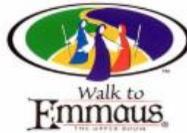


Rainbow Bend

Coastal Bend Emmaus, Chrysalis & Kairos



December News

CBE

The Greatest Gift

Board of Directors



Luke 2:11 "Unto you..."

In "Church World", we are entering into that frantic time of year when there are multiple Sunday School Class parties, festive activities at the church, the "Hanging of the Greens" (or, just plain decorating the sanctuary), shopping for gifts, year end considerations, and, oh yes - -Christmas!!

It seems that - -too often -- the real meaning of Christmas is lost in the midst of the frenetic effort to get ready for Christmas. I've come to the conclusion that, if we were to prepare as readily as we do for Christmas as the final words of the Bible tell us, "Maranatha - -come Lord Jesus" - then Jesus would be here already!

This year, I encourage us all to prepare with joy, as if we actually were preparing for Jesus' return. I encourage us to prepare with patience, knowing that - as God was patient with us to get where we are - - we can do the same for others. I encourage us to prepare with anticipation, because, you know, every year, as we gather together in Christian community and celebrate the entry of God into human form, Jesus comes.

In John 16, as Jesus counsels his disciples before the Passion, he says, "... you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. So you have pain now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you." (John 16: 20b - 22)

The angel proclaimed, "...unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." (Luke 2: 11-12).

This, my friends, is the greatest gift.

Greg Hackett

Emmaus Community Spiritual Director

Coastal Bend Data Base

The community database continues to be updated with corrections being made all the time. We do not know if you heard, read, paid attention or remembered that a large amount of team service information did not

Lay Director

Judi Oestreich

Spiritual Director

Rev. Greg Hackett

Asst. Lay Director

Jim Schuchardt

Asst. Spiritual Director

Rev. Gloria Lear

Asst. Spiritual Director

Rev. Linda Baumheckel

Secretary

Jan Ayliffe

Treasurer

Shana Larson

Agape Coordinator

Donna G Devlin

Logistics

VACANT

Music Coordinator

Brian Bray

Conference Board**Representative**

Harold Bjella

Kairos Coordinator

Jim Schuchardt

**Past Lay Director/
Prayer Vigil****Coordinator**

Betty Workman

**Other Volunteer
Leadership****Master Database**

Gale Bridgeman

Newsletter

Debbie Bjella

Team Selection

Jonathan Ibarra

Candlelight**Coordinator**

Marshall Westmoreland

Gathering Coordinator

Darla Wiggins

Reunion Groups

Wanda Matthews

survive the migration that was made in 2008 to a new system.

Anyone wanting to work on future Walks MUST re-submit Lay Team Applications. That can be found on the website www.coastalbendemmas.org and when completed and signed must be mailed to Coastal Bend Emmaus, PO Box 273, Corpus Christi, TX 78403.

PLEASE do not assume we have your prior team information

From the Lay Director ~ Judi Oestreich

My earthly father passed away 37 years ago at the age of 59. Although he had played the trumpet in his high school band, I never heard him mention much about music, but I clearly remember him saying, at this time of year, that the following was his favorite Christmas Carol. The Carol has a rich history and was taken from a Civil War poem. I thought I would share it with you.

The Story Behind

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

One of America's best known poets, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882), contributed to the wealth of carols sung each Christmas season, when he composed the words to "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" on December 25th 1864. **"Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men"** (Luke 2:14). The carol was originally a poem, "Christmas Bells," containing seven stanzas. Two stanzas were omitted, which contained references to the American Civil War, thus giving us the carol in its present form. The poem gave birth to the carol, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," and the remaining five stanzas were slightly rearranged in 1872 by John Baptiste Calkin (1827-1905), who also gave us the memorable tune. When Longfellow penned the words to his poem, America was still months away from Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9th 1865; and, his poem reflected the prior years of the war's despair, while ending with a confident hope of triumphant peace.

