

# DIAKONIA 2011



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## MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

The first three months of 2011 have already been banner months for the Denton Area Emmaus Community. We conducted two walks, adding 21 men and 32 women to the community, said good bye to our old friend Lake Sharon Christian Conference center, and signed contracts for our fall walks with the Briarwood Retreat Center in Copper Canyon Texas. Many volunteers and anonymous servants worked tirelessly to accomplish so much in so little time.

Now that the spring walks are behind us, your Board has begun working on parallel work streams to improve what we do on God's behalf, and to serve you.

**First**, we are taking what we learned from the two walks to make improvements in our processes, to streamline our own decision-making and to adjust our processes to fit new locations and set-ups. It's amazing how focused our processes have become over the years on the location we use. In fact, it wasn't until we began thinking about moving that those location specific items even became obvious.

**Second**, we've kicked off an outreach subcommittee, that is looking for ways to bring the Walk to Emmaus to more churches in Denton County. You can help by talking up the Walk in your local church, and by helping our subcommittee connect with your pastor. In addition to our wider communication efforts, we'd like to spend time with pastors helping them understand how the Walk to Emmaus benefits their local church. You can also send us your ideas for how we can get the message out to local churches about the benefits they can realize through this movement. Contact me directly or any member of the Board and we'll be happy to come talk to your pastor.

**Finally**, you can help us by giving the agape gift of sponsorship. We have two fall walks coming up and we'd like to fill those walks with pilgrims. Help us do that by downloading applications from our website and making them available

in your local church. Talk to your church family about attending a walk; plant the seed with folks you know. Attend gatherings between now and then and find out

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what your Emmaus family members are doing in their churches, you might discover a new idea for engaging people. Talk to your pastor about ways that the Denton Area Emmaus Community can support his or her efforts to grow Disciples of Christ.

Together we can make 2011 an amazing year for God and for our community. Will you join me?

God bless you and  
De Colores,  
Bill Beattie

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## INVITATION TO THE JOURNEY

Each person who attends The Walk to Emmaus has a sponsor.



A sponsor is a person who has been through an Emmaus experience and is willing to share that experience with another new Emmaus participant. The sponsorship of a previous participant frees the current participant from any personal responsibilities that might distract him or her while on the experience. Sponsorship also undergirds each participant's 72-hour experience with prayer and other expressions of God's love.

### ▶ The Aim of Sponsorship

The aim of a sponsor should not be "to get all my friends to go," to fill up the weekend, to fix people's problems, or to reproduce one's own religious experience in others. Rather, the aim of the sponsor is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who will, in turn, 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.

### ▶ The Sponsor's Responsibilities

Sponsorship is an act of love for God, for the participants in the Walk to Emmaus, for the Emmaus Community, and for the church. It is a demonstration of agape love.

A sponsor will:

- Pray for the participant's openness to God's call to discipleship.
- Make an appointment with the participant to discuss his or her participation in Emmaus.
- Invite the participant to take part in Emmaus for the sake of a more vital relationship with Jesus Christ. The sponsor shares his or her faith, explains the basic purpose, elements, and follow-up dimensions of the Walk.

- Support the participant's Walk through prayers and otherwise. The sponsor will also support the participant's family by house-sitting, baby-sitting, watering plants, picking up mail, feeding pets, or just checking in with a spouse to see if any help or support is needed.
- Encourage the participant in his/her continued journey and take the participant to Emmaus "gatherings" after the Walk weekend is over.
- Help the participant re-enter his or her church and consider ways to act out new commitment and enthusiasm.
- Help the participant sponsor others.

### ▶ How to Become a Sponsor

In order to sponsor someone on Walk to Emmaus, a person must first have been on The Walk itself. A sponsor should also be active in [Fourth Day](#) (Reunion Group). Having been through the experience and being engaged in ongoing spiritual formation through Fourth Day gives one perspective on how to sponsor.

Your local community strongly encourages every member to attend Sponsorship Training in order to be clear on the responsibilities and duties of a good sponsor.

