

DIAKONIA 2012

DENTON AREA EMMAUS COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

www.dentonemmaus.com

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WE GATHER TOGETHER!

Remember the joy we felt at the closing of our Emmaus Walk! Remember the thrill of having the opportunity to worship, sing amazing songs, talk and hug all of our new friends? In my case, I remember how I didn't even want to go home. Does that bring back any memories

Well, I think that some of us have forgotten that we have the opportunity to do all of that again when we attend Emmaus Gatherings throughout the year. We can call our sponsors or those we have sponsored and make it a "date night"

or "night out with friends". We will know that we will be sharing wonderful fun, food, and fellowship, yet most importantly, have the opportunity to worship God together.

Please mark your calendar for July 14th for our next gathering which will be at Justin UMC. If you want to attend a short sponsor training, then be there at six o'clock.

We have the opportunity to remember what our Walk meant to us when we attend Emmaus Gatherings throughout the year.

Otherwise, dinner begins at 6:30 with worship at 7:30. Bring something to share at the table and look forward to what the others have brought! It will be a fabulous experience!

For directions, you can visit the church's beautiful website at justinumc.org, or call 940.648.2594 for information. The pastor's name is Buster Noah.

We cannot wait to see you there!

*De Colores,
Rosie Alexander*

Inside this issue:

We Gather Together	1
From 54 to Fourth Day	2
T-Shirts Are Here	3
Sponsorship—Part II	3
2012 Walk Schedule	4
Fill My Cup	4
Board Rep Info	5

NEXT GATHERING
THIS SATURDAY!
JULY 14TH
FIRST UMC - JUSTIN
 205 N. Jackson St., Justin
 6:00 Sponsorship Training
 6:30 Potluck Supper
 7:30 Worship

Sponsors be sure to bring your potential pilgrim or newest DAEC community member. It's a great way to introduce them to others in the Community.



FROM #54 TO FOURTH DAY

I'm Georgianne Burlage.

I participated in the Denton Area Walk to Emmaus #54 in March 2012 where I sat at the Table of Martha.

For the last few days, I have been reflecting on what I wanted to share about my Walk experience. I realized that all of us know what the Walk is. The difference is how the Walk affected us.

When I was walking this morning, I was reflecting on how my Fourth Day has changed me. There are three components of my life that are the most important to me — faith, family, and vocation. Fourth Day has influenced all.

I'll begin with vocation. My vocation is education. I am completing my 32nd year in the classroom. When I returned to school the Tuesday after my walk, I knew it would be a challenge to maintain that mountaintop high. First period, I got the expected question of "Miss, where were you?" All I would volunteer was that I went on a retreat. Another student, one of those in whom it's difficult to constantly see God's love, said, "We know where you were. You were in jail."

It's situations like this when a teacher really has difficulty in maintaining Love Your Neighbor as Yourself. Under my breath, I just murmured a quick prayer and continued teaching about World War I.

When class was over, a student came up to me and asked if I'd been at Briarwood. She had been on a youth retreat there. As she left, she turned around to me and said, "Miss, you're glowing."

That's when I realized that I was still on the mountaintop and that God's love and presence extend to a high school classroom.

Now to family. I have two adult daughters, ages 25 and 31. Unknown to me (I had a wonderful sponsor), both of my daughters wrote me letters in support of my walk. I've been a single mother since the girls were one and eight and honestly, there have been times when I wondered if they fell shortchanged with just one parent (their father disappeared soon after the divorce). By the

time I got through reading their letters, I was an emotional mess (those Kleenex on the tables really were necessary during that weekend!) because I realized that through the Walk, my daughters were given the opportunity to open up to me in writing, which can be a lot easier than in person. I'll just say that I felt warm and fuzzy. When my older daughter returned my dog to me after the Walk, her comment was — yes — "Mom, you're glowing."

