

# Rooster Tales



**Vol. 25 No. 8 – September 2024**

Hello AZ Walk to Emmaus Community,

A big “THANK YOU” to the entire community for stepping in and making Walks 261 and 262 the Best Walks EVER! Thank you to Trinity Heights UMC for allowing the AZ Walk to Emmaus to occupy their facility for the two weekends. You are gracious hosts and we appreciate you!

AZ Walk to Emmaus is once again building momentum. We need everyone’s help to keep the momentum going. We have great teams who are preparing for Walks 263 and 264. If you wish to agape items or your time to the teams, please let Ann Bernal (480-745-0564) and Red Hinkley (623-332-4127) know.

Donations are always welcome. Your donations help pay for insurance, licenses, the storage facility, scholarships and much more. Thank you to all who make regular donations. Your new Community Lay Director Elect, Jackie Mudd, has graciously taken on the service of Registrar. She has hit the ground running and is doing a great job. If you wish to sponsor a pilgrim for Men’s Walk 263 or Women’s Walk 264, please get those applications in soon. We have not yet set an end date but space is limited to 20 Pilgrims per Walk. We know that God has a plan to fill the walks and create waiting lists again.

In the past, the AZ Walk to Emmaus has had people in their local churches act as church representatives. If you are a church representative, have been a church representative or wish to be one, please let me know. I would like to restart this program.

Finally, the Board of Directors still has openings for Registrar, a Southern AZ Representative, and a Northern AZ representative. If you wish to join the Board of Directors in any of these positions, please let us know.

Sincerely,  
Marsha McClintock  
Community Lay Director

Pray for Upcoming 2024 Fall Walks at Christ Community  
United Methodist Church in Avondale, AZ.

Men’s Walk #263 on 10/10/24, Lay Director Red Hinkley  
Women’s Walk #264 10/17/24, Lay Director Ann Bernal



Dear Friends,

What keeps you going? We all have days that present challenges and some may even cause us to question our faith. St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (354- 430 AD) prayed the words from Mark 9; "I believe, Lord, help my unbelief." I have always found comfort in the notion that even people of renowned faith, such as Augustine, humbly admitted to having times of lack of faith. Thomas, the disciple of Jesus who is often referred to as Doubting Thomas, only wanted to have the same evidence that had been presented for his fellow disciples. It makes my moments of doubt and questions seem more normal and I know that there are answers to be found that will restore my faith.

Energy is a different issue, though. There are days that I start out doing nothing and I don't get it all done so I do more nothing the next day. The problem seems to be that can be habit forming. Jesus did not call us to be followers to do nothing. In fact, a few times the Bible records disciples leaving to go home because they did not have the commitment to do what he asked of them. Micah 8 tells us that we are "To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Jesus tells us that we are to love God and others and ourselves. That's not supposed to be a "best two out of three" but the best we can do all the time. There are so many great programs in the church and an increasing number of secular groups that serve the needs of the needs of the community. It is easy to get stretched thin and overdo our volunteerism. It seems that we do not get much recognition for the work we do in the church, even if it is a lot, but God knows what you are up to. On those days that are hard to get going, do you put working on your faith first? Faith is what gets us through the most difficult days. When we are bone-weary and out of ideas, God has a plan. Self-care is vital to all we do, but living the ideals of Christian faith is not something we can do only when we are energetic and in the public eye. It is a lifestyle of confidence in God who created us and who died for us.

Your Emmaus community needs your contributions. Time, energy, knowledge, money, whatever you bring to offer; God will put it to use. The Walk to Emmaus has been the cause for many people to make the decision to enter into vocational ministry. The Walk to Emmaus has been rejuvenating for thousands of people. What did your weekend walk with Christ mean to you? What does it mean to you now? Do you need to get recharged? Consider signing up to help on a team. Attend a Gathering. Talk with your grouping siblings. Talk with your pastor. The Walk to Emmaus was not intended to be a three-day retreat and then nothing. It is the beginning of a renewed Walk with Christ.

I pray that you will find ways that you can stay connected to your Emmaus community. Let us know what you need from Board of Directors and we will try to make it happen. Do you have someone you'd like to sponsor but want to wait until there is a walk near you? That only postpones getting your friend into the community while we serve the entire state and is that really helping the body of Christ? I believe we have a great program and it is worth the time and energy to bring someone to a walk weekend wherever and whenever one occurs.

De Colores,  
Carl Peterson  
Community Spiritual Director

**Next Gathering:**

Come join us on September 14, 2024 from 3-5 at  
Song of Life United Methodist Church.  
20164 S Sossoman in Queen Creek, AZ 85142  
Enjoy Praise Music, Fellowship, Sharing and  
Communion



## **Grouping**

I've been grouping for close to 25 years. Don't be too impressed... it's been 33 years since my Walk #29. Life was overwhelmingly busy then, with a baby on the way, a challenging toddler, and a husband who's work kept him away from home a great deal of the time. And so, I refused to group in the beginning.

Fast forward to a move from Holbrook to Globe, and a church with new Pilgrims! One of those, Rebecca Williams (currently Communications Chair for our Arizona Walk to Emmaus) was a reluctant Emmaus Pilgrim who caught fire during her weekend, and immediately wanted to do that grouping thing. So she gathered some of the women and grouped at one's house. When she heard that I had gone on a Walk and wasn't grouping, she called me. I politely told her why I couldn't group. So she and the others began to write me a note every single week... "Missed you at grouping this week. Hope to see you next week." Every. Single. Week.

Finally, I relented and started to go. And so began my journey with these ladies... which over the years changed, expanded, contracted... but one thing has never changed. Grouping is the most consistent and Jesus affirming experience of my life. On those weeks when my "Discipleship Denied" experiences outweigh my "Closest to Christ" weeks, my grouping sisters are always loving and affirming. Remember, "What is said in group, stays in group," which leads to deep sharing and healing.

That original group dissolved when Rebecca decided to move to Las Vegas. However, my husband, Rick, and I found that there were two Episcopal Cursillo couples looking to group as couples, and so our home became our grouping place for 4 or 5 years.

Grouping can look like many things. All Methodists... Methodists and Baptists (eek!)... I've even grouped with those who are unchurched. I've grouped in homes, and I've grouped at Judy's Cookhouse (a kind of a Denny's). In fact, I really like grouping at a restaurant. Not only can you get food, but wonderful God moments happen that would not have happened otherwise. The table next to us, or the manager or waitress would come over and ask us to pray for them or with them!

So, if you aren't grouping... GROUP!! Talk to your sponsor, someone you know who has been on a weekend, your pastor... whoever it is who is laid on your heart. I pray that the Holy Spirit will lay it upon your heart, and that you get a longing to share your life with others in this deep and meaningful way. In Christ Jesus I pray.... Amen.

Lee Ann Powers, Walk #29



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 .....



September-2024

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