



Cross Point Emmaus

Volume XXVI, Number 1

January 2014

Inside this Issue:

- January gathering — pg 2
- Board report — pg 3
- “Danger Zone” by Janis Bart — pg 4



Prayer Vigil



New Year 2014

The New Year probably brings forth a slew of new activities in your homes. It certainly does at Cross Point Emmaus. In just over a week the first training for the Spring Walks begins. The inside teams will meet January 18th at Calvary Christian Church in Ardmore to begin their work preparing talks, presentations, and more importantly preparing their spirits to be submissive to God’s direction.

A new year also brings changes in leadership. Your community Board of Directors will welcome new members, and the Board will elect new officers and

decide board positions for the remainder of the year. The Board is comprised of twelve lay members and four clergy members (one of whom is the Community Spiritual Director elected by the Board.) Since the terms are for three years, each year four lay and one clergy member rotate off.

The Board member list on page 2 (and on the website) will be revised in the February Newsletter to reflect these changes.

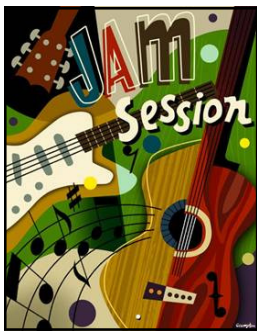
Another change in the new year is new lay directors. This Spring we have Debbie Hamilton and David Woerz

See New, page 2

Music Man

—Rev. Brad

NEW TO 2014:



JAM SESSIONS AT THE GATHERINGS!!!

Beginning at the January gathering bring your acoustic guitars, trumpets, violins, aka fiddles key boards, drums.... And join the praise and worship at gatherings. This is a great way

for beginners to learn some of the Emmaus “classics” without any pressure and a great opportunity for us to grow our base of musicians.

We look forward to seeing and hearing from all the talented (and growing) musicians we have in our vast Emmaus community. There is no sign up sheet, no need to call ahead... just bring your instrument and join in the Emmaus Gathering Jam sessions every second Saturday of the month!!!

BRAD HUGHES



New, cont'd from pg. 1

leading the walks. And by Board directive a certain percentage of each new inside team contains new members who have not worked inside.

And finally the new year brings in something familiar: new pilgrims, new sponsors, and new volunteers. This is the lifeblood of our community. Each new year we have dozens of volunteer applications from last year's pilgrim class. They show that enthusiasm and joy that is probably an afterglow from the recent walk that just hasn't worn off—and we hope it doesn't!

A hallmark of Emmaus is servanthood. So it is heartening to see these new members eager to serve. It is also a testament to sponsorship. Good sponsors choose good pilgrims and that ensures good servanthood. Something that is NOT new is the need to prepare for sponsorship by prayer. God's direction will lead you to the right choice.

We hope this past year was happy and fruitful for all the community. We, of course, know of the hurts, sickness, and passing that has occurred in 2013. But along with that go many joys and praises for what God has done in our community. THE NEWSLETTER wants to thank all those who have contributed articles, poems, pictures and humor to THE NEWSLETTER this year. We hope (rather, expect!) that 2014 will be a great year for Cross Point Emmaus. May your year be happy, healthy, and prosperous.

DeColores!
THE NEWSLETTER

David Woerz

#93 — Men's Lay Director

Debbie Hamilton

#94 — Women's Lay Director

January Gathering

The January gathering will be held January 11th at **6:00 pm** at Sulphur United Methodist Church, 2022 W 14th Street in Sulphur. A map link is on the website under "Maps". Rev. P J Stewart and her generous congregation will be hosting us, so you can be assured of good food, good worship, and good fellowship.

We will follow the format of food first, then worship, news and announcements, lay talk then Holy Communion.

We did not have a gathering in December due to the holidays so please make an effort to get together this Saturday and reconnect with your Emmaus friends and "Sing Praises!"



Rev. P. J. Stewart



2013 Cross Point Board Members

Shawna Carnahan — Community Lay Director

Rev. Roger Wood — Community Spiritual Director

Donna Young — Assist. Lay Director

Sharri Hiller — Secretary

Tem Barrett — Treasurer

Clinta Taylor — Registrar

Rick Drummond — Newsletter

Katie Byrne — Kitchen | Snack Agape

Rev. Brad Houchin — Music

Karen Black — Table Agape

Tabbe Drake — Letter Agape | Prayer Room

Shawn Harkins — Setup | Tear Down

Amy Heller — Literature and Supplies

Rev. P J Stewart — Gatherings

Steve Russell — Fourth Day

Rev. Temple Diehl — Candlelight | Sponsors Hour

Board Report

The Cross Point Board met on December 14th at 1:30 pm at the Cross Point Camp. Some of the newly elected board members were able to attend to see a meeting proceeding.

Board members presented written “job descriptions” to help future board members better understand the requirements of each office. In addition, the duties of the Board Representative position was presented. The Board discussed the various job duties and accepted the reports.

The Newsletter Rep reported that new software had been purchased for the new community laptops and files have been transferred so that each A/V technician for both the women and men’s walk will have a computer to have all the way through training and presentation at the walk instead of sharing a computer. Some discussion was had concerning the purchase of projectors to use during training since several of the host churches during training do not have equipment to present presentations.

The report from the Team Selection Committee was presented by Donna Young and the Board ap-

proved the selections presented. The selection of clergy from the Community Spiritual Director was presented and approved as well.

