



# **BRAZOS VALLEY EMMAUS COMMUNITY**

## **February 2015**

**DECOLORES**  
**Volume 24, Number 1**

**Greetings to the Community in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.** Let me introduce myself ... my name is Forrest Goodell and I am the new Community Lay Director. First I want to thank Swen Crone, Community Lay Director for 2013 and 2014 for his diligent work on behalf of BVEC. Also a big thank you to the members of the Board who served for the past 3 years or 1 year terms replacing those who had to resign: Pat Baker, Nancy Goodell, David Worden and Cherry Moore.

This is going to be a very exciting upcoming year, and we have an awesome responsibility to be the hands and feet of Christ to a hurting world. Your new Board of Directors stands ready to serve the Community – they are an incredible group of talent, and they desire to serve Jesus and the Community as we begin this New Year. Take the opportunity at the Gatherings to meet and get to know those that you have elected. They are listed on page 2 with phone numbers – if there is a Committee you would like to be a part of, please don't hesitate to call the person in charge and let them know.

We need pilgrims for our upcoming walks so look around you and find someone that you want to give the gift of 'Walk to Emmaus'. Remember your own experience, and step up and sponsor someone.

Our Gatherings are held monthly and at various locations . . . you can find the location for each month – locations are listed on page 6 of this Newsletter. This is a wonderful time of Food (each person brings a covered dish), Fellowship and Worship with those Emmaus songs you love so much and a talk by a 4<sup>th</sup> Day Speaker just before Communion.

You can make the upcoming Walks a success by signing up for the Prayer Vigils (instructions are found below), and by attending all events of the Emmaus Walk weekend. If you sponsor someone, stay for Sponsor's Hour and be there for Candlelight and Closing to show your support for our new Pilgrims. If you don't sponsor a Pilgrim, come on out for the Candlelight and Closing and watch the faces of the Pilgrims, there is nothing like it. Be sure to send your Agape items as well as special goodies for them to eat.

Looking forward to seeing you at upcoming Events!! DeColores - Forrest Goodell



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# **Your 2015 BVEC Board of Directors**

**Lay Director:** Forrest Goodell (713) 201-3043  
**Spiritual Director:** Marie Mickey (979) 823-8073  
**Assistant Lay Director:** Dave Ogee (512) 898-5381  
**Treasurer:** Michael Koehn (979) 830-7741  
**Secretary:** Marlene Coffman (512) 430-4065  
**Team Selection:** W.D. Smith (979) 836-1161  
**Nominations:** Russ Bevil (979) 567-7461  
**Reunion Groups/4th Day:** Dave Ogee (512) 898-5381  
**Registrar:** Dianne Davenport (979) 421-2838  
**Welcoming/Closing:** Russ Bevil (979) 567-7461  
**Agape:** Charlotte Waddill (936) 855-2523  
**Music/Entertainment:** Marva Beck (903) 536-2290  
**Training:** Sherrian Gondesens (979) 255-7746 & Charlotte Waddill (936) 855-2523

**Logistics, Transportation, Facility set-up/  
breakdown:** Jesse Brown (254) 424-3371  
**Literature & Supplies:** Pat Mynar (979) 567-4020 7737  
**Sponsor Hour/Candelight:** Sherrian Gondesens (979) 255-7746  
**Gatherings:** Margy Elliott (281) 370-0505  
**Prayer Chapel/Prayer Vigils:** Gary Westbrook (512) 455-7917  
**Kitchen Coordinator:** Courtney Morgan (979) 676-2330  
**Communication:** Forrest Goodell (713) 201-3043  
**Technology:** Marlene Coffman, (512) 430-4065

## **BVEC SPRING WALKS**

**Walk 98 – LD Ken Hayes, April 9-12, 2015 at Cross Roads Retreat in Chriesman**

**Walk 99 – LD Sandi Sefcik, April 23-26, 2015 at Cross Roads Retreat in Chriesman**

**Walk 100 – LD Dave Wyatt, October 8-11, 2015 at Cross Roads Retreat in Chriesman**

**Walk 101 – LD Wendy Manuel, October 22-25, 2015 at Cross Roads Retreat in Chriesman**

# **PILGRIMS!**

We need **your** pilgrims for the upcoming Spring Walks. Please send your registrations in **as soon as possible** to Registrar, 2209 Parker Ct., Brenham, TX 77833. You can also register online at [inetmember.com](http://inetmember.com) which can be reached through our [BVEmmaus.org](http://BVEmmaus.org) website. After registering or signing in, there is a tab at the top called 'online application'. Click on this and following the directions. Let's fill these upcoming walks so others can experience the excitement you felt when you went on your walk!