Why the glow? This is the third part of all of this — faith. I grew up in a Christian home. We went to Sunday School and church, and I did my Vacation Bible School time. I, in turn, brought up my daughters in a church family (one daughter was even UMYF president). Still, it wasn't until I went on my Walk that I totally understood what a life lived in faith means. It means seeing Christ in my students and being the hands of Christ for them. It means service and love. It means that in addition to taking a meal to a friend whose parent has died, I listen to her and pray with her. It means seeing the goodness in people.

My church's mission statement is to Shine God's Life into Every Life. That's what the Walk has instilled in me. It's not What Would Jesus Do? It's intuitively knowing what Jesus would do. I witnessed this in the Agape, the servant ministry holding flashlights in the dark at Briarwood, the Candlelight service (which still gets me emotional when I think about it), and I felt the many, many prayers being said for us while on the Walk.

A new life began for me on March 3, 2012, when I finally allowed God's grace to enter my life. I learned in my Walk that grace is given, not earned. I am a different person now—full of hope and grace.

And I will continue to glow for the rest of my life.

De Colores!

Have a Fourth Day story to share?

Contact edbarnes@gte.net and it may show up in the next newsletter.



T-SHIRTS - NOW AVAILABLE!

Denton Area Emmaus Community
T-shirts.



Here is your chance to have people ask you about the Walk to Emmaus!

The cost is \$15 (4X is \$19).

Available in seven colors (blue, gold, red, green, pink, purple and gray).

Sizes range from small, medium, large, X-large, XX-large, XXX-large and 4X.
Sweatshirts are also available for \$25 (4X is \$29) in the same colors listed above.
Available at the gathering!

SPONSORSHIP—THE MOST IMPORTANT ROLE! - PART 2

Our next Walks #55 and #56 are coming up soon. I know that there are many out there that would like to go on a walk but they don't have a sponsor. All members of the community should be considering sponsorship and searching for good candidates all year round.

WHOM DO WE SPONSOR?

One's awareness of and commitment to the purpose of Emmaus influences who is sponsored and how they are sponsored. 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. There are several qualities a prospective pilgrim should possess.

First, the person should already be on a pilgrimage, willing to grow and move forward in their journey of faith. Second, the person should have a Christian passion. The pilgrim knows God can make and has made a difference in their life.

Third, the person isn't so consumed by life's circumstances that they are unable to give full attention to the message and experience of Emmaus.

Those sponsored could include the following:

- church leaders (pastors and laypersons) who will bring new 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;
- Respected laypersons and clergypersons whose participation, support, and leadership will encourage others to attend the Walk and will build a sound, balanced leadership base for the movement in the community; and
- members of diverse congregations, denominations, and ethnic groups

Emmaus is right for many people - but not for everyone. The religious background or emotional condition of some people may make Emmaus an improper discipleship tool for them. Others may be unsuitable for sponsorship because of the negative effect they might have on an Emmaus week-

end or the divisive influence they might bring to the church. Sponsorship requires sensitivity to these factors. Some examples of questionable sponsorship are as follows:

- Non-Christians;
- Christians whose theology and/or practice is notably different or incompatible with the traditional theology and practice represented by The Walk to Emmaus;
- persons undergoing an emotional crisis (for example, family breakup, job loss, severe grief) or who are psychologically unstable;
- "church-hoppers" - those who always have an axe to grind against the church; persons who will use Emmaus as a tool to divide the body, to further their own theological agendas, or who will create an "Emmaus church";
- persons who are always looking for another spiritual high or another experience to help them "arrive"; and
- persons who decide not to attend a Walk after being presented the opportunity. A potential sponsor need not feel like a failure if a prospect says no. Perhaps the timing is not right. Perhaps God will renew the person in another way. Remember, The Walk to Emmaus is not the way to renewal for every Christian.

Wise sponsorship is purposeful and prayerful; unwise sponsorship is haphazard and undiscerning. Wise sponsorship eventually will produce a balanced, theologically centered movement of the Holy Spirit. Unwise sponsorship eventually will produce a harvest that becomes more of a burden than a blessing for the church.



