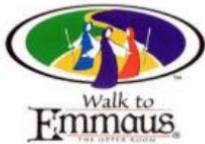


Rainbow Bend

Coastal Bend Emmaus and Kairos



February 2017 News



**CBE
Board of Directors**



From the Lay Director

Greetings, brothers and sisters of the Emmaus Community of the Coastal Bend -

My name is Bill DeFries, and I have the pleasure and honor of serving as your new, next, seasoned, elder(?) Emmaus Community Lay Director.

I was a pilgrim on Walk #199 in Victoria, Texas, in 1991 and sat at the table of St. Mark. And while that may sound like ancient history to those of you who've *Walked* within this century when the Walks numbered above 1000, let me assure you that I felt the same way when I met pilgrims from Walks #1 and #3, held in Kerrville, way back when they had to walk to chapel two miles uphill in the snow... both ways.

Some of you will recognize me from music teams and candlelight, which has been the crux of my involvement in recent years. I served as lay director in 1996, after working Walks in the Crossroads, Windmill and Living Colors Communities, one or two per year, while I worked community newspapers for a living.

And what I can tell you about that time in Emmaus, over 25 years, including Kairos Outside and Chrysalis, is that the Walks have stayed true to the Fourth Day model, save some tweaks here and there about where the cross lives, who carries it, how hard we laugh at a bad table skit using "Pharoah, Pharoah", or how hard we slap the hand of the clergy person who can't seem to keep his or her talk under 25 minutes... even then, men and women up to our most recent Walks found what it was like to be pilgrims on a journey,

Lay Director

Bill DeFries

Spiritual Director

Rev. Greg Hackett

Asst. Lay Director

VACANT

Asst. Spiritual Director

Rev. Gloria Lear

Asst. Spiritual Director

Rev. Jason Fry

Secretary

Anne Mosiman

Treasurer

Audrey Hagemann

Logistics Coordinator

Brian Calhoun

Music Coordinator

Ben Liska

Kairos Coordinator

Paul Hood

Prayer Vigil Coordinator

Stephanie Creech

Team Selection

Harold Bjella

At Large Members

Jan Ayliffe

Dottie Ewing

Bob Forbes

Lynda Herndon

Past Lay Director

Jiim Schuchardt

**Other Volunteer
Leadership****Agape Coordinator**

Darla Wiggins

Candlelight**Coordinator**

Marshall Westmoreland

Gathering Coordinator

Vacant

Newsletter Coordinator

Shana Larson

Master Data Base**Coordinator**

Vacant

Reunion Groups

Vacant

on a road where Christ met them in the breaking of the bread, where He was found gently comforting pilgrims who had to spend some moments letting certain things die, and where the face of Jesus was seen in the heavenly faces of candlelight.

The Good News is not only that Christ died for us while we were yet sinners and that proves God's love for us, but also that the lives of people you know (or will get to know) have been transformed by this three-day experience and all the Fourth Days that follow.

Of the many things I hope for us this year, and years to come, is a rekindle and recapture of that fire, joy, grace, peace and servant-hood that was gifted to you on your Walk, whether last year, last decade or last century. We ARE pilgrims on a journey, even though we only participate as Walk pilgrims that one time. But the road still lies before us, the journey isn't over, and our respective everyday worlds are still filled with souls wondering how to fill that God-shaped hole inside, whose lives would be blessed by an invitation from you and a chance to go for a Walk.

And while you're at it, if it's slipped away from you, the fire has dimmed, you forgot what happened to those letters, and you don't feel as connected as you once did... find your way back: to a reunion group, a monthly gathering (Friday, February 24 at First UMC Portland) or community candlelight at the retreat center during a Walk. Tell Emmaus folks you know about this letter if you think they may not receive this epistle or may have become disenchanted and stopped listening. Old guard to new babe chicks, let's bring 'em back, celebrate one another over communion and community, and in Christ.

Remember the pilgrim on your Walk who stood up on that Sunday afternoon who stated, after going to church all his or her life, I finally understood what the love of Jesus looked like this weekend. And find a way to remember your own weekend and offer that gift to someone else.

CONTACTS



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CC, TX 78403

2017 Walk Schedule

Women's Walk #2000
June 22nd-25th
Lay Director: Margaret
Jordan

Men's Walk #2001
July 27th-30th
Lay Director: Roger
Potts



Kairos Outside

JoAnn Hood
Advisory Council Chair
361-643-7228
Joannhood@hotmail.com

Kairos Outside
P.O.Box 773
CC, TX 78403

We hope to see you in Portland for our community gathering, no matter when you made your pilgrim Walk. Bring food, bring guitars and voices, but mostly bring your fire, your fears, your joy, or even one more dying moment that you accidentally took back. Because, I have to think Jesus will let you give it up one more time.

