

CROSS POINT EMMAUS



©Cross Point Emmaus
www.crosspointemmaus.org

Serving Stretching Growing

By Cherri Bradley

Strange isn't it? You start off waiting to help others and it is *you* that gets helped. My walk was Cross Point Emmaus Walk #50. I still remember at closing I confessed to being a "silent Christian" and from that point on I wanted to serve so others could have the experience that I had. I have served every walk since that time, often in many ways. The Emmaus model provides for so many areas to serve, grow and stretch you spiritually. Many of you have heard me say "just go with the flow" or talk about "seeing God in action."

I have found over the years that God always seems to call me to areas where I don't feel qualified to serve. Have you ever felt that way? Aren't we always *amazed* at how He shows up and provides everything we need to complete the job He has chosen for us? I have also seen what happens when we don't follow the Model. Even well-intended Christians can get off track, and if we want others to experience The Emmaus weekend then we must follow the model and have faith that God's got this.

One way to serve is on a team. The model starts us off on the outside team. It is here that you get to know that prayer and other unseen areas really undergird the walk. This is something that you don't fully understand until you have worked outside. I love being on the outside team! There are so many

Board Elections

By Candy Sherbert

Did you know . . .

that the Emmaus Community is run by an elected Board? It is a working Board (which means that every board member has a job to do during the year and especially at Walks). Our main function is governing (financial and legal needs) and to put on Walks.

The Board NEEDS YOU!!!!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Serving Stretching Growing	1
Board Elections	1
Pilgrims from One Church	2
Calling All Clergy	3
Our Most Important Job	4
Contact	5

areas to serve, and God shows up all the time. It doesn't matter if you are cleaning cabins and have the privilege to pray over every bed or if you are serving meals! By the end of the walk you are tired, excited and overfilled with the Holly Spirit.

Of course, I love serving on the inside team too! It is very powerful to see the pilgrims take in everything (and the way the Holy Spirit influences each talk), and to remember the almost "out-of-body" experience of giving a talk. I love serving on a team in any way God calls me! To be honest every walk I have said "this was the best walk yet!"

Then we have sponsoring a pilgrim. Wow! Talk about NOT feeling qualified! But I faithfully prayed for them, met with their families when they were gone, brought them to camp, made their bed, prayed over their cross at sponsor hour, gathered letters for them,

Please see *Serving* on page 2

If you or someone you know has ever considered serving on the Cross Point Emmaus Board, please contact Candy Sherbert at

candysherbert@gmail.com

I am looking for a few good men or women to step up and put your names on the ballot. Don't hesitate! As one who is going off the Board this year, it's been a very rewarding experience. You will be blessed to serve with your fellow community members.

Candy

Serving from page 1

showed up for candle light and came to closing. This is not something that is special treatment; it is something that the model *calls for* in the guide lines on good sponsorship. We need to pray, as a community, for those who are called to sponsor. It is hard to not want everyone to go, even if it is not the best time for them. So sponsors must have a discernment about not only *who* but *when* to sponsor.

Another area of service is working on the board; and yes, it is work. To do so, you must have a desire to help the Community understand the model, the commitment to implement its provisions, and be prepared to sign and honor a covenant with the Upper Room. As a matter-of-fact we need nominations for the upcoming election. Just send nominations to Candy Sherbet (you can find her information on our website; see Board).

Finally, there is an opportunity for everyone, whether they can attend a Walk or not, to provide snacks and agape for the Walks. You can also help

with gatherings, bringing groups to candlelight and sponsor hour, signing up to pray during walks and so much more. Of course, donations for scholarships are always needed.

Recently I was blessed to unite two groups of people from our community, one who could no longer work a walk but felt a great passion to do so and one who felt called to work and did not have the money to do so. We now have some members of our community who have not been able to work a Walk anymore, but who are sponsoring others to work in their place! If you would like to sponsor someone to work in your place just let me know. God can always provide ways for all of us to serve, stretch and grow!

De Colores,

Cherri Bradley

Community Lay Director

Pilgrims from One Church

By Kelly Shannon

As you prayerfully consider potential pilgrims (candidates) for the upcoming Walks, I wanted to highlight a part of the Model that we haven't always followed in the past, but the Board is committed to following the Model going forward. The paragraph below has been extracted from "The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus," page 148:

There should be no more pilgrims from one church than there are pilgrim tables in the conference room. Pilgrims from the same church should be at different tables. This facilitates each pilgrim's having his or her own experience. Limiting the number of pilgrims from one church on a Walk also helps the Community develop its diversity, which is part of The Upper Room Walk to Emmaus model. Church diversity should be monitored by the Registrar, who should make note of this diversity for the person who prepares the table assignments. Sponsors should be informed of the necessity of church diversity so they do not expend all of their energy trying to get many people from one church to attend a particular walk event. The Board of Directors of the

Emmaus community should adopt these diversity guidelines as policy to protect the Registrar, thus allowing the Registrar to carry out policy instead of being placed in the apparent position of establishing policy.

Cross Point Walks to Emmaus have six (6) table groups in the Conference room. Based upon the Model, there should be no more than 6 pilgrims from one church on a particular Walk. Pilgrim applications are accepted on a chronological basis; therefore, we will consider the first 6 applications from a church for each Walk. Applications exceeding this limit will be carried over to the subsequent Walks. The Registrar will notify the Sponsors of any holdovers.

De Colores,

Kelly Shannon

Registrar

Calling All Clergy!

By David Mingus

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ!

