

# Brazos Valley Emmaus Community December 2007 Newsletter

*De Colores!*  
Volume 16, Number 4  
December 2007

## A Christmas Message

*I heard the bells on Christmas day/Their old familiar carols play, And wild and sweet the words repeat/Of peace on earth, good will to men."*

*"Joy to the world, the Lord has come..."*

*"Love came down at Christmas/Love all lovely, love divine..."*



Peace, Joy, and Love. Aren't those three things something we hear repeatedly in the Christmas season? Peace on earth, good will to men. Joy to the world. Love came down at Christmas. But tell me, how many times do we truly feel those sentiments throughout the season? Oh, we may be able to snatch a peaceful moment every now and then; but as a whole, much of the season is filled not with peace, joy, and love. It is filled with rush, hurry, and frazzle.

We go from school function, to church program, to family party, back to a church party, to a dinner with co-workers, back to a Sunday school class party, to a children's choir program, to Wal-Mart, oops, can't find it there, I better go to Target, to our in-laws, to the grocery store, to someplace else, to someplace else and then to someplace else. And at every place we are almost expected to bring some sort of gift to exchange. And all of the time we are supposed to be sharing in the special love of Jesus, the Christ child, the gift of God who will save us from our sins, the newborn King, born in a manger. But with all of the running, it's hard to stop and see the child.

So, how do we do it? Well... I'm not 100% sure. I try to catch those little moments of peace – but it's usually after my children are in bed and I'm at the point of exhaustion. Then, I feel guilty because it shows me I haven't truly taken the time to just be with my children and share in the true joy of Christmas. So what are we to do?

How about this: just say, "No." Say "no" to one party. Say "no" to one program or gathering (unless, of course, your child or grandchild is performing). Instead of rushing through Wal-Mart or Target to find a "just right" gift that is just all wrong, buy a share of a goat or sheep in the name of an individual from Heifer International ([www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)). Just slow down and breathe.

Also, try to be intentional about spreading the love of Christ wherever you go. Smile. Tell the clerk, "Merry Christmas, Jesus loves you." He, not the pocket books of the retailers, is the true reason we have Christmas. There are many ways to live in the moment of Christmas. It just takes a little thought and planning. The Christmas season can be the "most wonderful time of the year." But it just takes a little work. Or maybe, it just takes a little less – a little less running, a little less gathering, a little less giving. Just say, "No," and then take that time to fully concentrate on the beauty of the King of kings born in a manger. And let that truth and wonder fill you with the joy, peace, and love of Christmas.

Merry Christmas,

Jeff Gage  
BVEC Spiritual Director

### Team Selection Application

The BVEC Team Selection Committee is now accepting applications for the October 2008 Walks. Lay Directors for these Walks are Cindy VanDeventer and Pat Baker. Forms need to be completed and returned to the address listed on the form NLT April 1<sup>st</sup>. Copies of the form may also be obtained on the web, at Gatherings and at Candlelight. For additional information, email Patrice Summerour at [psummerour@bvemmas.org](mailto:psummerour@bvemmas.org).



# Brazos Valley Emmaus Team Application

This form must be completed and returned to the address below if you want to be considered for serving on a team for a BVEC Walk

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ M/F: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Walk No: \_\_\_\_\_ Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Community: \_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Clergy Y/N \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Reunion Group Name \_\_\_\_\_ (When/Where): \_\_\_\_\_

Musician Y/N? \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ Lead Music? \_\_\_\_\_

### Previous Team Service:

List all team service with the latest Walk first, including other locations and Walk types (Chrysalis, Cur-sillo, Karios, etc.). Position (TL=Table Leader, OT=Outside Team, etc)  
Use the back of this form if necessary.

Walk #	Month/Year	Walk Type	Community & Location	Position	Talk(s) Given

How are you willing to serve (check all that apply):

Registrar Support     
 Conference Room Team     
 72-hour Prayer Vigil     
 Outside Support Team

Walk Support:  Candlelight     
 Thursday Set-up     
 Sunday Clean-up

Other Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to:  
Brazos Valley Emmaus Community  
PO Box 10491  
College Station, TX 77842



# BVEC Community Calendar and Information

## Our Next Gathering

We have a Gathering site for January 5, 2008 beginning at 5:00 pm. It will be at Chappell Hill United Methodist Church, 5195 Church Street, Chappell Hill, TX 77426. Contact person will be Eric Dehmer, 7907 Newman Ln., Brenham, TX 77833 phone 979/251-7200.



***Bring your family and friends, your worship book and little blue songbook. Wear your nametag and cross and "come as you are".***

Future Gathering sites are to be determined at the next Board meeting in January. Check the website for up to date information at [www.bvemmas.org](http://www.bvemmas.org).

## Welcome Our New Board Members

Following our recent elections, there are five new board members. The new members are: Nancy Goodell, Cindy Cross, Derek French, Marilyn Koch, and Arthur Averitt.

Please congratulate each of them and keep them in your prayers as they attempt to continue the good works of the outgoing members of the Emmaus Board.

Be sure to thank outgoing Board members

Jim Busby, Carolyn Bush, Gary Lancaster, Keith Kamas, and Louise Goodrich. Each of them performed wonderful service to our community and reflect Christ's love.

We also want to extend our appreciation to Melissa Williams and Sue Housely for their willingness to volunteer and their continuing service to the Brazos Valley Emmaus Community.

*Congratulations to:*

*Nancy Goodell*

*Cindy Cross*

*Derek French*

*Marilyn Koch*

*Arthur Averitt*

## The 2008-2009 Brazos Valley Emmaus Board

The January Board meeting will determine roles for the board members to undertake in the coming year.

- Current Community Lay Director- Hilda Baker 979-567-0218
- Current Asst. Community Lay Director- Jim Smith 979-823-4818
- Keith Kamas- 979-828-4223
- Marlene Coffman- 512-560-5525
- Bill Elliott- 281-372-6222
- Ed Wetterman- 979-422-4095
- Dana Wacasey- 979-693-5678

- Andrew Perry- 979-272-7406
- Patrice Summerour- 936-878-1896
- Sally Miller- 979-696-2925
- Nancy Goodell- 713-467-7021
- Derek French- 979-739-7635
- Marilyn Koch- 512-446-5838
- Arthur Averitt- 979-690-9440
- Cindy Cross- 979-567-7650
- Web Administration, Design, Data Management: Marlene Coffman





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P.O. Box 10491  
College Station, Texas 77842

Email: [news@bvenmaus.org](mailto:news@bvenmaus.org)

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## ***Merry Christmas***

***And thou shall have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. (Luke 1:14)***



We're on the Web!

[www.bvenmaus.org](http://www.bvenmaus.org)