



# PILGRIM'S JOURNEY

The Houston Bay Area Emmaus Community

Volume 11, Issue 5

Oct-Dec, 2007

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## **LET THE HEALING BEGIN**

The HBAEC Board of Directors met on Tuesday, August 28, for the purpose of discussing and deciding on our response to the recommendation given to us from the Upper Room representatives on August 21. Their response, in part, was that the Board of Directors of the HBAEC has signed a Letter of Agreement for 2007 and is expected to honor it. To briefly explain what that involves, every year the Board of Directors is asked to sign a Letter of Agreement, which in part states:

**"The local governing body will carry out the three-phase method of Emmaus In accordance with the most recent edition of The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus and the most recent edition of The Upper Room manuals."**

We all realized that the decision that we had to make was not simply whether or not we would adhere to the terms agreed upon in the Letter of Agreement that was signed in January of this year, but that the real essence of the vote was will we continue to hold the Walk to Emmaus or not. The last thing any of us want is to have our community shut down...to discontinue doing what has, for so many years, been a source of joy and growth and fellowship for so many people. With that in mind, the vote was taken, and with a quorum of 11 board members present, the vote was to adhere to the terms agreed upon in the Letter of Agreement, and, most importantly, to continue to be an Emmaus Community that offers The Walk to Emmaus.

That being said, the 2008 Board of Directors must still sign the Letter of Agreement next year in order to continue holding walks in our community - walks that must be conducted according to the Handbook and the manual. In other words, every year, the sitting board holds the future of our community in their hands which is another reason why the election of board members is such an important part of our responsibility as members of this community.

Our community has been through one of, if not THE roughest year any of us can remember. We have had to replace numerous board members, for various reasons, and are faced with yet again replacing our Spiritual and Assistant Spiritual Directors, again for different reasons. The board has had different views and opinions on issues and situations that have confronted us, and we have seen members of our board and community alike take a firm stand on both sides of those issues. Both sides were sincere in their desire to make the Walks to Emmaus the best they could be, but unfortunately as a result, many individuals have experienced hurt and frustration, anger and resentment, and our board and community have suffered.

As a board, we feel...actually, we know...that it is time to put all of this behind us and move forward. We need to begin a time of healing, a time of reconciliation. It will not be something that will happen overnight, and it will be a tough time for us, but it is something that we must do if our community is to once again be the vibrant, loving community it should be. In 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (NIV) Paul tells us:

***"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation."***

And we would add, let us be reconciled one to another.

***(Continued on Page 2)***

## **2008 Walks**

- **Men's #44**  
04/10-04/13
- **Women's #45**  
04/17-04/20
- **Women's #46**  
7/17-07/20
- **Men's #47**  
10/09-10/12

**If you know of someone who wants to go on a Walk, encourage them to get their applications in as soon as possible. This will insure that they will get to go on the Walk that best fits their schedule.**



# Did You Miss The September Gathering? The Gathering Was GREAT-But We Missed You!

There was a beautiful, sweet spirit at this gathering. Many old friends had a chance to reconnect, the music was beautiful and the food was delicious. Among the great turn out of our Community members, there were 6 new 4th Day, 2 visitors, and 4 Clergy in attendance.

**Come to the November Gathering — Bring Friends who are Interested in Emmaus**

**YOUR HOUSTON BAY AREA EMMAUS COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU  
AND JESUS HAS A BLESSING IN STORE FOR YOU**

**Saturday morning, November 03, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am  
Pasadena United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena**

Bring your favorite breakfast food. - This Community has so many good cooks, you will love sharing breakfast with your old friends and new friends. Start your weekend off by praising Jesus.

