



PILGRIM'S JOURNEY

The Houston Bay Area Emmaus Community

Volume 11, Issue 2

March, 2007

P.O. BOX 890134, Houston, Texas 77289-0134 - <http://www.hbaec.org>

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*** MARCH GATHERING NEWS ***

The March Gathering will be **Fri. March 9** - 6:30 PM at First Baptist in Dickinson. Everybody bring their favorite dessert.

Directions: Exit 517 from I45. If you are coming south, turn left under the freeway. First Baptist Church is about 1 1/2 mile down on the right. Turn Right on Nevada Street. If you are coming from Highway 3, Take a left on 517, and you will see the church to the left. Take a left on Nevada. The contact person is Lisa Ragland at 281-534-8972.

YA'LL COME !!!

Serving on the HBAEC Board can sometimes be a "thankless" job, one that takes a lot of personal time and energy during that 3-year term. We have 5 board members who are rotating off this year, and we want to extend to them a big, heartfelt, Emmaus THANK YOU!!! Thank you for your service to our community, to the pilgrims, and to the Lord. We know you will be blessed for having been the hands and feet of Jesus as you served, and we pray that you will all continue to serve Him through Emmaus for many years to come.

Thank you Pat Robinson, Susan Skeeter, Mark Johnson, Seantele Foreman and Lisa Ragland. Thank you and De Colores!

The 2007 HBAEC Board of Directors

2007 Walks

- Men's #40
6/21-6/24
- Women's #41
6/28-7/01
- Men's #42
9/27-9/30
- Women's #45
10/04-10/07

External Agape

God's love is so Awesome! As the External Agape Chairperson I am responsible to receive and get all the wall agape from other Emmaus Communities for each walk. Each time I receive a letter from another community it reminds me of the wonderful letters that I saw on my walk. I was so awestruck that people around the world were praying for me and my sisters on my walk. The letters represented God's love from people that didn't even know us.

Not only do I receive letters but I am also responsible for sending letters out to other communities. Our community sends our prayers and letters all around the world to other walks. I know communities in Australia, Bolivia, and prisons around the world are in awe that people from the Houston Bay Area Emmaus Community are praying for them.

It is my pleasure to serve our community in this capacity. I feel that God can use each of us in many ways. Please keep HBAEC and all the Emmaus communities in your prayers. Remember walks are going on around the world throughout the year. Pilgrims are experiencing God's love through the agape on the pillow and the agape hanging on the walls.

Barbee Williams
Walk #25—Table of Ruth

“To forgive is to set the prisoner free, and then discover the prisoner was you.”

New Life—New Beginnings

In the spring, Bev and I love to sit in the deck swing overlooking the garden and watch the different varieties of butterflies flying around from plant to plant. This last year we were able to see, for the first time, several Monarch butterflies flitting around the Butterfly Weed – a plant that is poisonous to any butterfly other than the Monarch. Isn't it amazing how God put into every butterfly the ability to know whether the Butterfly Weed is "off limits" to them or not? We were also privileged to be able to see new life being born in our garden. We saw caterpillars eat the leaves off the plants then find places for their cocoons, and watched how several weeks later the new butterflies, because of the struggle it took them to abandon their cocoons, were able to emerge and fly away as a symbol of new life. God truly is amazing and awesome!

New life...new beginnings. We, as an Emmaus community, have new opportunities this year to serve our Savior through the experience of the Walk to Emmaus. We have five new board members ready to serve our community – people who have been members of Fourth Day for quite awhile, but are ready for new experiences and new opportunities. The new board members are Julie Blythe, George Finch, Leslie Johnson, Scott Field and Tom Westrum, five people who are very strong in the Lord, and very strong in their desire to serve. We as a community have a new chance to be the hands and feet of Jesus in service to the pilgrims who will go on their walks this year, and to serve and support each other in our community. We are beginning our first full year at our new venue, the Lodge at Danbury. The general feeling of those who have worked the 2 walks there last year and who attended Candlelights and Closings is that they love the new place and the feeling of unity that is continuing to strengthen in our community. We may have gone through some struggles over the past few years, but I pray that we, like the butterflies in our garden, will allow that struggle to make us stronger and more determined than ever to serve the Lord through the Walk to Emmaus.

New year...new experiences...new opportunities...new life in Jesus!

In Him,
Steve Forgas
Lay Director

COMMUNITY NOTES:

- We are in search of a CD player and bag of CDs from Men's walk. It might be that they were accidentally placed into some of the pilgrim or team take home stuff, because they are not in the trailer and were not left at Danbury. They are greatly missed. Would all the participants from Walk 38 check your stuff and if you ended up with them, please contact an Emmaus board member and return them to the next walk, or gathering? We will appreciate it!
- Two laptops were donated for the conference room and candlelight service, but we still need two power point/laptop projectors. The cost is about \$1500 for a projector. We know this is a large donation, but maybe several churches or reunion groups could partner up to provide....There's still a lot of time to do this before Walk 40 in June.
- Please note that if your church is not getting regular requests and information from the board, please let Scott Field, our webmaster, know. He can be reached at 281-992-5442.
- If anyone knows the whereabouts of the "Christ in Charge" banner from the Cursillo, please contact a HBAEC board member for it's return.

