

DIAKONIA



JUNE

2005



COMMUNITY NEWS

I have been blessed beyond measure this past year while serving as the Community Lay Director. I am a much richer person today because of the new friends that I made this past year. It was a wonderful honor, blessing and opportunity for me to serve in this capacity. I cannot tell you what an outstanding board I was blessed to be a part of. They are all very committed to our Lord, to you and to our Community. They serve out of love for the Lord and do so unselfishly. We had challenges that God helped us grow through and we had many victories that we will see fruit from for many, many years.

I have seen growth this past year, but we are still behind in being a committed community regarding sponsorship. Our community cannot grow without a committed community providing pilgrims for our walks. Please, sponsor one pilgrim each year and help fill our walks so we do not have to cancel a walk. We never know until the Monday before a walk if it is going to happen or not because we do not have 20 (the minimum required) pilgrims signed up to attend. I served as Lay Director on Walk # Sweet Sixteen and I can tell you it takes a lot of work from many, many people to prepare for a walk. It would be very disheartening to have it cancelled the Monday before the Thursday night send-off because of a lack of pilgrims. Please be a sponsor!!!!!!

My term expires this month as the Community Lay Director. Joe Culwell will be the new Community Lay Director for this next year. He and his wife Vikki are very active in our Emmaus Community and attend Trietsch Memorial UMC. Other new members to the board are Jerry Graham, Matt Bieri, Pam Taylor and Carol Lindaman. Thank you to all of them for having a Servant's Heart, they will be blessed beyond measure for answering the Lord's call to serve.

Thank you for blessing me this past year.

Blessings On All Your Fourth Days
Joy Morrison
Walk 98
Table Of Esther

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Do you know someone who is ready to attend an Emmaus Weekend NOW? There are still openings available on the upcoming Women's Walks in July.

Registration Deadlines:
Women's Walk #18 - Saturday, July 2nd

For more information check the web or contact our Registrar, Darlene Ward at

darleneward@charter.net

Upcoming Walk registration status is updated regularly on the DEAC Homepage. Vacancy or Full Status will be noted. Unless the walk is full, registrations are accepted up to the Monday prior to the Walk weekend.



Thoughts from our Spiritual Director

Jesus was having what we might call a “testy moment” with the disciples when the mother of Zebedee’s sons asked for a favor. Her request was for her two sons to sit one at the right hand of Jesus and the other to his left in the kingdom. The NIV says Jesus became “indignant” and said, “...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.” (Matthew 20:26) and then in verse 28 Jesus encourages us to emulate his example: Don’t come to be served, but to serve.

This concept is what makes Emmaus unique and successful. The Walk to Emmaus takes busy people who give their precious time to provide leadership in their church, asks them to invest their money in a 3 day journey, builds them up with prayer, gives them reminders of God’s love, and messages of faith and hope. These same busy people are then sent back to their home church to build up the body of Christ. They have been changed, but the world has not during those 72 hours.

My mother taught me to ask a busy person to do something because then it would get done. In the Denton Area Emmaus Community we go to the same busy people who keep their church going, hold each other accountable and still find time to raise families and hold down jobs, and ask them to give up 4 Saturdays and a three day week end to allow other church leaders to have the Emmaus experience. It is with their “yes” the body of Christ grows.

One of the more difficult lessons I have learned as a pastor and I think we need to learn in the Denton Area Emmaus Community is that volunteers cannot be treated like paid employees. All of the board members, inside team and outside team members are volunteers. They have stepped forward to share their gifts and talents with no expectation of recognition or financial reward. This is what it means to be a servant and we must treat them with the same respect Jesus gave servants, slaves, the sick, the lost and his disciples.

If you have never served on an inside team or the outside servant team I encourage you to take a serious look at your “servant jar.” Is it empty? Why? Are you dealing with fear? Don’t! God is the major actor in team selection. Afraid to serve? – get over it. Rely on God to give you the strength. Scared to death to give one of the ten talks? – get over it. Rely on God to give you the words. I have heard more than one new community member walk away from closing saying, “I could never give a talk” and then a year or so later I see them stand in front of a bunch of Christians and beautifully share the words God could speak only through them.

I love serving with first time inside team members. I watch them listen to the talks and take them in a new light. I didn’t really “get it” until I served on my first team. Every time I hear the talks at team meetings or on the week end I learn something new. If you walk left you feeling partially empty, you can fill up by being a servant.