Stay tuned for more in the August newsletter as we cover more topics such as: How do we sponsor, Who can sponsor, The Equal Commitment Rule, What should I tell my pilgrim and The application.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

*Much of the material was ripped part and parcel from the North Georgia Walk to Emmaus Sponsor document which was written and excerpted from the following two resources that are available through The Upper Room website at <http://www.upperroom.org/emmasus>.

DAY FOUR: The Pilgrim's Continued Journey by Robert Wood & Marie Livingston Roy
THE UPPER ROOM HANDBOOK ON EMMAUS, 2nd Edition by Stephen Bryant & Richard Gilmore

No Joke

What do depressed flu victims have in common with our finances?

The coffers are low!

Seriously though, we have had to temporarily borrow from our scholarship fund to pay our insurance premium. Please consider sending a tax deductible general fund donation to: DAEC, P.O. 295068, Lewisville 75029

CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU

- 1) Off-site Servant Team Members are needed now for Men's Walk #55 .
- 2) Off-site Servant Team Members are also needed now for Women's Walk #56
- 3) You can also sign up for Servant Team on the website.

Email Sarah Gerber at sarahgerber@verizon.net

REMAINING 2012 WALK SCHEDULE

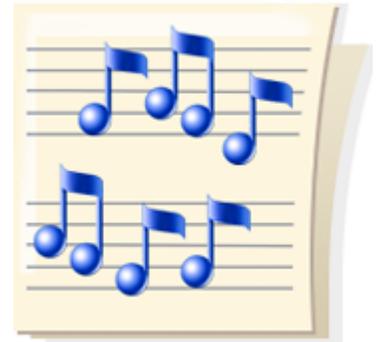
MEN'S WALK #55 Lay Director	SEPTEMBER Bill Beattie	September 27 - 30
WOMEN'S WALK #56 Lay Director	OCTOBER Nancy Harvey	October 4-7

The 2012 Walks will be held at Briarwood Retreat Center in Copper Canyon.

Fill My Cup Lord

One of the things I value so about the Emmaus experience is the rich way in which we celebrate Holy Communion. In a world that seems intent on convincing us that we ought to rely solely on ourselves, in a world that tries with all its might to "busy" us to the point of exhaustion and exasperation, we in the celebration of Holy Communion claim a radically different way of living. Yet though we know that we have to count on Christ in order for Christ to be able to count on us, we often find ourselves, even in ministry, missing the point in the midst of our busyness.

So it was for Rev. Richard Blanchard. Rev. Blanchard was a pastor of a thriving mega-church in the late 1950's that had a large television ministry. As you might imagine, he was a very, very busy man. A young couple in his congregation had asked him to perform their wedding ceremony which he agreed to do so long as they went through premarital counseling with him. They made the first session on time, but on the second session the young couple was late for their appointment. Irritated by their tardiness and the busyness of his own schedule, he told his secretary that he'd give them thirty minutes and then he'd be leaving. He huffed down to a Sunday School classroom, sat down at the piano, and much to his surprise, the words and music of a new hymn began to emanate from his fingertips.



"Fill my cup Lord - I lift it up Lord
Come and fill this thirsting of my soul
Bread of Heaven, fill me til I want no more
Fill my cup, fill my cup and make me whole"

Blanchard would later say, "When I was not in the mood to be used by God, God was in the mood to use me." The express purpose of the Walk to Emmaus is to develop leaders for the local church, yet sometimes we get so busy "doing" that we forget to avail ourselves of the means of grace that keep our souls full. As we celebrate Holy Communion, we boldly claim that we never go this life alone. One of the ways I make sure I don't forget that is my Emmaus Reunion Group. Each week we go over the highs and lows of the previous week, the moment that we found Christ nearest by, and our plan for the days ahead. In doing so we acknowledge that for us to offer the world anything close to our best, we have to first rely on Christ and each other.