"Christmas Bells"

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

CONTACTS



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Council Chair

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Kairos Outside
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CC, TX 78403



Kairos Inside

Jim Schuchardt

jschuchardt@doradool.com

361-241-3200



REUNION GROUPS

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

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"



SAVE THE DATE FOR WALK/FLIGHT TRAINING

Date: Saturday, March 28, 2015

Location: First United Methodist Church
900 South Shoreline Blvd. Corpus Christi, Texas

Time: 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Cost: \$0.00

Facillator: Greg Ashby (Emmaus LD, Rio Texas
Conference Board)

Description: Training Lay Directors, Board Reps and

Wanda Matthews

361-441-3191

matthews.w@sbcglobal.net

Prayer Vigil



Sign up for the
Prayer Vigil for
upcoming Walks

UPCOMING EVENTS



GATHERINGS

January 24, 2015
Asbury UMC

March 21, 2015
St Paul UMC

May 23, 2015
Kelsey Memorial UMC



WALKS

Women's Walk

Aug 27-30 2015
May 26-29 2016
Oct 6-9 2016

Men's Walk

Spiritual Directors Leadership teams for Emmaus/Chrysalis. The Walk/Flight Leadership Training is required for all incoming Lay Directors and Board Reps and Spiritual Directors. Lay Directors and Board Reps need to attend training within 15 months of serving; Spiritual Directors need to attend training at least once every 3 years. However WFLT is open to anyone interested in learning more about Leadership.

This is a great time for the Lay Directors, Board Reps, and Spiritual Directors to develop effective Communication and Leadership skills. The outside support coordinators are invited to attend as well.

ORIGINS OF CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

There are several different stories behind the many Christmas traditions we have today. Some of them might even be true! Here are a few of the stories behind popular Christmas traditions. Believe them OR not!

The Story of Christmas Stockings

Stockings have to be one of the best parts of Christmas - unless you're one of those naughty kids who only get a lump of coal. The tradition of stockings started in Holland during the 16th Century. Kids would leave clogs filled with hay near the fireplace for Santa's reindeer. Santa would then leave behind treats for the children. Eventually people began stockings instead - something we still do today.

The Story of the Christmas Tree

No Christmas is complete without the Christmas tree. But how did this tradition begin? Well, the story goes that St. Boniface, who is credited for converting many Germans to Christianity, came across a group of Pagans worshipping an oak tree. This made him angry, so he cut the tree down. What sprouted up in its place was a fir tree. St. Boniface took this as a sign from God, and it has been a Christian symbol ever since. Also, when Queen Victoria married Prince Albert, he gave a tree to his wife for Christmas, since it was a custom in

July 30-Aug 2 2015
July 28-31 2016



Love. Grow. Serve.

Sponsorship

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 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.

Testimonies Wanted.

We are updating the coastalbendemmas.org website and are looking for very short testimonies to put on several pages. Send your comments in 25 to 50

his homeland of Germany.

The Story of Gingerbread Houses

Who doesn't love making a gingerbread house during Christmas? Ginger can be traced back to Europe during the 11th Century. Explorers came back from the Middle East with the spice ginger. It quickly became popular, especially in Germany. Nuremberg, Germany is the gingerbread Capital of the World. The Brothers Grimm, who wrote *Hansel and Gretel*, made gingerbread houses even more popular.

The Story of Christmas Cards

The first Christmas card was made by Sir Henry Cole who worked for the British Postal Service. He hired an artist to create three scenes - in the middle a family sat around the dinner table, on the left, the hungry were being fed and on the right, the needy were being clothed. The familiar greeting "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You" was written on it. English schoolboys also wrote greeting cards to their parents as proof of how well they could write.

The Story of Mistletoe

Mistletoe has been getting people locking lips together for a long time. The Celts used to believe that mistletoe was a powerful charm against lightening, thunder and other scary things. The Norse thought the plant was a symbol of peace. Warriors who met under the green leaves would not fight and warring couples would "kiss and make up".

*Whatever your family traditions are, we all wish
you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!*

words with your first name only and Walk Number to cbemmaus@gmail and put **website testimony** in the subject line.

ARTICLES FOR RAINBOW BEND

If you have an article you would like to see published, in the Rainbow Bend newsletter, please submit it to us

at cbemmaus@gmail.com by the 20th of the month in which you want it included.

Articles are subject to approval by the Community Lay Director and the Newsletter Coordinator.

Please do not send materials or articles that have a copyright.

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