



# BRAZOS VALLEY EMMAUS COMMUNITY

## October, 2016

DECOLORES  
Volume 25  
Number 6

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

WOW – I hope you had the wonderful experience of attending some of events of Walks #104 and #105 because these Walks were absolutely awesome. We are so excited to welcome all of these new Community Members to Brazos Valley Emmaus Community. We now look forward to the 4<sup>th</sup> Day taking place on November 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 and the Gathering which will follow at 5:00. These are taking place at Area 316 in Caldwell, and we have the following note from Hilda Baker:

### Food for Thought

We at Area 3:16 in Caldwell look forward to hosting our Emmaus family for the 4th day Gathering on November 5th. **Although we are a small church, we are mighty!** We have everything needed, **except a full kitchen**, but, please don't let that stop you from bringing that special dish of yours that everyone looks forward to! Just bring your hot dishes hot and your cold dishes cold, along with a serving utensil. We have lots of plugs and power strips for your crockpots and the like, but there will be no way to cook, heat or reheat your dishes.

DeColores! Hilda Baker

We look forward to seeing you all at this 4<sup>th</sup> Day/Gathering.

DeColores, Forrest Goodell, Community Lay Director

### BVEC UPCOMING WALKS

Walk #106 – Men's Walk March 30 – April 2, 2017 at Cross Roads Retreat in Chriesman, Jerry Coffman LD

Walk #107 – Women's Walk April 20-23, 2017 at Cross Roads Retreat in Chriesman, Sue Farris LD

Walk #108 – Men's Walk October 12-15, 2017 at Cross Roads Retreat in Chriesman

Walk #109 – Women's Walk October 26-28, 2017 at Cross Roads Retreat in Chriesman

# WELCOME WALKS #104 AND #105

A great big THANK YOU to Dennis Wilganowski and Beth Vickers who were the Lay Directors of Walk #104 and Walk #105 as well as all who worked on the team, both Conference Room Teams and Outside Teams and to those who participated in providing Agape, and praying for the Walks as part of the Prayer Vigil.

## Men's Walk #104

Mike Adams - Round Rock FUMC  
Blake Anderson - Brazos Valley Fellowship  
Barry Bennett - First Church of Christian Scientist  
John Brock - River Point  
Dustin Burton - La Grange, First Baptist  
Thomas Couch - College Station, Christ UMC  
Tom Davis - College Station, Christ UMC  
George Dodd - Hempstead Bible Church  
Ronnie Fite - Broadway Church of Christ  
David Franklin - Wyldwood Baptist Church  
Luke Gregory - College Station, Christ UMC  
Carl Hord - Centerville FUMC  
Bubba Knight - SkyBreak  
Justin Lambert - Antioch Community Church  
Robert Lambert - Life Austin  
Ed Lefner - Bryan, Central Baptist  
Gerald Morton - Forest Grove Christian Church  
Justin Nadratowski - Caldwell Area 3:16  
Mike Vivaldi - College Station, Grace Bible  
Matt Wiederstein - Bryan, FUMC  
Dennis Willis - Caldwell Area 3:16

Karen Foster - Madisonville FUMC  
Sharon Foster - Madisonville FUMC  
Cheryl Franklin - Wyldwood Baptist Church  
Jennifer Garrett - Franklin FUMC  
Kristi Gonzales - Thorndale, St. Paul Lutheran  
Alice Johnson - Bryan, First Presbyterian  
Marsha Jones - Caldwell Area 3:16  
Christi Keys - College Station, Grace Bible  
Allison Lambert - Life Austin  
Pam Lambert - Antioch Community Church  
Kristie Largent - Centerville FUMC  
Kathy Lefner - Central Baptist  
Leann Lennie - Franklin FUMC  
Heather Leyland  
Melba Luker - Rockdale, Meadowbrook Baptist  
Christina Martin - Franklin FUMC  
Tricia Massey - FUMC of Seadrift  
Brenda Michael - Franklin FUMC  
Susan Morton - Forest Grove Christian Church  
Katherine Muzny - Caldwell FUMC  
Amber Neidig - Bryan, First Baptist Church  
Rhonda Niblack - North Central Church of Christ  
Sydney Porritt - Bryan, St. Joseph Catholic  
Jaime Salinas - Brazos Valley Fellowship  
Lynn Shipferling - Crossbridge Christian Church  
Trudie Spies - College Station, Christ UMC  
Kristi Vivaldi - College Station, Grace Bible  
Abbie Walsh - College Station, Grace Bible  
Sue Welch - College Station, Christ UMC  
Gayle Whited - Caldwell Area 3:16