**The next Denton Emmaus Community Sponsorship training will take place at the Gathering on March 26, 2011 at Flower Mound United Methodist Church at 6:00 PM.**

Beyond these requirements, the basic attitude of a sponsor is one of prayerful discernment. This results in intentional acts of unconditional love, or what is often termed "the first act of agape." Wise sponsorship is careful, intentional, prayerful, and purposeful because it results from God's leading. The pilgrims return to their churches and community renewed in their commitment to be effective disciples."

*Adapted from [Sponsorship](#) by Richard and Janine Gilmore. Copyright © 1998 by The Upper Room.*



# 2011 WALK SCHEDULE

MEN'S WALK #51 Lay Director	OCTOBER Dennis Hale	October 13-16
WOMEN'S WALK #52 Lay Director	OCTOBER Cindy Shoemaker	October 20-23

*The October Walks will be held at  
Briarwood Retreat Center in  
Copper Canyon.*

## HELP WANTED

- 1) Off-site Servant Team Members are needed for Mens Walk #51 October 13-16, 2011.
- 2) Off-site Servant Team Members are needed for Women's Walk #52 October 20-23, 2011.
- 3) You can also sign up for Servant Team on the website.

Email **Sheri Smith** [sherart74@yahoo.com](mailto:sherart74@yahoo.com) and let her get you signed up for this important task.

## NEED A NEW NAMETAG? LANYARD? CROSS?



If you are one of those who really needs a new Nametag, go to the website and click on the **Nametags** button on the left. You will be asked to fill out some info and your new card will be ready at the next Emmaus Walk or Gathering.

If you are missing a lanyard or cross, Vera Gibbs will be able to help you. Contact Vera at [veragibbs@aol.com](mailto:veragibbs@aol.com) and she will arrange for you to have what you need. Replacement new wooden crosses are \$3.50.

## BOARD AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Community Lay Director .....	Bill Beattie.....	beattie.bill@verizon.net
Past Community Lay Director .....	Teresa Rogers.....	tmrizza@yahoo.com
Treasurer .....	Melva Jones.....	melvaandbob1@tx.rr.com
Secretary.....	Donna Pockrus.....	pockrusd@hotmail.com
Trailer/Supplies.....	Les Watland.....	watlandles@yahoo.com
Music .....	Dave Farish.....	dmfarish@verizon.net
Team Selection .....	David Taylor .....	david4040@aol.com
Servant Team .....	Sheri Smith.....	sherart74@yahoo.com
Literature/Agape .....	Vera Gibbs .....	veragibbs@aol.com
Training .....	Don Place .....	dcsnplace@msn.com
Registration .....	Ed Barnes .....	edbarnes@gte.net
Special Events .....	Rosie Alexander.....	girlietchr@gmail.com
Communications.....	Sandra Giesler .....	sandragiesler@charter.net
Community Spiritual Director .....	Joe Shafer.....	shaferrevj@sbcglobal.net
Assistant Community Spiritual Director .....	Elaine Bussey.....	elaine_bussey@yahoo.com
Assistant Community Spiritual Director .....	Lynda Schupp.....	l.schupp@verizon.net
Upper Room Ad hoc Representative.....	Carleen Alderman .....	cookie@hpcserv.com

## A FAREWELL TO LAKE SHARON



*A PLACE NEAR AND DEAR  
TO MANY DENTON AREA  
EMMAUS MEMBERS.*

*Was your walk there?*

## BRIARWOOD—HERE WE COME!



*Looks like a great place for some  
new memories just waiting to  
happen! Hope to see you there  
soon!*



## OUR NEWEST MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

With the completion of Walks 49 and 50, Pilgrims added to the Denton Area Emmaus community are 431 men and 606 women. These figure represents all the walks since 2002 when Men's Walk # 1 was held Feb. 7-10 and Women's Walk #2 was held March 14-17. In total 1037 Pilgrims were added over the 9 years—2002 to 2011.

Of course, many other members have joined the Community upon moving to this area. Think how many you have heard give their Walk info when they introduce themselves in the Emmaus tradition. We are blessed beyond measure with all the faithful members who work together to support the Walks and the Pilgrims on them.

The DAEC website is a great place to take a look at previous Walks with their Pilgrims and Team Members. Spend some time looking at the great history and the fun pictures posted there. I bet you can find a bunch of your friends, or maybe even yourself, smiling away on a Friday morning not so long ago.