Directions: From Beltway 8, exit west on Fairmont Parkway. It is a large Church on the left at Strawberry and Fairmont. From 45 or Highway 3, exit east on Edgebrook, which becomes Fairmont Parkway after Shaver St. The Church is on the right at Young St. Nursery reservation deadline is 10/27/07. For more

## **Ev1 and Roadrunner E Mail Users**

**Please contact Jan Smith at [alwaysinhishands@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alwaysinhishands@sbcglobal.net)**

### **2007 Houston Bay Area Emmaus Leadership Team**

**Send An E mail to All on the Leadership Team: [Emmaus\\_Board@hbaec.org](mailto:Emmaus_Board@hbaec.org)**

Lay Director	Steve Forgus	409-938-7751
Assistant Lay Director	Barbee Williams	281-992-2465
Past Lay Director	Lisa Ragland	281-534-8972
Pre-Emmaus	Sherry Bone	281-471-2655
External Agape	Mary Gillispie	409-925-5983
Music	Ken Freeman	713-944-5311
Property	George Finch	281-482-8683
Property	Kevin Franciotti	281-486-1711
Training/Secretary	James Schultz	281-484-3177
Sponsorship	Ron Dahse	713-436-6847
Team Selection/Books	Randy Robinson	832-556-8787
Reunion Groups	Judy Bradley	281-489-8721
Web Site	Scott Field	281-992-5442
Finance	Alicia Porter	281-993-1364
Registration	Edith Schultz	281-484-3177
Database	Buck Waida	281-482-8113
Gatherings	Carol Browne	281-332-8783
Support Team Coordinator	Sam Metzger	281-732-7287
Newsletter Editor (Pilgrim's Journey)	Jan Smith	281-286-4769

### **2008 Gatherings**

Since everyone has such busy lives, we are planning to make it easier to know when our gatherings will be. You can put them on your calendar way ahead of time.

Gatherings held in **even months** (February, April, June, August, and October) will be held at Pasadena UMC. It will be the 1st Sat. at 9 am. (Bring Breakfast food) There will be no gatherings in December.

Gatherings held in **odd months** (January, March, May, July, September, November) will be held on the 1st Friday (Bring dessert) at 7 pm at \_\_\_\_\_ **?? Could we put your Church's name in this blank?**

**If your Church can provide this very important service, contact Sam Metzger at 281-732-7287.**

## Support Coordinator's Team

During the walk, many, many tasks are performed beyond the walls of the conference room. A small group of 3 people serve in the chapel mostly to pray for speakers and pilgrims, but also to ready the chapel for when it is used by the pilgrims, preparing communion elements, lighting candles, and all the other tasks that are needed.

A larger group of 6 serve in the agape area. They are the housekeepers and "maids" also serving a vital function of distributing the little agape gifts and collecting and distributing those all important letters.

The kitchen team slices/dices, and prepares all the food and snacks and does all the clean-up.

Our community needs a support coordinator's team to help the serving board member find these servants willing to serve a walk from the back-ground, behind the scenes. The support coordinator's team polls the community, using team applications, most current walk rosters, and word of mouth to pull the Support team together for the walk. The web site on-line sign up is invaluable, but sometimes is not enough to get the full Walk Support Team completely filled.

A Walk Support Team member can serve for a whole weekend, a day, or even an hour. Each and every hour they serve during the walk counts toward the 15 hours they need to qualify as a conference room team member. Training for the Support team is wide open – meeting in homes and churches before the walk to plan their area of support. Training is supplied by "old timers" who have served on the Support Team for many years.

### David Price Passed Away in September

Our sympathy to Pam Price, David's wife & Ken & Lisa Freeman & their families. Ken was David's Brother-in-Law. David's HEC walk was around 1996. He served many times in the HBAEC kitchen & in other ways behind the scenes during walks.

Would you be willing to help our 2008 Board Support Coordinator make those calls, send those emails, to encourage our 4<sup>th</sup> day to sign up for the Walk Support Team? **Please contact Sam Metzger at 281-732-7287 if you will volunteer to help.**

## Follow Up Team

Our Community would like to create a small pool of speakers who present the all-important and significant follow up material to the new 4<sup>th</sup> day at the follow-up meeting after their walk.

This is the new 4<sup>th</sup> day meeting one or two weeks after their walk where vital elements of the local Community are presented. Usually the mental and emotional high and lows of the walk leave a Pilgrim's head swimming. It is difficult to take in the crucial elements of the 4<sup>th</sup> day. So this is the moment that several fundamental elements of their 4<sup>th</sup> day within the community are covered.

Gatherings, reunion groups, team service, and sponsorship are more fully explained. A lot of written material is handed out. Emmaus books are available for sale. Finally, the Pilgrims are invited to share their 4<sup>th</sup> day with us. This meeting lasts less than 2 hrs, but oh, the impact to that person's life and oh, the impact to our Community. This is where lifelong friendships begin to become real.

