

Brazos Valley Emmaus Community December 2008 Newsletter

De Colores!
Volume 17, Number 4
December 2008

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). 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



Did You Know

It takes approximately 74 people to serve just **one** weekend Walk? Thirty three people are needed to serve on the Inside and Outside Teams which requires a minimum three days of service. The BVEC Team Selection Committee is now accepting applications for the October 2009 Walks. Lay Directors for these Walks are Beth Barnes and Bill Elliot. To serve on one of these teams, please complete and submit the attached application to the address listed on the form no later than April 30th. Copies of the form may also be obtained on the web, at Gatherings and at Candlelight. For additional information email Patrice Summerour at team_selection@bvemmas.org.

If you are unable to get away for that amount of time but would like to serve many opportunities still exist where you can volunteer for several hours and still receive credit for serving on an Outside Team. These include: working in the Kitchen (2 shifts daily for a total of 18 people); Facilities Set up on Thursday (6 people); Facilities Tear down on Sunday (6 people); Welcoming Committee on Thursday evening (5 people), and Parking Attendants for Candlelight and Closing. Each of these opportunities require a very minimal amount of your time and are vital to the Community's ability to proceed with a Walk. If interested in serving in one of these areas please contact the following Board Members:

BVEC Community Calendar and Information

Gatherings

Our next Gathering is January 10th at the First United Methodist Church of Caldwell. The newly elected Board will meet at noon to elect officers and for Board Training. The Men and Women's teams for the April Walks will have Team Orientation at 3:00. The Gathering will begin at 5:00. Extra Agape and all Lost and Found Items from the 2008 Walks will be brought to the Gathering. If you have any questions please contact Ed Wetterman at 979-574-3540 or email him at ewetterman@bvemmaus.org.



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

Our schedule of future Gatherings begins February 7th at the First Baptist Church of Caldwell, and March 7th at the First United Methodist Church of Bryan. T

The November Fourth Day Gathering was truly blessed. We counted over 170 people in attendance. Let's continue to grow our Community of Faith.

Welcome Our New Board Members

Following our recent elections, there are five new board members. The new members are: Pat Baker, Sue Housely, Steve May, Robert Reed, and Linda Myers.

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 Hilda Baker, Sally Miller, Billy Elliot, An-

drew Perry, and Jim Smith. Each of them performed wonderful service to our community and reflect Christ's love.

We also want to extend our appreciation to Lucy Coward and Mike O'Meara for their willingness to volunteer and their continuing service to the Brazos Valley Emmaus Com-

We Need Help!

Please help us update our Reunion Group Lists with names, dates, and locations.

Email Information to
reunion_groups@bvemmaus.org

The 2009-2010 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

Pat Baker- 979-255-3216

Marlene Coffman- 512-560-5525

Sue Housely

Ed Wetterman- 979-422-4095

Dana Wacasey- 979-693-5678

Steve May

Patrice Summerour- 936-878-1896

Robert Reed

Nancy Goodell- 713-467-7021

Marilyn Koch- 512-446-5838

Arthur Averitt- 979-690-9440

Cindy Cross- 979-567-7650

Linda Myers

Web Administration, Design, Data Management: Derek French





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): ___ 72-hour Prayer Vigil ___ Registrar Support ___ Greeters
 Parking: ___ Thursday Arrival ___ Saturday Candlelight ___ Sunday's Closing
 Walk Support: ___ Candlelight ___ Thursday Set-up ___ Sunday Clean-up ___ Kitchen Helpers
 ___ Conference Room Team ___ Outside Team

Other Service:

Comments:

Please return this form to:

Brazos Valley Emmaus Community
PO Box 10491
College Station, TX 77842





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 P.O. Box 10491
 College Station, Texas 77842

Email: news@bvemmaus.org

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Merry Christmas

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

Welcome Members of Walk 73:

Martha Taylor
 JoAnn Jackson
 Flo Decker
 Carol Ball
 Jackie Ross
 Peggy Hines
 Melissa Lee
 Ivenus Garcia
 Pat Garcia
 Janet Basey
 Betty Darby
 Leigh Malloch
 Lyra Pointer
 Kathleen Gregory
 Rhonda Miller
 Sada Winter
 Jeanne Prestwood
 Susie Gore

Melissa Fisher
 Robin Iliff
 Mary Dozier
 Katherine Snider
 Diane Glover
 Nancy Lee
 Connie Fisher
 Deidra Roston
 Tiffany Garcia
 Cheryl Weaver
 Edith Moss
 Emmer Ayers
 LaTrelle Good
 Julie Dean
 Amie Finch
 Bonnie Gordon
 Felita Tindle
 Karen Brisco



Welcome Members of Walk 74:

Mike Nowicki
 David Ayers
 Al Jordan
 Gilbert Barron
 Frank Hruby
 Garland Spitzenberger
 Sam Prestwood
 Phillip Rodriguez
 Ken Alexander
 Dan Reider
 Buddy Turner
 David Garcia
 Harry Pollard

Bob Vance
 West Fisher
 Tom Yates
 Kirk Pearcy
 Charles Robinson
 Brian Linder
 John Beasley
 Billy Gage
 Val Miller
 Kim Graham
 Irell Fisher
 Artie Roston
 Damon Aucoin



We're on the Web!

www.bvemmaus.org

