



Cross Point Emmaus

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March 2011

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Community

By Roger Wood

Community Spiritual Director

It is apparent that the word "community" can be defined from two words: **common unity**. That definition describes the Cross Point Emmaus **Community**. The members of our Community share in the common experience of the Walk to Emmaus. From that common experience comes the awareness of our **common unity** Christ.

From the Scriptures we know that human beings are *children of God* and *sisters and brothers in Christ*. In the **common unity** of our salvation and call in Christ we share together our experiences, our call, and our witness in Christ. This means that we follow the ministry and message of Christ to fulfill Christ's call to "go into all the world" to witness the grace and salvation of God through Jesus Christ.

Our unity in Christ is witnessed in our unity as Emmaus Pilgrims. We follow the model of the Walk to Emmaus

to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We are not called to re-model the Model. All of the parts of the walk – the talks, the schedule, the Conference Room team, the "hands and feet" team – all blend together to enable the experience of the Walk to Emmaus to occur. Nothing is haphazard, ad-lib, deleted or added to the program of the Walk to Emmaus. The **common unity** of the Walk is dependent upon and enhanced by the **common unity** of the Cross Point Emmaus **Community**.

It may surprise you to know, and I hope realize, how free the Holy Spirit is in the structure of the Walk. The Walk to Emmaus was crafted by gifted and Spirit-filled persons to display the amazing miracle of God's grace. Our calling as the Cross Point Emmaus **Community** is to bring others into the awareness and acceptance of God's grace in their lives. In that calling we are to be grace-full, loving, humble and servant people with God in Jesus Christ as our Guide.

DeColores,

Roger Wood

Kelly Shannon

Community Lay Director

In Matthew 18:20, Jesus tells His disciples, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Just as you exhibited Christ's presence to me after my father's death, you as the Community represent Christ each time we gather to work the Walks.

Can you imagine Christ walking with us as we clean cabins, wash dishes, cut up fruit, prepare the conference room, set up table agape, or set out candles?

Sometimes I think it's easier to imagine Christ sitting with u while listening to a talk inside the conference room, or while praying for a speaker in the prayer room. But the scripture in Matthew doesn't say that Jesus is among us only when we are intently listening or praying....Jesus is with us any time two or more Believers are gathered in His name.

Isn't that what we are doing when we work the Walks, whether on the inside team or outside team? We are gathered, drawn together, and even "harvested" in Christ's name when we are in each other's presence for the purpose of the Walk to Emmaus. Let us be the

See Kelly Shannon, page 2

Kelly Shannon

from page 1

bountiful harvest of Christ's presence as we prepare for Walks #81 and #82....such an abundant harvest is so good for all of our souls!

As a personal note to the Community:

Words are inadequate to express my appreciation to the Cross Point Emmaus Community for your outpouring of love and support through phone calls, emails, cards, visitations, and attendance at my father's funeral.

Your prayers gave me strength during those hectic days of funeral preparations and I truly felt the power of those prayers. As a Community, you are the perfect example of the Body of Christ as I watched and felt His Love flow from each of you. My deepest appreciation to everyone.

De Colores!

Kelly Shannon

Final Training Date for Spring Walks

March 19th, First United Methodist Church, Ardmore

This date will include:

- Outside team training
- Commissioning service
- March gathering

WALKS

Mens: #81 March 31—April 3rd

Womens: #82 April 7—April 10th

- **Apr 02: Mens' Candlelight (8:00 PM)**
- **Apr 09: Women's Candlelight (8:00 PM)**

Evangelism

Temple Diehl

The Evangelism Initiative for all of Oklahoma is well underway. Emmaus is founded on love of God and prayer. Will you join your hearts with me as we pray for people to hear the word and come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior?

March 6—

Focus: "Restoring hope through faith."

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 9:4a: "Anyone who is among the living, has hope ..."

Prayer "Lord may those to whom you have us minister find hope in faith in the Messiah whom you sent to bring us salvation. In Christ's Holy Name, Amen.

March 13—

Focus: "The answer to all of our problems is God's Mercy and

Love."

Scripture: Matthew 22:37-39 " Jesus replied: "' Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest com-

mandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself."

Prayer: "Loving God, I pray that you will open the hearts of those who have not felt loved, and allow us to love them back to your side today. In the Mighty Name of Jesus, Amen."

March 20—

Focus: "Loving actions toward others as a means of attracting someone to the choir."

