

Brazos Valley Emmaus Community

August-September Newsletter



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Letter from Brazos Valley Emmaus Community Lay Director David Claridge



September Gathering

We are experiencing the long-predicted surge in COVID cases in the Brazos Valley associated with the mass return of students to A&M. The September Gathering will again be a virtual gathering held on September 5. We hope you will join us for an online visit on ZOOM from 5:00 – 6:00 pm. To participate in the ZOOM visit, send your request to me at dclaridge@tamu.edu and I will send you the ZOOM link. Worship will be broadcast on Facebook Live at 6:00 pm from Grace UMC in Hearne. Just go to the BVEC Facebook page to connect!

I hope to see you there!

De Colores!

David Claridge
Walk #64, Table Paul

Letter from Brazos Valley Emmaus Community Spiritual Director Gary Westbrook



To my Brothers and Sisters in Christ- Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus!

I pray this writing finds you in good health- mentally, physically and especially spiritually. Although it is not possible to address each of our society's issues in this short writing, from the pandemic, to politics, to social justice, it is a Blessing to know we can each find our value and our identity in Christ.

Although we are not able to gather physically, I pray we will remain "gathered" spiritually. As Paul reminds us, just as the body has many parts, each different and with different gifts, we are many within the Body of Christ, and it is only Christ who can give true meaning to our lives. Every person is of sacred worth and created in God's image as his child. Christ has called each of us, along with all Saints past and present, to celebrate our differences by using those differences to complement each other as we come together and become "whole" in bringing about His Kingdom. One of my favorite quotes which I use from time to time comes from Dr. Tony Evans, who said, "if any two of us were identical, one of us would be unnecessary."

Jesus told us we would be challenged as we bring about his Kingdom in this world, but he reminded us to have courage because he had overcome the powers of this world. There are many forces at work in this world which try to tear us apart by getting us to focus on our differences instead of our identity in Jesus. There is the election process which tries to force us to choose one party and then think less of anyone affiliated with the other. There are those who want us to identify each other by the color of our skin, or the amount of money we have, and on and on it goes.

It is indeed a tremendous Blessing to know so many of you, and as I think of you at this time, I struggle to understand how these current times are affecting you and your families. Therefore, I pray you remember there is no way any one of us can fully understand all that another has gone through, or is going through, because we have not lived that person's life. I pray each of us remembers that we have each, with all our different backgrounds, experiences, and gifts, accepted the call of Jesus in our own way to follow him, and that not one of us is perfect. I pray when we communicate we do so with holy communication, and that we believe the best of another as we receive their communications to us. And I pray that we can truly say we followed Paul's instruction to do everything in love.

I hope you will join me in making a conscious and deliberate effort to celebrate our differences by recognizing it is those differences, when we are "gathered" spiritually, which unifies us as the Body of Christ and brings about God's Kingdom in this world.

De Colores,

Gary Westbrook

Walk #70, Table of Matthew

Board Briefs

September BVEC Community Gathering and Worship

AS David reminds us in his address above, we hope you will settle in with your home prepared “gathering” meal and enjoy catching up on Zoom at 5:00 pm. Then, grab your purple Worship Book and your blue Song Book and join us for a special time of virtual worship on the Brazos Valley Facebook page, Saturday, September 5, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Since we are unable to gather physically we will sing and partake of the Love Feast (similar to Holy Communion) in a virtual, yet intimate time together. All you need to celebrate this act of fellowship in Christ is a small piece of bread and a simple drink such as juice or water. I encourage everyone to attend and share prayer concerns in the live feed as we hold the service. Remember- if you are logged in on Facebook live on the BVEC Facebook page you can not only see others who are logged in but you can chat with them as well!

2021 BVEC Board Positions of Service



Greetings in the name of Christ!

Have you ever wondered how you can contribute with your special God-given talents to your Emmaus community and were looking for just the right thing to volunteer for? Consider the rich, rewarding opportunity of serving on the board of the BVEC. We have several openings for 2021 and would love to have those with a heart for service leading our Emmaus community. If you have interest in serving and/or have questions about serving on the board contact me at: e.dehmer@gmail.com.

De Colores!

Eric Dehmer, BVEC Nominations Chair

Walk #62, Table of Matthew

2020 BVEC Hullabaloo



It is time for the Annual Brazos Valley Emmaus Community Hullabaloo! For those of you who do not know, our annual Hullabaloo raises money to help our Community with scholarships and other necessary items. This is a fun time of gathering, silent auction, and live auction. The Community is currently planning this event. The date of the Hullabaloo is yet to be finalized, but is tentatively planned for November 7th at the Cross Roads Retreat Center in Chriesman. The Board of Directors and the Agape in Action Reunion Group will be hosting this event! It is tentatively planned as an in person Gathering with a silent auction and a live auction where you can participate in person or online. It can be switched to an entirely online event if necessary.

We are asking that all donated items be delivered during September and October, so the group preparing the auction can prepare and post pictures of items online in advance of the auction. Auction items may be given to any one of the board members for delivery to the camp. You may also contact Joy Rogers at 325-513-5960 or Anna Ledbetter at 254-493-9006 and we will arrange pick up. If you are in the Caldwell area, you can drop off at Cross Roads Retreat Center.

This year has been a very trying time with the cancellation of many Gatherings and the October walks. The Brazos Valley Emmaus Community needs your help to make this event happen and be successful.

As more information becomes available, it will be posted on the BVEC Facebook page and emailed to the community.

De Colores

Joy Rogers

Walk #204, Big Country Emmaus, Table of Anna

February 2021 Men's and Women's Walk to Emmaus

As you all know, the Fall 2020 Walks were postponed due to COVID-19. The next walks are currently scheduled to be held at CrossRoads Retreat as follows:

Men's Walk- February 4-7, 2021

Women's Walk- February 18-21, 2021