

Rooster Tales



Vol. 24 No. 4 - July 2023



Upcoming Gatherings

There will be a Flagstaff gathering on Saturday, July 15 at 5:00 at Trinity Heights United Methodist Church. There will be live music, and a service with a cookie fellowship afterwards. We hope you will join us!

Stay tuned for further updates about other gatherings around the state.



We are still looking for a Community Lay Director - Elect to take over as Community Lay Director when Anne Marie's term is completed. This position must be someone who has either prior AZ Walk to Emmaus Board experience or who has been a Lay Director on an Arizona walk before. Please feel free to reach out to any Board member if you are interested or have questions, or email azemmauscomm@gmail.com. Thanks for considering this very important position!

Travel with Rev. Carl Peterson to the Holy Lands, departing February 27, 2024 with an optional extended trip to Petra. Travel info at: <https://www.eo.travelwithus.com/tours/hl24a#.ZCb92nbMJEY>. Sign up with Education Opportunities at [eo.travelwithus.com/#eotours](https://www.eo.travelwithus.com/#eotours). More information to come!



A Note from our new Community Spiritual Director

I find it interesting how difficult it is to write a first letter, whether it is when arriving at a new church appointment or as I now assume the responsibilities as the Community Spiritual Director. It seems like I have a lot I want to say, but the ideas keep competing in my mind for which should be first. Probably the most important topic is a huge THANK YOU to the Community Board members who have stuck with the community through the difficult days of the COVID-19 pandemic to make sure the program and community stayed active. They have done a great job of managing the costs and finances to keep everything running. I want to extend a special thanks to those who have stayed in their positions but now find it time to step away from those positions; Barbara Fike and Angie Neasham. Barbara has served as the Board Secretary, keeping information moving and tracking all of the due-outs. Angie has been our chief communicator, keeping the Rooster Tales coming out and keeping the community informed. For many people, these two extraordinary people have been the face of Arizona Emmaus for the past several years.

As we say farewell to those who have served the community so well, we are also welcoming some new faces. You have elected Ginni Hoagland to serve as the Board Secretary (replacing Barbara Fike), Rebecca Williams will replace Angie Neasham for Communications, Nancy Oyler will fill the vacant Gathering Chairperson, and Vicki Williams will fill the vacant 3-day Chairperson position. Yours truly has the opportunity to serve as the Community Spiritual Director, replacing Rev. John Fairchild. There remain several vacancies that need to be filled, significantly the Community Lay Director-Elect and a South District representative. I'm reminded of the story, "Whose job is it, anyway?" The story goes like this: *This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.* There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

I always see two problems with this story. The first is that Somebody needs to do the job. The second is that the story makes it sound like anybody can do every job or that anybody is better than nobody. The reality is that some people are better suited for some tasks than for others, yet within the community we have all the skills and knowledge to be able to do just about anything. Our board positions require that a person have served on a couple of walk weekends in the Arizona community so the person has experience and perspective, along with a few leadership skills. Some of the positions require a certain number of walks (often at least two) and some require a certain number of walks in specific roles (e.g. must have served as a Weekend Lay Director or Assistant Lay Director). The positions require a level of commitment, similar to that of a local church committee (i.e. regular committee meetings, work on tasks outside of meetings, communicate with other board members) but with some travel involved for some of the positions (we are, after all, the ARIZONA community and not limited to a small geographic area). COVID-19 helped us learn the value of ZOOM though, so at least some of the meetings don't require travel any more. One of the great things about serving on the board though is that because we have a shared experience, we also have some overlap in skills and knowledge so nobody has to do everything by themselves.

I believe that the Walk to Emmaus is the best experience of the love of Christ that a Christian can have. The weekend is designed to guide a person on their personal journey with Christ surrounded by others who are experiencing the same thing. Each will have a different moment that was a highlight; the stations of the cross, the Agape Feast, candlelight, the first agape bag, the banner, the Bible... The thing is though, that each of those would have been far less meaningful if not shared with others and not part of the whole weekend. Each person in the Emmaus community has a mission to share the love of Christ with others. Each person in the community has the opportunity to invite someone to experience the love of Christ on a Walk weekend. The weekend is not for everyone and thousands of people have known Christ's love without the Walk to Emmaus (no one NEEDS to go on the Walk to Emmaus). The weekend is best experienced by a person whose energy is beginning to flag or who is overburdened by tasks at church (we all know the person at church that says yes to everything and gets worn out trying to do it all!). They deserve to go on the weekend. The Walk to Emmaus is not designed to be an initial formative experience, but rather a rejuvenating experience. Perhaps you can see yourself working to ensure someone else experiences God's love in that unique way a Walk weekend displays it. Perhaps you can think of someone you would like to sponsor to attend a weekend so they too can bask in the love of Christ as it is heaped upon them by a loving team.