The Board wishes to encourage everyone to contribute to Team Scholarship in whatever amount. Donations may be sent to the Treasurer, Tem Barrett, marked: “Team Scholarship” to

Tem Barrett, 211 Meadow Road, Ardmore OK 73401.

THE NEWSLETTER

Thank You!

As we are beginning to plan and prepare for another set of walks this spring, we at THE NEWSLETTER want to say “thank you for serving!” Are you thinking “I didn’t serve on this last walk?—did I?”

There are a lot of ways to serve and many of you do it without knowing, so thank you!

Thank you for the cookies you baked, for that delicious cheese ball, and for the fresh fruit. Thanks for the agape gifts that bear the imprint of all the love that went into providing them. Thanks for coming to Candlelight and giving the pilgrims a little glimpse of heaven. Thanks for the prayers and the letters. Thank you for welcoming the teams into your church and feeding them as they prepared.

Thank you for the applause at closing. Did I mention the food you always bring to gatherings? Thanks a lot (especially for those little meatballs!) and thanks for taking the time to come to gatherings and sharing memories.

Thank you for supporting this community and making **each new pilgrim feel as though he/she is special**—because they are! And guess what? You are too! Thank you for serving.



Walk Fees

Team fee, \$160

Pilgrim fee, \$175 (\$75 deposit)

These fees cover lodging, meals, insurance, literature, and some Walk supplies.

New Scholarship Fund Established: In order to fund future pilgrim and team scholarships, the Board has established the Scholarship Fund. Since Cross point Emmaus Community of Oklahoma, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, donations are tax-deductible and letters may be issued for donations to the Scholarship Fund. Future scholarships will be limited to the balance of the Scholarship Fund, so contributions are very much appreciated.

The Danger Zone

— Janis Bart

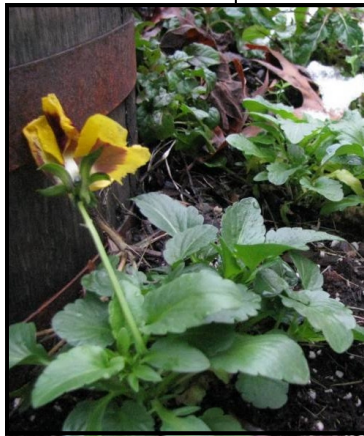
“Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

— Matthew 10:28 NRSV

If I had to use one word to describe the atmosphere in my garden this morning, it would be stark. The extreme cold and dryness over the past couple of weeks has left everything bare and lifeless, even the leaves of my beloved pansies appear dry, ready to crumble into dust at the slightest touch. A slight breeze caused the brittle branches of the trees to move stiffly to the accompaniment of the industrial white noise in the background, quiet, yet not quite.

But as I settled into stillness on the park bench, I noticed something that made me smile in one corner of the bed of pansies, a stubborn yellow blossom held on . . . giving testimony to the hope of the rain promised by the clouds filling the pre-dawn sky. It’s “soul” was not dead because it was relying on the promise!

As I read this passage of scripture out loud for my *Lectio Divina* (divine reading), the Holy Spirit reminded me of the reason I’d chosen it for this morning. I’d been reading *“Becoming the Answer to Our Prayer: Prayer for Ordinary Radicals”* by Shane Claiborne and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. Their ministry communities, *The Simple Way* and *Rutba House* are described in the book



as quietly trying to pray and live the kingdom in cities and towns throughout North America.

They were discussing the questions they often get about concerns for their safety because they live in the inner cities. They noted that “The Scriptures say that we should not fear those things that can destroy the body, but we are to fear that which can destroy the soul” (Matthew 10:28) and a bit later in that section Jonathan quoted Shane’s mom as having recently said:

“I have come to see that we Christians are not called to safety, but we are promised that God will be with us when we are in danger. And there is no better place to be than in the hand of God.” Then he went on to say, “Perhaps the most dangerous place for a Christian to be is in safety and comfort.”

That last line shook me deeply . . . everything God has been putting before me lately seems to echo that sentiment. I know that for the most part, I dwell in safety and comfort rather than stepping out and relying on the promise of God that He will go before and behind . . . that He will never leave me or forsake me!

As I reflected on that, I asked the Holy Spirit to help me to learn fear staying in that dangerous “safe zone” which has the power to destroy my soul, and begin to move with confidence into real Christian community where reliance on God is normal! Want to take a walk with me today?

Have a beautiful day!

Love, Janis

Check your contact information

We at THE NEWSLETTER get several emails and mailed newsletters back every month. It is a shame to miss this marvelous literary masterpiece, but nearly as bad to miss out on the valuable information contain within.

People change email servers and move and forget to have mail forwarded or (even worse)



neglect to inform their friends of their new addresses.

THE NEWSLETTER is not offended by this (but we could work ourselves up to it), however your “real” friends do miss you and want to keep in touch.

Take some time to visit the website and check your contact information (tap the “click here” on the opening page to view or update.

THE NEWSLETTER

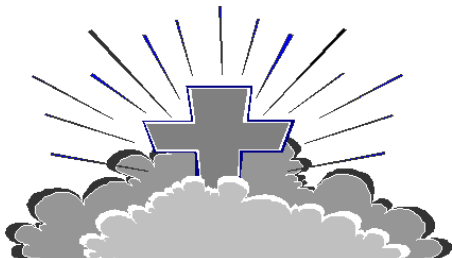
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Cross Point Emmaus

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