As we move through the summer - a time of recreation, vacations, and family reunions - maybe its good to ask, "How goes it with your soul?" Has the busyness of family life, work, community service, and even ministry left you a little overextended, maybe even a little burned out? Maybe its time to shore up those "cup filling" moments in your life. If we do so, we'll be reminded that we are made not to be reservoirs but to be rivers of God's grace; but for a river to run, it's got to have a flowing source. May your summer be blest with lots of fun, family, and fellowship, but may it also be blest with some much needed filling up!



My name is David Taylor; I took my walk on Dallas Emmaus Men's walk 12 in February of 1991 and sat at the table of John.

I have a quirky sense of humor and rarely color within the lines.

I am a partner in a Manufacturing company, USAutomatic, LTD, which makes gate openers. I have been a member of Trietsch Memorial UMC for the past 28 years and currently lead two Sunday school classes, am active in our Men's ministries and help coordinate communion volunteers.

On the DAEC board I have served as team selection chair and currently serve as community Lay Director.



My name is Vera Gibbs. I am a very active in both the Dallas and Denton Walk to Emmaus Communities. I have served in the past as Community Events coordinator and currently handle Literature and Agape.

I am a member at Hope Community Fellowship in The Colony, Texas (in affiliation with Grace Communion International) and a member of the choir and the Praise Group.

One of my favorite activities is to participate in handbell ministries. My husband Doc and I regularly open our home to help others in need.

My other hobbies include singing, dancing, attending theatre, playing a harp, creative memories, and collecting miniature pianos, watermelon items and paper napkins. Most of all, I love to travel; I have visited 47 countries and 40 states.

YOUR BOARD REPS Class of 2012

My name is Donna Pockrus and I attended Dallas Walk #65 in April 1996 and sat at the Table of Ruth.

I love to shop, craft, spend time with family and relax at the beach. I have just retired (May 31,2012) after 34 years in education — 27 as a classroom teacher and 7 as an Elementary Assistant Principal.

I will be spending my days taking care of my 2 1/2 year old grandson.

For the past 29 years, I have been a member of Trietsch United Methodist Church and have served in my church in many ways.

I have served on the Board as Newsletter writer and currently serve as Secretary and Assistant Board Chair.



My name is Ed Barnes and I went on my Walk at Lake Sharon in Sept 2007 and I sat at the table of Peter.

I love computers, electronics and movies. I have a corny sense of humor and quick smile. Even though I graduated with a degree in Secondary Education, Mathematics, I have worked for Microsoft for nearly 20 years doing third tier technical support. My parents live in Anna and I have two brothers with families in the McKinney area. I live in Coppell and attend Vista Ridge UMC in Lewisville. I participate in our worship service as a vocalist, occasional liturgist and am a member of various committees.

On the DAEC board I have served as Registrar and currently serve the community as the communications person.



BOARD AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Community Lay Director	David Taylor	david4040@aol.com
Treasurer	Brenda Brown	girliebb@gmail.com
Secretary.....	Donna Pockrus.....	pockrusd@hotmail.com
Trailer/Supplies.....	Les Watland.....	watlandles@yahoo.com
Music	Dave Farish.....	dmfarish@verizon.net
Team Selection	Dennis Hale	dennis_hale@ymail.com
Servant Team	Sarah Gerber	sarahgerber@verizon.net
Literature/Agape	Vera Gibbs	veragibbs@aol.com
Training	Dan Chraska.....	dan.chraska@verizon.net
Registration	Janice McKee	mckeejanice@sbcglobal.net
Special Events	Rosie Alexander.....	girlietchr@gmail.com
Communications.....	Ed Barnes	edbarnes@gte.net
Community Spiritual Director	Joe Shafer.....	shaferrevj@sbcglobal.net
Upper Room Ad hoc Representative.....	Carleen Alderman	cookie@hpcserv.com

Contact information for your Board Members is also on the website.: www.dentonemmaus.org