Being a Christian and being an Emmaus team member is not always convenient. Anytime I have to decline the opportunity to serve on a team I feel a twinge of guilt. I wonder if God is putting someone on that walk who needed hear my voice proclaim His message. At the same time I know my priorities have to be in order. There are times when my family and my church priorities must come before Emmaus. That it the way is supposed to be for all of us. We are to serve in God’s time and not our own. Fear and trepidation should never keep us from using our servant’s heart.

Healthy Christians know how to forgive one another and continue their walk with Christ. Christians have wounded Christians with harsh words and actions. DAEC members have wounded DAEC members with harsh words and actions. We pray, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” If we forgive them, we will serve them.

God does not ask us if we want to be loved by Him. Jesus did not ask us if we want to serve. God loves us as unworthy as we are and we love God back through our service to and love for one another.

There are four walks on our calendar, June 23-26, July 7-10, September 15-18 and October 6-9. Let God use you. Find you place to serve on one of these walks and know the joy of the Lord.

Blessings,
 Joe Zinser
 DAEC Spiritual Director
 Member, team selection

TEAM PERSPECTIVE

Think of us in this way,
as servants of Christ
and stewards of
God's mysteries.



How do you serve God? Is it through an organization within your church- on church positions or boards? Do you teach Sunday school or other type of spiritual class? Maybe you go on mission trips to some foreign country. Perhaps you work with your youth group or help with the seniors. Maybe you serve God in other ways outside of your church, like leading a prayer group or bible study at work. Or serving on councils or committees in your city. Perhaps through boy scouts or girl scouts, or maybe some other volunteer work. The list is endless.

Bottom line is, we have become a very busy society. Yet, I have also learned that every place you are is a place to serve God- in one way or another- even if it just a smile to someone that needs encouragement. And regardless of where you serve, isn't it a wonderful experience knowing that you have shed some of God's love to another person?

That's the feeling I receive when I work a weekend and share the Emmaus experience with others. I feel blessed, humbled, and even honored that God has used me in that way. Answering that call to work an Emmaus walk is a special way of showing God's love and serving in a most joyful way.

During the summer and heading into fall it sometimes can be difficult finding those that have the time to serve God by saying "Yes" to the Emmaus call. (And those that do say yes are greatly appreciated!) At times, creating the team to work an Emmaus walk can be a difficult and frustrating task. I have experienced this from both being on team select for two years, and as Lay Director for walk 13.

There are many, many hours and days spent by the Lay Director calling and waiting for answers. God doesn't always tell us who is going to be on that team immediately. Sometimes, he doesn't fit in the final piece until the night before the walk starts. But God does tell us to persevere and we serve him humbly and with honor.

Emmaus is a servant opportunity to share God's love. If you want to work on an Emmaus team all you have to do is ask! And you do this by going to the web sight and click the "servant team" link on the left hand side. You WILL be contacted to serve on an upcoming walk- either on the outside servant team, inside servant team, or even conference room team. Even if you have worked several teams, we always could use help.

So I ask again, how do you serve God? If you haven't had the opportunity yet, why don't you add the "Walk to Emmaus" to your list?

De Colores,
Chuck Lowry
Dallas Walk 37
Table of Paul
Chair, team selection

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Would you like to help share the Emmaus experience? A scholarship fund has been established to help those pilgrims attend who may not have the personal financial resources. Your faith and gift can help change the life of another. Contributions can be mailed to:

Denton Area Emmaus
Community
P.O. Box 2609

WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBERS TO OUR COMMUNITY

The Women of WALK #16 "Sweet Sixteen"

Becky Bates	Kala Marsh
Avriel Blackwell	Linda McCullough
Ellen Brundige	Carolyn Miller
Anita Buffington	Robin Moore
Jennifer Burdick	Pauline Neal
Jana Clark	Judy Perry
Tina Dennis	Leeanne Pritchard
Beverly Ellis	Karen Rayburne
Laurie Espinoza	Susan Thompson
Yvonne Hale	Karla Watland
Linda Harris	Sharon Watland
Bridgett Horn	Erin Williamson
Katie Insley	Amanda Wise
Dru Luke	Ellen Wood
Janie Mach	Yatta Young