And although Emmaus isn't about the stereotypically cliché *holding hands and singing "Kumbaya,"* it would probably be okay if that happened, as well. Let's take a Walk... again.

Blessings,
Bill

Clergy Notes

"I am spiritual, but not religious".

I've heard this many times in both my personal and professional life. Often, when people discover profession (a religious clergy person), this is the sentence that I hear most frequently. So it makes me think, "Is it possible to be spiritual without being religious?" In other words, can one lead a spiritually growing and centered life without the gathered community of faith?

My personal opinion is yes, you can. In the early church, there were the desert fathers who developed their spiritual practices in isolation. There were hermits who focused all their time and energy on pursuing God and God's spirit moving on earth. We are indebted to these saints of the past.

However, the desert fathers and the hermits did not grow spiritually in isolation. The desert fathers intentionally came in from their desert dwellings periodically to share their insights with the gathered community. The hermits were physically dependent upon the community of faith in order to sustain them in hopes of fulfilling their purpose. Although spiritual development was not directly tied to community, the community was there.

Here's another way to look at it. An alcoholic can kick their drinking habit alone, but it



REUNION GROUPS

To find a Reunion Group, or find one that fits your schedule visit

www.coastalbendemmaus.org



is an act of Love...
For God,
for the pilgrims,
for the church
and for the
Coastal Bend
Emmaus.

It is a
demonstration
of Agape love.
It is making oneself
an instrument of
prevenient Grace.
Prayerfully become
someone's sponsor
today.

FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER

We would like to make sure you and your friends are receiving the Rainbow Bend

takes enormous discipline and strength of will. A drug addict can quit cold turkey, only with great strength of will. We can lose 50 pounds on our own (yeah, right!)

Most of us need others in order to step forward, and remain on the path we choose. Most of us need accountability and encouragement which only comes in the presence of others. Most of us need a coach, to guide and direct us toward what is right - - and away from our own willful desires. This is the power of Candlelight Closing, Reunion Groups, and Gatherings. It is the power of the community - -the koinonia - -holding us together, keeping us accountable, encouraging us when we are weak.

Jesus came so that we might have life, individually. But, we also remember that "God so loved - the world..." Although we can "do it alone, we're in it together, and life is better when its shared.

In Him,
Greg Hackett

Gathering



Our first gathering of 2017 will be at First United Methodist Church-Portland.

When: Friday, February 24, 2017

Time: 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Where: UMC-Portland
4545 Wildcat Dr.
Portland, TX 78374

Communion~Fellowship~Good
Food~Great Music

Newsletter. If you got this one, please send to all your friends who have been on a Walk to Emmaus. They may be in our database, but have their "Spam Blocker" on.

Please ask them to add cbemmaus@gmail.com to their address book so the newsletter will go directly to their inbox.



Walk Fees for 2017



The Emmaus Community Board has voted and set the new fees for Walks for 2017.

Pilgrim Fees \$190.00

Team Fees \$190.00

Bring Cover Dish Items as follow:

A - G
Main (Meat) Dish

H - P
Desserts, Fruits, or Bread

Q - Z
Side Dishes, Veggies, Or Salad

Don't Forget to BRING

Walk Name Tag, Cross & Lanyard and
Purple Worship Books

Community Gatherings are for all persons who have been on an Emmaus Walk and for anyone interested in finding out about the Walk to Emmaus.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS OPEN

There are volunteers positions open now: Data Base Coordinator, Reunion Group Coordinator, and Gathering Coordinator. They can be community volunteer positions or can be filled by a member the Coastal Bend Emmaus Board of Directors. If interested in filling one you can be appointed by the Lay Director for a term of one year.

Please prayerfully consider if you are the right person to fulfill one of these responsibilities. If God lays it on your heart to step up you can contact us by email at cbemmaus@gmail.com to ask questions and to submit your name for consideration.



Scholarship Fund



It is a sacrifice and an honor to serve on a Walk Team and sometimes it is a financial drain on a pilgrim too. Sponsors are NOT required to pay the Walk Fee, however some do as an act of Agape. We do set aside funds for scholarships and you can contribute to this fund anytime. Just make your checks payable (in any amount) to CBE Scholarship Fund.
Mail to Coastal Bend
Emmaus, P.O. Box 273,
Corpus Christi, TX 78403.
THANK YOU!

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Coastal Bend Emmaus, P.O. Box 273, Corpus Christi, TX 78403

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Try it free today