## THOUGHTS FOR SPONSORS

We have had excellent sponsorship of Pilgrims in the past. God is working with our BVEC Community to identify and invite those who can grow in Christ to become leaders in their churches. To make a Walk a success, there are some things to keep in mind.

First is timely arrival. This is vitally important for the beginning of a Walk weekend, and timely means neither early nor late. A late arrival, obviously, holds up the entire Walk group of 60 or so, as well as the other 35 sponsors, friends, and community members attending the send off. We realize that sometimes things happen. If they do, please call the camp at (979) 567-7974 and let us know you're running late. Early is equally disruptive. The inside and the outside teams have communion at 4:30, and eat dinner at 5. They then use the remaining 30 minutes or so to make final preparations, place nametags on doors and beds, and the outside team out of sight prior to the Pilgrim's arrival. When Sponsors arrive before 6, it causes veritable chaos for the teams and no one is ready to receive them, the move-in team is not in place to guide them or to carry their bags. Please do not, under any circumstance, arrive at Cross Roads with your Pilgrim until after 6 PM, just as is noted on the web site, and elsewhere. 6:10 or so is even better, but also, before 6:50, so the Pilgrim can be moved in, their bed prepared, and signed in, so that the walk can start on time at precisely 7 PM. It should not be too difficult to arrive in that 40 minute window to insure that all involved have a great beginning for a great weekend with Jesus Christ at their Walk to Emmaus.

It's also the Sponsor's job to make their Pilgrim's bed when they arrive at the camp. The Move-in team will provide guidance at the parking area by telling them which cabin they are assigned to, they will provide transportation for them, if necessary, and assist you with transporting their bags, and will provide a welcoming person at the cabins to make sure they get to the right place. The beds will be tagged with each Pilgrim's name when they arrive. Please do not deviate from the assigned beds. One of your jobs as Sponsor is to make sure the team knows if your pilgrim requires a lower bunk, or one near the bathroom, or near an electrical outlet, so all these factors have been taken into consideration when the bunk assignments are made. If you have not conveyed this information about your Pilgrim or something has changed, then let the Move-in greeter know so they can tell the proper person to effect a change.

If we all work together, the walk weekends will proceed much more smoothly, with less disruption, and we will be helping Christ work his magic with those He has invited.

### Top Ten Things NOT TO DO When Sponsoring a Pilgrim

10. Don't sponsor someone you just met last week.
9. Don't sponsor someone by yourself the first time.
8. Don't sponsor anyone unless you have also presented the opportunity to attend a Walk to their spouse and they at least support their spouse's attendance.
7. Don't sponsor at all if you plan to work on a walk in any capacity.
6. Don't keep anything about the weekend secret from the Pilgrim, but tell them as little as possible because there are surprises which will be better if they don't know.
5. Don't sponsor a Pilgrim because they need "salvation". The Walk is for mature Christians.
4. Don't plan to be away during the Walk. You will need to be there for the family, and you must attend the Sponsor's hour, Candlelight, and Closing.
3. Don't fail to list all medications, special needs, and dietary requirements for your Pilgrim.
2. Don't arrive at the camp before 6:00PM or after 7:00 PM.
1. Don't neglect to sign up for the prayer vigil or let a day go by without a prayer for your Pilgrim.

## Promote Emmaus

**Who should go to Emmaus?** Emmaus is open to members of any Christian Denomination. Emmaus is for development of Christian Leaders who:

- Are members of a local church
- Have a desire to strengthen their spiritual lives
- May have unanswered questions about their faith
- Understand that being a Christian involves responsibility
- Are willing to dedicate their everyday lives to God in an ongoing manner.

