



BRAZOS VALLEY EMMAUS COMMUNITY January 2016

DECOLORES
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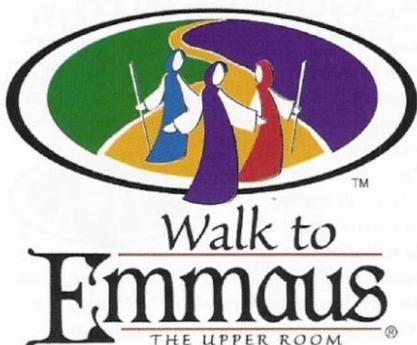
2016 HULLABALOO - FEBRUARY 6, 2016

In previous years, we have held our Hullabaloo in August. The Hullabaloo is our yearly Fund-Raising Event with the proceeds going toward Scholarships for Pilgrims/Team Members who need financial assistance attending a Walk. This year we are changing the date of the Hullabaloo to **February 6th at First United Methodist Church of Brenham**. We need you to attend and bring your contributions toward the Live Auction and Silent Auction!! The Auction Team will begin accepting items at 4:00, and because you'll be there early, you can always help them in setting up since this is a big job! The schedule for that day will be 1) accepting auction items, 2) eat and look at items to see what you can't live without, 3) the live auction will take place and the silent auction will end, and 4) we will have our worship service! Then you get to take all of your new treasures home with you and find a place to put them!

Remember: Be there! Bring stuff! Buy stuff!

BVEC UPCOMING WALKS

- Walk #102 – LD David Claridge, April 7-10, 2016 at Cross Roads Retreat in Chriesman
- Walk #103 – LD Mary Kamas, April 21-24, 2016 at Cross Roads Retreat in Chriesman
- Walk #104 – LD TBD, October 6-9, 2016 at Cross Roads Retreat in Chriesman
- Walk #105 – LD TBD, October 20-23, 2016 at Cross Roads Retreat in Chriesman



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Greetings to the Community in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Welcome to a New Year for our Brazos Valley Emmaus Community . . . I know that 2016 is going to be an exciting year! Your BVEC Board of Directors held their first meeting on January 9th before our Gathering at FUMC in Caldwell.

I want to take time to thank our outgoing Board Members for their service and dedication to BVEC! Our outgoing Board consists of Jesse Brown, Marlene Coffman, Michael Koehn, Marie Mickey, Courtney Morgan, Pat Mynar and W.D. Smith.

Listed below are Important Dates followed by the 2016 Board Members, phone numbers and their positions for the coming year. You can also go to BVEmmaus.org and select BVEC Board to send an email to any of the individual Board Members.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

*February 6th we will have our **HULLABALOO** so mark your calendars and plan to be there.

*March 5th - Gathering at First United Methodist Church in Hearn, Texas

*April 7-10 - Men's Walk #102 with David Claridge as the Lay Director

*April 21-24 - Women's Walk #103 with Mary Kamas as the Lay Director

*May 7 – Gathering - TBD

*June 4 – Gathering at Crossbridge Christian Church/Cy Fair Christian Church (held at Crossbridge), Houston, Texas

*July 9 - Gathering at Hilltop Lakes Chapel in Hilltop, Texas

*August 6 – Gathering at First United Methodist Church in Bryan

*September 10 – Gathering - TBD

*October 6-9 - Men's Walk #104, Lay Director TBD

*October 20-23 - Women's Walk #105, Lay Director TBD

*November 5 - Gathering – TBD

Start signing up your Pilgrims for these upcoming Walks. We have the new brochures telling about the Walk to Emmaus available for all churches, so if you need a supply for your church, please contact Dianne Davenport at 979-421-2838.

DeColores ... Forrest Goodell, Community Lay Director

Your 2016 BVEC Board of Directors

Lay Director: Forrest Goodell (713) 201-3043

Spiritual Director: David Porterfield (979) 224-4155

Assistant Lay Director: Russ Bevil (979) 567-7461

Treasurer: Elaine Alexander (512) 758-7776

Secretary: Liz Gabriel (979) 324-0320

Team Selection: Russ Bevil (979) 567-7461

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: Swen Crone (936) 855-2608

Training: Sherrian Gondesens (979) 255-7746 & Charlotte Waddill (936) 855-2523

Logistics, Transportation, Facility set-up/ breakdown: Tennill Lamon (979) 575-0591