Scripture: 1 John 3:18: "Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth

by our actions." NLT

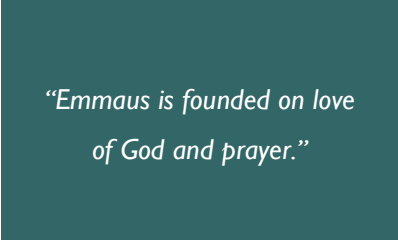
Prayer: "Oh Great God, Jehovah, may we who say we love you, demonstrate that in every action and aspect of our lives. By the Love of He who gave his life for us. Amen.

March 27—

Focus: Thankfulness for the people who have guided us in our faith walk.

Scripture: "I thank my God every time I remember you." (Philippians 1:3)

Prayer: "Lord, we give thanks for the people who have shown us your glory."



Poets Corner

Dear Emmaus Family,

Preparing for the next set of walks I came across this poem recommended to me by one of my clergy friends. As you prepare to pray for those who will come as Pilgrims and those who will be working on the teams I suggest you take a look at this poem. I believe it will speak to YOU! Fourth Day meetings are coming and we would love to have you there.

De Colores!

Sharen Hale

Cross Point Walk to Emmaus #64, Table of Ruth

I Stand at the Door

By Sam Shoemaker (from the Oxford Group)

I stand by the door.
 I neither go to far in, nor stay to far out.
 The door is the most important door in the world -
 It is the door through which men walk when they find
 God.
 There is no use my going way inside and staying there,
 When so many are still outside and they, as much as I,
 Crave to know where the door is.
 And all that so many ever find
 Is only the wall where the door ought to be.
 They creep along the wall like blind men,
 With outstretched, groping hands,
 Feeling for a door, knowing there must be a door,
 Yet they never find it.
 So I stand by the door.

The most tremendous thing in the world
 Is for men to find that door - the door to God.
 The most important thing that any man can do
 Is to take hold of one of those blind, groping hands
 And put it on the latch - the latch that only clicks

And opens to the man's own touch.

Men die outside the door, as starving beggars die
 On cold nights in cruel cities in the dead of winter.
 Die for want of what is within their grasp.
 They live on the other side of it - live because they have
 not found it.

Nothing else matters compared to helping them find it,
 And open it, and walk in, and find Him.
 So I stand by the door.

Go in great saints; go all the way in -
 Go way down into the cavernous cellars,
 And way up into the spacious attics.
 It is a vast, roomy house, this house where God is.
 Go into the deepest of hidden casements,
 Of withdrawal, of silence, of sainthood.
 Some must inhabit those inner rooms
 And know the depths and heights of God,
 And call outside to the rest of us how wonderful it is.
 Sometimes I take a deeper look in.
 Sometimes venture in a little farther,
 But my place seems closer to the opening.
 So I stand by the door.

There is another reason why I stand there.
 Some people get part way in and become afraid
 Lest God and the zeal of His house devour them;
 For God is so very great and asks all of us.
 And these people feel a cosmic claustrophobia
 And want to get out. 'Let me out!' they cry.
 And the people way inside only terrify them more.
 Somebody must be by the door to tell them that they are
 spoiled.

See Poets, page 4

Poets, from page 3

For the old life, they have seen too much:
 One taste of God and nothing but God will do any more.
 Somebody must be watching for the frightened
 Who seek to sneak out just where they came in,
 To tell them how much better it is inside.
 The people too far in do not see how near these are
 To leaving - preoccupied with the wonder of it all.
 Somebody must watch for those who have entered the
 door
 But would like to run away. So for them too,
 I stand by the door.

I admire the people who go way in.
 But I wish they would not forget how it was
 Before they got in. Then they would be able to help
 The people who have not yet even found the door.
 Or the people who want to run away again from God.
 You can go in too deeply and stay in too long

And forget the people outside the door.
 As for me, I shall take my old accustomed place,
 Near enough to God to hear Him and know He is there,
 But not so far from men as not to hear them,
 And remember they are there too.

Where? Outside the door -
 Thousands of them. Millions of them.
 But - more important for me -
 One of them, two of them, ten
 of them.
 Whose hands I am intended to
 put on the latch.
 So I shall stand by the door
 and wait
 For those who seek it.

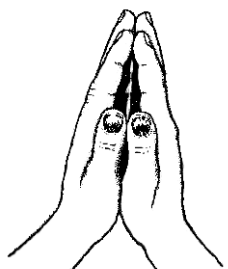
'I had rather be a door-keeper
 So I stand by the door.