## IMS and Prayer Vigils

Our online data management system (IMS – Internet Membership Systems) gives us the opportunity to access our personal information such as phone number and address, sign up pilgrims, and sign up for the 72-hour Prayer Vigils for the Walks.

If you have not registered to use the IMS site, please do so. It will save you time, and it will save the community time. You can go to the home page of the site at <http://bvec.inetmember.com> or go to [bvemmaus.org](http://bvemmaus.org) and clicking on the IMS box in the middle of the home page. On the home page of IMS, you will find a video to help you register to use the site.

Once you are registered and signed-in, go to the menu item “COMMUNITY” and click on “PRAYER VIGILS”. The next screen will display your name, location and email address. If this is correct, click the button “SELECT WALK”. Then select the Walk you wish to sign-up for by clicking the magnifying glass to the left of the Walk. You may then select the day using the drop-down menu in the upper right corner of the screen and select the time slot you want by clicking the green plus sign to the left of the time slot you want. Once you have done this, you are done, and we are done, that’s all there is to it.

Now if you use the old method for prayer vigil sign up by emailing or calling Gary Westbrook, he in turn has to email Jerry Coffman and Jerry has to enter your name in the slot requested. By the time all this happens, someone else may have already signed-up for that slot, and we wind up with duplicate coverage. Which is not a bad thing, if all slots are covered, but if you had gone directly to the prayer vigil sign-up, you would have seen that slot was covered and selected a different slot that was vacant.

If you will use the IMS prayer vigil sign-up, it knows who you are by your email log-in and once the Walk is near, automated reminders can be sent via email to remind you of your time and date to pray. When Jerry has to manually enter your name, the email is not known so the auto reminders are not possible.

The IMS system is a valuable tool, if we use it. I encourage you to use it for prayer vigil sign-up and for all the other functions as well.

## A CASE FOR THE 4TH DAY and REUNION GROUPS

First Corinthians, Chapter 6, Verse 19 reads, ***"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; but bought at a price."*** While this verse and the accompanying verses remind us that our physical bodies are important to God and deserving of our thoughtful care, it is the acknowledgement that the Holy Spirit dwells within each of us that prompts the following words.

While we may react physically to the wonders of the Walk to Emmaus by shedding tears, laughing at our various antics or bowing to the care and love we feel for our new friends in Christ, it is the Holy Spirit in each of us that forms the catalyst for these emotions. How often have we seen new Pilgrims at the closing ceremony at a loss for words to describe the experience of the preceding seventy-two hours? For many of us, most perhaps, this level of emotion is difficult to put into words. What is particularly important is that it is those feelings which prompt us to make promises to God and one to another to become better men, women, husbands, wives, fathers, mothers and Christians.

It is the Holy Spirit in each of us that has become alive and urges us to go forward in our lives to do the work Jesus demanded of his disciples. It is the Grace of God to which we've been exposed and the love and encouragement we each receive from our fellow Pilgrims that has brought us to commit to things we might not otherwise consider. However, there is one problem. The Holy Spirit dwelling within us requires nurturing, just as does our physical body. The newly found energy we feel will wane unless it is reinforced from time-to-time. We may very well fail to realize this until after our zeal for Christian discipleship has faded. Here is where the 4th Day and Reunion Groups come into play.

At the end of a successful Walk, few would believe that these newly found feelings will ever subside. They do. If the 4th Day offers nothing else it is a reminder that our souls, like a battery, can be recharged if only you plug in once in awhile. After a week or two on your own it's fun and refreshing to meet again with your fellow Pilgrims and the team that guided you through the Walk. You will discover that those feeling with which you were so amazed come bubbling back and spur you forward toward the new life-goals to which you committed on the final hour of your Walk. When coupled with a Gathering of the Community, you discover an entirely new set of friends and fellow Christians. Now, what could be more important than that?

Reunion Groups offer an opportunity to "quick-charge" your spiritual battery by bringing Pilgrims who reside in the same area a chance to meet more frequently than the monthly Gatherings would permit. Not only that but they give you a chance to play a role in the lives of others who may need you. Isn't this what leading a Christian life is all about? Plus you get a chance to car-pool to our far-flung meetings. Perfect!