There are still so many thoughts running through my head of things I'd like to say, but for now I think I will be satisfied to say that those ideas will wait for future messages. I am excited to have the opportunity to serve you as the Community Spiritual Director. I look forward to hearing from you and to meeting you as we journey together on this Walk to Emmaus.

Carl Peterson
AZ Walk to Emmaus

Help us Welcome our newest Board Members!

Our newest Board members will be commissioned at our July Board of Directors meeting. Please help us welcome the following new members:

Rev. Carl Peterson (Community Spiritual Director): Pastor Carl was ordained as an Elder in the United Methodist Church in 2018, but has been serving as clergy (first as a Licensed Local Pastor, then as a Provisional Elder) since 2005. His pilgrim walk was #135 held in 2003 at Catalina UMC in Tucson. Since then, he has served as a cook, a table leader, an assistant spiritual director and a weekend spiritual director for Chrysalis, Walk to Emmaus (men's and women's walks), and Kairos Inside. He currently serves as the pastor at Sierra Vista UMC. He has previously been appointed to Grace UMC and El Divino Salvador IMU (Douglas, AZ), Huachuca UMC (Huachuca City, AZ), Payson UMC (Payson, AZ), and St. Michael's UMC (Lake Havasu City, AZ). Before entering vocational ministry, Pastor Carl worked as a senior manager for an information systems services company where he managed all aspects of computer software systems development and maintenance. Pastor Carl is married to Bonnie and they have three adult children who all live in AZ.

Virginia (Ginni) Hoagland (Secretary): After learning from the Board that The AZ Walk to Emmaus was in threat of losing aspects that are vital to the experience, I felt the need to take action to prevent these changes. I have served Christ through Emmaus walks for many years in different roles and I would be honored to serve again as the secretary for the Board. I have had many experiences in my professional life in healthcare that will help me to serve as secretary as we move forward together spreading Christ's love. I have participated in weekly grouping since my pilgrim walk (#176) and believe in the importance of community with others. The Walk to Emmaus has touched my soul in such an intimate way and I would welcome the chance to serve again so that we can continue Christ's mission.

Rebecca Williams (Communications): After going on my Walk (#86) in Arizona, I served on a Chrysalis team as an assistant table leader. I later moved to Nevada and became involved in the Southern Nevada Walk to Emmaus (SNWE) community. At the time, they did not have Chrysalis going. Another fellow Emmaus Alumni and I teamed together and we were able to relaunch Chrysalis for SNWE. I later moved to be the Gathering Chairperson. When I moved back to Globe, AZ in 2005 with my new husband we were led to open a Boutique Resort called Dream Manor Inn. We hosted several local gatherings for the Globe-Miami Emmaus/Chrysalis and Cursillo community. I have sponsored several Pilgrims and Caterpillars (including Pastors and their wives). I have served on several teams, up to the ALD level. I have regularly grouped weekly since my original Walk. What led me to volunteer was I was looking to see when AZ Emmaus was going to have a Walk...when I didn't see anything scheduled, I read our Rooster Tales and saw there were several needs which prayerfully led me to volunteer for the board. We sold our business last year and are retired. I am looking forward to serving our Emmaus/Chrysalis community again for His glory.

Vicki Williams (3-Day): I wrote to the Board volunteering to serve as 3-Day chair because Emmaus changed my life. I served as 3-Day chair before and served most of my Walks on the 3-Day team so I have experience on both positions. Serving my Lord is a daily commitment since my Walk in 2000 (#113) and it has given me an abundant life. The answer I received when praying was to offer my service. One of the main reasons to volunteer is I was on the Board when Emmaus tried to get us to conform to their idea of what the AZ Walk to Emmaus should be. I cannot let that happen if I can help. The AZ Walk to Emmaus is unique and if we let it go and come back under Upper Room it will never be unique again. It will lose the joy that runs through it that shows pilgrims what service to Jesus brings to their lives. Thank you.

Nancy Oyler: (Gathering Chair): I attend Lakeview UMC in Sun City and I would like to serve as the Gathering Chair. My walk was #125 almost 20 years ago. I have served on many Walks. I have been the Westside Gathering Leader for over 8 years. I also sell the Emmaus Shirts and Agape items at the Gatherings. I feel that I can help the other parts of Arizona find Leaders, Churches and Pastors to get the Gatherings started again.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2023

Community Lay Director **Anne Marie Davee**
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Community Lay Director - Elect **TBD**
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Secretary **Barb Fike**
 602-568-3114 .. Secretary.azwalk2emmaus@gmail.com
Treasurer **Mary Ann Crist**
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Agape **Deniece May**
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4th Day **Bill & Janine Cluck**
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Music **Ed Taylor**
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Pre-Emmaus **Amy Fredrick**
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Chrysalis Chair **TBD**



July 2023

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