72 Hour Prayer Vigil

The Spring 2011 Walks are just weeks away, yet many of us have not signed up for the 72 hour prayer vigil. This is an important show of support for the pilgrims and, of course, we believe that our prayers of support are answered and contribute in great ways to the success of each walk. We are all familiar with the poster board that we sign

our names to specific times for prayer, but did you know that you can also sign up electronically on the website?



Prayer Vigil

Go to crosspointemmaus.org and on the title page there is an icon of [hands together in prayer](#). Click the icon and it will take you to a page where you can choose the men's or women's walk. Choose one, and click the "NEXT" box and it will take you to the Prayer Vigil timeline. Enter your name in the box at the top and select the timeslot(s) you wish to take. Then go to the bottom of the page and click the box "Sign Up" and you're done! If you want, hit the "Back" button and repeat for another walk.

*This is an important
 show of support for the
 pilgrims*

Of course the actual poster board will be at the next training and gathering which is March 19th at First United Methodist Church in Ardmore, but why wait? Let's show our support, and see for ourselves the power of our prayers and faith.



Get it moment

In the account in Luke of the disciples and their encounter with the risen Christ on the way to Emmaus, there is a similarity in the Christian walks of many of us. The two were on their way to Emmaus, a word that may mean “warm bath” or springs. Maybe they needed a rest or healing after the tumultuous events in Jerusalem. But Luke tells us that they encountered Christ on the road and yet did not recognize Him.

How is their walk like the way of our lives before we took the opportunity to spend a weekend and grow in our faith? Did we get the rest that we needed, or did we get

healed? They were confounded by the story of the empty tomb, yet even though Christ explained Himself in all the Scriptures, they still didn’t “get it.”

Think about your weekend; your Walk to Emmaus. How did it change your spiritual life and did it cause an “I get it” moment? Think of the agape, and the out-pouring of love and attention you received, and then think of Candlelight and what it meant to you.

“Think about your weekend...How did it change your spiritual life?”

Let’s pour out some of that love and attention on these walks and make them special for all of the new pilgrims. Remember Candlelight and let’s fill the room to overflowing. Remember Fourth Day and show the support in your nearest town for the new members of our community.

The Editor

Wooden Crosses

Pilgrims from Walks #77 and #78 were given wooden crosses with their lanyards rather than the traditional pewter crosses that have been in service for many years. Please contact Jerry Howry (580-223-0471) if you have a wooden cross and would also like to have the pewter cross. There is no charge for the additional cross if you were on one of these walks.

Otherwise, if you are not a pilgrim from Walk #77 or #78 and want a replacement cross, spares are available at cost.

Fall Walks

Mens: #83 Sept. 22 — 25th

Womens: #84 Sept. 29 — Oct. 2nd

Volunteer sign-up forms are now posted on the community website. Go to crosspointemmaus.org and click on “FORMS” on the left side and then “Team Volunteer” to view and print the form. Please return your completed form to:

Nancy Smith
112 Mayfair Way
Ada OK 74820

Contact Information

Note: If you have anything to add to next month’s newsletter, send your copy or photos to Rick Drummond at crd3@att.net or mail to: 1331 Crestpark, Ada OK 74820. Please be mindful of space considerations, relevancy, and credit as necessary. No copyrighted works can be included without permissions. All submissions will be subject to editing as to length and content.

Most members of the Cross Point Emmaus community receive newsletters and information by email. If you do not have an email address, then we send the newsletter by U.S. mail. If you receive the newsletter by regular mail but also have an email address, then please let us know by sending a note to:

info@crosspointemmaus.org

Also, please ask your Emmaus friends if they receive the newsletter? We do not want to accidentally omit anyone.

CROSS POINT NEWSLETTER

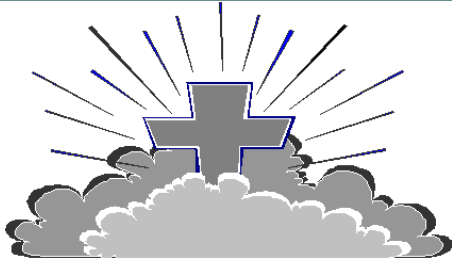
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Address:

Newsletter
1331 Crestpark ST
Ada OK 74820-8557

Phone: 580-332-5545

E-mail: crd3@att.net



Cross Point Emmaus

We're on the web
crosspointemmaus.org

On the Road to Emmaus

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

....
²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

—Luke 24: 13-16, 28-32