You are going to hear more and more about 4th Days and Reunion Groups over the coming months. Sponsors will be reminded time and again that their responsibility does not end on Sunday of the final day of the Walk. If your responsibility for your Pilgrim ends at all, it's after the 4th Day. As your Board of Directors representative with responsibility for 4th Days and Reunion Groups I am pledged to make the 4th Day occasion a priority as well as identification of Reunion Groups now serving the Community. This will take time and your cooperation to make this all happen.

de Colores - Dave Ogee

# 2015 Gatherings

For Directions, go to [bvemmaus.org](http://bvemmaus.org), click on Gatherings and then click on the location.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
January 3	<a href="#">Grace UMC, Hearne</a>	July 11	<a href="#">Hilltop Lakes Chapel</a>
February 7	<a href="#">St Paul Lutheran, Thorndale</a>	August 1	<a href="#">Christ UMC, College Station</a>
March 7	<a href="#">FUMC, Bryan</a>	September 5	<a href="#">Centerville UMC</a>
April	No Gathering, come out to the Candlelights	October	No Gathering, come out to the Candlelights
May 2	<a href="#">First UMC, Caldwell</a>	November 7	<a href="#">First UMC, Madisonville</a>
June 6	<a href="#">FUMC, Bryan</a>	December	No Gathering, Merry Christmas

## 2015 HULLABALOO

August 1, 2015

Location: Christ UMC, College Station

Start collecting your auction items. This is our big money-making event with most of the proceeds going to Sponsorships for the Walks.

Please begin gathering your items to be sold at either the silent auction or the live auction, and don't hesitate to solicit throughout your communities for items donated by merchants and businesses. Some past items have included movie baskets, books, baked goods, personal services, business services, antiques, guns, handcrafted items, and even an AKC registered puppy. Remember, all donations are tax deductible and will be used to spread the Word of God's love to some who may not be able to attend without scholarship assistance

## KITCHEN CORNER

The Emmaus Community is preparing to host two walks in April. There are many opportunities available to help support these walks, one of which is in the kitchen. We all remember the excellent food and cheery faces of those serving in the kitchen. It is a blessing to be able to serve the Pilgrims in this way. If you are interested, I have included links for the sign-ups for both the men's and women's walk below. I would appreciate if you add yourself to the Emmaus Group on the sign-up website when you sign up. This will enable me to easily update you on any changes that may happen before the walk dates. If you have any issues with the link please let me know and I will get you signed up via e-mail. Courtney Morgan (979) 676-2330

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4ea4a72fa2fd0-mens2>

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4ea4a72fa2fd0-womens>

## AGAPE

As members of the BVEC, you go above and beyond for every Walk. All agape- your prayers, letters, food and dining room/pillow agape affirm God's love to each of the Pilgrims.

Thank you for sending 65 pieces of dining room/pillow agape. During the Walks, Pilgrims now room with team members. Distributing pillow agape is much more efficient when 65 pieces of each agape item are sent.

Your cooperation, commitment, and dedication to support this community with agape shows that God still uses PEOPLE to touch lives.

It is an honor to serve as Agape Coordinator for the BVEC. Please contact me at any time if I can be of assistance . . . Charlotte Waddill (936) 855-2523.

### Did You Know?

It takes more than 90 people to serve just one weekend Walk? Thirty-three people are needed to serve on the Inside and Outside Teams which require a minimum of 3 days service. The BVEC Team Selection Committee is now accepting applications for the Fall 2015 Walks.

## Music

We are in need of musicians to help with the fourth day events, gatherings, candlelight, and closings on the walks. The fourth day is very important to maintaining the connection with the walk experience and a big part of that is the music from the walk. I would ask every musician and singer to commit to make time to serve. Check the community calendar at our website [bvemmaus.org](http://bvemmaus.org) for up-coming gatherings and mark that time to serve. We always need help on candlelight and closing as well.

Think back on your experiences and pass that along to the newer members of the community. They will be blessed by your service and you will be blessed by their appreciation. Marva Beck (903) 536-2290