Would you be willing to serve on the Follow up Team? Help gather the material, call those Sponsors a few days before to make sure they know we hope they will bring their Pilgrim, present the info to the new 4<sup>th</sup> day, and be blessed by seeing exactly what the Walk continues to do in people's lives? You know how this would help our Community. In fact, you know it might even be an essential element to your own 4<sup>th</sup> day.

A script is provided, the materials are all available, sponsor's phone and emails are provided. If your gift is not speaking, there are many other ways you can help. Just a very few hours of your time can have a lasting impact to our Community. **Contact any Board member to volunteer.**

**The Houston Bay Area Emmaus Community  
Board of Directors  
2008 BALLOT**

The following nominees have been approved by your HBAEC Board of Directors. Those elected will serve a three-year term, beginning January, 2008 and ending December, 2010.

Please vote for only five (5) of the candidates. Ballots must be received by November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007. There are two ways to vote:

1. Fill out the ballot, sign your name, fold the ballot in half, seal it closed, and return it using the address on the back of this page.
2. Vote by e-mail to: Elections@hbaec.org. In the e-mail message, type in the names of the five candidates you are voting for, along with your name and walk number for verification.

**You and your spouse may vote  
on the same ballot as indicated.**

You	Spouse	
___	___	Steve Dean
___	___	Elyse Harkins
___	___	Susan McElya
___	___	Mike Ragland
___	___	Jimmie Reese
___	___	Robin Robinson
___	___	James Schultz

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Walk # \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Walk # \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

H.B.A.E.C.  
P.O. Box 890134  
Houston, Texas 77289-0134

Place Stamp  
Here

The Houston Bay Area Emmaus Community  
P.O. Box 890134  
Houston, Texas 77289-0134



**Susan McElya**  
 HEC, Walk #86,  
 1994, Friendswood  
 UMC. Service:  
 ATL, ATL, TL, TL,  
 ALD



**Mike Ragland**  
 HEC, Walk #123,  
 1996, Gateway  
 Community Church.  
 Service: ATL, TL,  
 TL, ALD



**Jimmie Reese**  
 New Mexico Walk  
 #68, 1994, FUMC -  
 Mont Belvieu UMC.  
 Service: TL (5) ALD,  
 ALD, LD



**Robin Robinson**  
 HBAEC, Walk #25,  
 2004, Friendswood  
 Community. Service:  
 ATL, TL, TL



**James Schultz**  
 HBAEC, Walk #19,  
 2004, FUMC -  
 Pearland. Service:  
 ATL, BR, TL, ALD



**Elyse Harkins**  
 HEC, Walk #213,  
 2000, Friendswood  
 UMC. Service: ATL,  
 TL, TL, ALD



**Steve Dean**  
 HBAEC, Walk # 19,  
 2004, Cedar Bayou  
 UMC. Service: TL

**Abbreviations**

ATL Assistant Table Leader  
 TL Table Leader  
 ALD Assistant Lay Director  
 LD Lay Director  
 CC Chapel  
 BR Board Rep.

HEC Houston Emmaus  
 Community

HBAEC Houston Bay Area  
 Emmaus Community

The Houston Bay Area  
Emmaus Community  
P. O. Box 890134  
Houston, TX  
77289-0134

NONPROFIT ORG.  
US Postage Paid  
Friendswood, TX  
Permit No. 310

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.hbaec.org](http://www.hbaec.org)

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\* *"Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." Colossians 3:12-15* \*  
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**Oct-Dec, 2007**

There is no subscription fee to receive this newsletter. However, donations are very much appreciated to help defray printing 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 articles, questions, or comments about our Community to: The Houston Bay Area Emmaus Community, P. O. Box 890134, Houston, TX, 77289. Phone Jan Smith at 281-286-4769 or send emails to:  
  
alwaysinhishands@sbcglobal.net

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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

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**Join the Pilgrim's Journey Newsletter Team**  
We will have one meeting every two months from around 9:00 a.m.—noon in Clear Lake City. It will be on a Friday. We will tape and put labels on the newsletter. We will work, talk, laugh and then go to lunch. What a fun way to serve your Emmaus Community! Call Jan Smith at 281-286-4769 if you would like to join us.