2005 WALK SCHEDULE

Men's Walk #15
February 24-27, 2005

Women's Walk #16
April 21-24, 2005

Men's Walk #17
June 23-26, 2005

Women's Walk #18
July 7-10, 2005

Men's Walk #19
September 15-18,
2005

Women's Walk #20
October 6-9, 2005

Denton Area Emmaus Community
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(For contact information visit our website)

NAME	POSITION
Carleen Alderman	Upper Room Representative
Joy Morrison	Community Lay Director
Darlene Ward	Registration
Chuck Lowry	Team Selection
Steve Hines	Weekend Events
Jerry Harvey	Supplies
Barbara Carruth	Database/Agape
Bob Kovacs	Secretary
Margie Lindley	Supplies-Literature/History
Nancy Daniel	Treasurer
Joe Culwell	Training
Jim Gerber	Music/Webpage
Jerry Graham	New Board Member
Matt Bieri	New Board Member
Pam Taylor	New Board Member
Carol Lindaman	New Board Member
Joe Zinser	Spiritual Director
Kerry Smith	Asst. Spiritual Director
Jim Drake	Asst. Spiritual Director

"Our Favorite Emmaus Songs"

Submitted by Jim Gerber



Country gospel is genuine currency of the realm, a timeless message that transfers seamlessly from generation to generation.

Williams himself, who was the original country star who set the pattern for sinning on Saturday night and seeking redemption on Sunday morning, seemingly looked into the face of eternity with the lyrics of "I Saw the Light."

He wrote it in 1948: *I wandered so aimless, my life filled with sin/I wouldn't let my dear savior in/Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night/Praise the Lord, I saw the light.*

The melody, ironically, is identical to that of the Chuck Wagon Gang's 1935 country gospel song "He Set Me Free." Melodies back then -- like now -- were fluid vehicles to be liberally borrowed from. Williams -- who granted virtually no interviews in his life -- never talked about the circumstances of writing that song. But his mother, Lillian, after his death, said the idea stemmed from an evening early in his career. She explained, "We was drivin' back from doin' a show in Georgiana [Alabama], and I was divin' and Hank had his head in my lap, and he said, 'Oh, Mamma, I'm tired, so tired, but I know we're almost home because I saw the light.'" The light he mentioned was from the beacon at the airport.

After Williams died on his way to a Dec. 31, 1952, concert in Charleston, W.Va., and a New Years' Day show on Jan. 1, 1953, in Canton, Ohio, his Drifting Cowboys band went ahead and did the show at the Canton Memorial Auditorium. To open the show, a spotlight was shone on the curtain after the crowd was told that Hank Williams had died. His band, assembled unseen behind the curtain, sang "I Saw the Light."

(excerpted from NASHVILLE SKYLINE: "I Saw the Light" -- A Country Music Beacon? The Saga of One Classic Country Song, By: Chet Flippo on cmt.com)



Agape Corner

"Summer Comfort"

Submitted by Tracey Lowry

Are you sponsoring a pilgrim in June or July? Summer walks can sometimes add a different dimension in the experience for our pilgrims. If any of you attended or served on a summer walk you may be able to relate. I first took my walk in July of 2001 at Lake Sharon... it is still one of my favorite times to serve, but it sometimes comes with unexpected comfort conditions for our pilgrims.

The conference room a/c has one setting... *COLD*... remind your pilgrim to bring a light sweater or jacket. They may think you are crazy, but they'll be glad they did. There have been a few occasions where pilgrims are so cold that it is very difficult to focus on the "warmth" of love that they are receiving. Let your reminder be an act of "warmth".

The cabins can sometimes be unpredictable... we are putting a great stress on the a/c during this time of year. Bring a fan... just in case. Your pilgrim may also be accustomed to sleeping with a fan and need the background noise... It may or may not be used, but being prepared for all conditions shows you care about their comfort.

And for the ladies... remind them that comfortable shoes are a must... the walk from the cabins to the conference room is best done in flats... no need for heels this weekend! Take a moment to reflect on your walk... what made you the most comfortable? What can you do to add to your pilgrim's comfort? DeColores!



- PRAYER VIGILS
- SERVANT TEAMS
- REUNION GROUP INFO
- UPDATE DATABASE



www.dentonemmaus.org

GATHERINGS - AVAILABLE FOR YOUR CHURCH TO HOST



- August 20, 2005
- November 19, 2005

Checklist and other information available on the website



PO Box 2609
Denton, TX 76202
Fax: 972-625-2845