Sam Metzger—HBAEC board.

Why Gather?

Each of us have been on an Emmaus Walk. We remember the fellowship we shared, the wonderful food we ate, a weekend of laughter and tears, and most importantly, the love of Christ and our fellow 4th Day that was showered upon us. We remember the spirit-filled worship and the mountain-top experiences that we had.

We can only go on one Emmaus Walk. How can we keep that wonderful feeling alive? Here are a few suggestions. You can work on an Emmaus team and be the 'hands and feet of Christ for other pilgrims. You can gather together with fellow 4th Day members for music, food and a service to worship Christ.

Each month our community is planning to have a Gathering. It's a wonderful time to renew friendships, enjoy fellowship, sing to your heart's content, celebrate Holy Communion and just join in the Body of Christ to worship together—sharing our love for Him.

If your church would like to sponsor a Gathering, please contact me at lesjo55@gmail.com or 409-739-6105.

Leslie Johnson—Walk #9
HBAEC Board member

A little boy was trying to roll a rock as his father watched from a distance. The boy was heaving and sighing but he couldn't turn the stone over. His dad, with a smile said, "Son, are you using all of your strength?" He said, "Yes Daddy. I'm using all my strength." And the father said, "No, you're not because you have not asked me to help you. My strength is your strength."

Sometimes we wrestle with problems and say, "I don't know what to do." Our Father wants us to say, "I've run out of my strength and run into His." He is there. There is no problem too big for Jesus to solve.

2007 Houston Bay Area Emmaus Leadership Team

Lay Director	Steve Forcus	409-938-7751
ALD	Denny Roberts	281-426-8197
Spiritual Director	Rev. Bonnie Osteen	409-949-4366
Assistant Spiritual Director	Rev. Kenneth Green	281-497-3974
Past Lay Director	Lisa Ragland	281-534-8972
Pre- Emmaus	Sherry Bone	281-471-2655
External Agape	Barbee Williams	281-992-2465
Music	Ken Freeman	281-557-3538
Property	George Finch	281-482-8683
Property	Tom Westrum	281-996-5152
Follow-Up/Treasurer	Fred Zimmerman	281-635-0504
Training/Secretary	James Schultz	281-484-3177
Sponsorship	Bill Smith	281-286-4769
Team Selection	Julie Blythe	281-482-1250
Reunion Groups	Lois Elsner	281-332-6227
Web Site	Scott Fields	281-992-5442
Finance	Alicia Porter	281-993-1364
Registration	Edith Schultz	281-484-3177
Gatherings/PJ editor	Leslie Johnson	409-739-6105
Data Base	Buck Waida	281-482-8113
Outside Coordinator	Sam Metzger	281-732-7287
Books	Randy Robinson	832-556-8787

Reminder — Coming Gatherings

Fri. March 9 - 6:30 PM at First Baptist in Dickinson.

For those of you new to Gatherings— we are having deserts for this evening. Everyone bring your favorite desert! Come and plan to have a great time of fun and fellowship. We will have an Emmaus service complete with Spirit - filled music, Holy Communion and a message by a member of our 4th Day, Tom Fulk, and one of our clergy.

April Gathering—TBD—Watch the webpage—hbaec.org for more details.

The Houston Bay Area
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NOTICE

We have over 2500 names on our Pilgrim's Journey distribution list. We currently have over 680 of them receiving their PJ each month by email. If you have not yet contacted me about receiving the PJ each month by email, or if you have but are still not receiving it this way—please do so now!!

We are also working to update our HBAEC database. If you have changed your mailing address, email address, phone number or church affiliation please contact me with this new information. We sometimes try to contact 4th Day thru one person at each church. This would be much easier to do with current and accurate 4th Day church information.

I can be reached at lesjo55@gmail.com or 409-739-6105. Thanks so much for your help in updating our 4th Day informationm DE COLORES !!

March, 2007

There is no subscription fee to receive this newsletter. However, donations are very much appreciated to help defray publication and mailing expenses. Donations may be sent to the P. O. Box address below.

All 4th Day members are encouraged to submit articles for this newsletter. They must be received by the 20th of each month. Send your articles, questions, or comments about our Community to: The Houston Bay Area Emmaus Community, P. O. Box 890134, Houston, TX, 77289. You may also phone Leslie Johnson at 409-739-6105 or send email to lesjo55@gmail.com.

Agape For Emmaus Walk # _____

Item Submitted: _____

Table Agape _____ Pillow Agape _____
(Agape for Pilgrims and Team must be provided if it is to be used for table agape)

Suggested time to be given _____

Pilgrims Only _____ Team Only _____ Pilgrims & Team _____

Contact Person _____ Phone # _____

Do you want leftovers? Yes No (Pick up in agape room after walk)

Items Needed: Pilgrims – 32 Team – 25 Pilgrims & Team – 57

Please attach this form to the agape