Literature & Supplies: Jim Miller (281) 657-7945

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: Luke Heath (979) 204-1821

Communication: Forrest Goodell (713) 201-3043

Technology: Liz Gabriel (979) 324-0320

2016 Gatherings

For Directions, go to bvemmaus.org, click on Gatherings and then click on the location.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 9	FUMC Caldwell	July 9	Hilltop Lakes Chapel
February 6	FUMC Brenham - HULLABALOO	August 6	FUMC Bryan
March 5	FUMC, Hearn	September 10	TBD
April	No Gathering, come out to the Candlelights	October	No Gathering, come out to the Candlelights
May 7	TBD - 4 th Day	November 5	TBD - 4 th Day
June 4	Crossbridge Christian/Cy Fair at Crossbridge, Houston	December	No Gathering, Merry Christmas

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.

For these upcoming Walks, we need 65 pieces of dining room/pillow agape. Because 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. It has been requested by the Camp that we have no pillow agape with food in it – in any form.

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.

Sponsorship. The MOST important job in the Emmaus program! By Dave Ogee

That's right, without Sponsors the rest of us would be out of a job, no if's, and's or but's about it! Without Sponsors there would be no Walk to Emmaus, no monthly gatherings, no hullabaloo, no 4th day and no Pilgrims. Friends that you've made since you took your Walk would have remained strangers. In all likelihood there would have been thousands and thousands of opportunities for Discipleship left undone over the past two decades. There is no telling how many family struggles, left to sort out by themselves, would have ended poorly. Without Sponsors, our individual lives would be significantly less fulfilling than they have been. However important individual sponsorship is to our Community, it carries with it responsibilities that must be observed and that is the purpose of this article.

If you take responsibility for sponsoring a Pilgrim, you may very well end up playing a role in his or her life that will transform them forever. That is not something to take lightly or to dismiss because it results in some kind of personal inconvenience. Both the Sponsor and Pilgrim must be aware that the Emmaus model is based upon carefully design conventions all of which play a role in the eventual outcome. Unless both the Pilgrim and Sponsor are prepared to fully comply with the Emmaus guidelines, any Walk should be put on hold until the program can be followed...to the letter. If this isn't possible, maybe it's not time for your sponsorship of his or her Walk.

Having said that, over the years most of the problems experienced in the course of any Walk seem to rest with Sponsorship or support teams and not with our Pilgrims. For the most part Pilgrims, once they arrive on the first day, find themselves locked into the model and the opportunity to stray off course very limited. The inside and outside teams have a model to follow along with training and oversight to see to it that the plan is closely followed. When mistakes are made those errors are usually quickly corrected before the next Walk. However, Sponsors are only asked to read the "contract" they must sign upon claiming sponsorship and very little is done to assure eventual compliance. We need to work on this as the absence of follow-through threatens to impact our future. Here are some observation all Sponsors must keep in mind.

1. Pray for your Pilgrim every day and by all means sign up for the Prayer Vigil. Those who sign up for the Prayer Vigil will be visible to the Pilgrims, and it would be short-sighted not to have all Sponsors signed up of at least one slot.
2. You are responsible for transporting your Pilgrim BOTH to and from the Walk. Treat them to dinner (not a requirement but certainly a useful gesture) both before and after the Walk, as it will be give you a chance to share the experience while it's fresh in their minds.
3. Make sure both you and your Pilgrim have completed and read all the required paperwork, and that you have his or her Pastor's signature. Talk to the spouse as well and remember...THERE ARE NO SECRETS.
4. Explain to your Pilgrim what to bring and not bring on the Walk.
5. Write your agape letter to your Pilgrim and collect similar letters from at least 8 to 10 family members and friends. Make sure to bring these to the Walk on Thursday and take them to the Sponsor's hour at 7:00 PM.
6. Make sure any of your Pilgrim's personal responsibilities are covered. If you can't do it find someone who can. They don't need to worry whether or not the dogs are being fed or if some someone is taking out the garbage.
7. ATTEND BOTH THE CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE AND CLOSING CEREMONIES.
8. Bring your Pilgrim to the 4th Day. This cannot be over emphasized as it is this group from whom the Brazos Valley Emmaus Community will likely draw its future Walk support. We've averaged less than 30% participation and that is unacceptable.
9. Pray for your Pilgrim, for the Teams who care for them, and the Community which will be dependent on their continued support.