## Women's Walk #105

Amanda Anderson - Brazos Valley Fellowship  
Judy Bailey - Glidden Baptist Church  
Kimberly Benavides - College Station, Grace Bible  
Ann Boney - Greater Tabernacle Baptist Church  
Cynthia Cookmoore - Bays Chapel UMC  
Sara Ebaugh-Nadratowski - Caldwell Area 3:16  
Sue Fort - Days Chapel Baptist Church

# UPCOMING HULLABALOO

Our Annual Hullabaloo is approaching on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at FUMC in Caldwell. For those who aren't familiar with our Hullabaloo, it is our annual fundraiser where there is both a live and silent auction. Plan to come witness a bidding war in person, or, even better, get in there yourself! There are usually a lot of Christian items, rooster things and beautiful handmade pieces of varying sorts and prices. Great items donated from all over our community! If you have a local artisan that has a special talent, try to get an item donated or purchase it yourself to bring to Hullabaloo and donate to the auction! 90% of the proceeds from Hullabaloo goes to pilgrim scholarships for those who need them, so finances are not a roadblock if a pilgrim wants to go on a walk. The Hullabaloo also provides funds for purchasing supplies for and during the walks, and covering fees for the community. This is usually the largest gathering of the year. We, of course, will have an Emmaus covered dish meal and that great Emmaus Worship Experience! Again, mark your calendars for the first Saturday in February, the 4<sup>th</sup> where we will meet at First United Methodist Church in Caldwell at 5 pm to have a great time together in fellowship, good food, fun and FUNdraising!

## 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) 745-7212

**Secretary:** Liz Gabriel (979) 324-0320

**Team Selection:** Russ Bevil (979) 567-7461

**Nominations:** Les Rogers (325) 665-8224

**Reunion Groups/4th Day:** Dave Ogee (512) 898-5381

**Registrar:** Dianne Davenport (979) 421-2838

**Welcoming/Closing:** Les Rogers (325) 665-8224

**Agape:** Charlotte Waddill (936) 855-2523

**Music/Entertainment:** Swen Crone (254) 770-7176

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

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

**Literature & Supplies:** Jim Miller

**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:** Forrest Goodell with Jerry Coffman

## 2016/2017 Gatherings

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

DATE	LOCATION
November 5, 2016	316 in Caldwell – 4 <sup>th</sup> Day
December, 2016	No Gathering – <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>
January 7, 2017	Grace FUMC, Hearn, TX
February 4, 2017	Caldwell FUMC – Hullabaloo
March 4, 2017	Chappell Hill UMC – Chappell Hill, TX
April, 2017 Men’s Walk #106 (3/30-4/2) Women’s Walk #107 (4/20-23)	No Gathering, come out to the Candlelights for Walks #106 and #107
May 6, 2017	Madisonville FUMC – 4 <sup>th</sup> Day
June 3, 2017	Pleasant Retreat UMC – Thorndale, TX
July 8, 2017	Hilltop Lakes Chapel, Hilltop Lakes, TX
August 5, 2017	Aldersgate UMC, College Station, TX
September 9, 2017	Bryan FUMC
October, 2017 Men’s Walk #108 (10/12-15) Women’s Walk #109 (10/26-29)	No Gathering, come out to the Candlelights for Walks #106 and #107
November 4, 2017	Available – 4 <sup>th</sup> Day

These are the date of the upcoming Gatherings. The available dates are for your church to sign up for - contact Margy Elliott at [Margy.Elliott@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Margy.Elliott@sbcglobal.net). Margy will walk you through what the responsibilities are for hosting a Gathering.

## NEW MEMBERS' NEXT STEPS!



**Again, welcome Community Members from Walks #104 and #105:** Just a Word about your next steps: 1. You had an application in your Closing Packets about working on the next Walks . . . fill one out! If you need help, ask your Sponsor.