I wanted to take a few moments to let you know of a slight shift in how we've been asking clergy to serve on our Emmaus teams. It's not been uncommon, in the past, to see clergy persons being asked to serve on one walk after another. This is detrimental to the clergy person and to our Emmaus teams. We need to celebrate the diversity of experiences and beliefs in our Emmaus family as well as to provide periods of rest and reflection for those who have served. To facilitate this, I'm hoping that each clergy person will prayerfully consider committing to serving in one walk per year. This will allow us to have more clergy active in our community as well as providing rest and reflection time after you serve. It will also keep us from relying too much on a few and risk burning them out completely. Some of you have served numerous teams and others have not been asked to serve at all. I'd like to see us change this in the future and invite all qualified clergy to serve.

In order to serve, it is necessary for clergy to fill out a volunteer form; just as we ask the lay volunteers to do. This is a change from the past, but I hope one that you will not find onerous. I'm in the process of getting a clergy application prepared that will be on the Cross Point Emmaus website (www.crosspointemmaus.org) and will address the unique questions asked of our clergy volunteers. You **MUST** fill out an application and submit it to the Board to be able to serve on a team. The Spring walks next year are already in the planning stages. If you are interested in serving, please complete a clergy application and submit it for when team selection takes place. If you have not served before and wish to serve,

I'm hoping that each clergy person will prayerfully consider committing to serving in one walk per year

this is the best way of getting your name in the discussion at team selection.

We also ask that our volunteers, lay and clergy alike, be active in a reunion group. This is a vital part of the Emmaus experience, and clergy need to model their adherence to the Emmaus model by participating in these groups as well. If you need help finding an Emmaus reunion group, you can post a notice on the community website

Finally, I'd like to ask you to please contact me and give me your current contact information. There is no current database listing our clergy persons, so I am at a bit of a disadvantage in being able to reach out to you and communicate with the clergy members. This is especially hard for those who are not within the United Methodist connection. I can be reached at drmingus@att.net or 918.859.3922. After you update me, I also ask that you go to the Cross Point Emmaus website and update your information there as well.

We all know how powerful this ministry is. We cast seeds each day in our ministry, but it's not often that we get to see how that seed takes root and grows as quickly as what happens on an Emmaus weekend. Let's get excited about this ministry and serve! Many hands make light work!

Grace and peace,
David Mingus
 Community Spiritual Director

TABLE AGAPE

Remember how you felt on your walk, coming into the dining room and finding all of the goodies at your spot? Wasn't it fun to wonder what would be left at the next meal? Let's give that same feeling to our fall pilgrims.

If you haven't started working on items in your reunion groups, please make plans to start. We need 72 pieces of agape per walk. Be sure to identify your reunion group's name on the agape.

Thank you!!!

Our Most Important Job

I'm sure everyone has heard about "responsible sponsorship" at some point during an Emmaus gathering, Candlelight, or Closing. Sometimes, we assume that everyone really "knows" the how and why of sponsorship, but that isn't always the case. Sponsorship is more than "signing up people for the Walks," or trying to "fix" someone's problems. The Model contains many points about sponsorship, and I will share several from "The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus," pages 13-20.

- First, good sponsorship is the first act of agape before a Walk ever begins; the experience of the Walk for a pilgrim really begins with how we handle sponsorship.
- Second, good sponsorship undergirds the whole weekend with sacrificial love on behalf of each pilgrim. Sponsors use discernment in recruiting pilgrims, embody the personal commitment of the community to each pilgrim, and provide personal acts of agape during the three days for the pilgrims. These acts of agape include prayer, agape letters, presence at Candlelight and Closing, and follow-up.
- Third, good sponsorship is the foundation for a healthy, effective Emmaus Movement that is fulfilling its true purpose: **the development of Christian leaders and the renewal of the church in ministry.** Wood and Roy write in *Day Four: The Pilgrim's Continued Journey*, "The strength of any Emmaus Community is a direct result of that community's recruiting practices. If the community is committed to recruiting strong church leaders for the purpose of strengthening the local church, then the community will be a strong vital force in the renewal movement."
- Emmaus is for active Christians and members of churches whose own renewal will mean new energy, commitment, and vision in the church and everyday environments for Christ's sake.
- Emmaus is right for many people - but not for

everyone. The religious background or emotional condition of some people may make Emmaus an improper discipleship tool for them.

- Wise sponsorship is purposeful and prayerful; unwise sponsorship is haphazard and undiscerning.
- Sponsorship is like being a godparent. A godparent doesn't just stand with a person at the front of the church, but helps him or her grow in the spiritual life.

"The strength of any Emmaus Community is a direct result of that community's recruiting practices."

Given the importance of sponsorship, Boards of Directors may develop local guidelines and reasonable expectations to ensure responsible sponsorship (page 17 of the Handbook). The Cross point Board of Directors considers Sponsorship to be critical to a Pilgrim's Walk experience, and to the Community's growth and stability. To help sponsors balance all of their responsibilities towards their pilgrims and pilgrims' families during the Walk weekend, the Board strongly recommends that **a sponsor limit their sponsorship to 2 pilgrims per Walk**. This will help a sponsor with being able to meet the needs of their pilgrims, including such things like getting their pilgrim to Camp on Thursday night, making the pilgrim's bed, visiting with the spouse over the weekend, assisting with childcare, obtaining agape letters, taking their pilgrim home after closing, taking their pilgrim to a Fourth Day meeting, helping the pilgrim get connected with a Reunion Group, and being a valuable source during the pilgrim's Fourth Day journey. Always remember: It's a privilege to sponsor someone, but with that privilege comes real responsibility.

De Colores,
Kelly Shannon, Registrar

Cross Point Emmaus Quarterly
PO Box 1372
Ada, OK 74821-1372

Contact: info@crosspointemmaus.org