seeing the Sight and Sound shows. My hobbies include fishing, traveling, and Geocaching.

I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve on the Emmaus board. I look forward to working with the board members and learning more of the process that makes a walk happen. Walks 113 and 114 will not be far off, so let’s be in prayer and make it another Holy Spirit filled walk.

De Colores, Bill McAngus

CANDIDATE & SPONSOR APPLICATIONS

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

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 \$240 (check or cash)**
- 4. Completed “Sponsor Sheet”**
- 5. Sponsor’s signature**

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 any Board Member or Judy Roberts at muchhuntin@hotmail.com or 580-504-7924.

GATHERINGS!!

February 17

12:00 PM

Healdton First Christian Church

March 16

12:00 PM

Marietta First Christian Church

April 6

4:00 PM

Ardmore First Methodist Church

Colvert Ministry Center

Commissioning

SPONSORSHIP - THE COMMUNITY'S STRENGTH



Sponsorship is more than “signing up people for the Walks.” The Model contains many points about sponsorship, and I will share several from “The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus,” pages 13-20.

- First, good sponsorship is the first act of agape before a Walk ever begins; the experience of the Walk for a pilgrim really begins with how we handle sponsorship.
- Second, good sponsorship undergirds the whole weekend with sacrificial love on behalf of each pilgrim. Sponsors use discernment in recruiting pilgrims, embody the personal commitment of the community to each pilgrim, and provide personal acts of agape during the three days for the pilgrims. These acts of agape include prayer, agape letters, presence at Candlelight and Closing, and follow-up.
- Third, good sponsorship is the foundation for a healthy, effective Emmaus Movement that is fulfilling its true purpose: the development of Christian leaders and the renewal of the church in ministry. Wood and Roy write in *Day Four: The Pilgrim's Continued Journey*, **“The strength of any Emmaus Community is a direct result of that community's recruiting practices. If the community is committed to recruiting strong church leaders for the purpose of strengthening the local church, then the community will be a strong vital force in the renewal movement.”**
- Emmaus is for active Christians and members of churches whose own renewal will mean new energy, commitment, and vision in the church and everyday environments for Christ's sake.
- Emmaus is right for many people – but not for everyone. The religious background or emotional condition of some people may make Emmaus an improper discipleship tool for them.
- Wise sponsorship is purposeful and prayerful; unwise sponsorship is haphazard and undiscerning.
- Sponsorship is like being a godparent. A godparent doesn't just stand with a person at the front of the church, but helps him or her grow in the spiritual life.

Given the importance of sponsorship, Boards of Directors may develop local guidelines and reasonable expectations to ensure responsible sponsorship (page 17 of the Handbook). The Cross point Board of Directors considers Sponsorship to be critical to a Pilgrim's Walk experience, and to the Community's growth and stability. To help sponsors balance all of their responsibilities towards their pilgrims and pilgrims' families during the Walk weekend, the Board strongly recommends that a sponsor **limit their sponsorship to 2 pilgrims per Walk**. This will help a sponsor with being able to meet the needs of their pilgrims, including such things like getting their pilgrim to Camp on Thursday night, making the pilgrim's bed, visiting with the spouse over the weekend, assisting with childcare, obtaining agape letters, taking their pilgrim home after closing, taking their pilgrim to a Fourth Day meeting, helping the pilgrim get connected with a Reunion Group, and being a valuable source during the pilgrim's Fourth Day journey. It's a privilege to sponsor someone, but with that privilege comes real responsibility. On the surface the process seems easy, but fulfilling the responsibilities can be exciting and exhausting. Yet, it is spiritually rewarding!

SPONSORSHIP: The Most Important Job of All

Most communities take sponsorship for granted: the members assume that everyone knows the how and why of sponsorship. Often communities fail to discuss sponsorship except in reference to the number of participants signed up for a walk. Yet sponsorship is the most important job of Emmaus, and all members take responsibility for this area of ministry. It involves more than simply signing up people. The quality of sponsorship influences the participants, the health of the Emmaus movement, and the churches affected by the movement.

Qualities of a good sponsorship:

1. Good sponsorship uses discernment in inviting or recruiting participants. Good sponsors do not set out simply to recruit anyone with a willingness to attend.
2. Good sponsorship is the first act of agape before an Emmaus walk ever begins.
3. Good sponsorship undergirds the Emmaus Walk with sacrificial love on behalf of each participant and provides personal acts of agape which includes prayer, agape letters, supportive presence at Candlelight and Closing, and follow-up.

Good sponsorship offers a strong link to the participants' Fourth Day experience after each event. Sponsors stand ready to answer participants' questions, be faithful friends, and provide perspective. Sponsors guide participants to reunion groups, encourage them to revitalize their involvement in their churches and church groups, and help them sponsor others to attend an Emmaus Walk.

1. Good sponsorship grounds a healthy, effective Emmaus movement that fulfills its true purpose: continued faith formation of the participants, the development of Christian leaders, and the renewal of the church in ministry.

Why do we sponsor? What is our aim?

A sponsor does not aim to "get all my friends to go," to fill up the walk roster, to fix people's problems, or to reproduce our experience in others. Rather, the sponsor aims for the pilgrim to:

Experience the accepting and healing grace of God through Christian community,
Realize that they are precious to God and are on this earth for a holy purpose,
Discuss with nonjudgmental peers and mature Christians their questions and struggles,
Hear anew the gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ and the basics of Christian faith and life,
Make friends with others who share the faith and will support one another in living as Christians,
Develop relationships with other Christians, relationships that might extend beyond the three days,
Strengthen their decision to follow Jesus.
Better prepare themselves to live as Christian witnesses in home, school, church, and community,
Learn what goes into building their lives and relationships on a solid foundation,
Bring new vitality to the church upon returning,
Inspire to sponsor others
Energize the body of Christ whose hearts are on fire with the love of Christ.

January Gathering



First CR Training



SCHOLARSHIPS - CANDIDATE & VOLUNTEER

Limited funds are available for scholarships for the Spring 2024 Walks. If a pilgrim or volunteer needs a scholarship to attend/work the Walk, please download the application from the Cross Point Emmaus website, complete the form, and return to registrar Judy Roberts. Scholarship rules include that the deposit must be paid first (for candidates and volunteers). Scholarships are generally limited to one per person, per a 12-month period. If you have any questions, please contact any Board Member.

PAYPAL DONATIONS

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 recurring 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 this QR Code to donate on a mobile device.



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

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