2. You can also Sponsor someone for the next Walks . . . Sponsorship is one of the most important aspects of the Walk to Emmaus. Sponsorship requires extensive prayer, diligent thought, and careful planning and follow-through. If you have just finished your Walk, ask your Sponsor to co-sponsor a Pilgrim with you . . . they can guide you on all of the responsibilities. Of course, the first step is Prayer! Pray that God will guide you to the person with whom He wants you to share the Walk to Emmaus. Turn over control of your desires and expectations to God. Do as Jesus did, praying in the garden. "Not my will but

thy will be done." We must put ourselves in the position of allowing God to work through us. As we spend time in prayer, we need to empty ourselves of self to be filled with God's instruction, God's timing and God's person for us to sponsor. In all things, pray without ceasing. Listen with your heart. Call the potential Pilgrim by name to attend the Walk to Emmaus. God called people by name and so did Jesus. Jesus called his disciples by name.

Good sponsorship is the first act of Agape. Good sponsorship undergirds the whole weekend with sacrificial love on behalf of each pilgrim embodying the personal commitment of the community to each pilgrim. 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.

**WHY DO WE SPONSOR? WHAT IS OUR AIM?** It is NOT trying "to get all my friends to go" or to "fix people's problems" or to reproduce one's own religious experience in others. Rather, IT IS the aim of the sponsor to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who, in turn, will bring new life and vision to the work of the church in the congregation, home, workplace, and community. The AIM of sponsorship is to build up the Body of Christ.

**WHO DO WE SPONSOR?** The Walk to 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. Those sponsored could include the following: Church leaders (pastors and laypersons) who will bring vision, commitment and understanding back to their congregations and who need the renewal and grace Emmaus channels; dependable church members who are the quiet backbone of the church; less active members who need their awareness of grace rekindled and their commitments renewed; Christians who are hungry for "something more" and who want to grow spiritually; members and leaders who represent a cross section of the church and who will help Emmaus remain theologically sound, centered on the essentials of our common faith, and open to different perspectives; and respected laypersons and clergypersons whose participation, support, and leadership will encourage others to take the Walk and will be a sound, balanced leadership base for the movement in the community.

Emmaus empowers leaders to be the hands and feet of Christ. Luke 24:32 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?*"

# Fourth Day and Reunion Group Notes from the Board

It has been my honor and privilege to have served on the Community's Board of Directors for the past three years and especially to have been assigned the responsibility for presiding over its 4<sup>th</sup> Day ceremonies and acting as our Reunion Group contact. I've learned a great deal and would like to pass this on to the Community.

## **The 4<sup>th</sup> Day celebration and to Reunion Groups.**

Statistically the most active members of the Brazos Valley Emmaus Community have attended their 4<sup>th</sup> Day ceremony and most have joined a Reunion Group. This does not mean that those Pilgrims who do not have gone astray, only that they have chosen a different path. Perhaps God means this to happen and has something equally or even more challenging for them to follow. For those of you who do wish to stay connected to the Community, here are some things to consider:

When I first began my tenure as a board member, I presumed my objectives would be to assure that our Pilgrims were constantly reminded that the 4<sup>th</sup> Day was an essential part of the Walk to Emmaus and that Reunion Groups were necessary to help retain focus on our journey of faith. While those are both reasonable objectives and should remain as part of the Walk's scenario, they are not the only paths a Pilgrim can follow.

We know that the Walk experience enlightens us in our faith and leads us to become more active Christians. We also realize that the Emmaus Community is not a substitute for your home church. It is to your God, family, friends and the place where you actively worship that you place your permanent and everlasting faith.

However, service to this Community is a perfectly acceptable form of discipleship and should be considered one of the many alternatives available to serve our Christian faith.

## **Opportunities to serve within the Community**

A fully conscripted Walk to Emmaus requires the attendance of up to thirty-six Pilgrims, each with a Community sponsor(s). An additional twenty-five Community members are required for the inside team. To this you must add a sufficient number of Community members to constitute the outside team, additional help for set-up and take-down, kitchen help and support for special services and events. Including the Pilgrims and sponsors we're talking about a number easily exceeding over one hundred people...and we do this four times a year. The potential reward for a fully subscribed year is up to one hundred and forty new Pilgrims and the uplifting of hundreds more who will experience through their witness. That, my loving friends, is discipleship fully at work.

So, what's with the 4<sup>th</sup> Day and Reunion Groups? They are what you make of them. They are a stepping stone to an opportunity for serving God in a manner that is both visible and instantly rewarding to the Christian willing to accept this path to discipleship. It is a form of discipleship that, like a rising tide, floats all boats. We are a Community covering nearly 6,000 square miles with over 300,000 citizens many of who would like to have this experience, they just haven't realized it yet. You may very well be the person who opens the door for them.

DeColores      Dave Ogee