



Cross Point Emmaus

Cross Point Quarterly Newsletter©
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MMXX V Number III

August 2025

Greetings everyone! I am a beekeeper. Bees are fascinating! Did you know every bee has a different job? From the time they are born they have different duties. We need the Emmaus community to listen to what God is saying where you can volunteer at for the next set of walks. We are one body with many parts all working together as one. Pray and listen to where God wants you! DeColores!

Terry Pierson Community Lay Director

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Hello Emmaus Community,

Hope everyone is having a great summer with friends and family. This summer please be in prayer about serving on the 2026 Spring Walks April 9-12 for the Men's #119 Walk and April 16-19 for the Women's #120 Walk. Applications are available on crosspointemmaus.org website and are due by September 1, 2025. Serving on the walks is such a blessing. Even though it is hard work and a sacrifice of time and funds, serving and giving grace to others on such a wonderful spiritual weekend is a greater reward in growing our faith. You can't keep grace if you don't give it away! So join us in serving the pilgrims on the Spring 2026 walks.

De Colores! Cheryl Heller, Team Selection & Asst Community Lay Director

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Hello Community,

My name is Justin Rushing and I fulfill the role of Secretary on the Board. I attended Walk #109 and was at the Table of John. I have been involved with Emmaus for the last three years and supporting the Community, especially during the Walks, is always a highlight of my year. I encourage all of our community members to be in prayer for our pilgrims, sponsors, and volunteers for the upcoming Walks. If you ever have any needs or questions, please feel free to give me a call.

De Colores!

Cross Point Emmaus 2025 Board

Community Lay Director - Terry Pierson
Community Spiritual Dir. - Rev. Randal Richards
Community Asst. Lay Dir. - Cheryl Heller
Secretary - Justin Rushing
Treasurer - Gina Tickel
Kitchen/Snack - Amelia Harrison
Letter Agape/Prayer Room - Gwen Scott
Candlelight/Sponsor's Hour - Rev. Trent Maness
Setup/Tear Down - Randy Hendershott
Literature/Supplies - Bill McAngus
Fourth Day - Rev. Toni Hignight
Gatherings – Rev. Jeff Shugart
Music - Becca Glaser
Table Agape - Jennifer Little
Registration - Bebe Lodes
Newsletter/AV Tech/Social Media - John Terry

NEXT GATHERING

September 13, 2025

6:00 PM

First Christian Church

210 N. 3rd Ave.

Marietta, OK 73448

SNACKS!!!

De Colores!

As the next Walks approach, I can't help but reminisce on how valued and welcomed each act of agape made me feel on my own walk. I am sure each member of our community can relate. In preparation for the newest members of our community, I am asking you to prayerfully consider signing up for snack agape, sharing our love through acts of service to our pilgrims. You can sign up online, at Gatherings, or at trainings. Your love and devotion to serving others is greatly appreciated.

Amelia Harrison, Snack Agape

Hi Emmaus Friends!

I loved seeing everyone at the last Walks, as well as developing new friendships. After my Walk #56 in 2004, I began working Walks in any capacity that the Lord wanted me to. My first assignment was as a Cabin Angel. I was amazed at all of the work done behind the scenes! The outside team was very intent on praying for the pilgrims and doing everything possible to make the walks special for the pilgrims. Prayer, communion, and cooperation is such a big part of being on the outside team. The lay directors pray intently over each volunteer/pilgrim application and ask for the Lord's direction in placement. The upcoming Walks #119 and #120 are the Lord's Walks, and I will do everything possible to follow the Holy Spirit's direction. I encourage you to pray about working the upcoming Walks #119 and/or #120, and submitting a volunteer application. Be open to wherever God leads you to work as He will truly bless you in your servanthood.

De Colores!

Kelly Shannon, Lay Director for Women's Walk #120

TABLE AGAPE

Hello Cross Point Emmaus Family!

AGAPE LOVE – often described as the highest form of love, by its selfless, unconditional and giving nature.

Sharing Table Agape is a beautiful way to bless our pilgrims and show Christ's love in action! Please start thinking now about your Table Agape for walks #119 & #120. Need ideas? The Cross Point Emmaus website has a list of 100 creative suggestions! We ask for 70 pieces per Walk to ensure every pilgrim receives a gift of Agape Love.

Any questions please reach out at littlestargey@gmail.com or 214-504-4459

Jennifer Little– Table Agape

MUSIC BOOKS

Dear Community,

We are in the process of updating the Music Books. If you have a favorite hymn or song, please let me or John Terry know. We would like to include songs that are important to the Community. Thank you!

Becca Glaser

Music

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 paper poster, which will be available at the Gatherings and the Men's Send Off. Let's fill all the slots!

Please pray for all the team and pilgrims!

Gwen Scott

Letter Agape/Prayer Room



CANDIDATE & SPONSOR APPLICATIONS

WE NEED PILGRIMS!!

Please begin praying about pilgrims you would like to sponsor for the upcoming walks! Applications for pilgrims and their sponsors are due February 21, 2026. Total cost for a pilgrim is \$260 with a \$130 deposit to be included with the application. Board scholarships are available to those who need them. Scholarship forms are available and can be downloaded on the Cross Point Emmaus Community website. Please submit this form along with the candidate application.

Here are the obligations of a sponsor, for the submission of an application for a pilgrim:

- Completed "Candidate Application"
- Signature of the candidate on application
- Signature of the candidate's pastor on "Candidate Application"
- Completed "Sponsor Sheet"
- Your signature as sponsor on the sponsor sheet
- Deposit amount of \$130 [check or cash] (balance due at walk registration)
- Check should be made out to Cross Point Emmaus

As a sponsor, you are responsible obtaining and submitting all of the above requirements to the registrar or a board member who can submit it to the registrar. An application that does not include all of these documents with all signatures will not be considered complete and therefore will not be considered.

The candidate should not submit the documents to the registrar, this is the responsibility of the candidate's sponsor. If you have any questions, please contact any board member or Bebe Lodes, Registrar, bslodes@gmail.com.

SCHOLARSHIPS - CANDIDATE & VOLUNTEER

Limited funds are available for scholarships for the Spring 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, Bebe Lodes. 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.

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.

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 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 this QR Code to donate on a mobile device.



2026 Spring Walks

Thursday Night Send-Off @ 7:00pm

Men's - April 9 Women's - April 16

Saturday Night Candlelight @ 8:00pm

Men's - April 11, Women's - April 18

Sunday Closing @ 4:00pm

Men's - April 12, Women's - April 19

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

Note: If you have anything to add to the next quarterly Newsletter, send your copy or photos to info@crosspointemmaus.org. 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. Please ask your Emmaus friends if they receive the Newsletter. We do not want to accidentally omit anyone. *If you use gmail for email, please check your "Promotions" folder for our emails, or you may select "all mail" to see all inbox folder contents.*