

Rooster Tales



Vol. 14 No. 11

December 2013

Gathering/Hoot/Training Schedule

Flagstaff Area:

Dec 14 - Kaibeto gathering 5:00 PM. Faith Bible Church
Sharon Richardson's email is sksparky1@wildblue.net

Jan 11- Trinity Heights UMC.

Training at 2:00 PM. Potluck at 5:00 PM with worship at 6:00. Childcare provided, if needed. Contact John ahead to schedule. *Sarah McGuire's email is samgmmcx5@aol.com and John Weber's email is jweber@junno.com.*

Jan 25 - Chino Valley UMC

1:00 PM for fellowship, snacks, music and communion. Plan to join us!
Jeannie Ward's email is cjward44@q.com/Phone 928-772-6760

Phoenix Area:

Dec 6- West Side Gathering at Spirit of Hope UMC, 14403 N 75th Ave, Peoria.. **Dessert 6:30 PM, Gathering/worship 7:00 PM** *Spirit of Hope's Valerie Fairchild's number is 623-824-1357*

Jan 11 - Paradise Valley UMC

Training 2:00 PM, **Potluck** 5:00 PM, **Gathering** 6:15 PM *Jim & Cindy McFadden's email is Cindymcfadden53@yahoo.com or call Jim 602-881-0328.*

Tucson Area:

Jan 18 - Sierra Vista UMC, 3225 St Andrews Dr in Sierra Vista

Potluck 5:00 PM/6:15 PM Gathering
Manny Abeles' email is mannyct1@yahoo.com

Yuma Area:

Jan 10 - Gila Mountain UMC, 12714 E N Frontage Rd

(Potluck at 6:00 PM/Gathering 7:00 PM)
AnnaMarie Sollars' email is amsazmama@aol.com

 Plan to "bee" at a gathering in your area.

Walk Schedule

Walk #227, Feb. 20-23, 2014 St. Paul's UMC, Tucson, **Don Booth**, Lay Director

Walk #228, Feb. 27-Mar. 2, 2014 St. Paul's UMC, Tucson, **Gretchen Lofgren**, Lay Director

Walk #229, June 5-8, 2014 Trinity Heights UMC, Flagstaff, **John Weber**, Lay Director

Walk #230, June 12-15, 2014 Trinity Heights UMC, Flagstaff, **Colleen Centner**, Lay Director

TRAINING TO SERVE GOD

Do you want to sponsor a pilgrim or to serve on a Walk weekend? Getting trained allows you to be eligible to do both of those things. Beginning in January, training will be available prior to every gathering in the Phoenix area. It is scheduled from 2:00-4:00 pm at PVUMC. If your church has six or more who would like to be trained as a sponsor or servant, special training can be arranged. Please contact 4th Day coordinator, Terry Price at 602-863-6975 to set up a time and place for the training. Please call if you have questions. De Colores!

~Terry Price



Jesus is the Reason for the Season! Don't get caught up in the busy-ness of the holiday to forget the real reason we celebrate.



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM

NO ONE NEEDS THE WALK TO EMMAUS!

I mean it, folks. I think everyone needs Jesus, but no one needs Emmaus. The Walk to Emmaus is a tool, like many others, that can be used for good - or for evil. And the title of this article comes from my overhearing yet another new pilgrim saying to a friend, family member or church member, "You need to go on the Walk!"

First, a statement like "You need..." infers that the hearer has less than an acceptable relationship with Christ. And that should not be the case. The Emmaus experience is not intended to be a conversion or evangelistic tool. Sponsored pilgrims are expected to be committed Christians who are (or could be) leaders in their church. The Upper Room Emmaus Movement's Mission is: "Empowering leaders through Emmaus & Chrysalis to be the hands & feet of Christ!"

Only two things are intended to happen on a weekend: grace is RE-experienced and faith is RE-explained. All of that happens in a sequestered, Christian community that surrounds the individual with God's unconditional love so that that person is given opportunities to have a one-to-one with Christ. The last activity on the weekend, in the sequestered community, is a commissioning. The Weekend Lay Director (WLD) says to the pilgrim, "Christ is Counting on You!" And when the pilgrim says, "And I'm counting on Christ!" the pilgrim is no more. He or she is now a "Fourth Day Leader Embodying Christ!" (if we've done our job of being the hands and feet of Christ.)

Don't elevate the three day weekend to some magical, mystery tour. It's not that at all! Do some fantastic things happen? Yes! But those things happen because the Holy Spirit is present and working in people's lives! On the weekend, Jesus walks in our midst as a table leader one moment, a cook another moment, a word of encouragement yet another moment. If the team becomes a servant, the Holy Spirit breathes new life into the pilgrim - through us - not through the weekend; not through any event or element of the weekend. God works miracles through people more than through events.

Here's a fact that almost everyone who's been on the Arizona Walk to Emmaus Board of Directors can attest to: At some point, every Emmaus team wants to do something special for their pilgrims that is not in the Official Emmaus Outline. If the board allows it, the next team often wants to replicate or exceed that effort. If the item/event/etc. makes it to a third weekend, it becomes tradition, i.e. "We've always done it that way!"

Three things happen when the Official Emmaus Outline is 'enhanced.' One, when additional 'things' are added to the weekend, future teams must contend with them. Good people with good intentions want more for the pilgrims. But that also means 'more' work outside of the work that the team is doing for the Holy Spirit. Second, the team's focus is directed away from the pilgrim and toward the special event. Finally, and this is the big danger when one follows a jealous God, when the weekend emphasis is on 'fantastic things,' the weekend replaces God by becoming an idol in and of itself. (Read the book *Gods at War* by Kyle Idleman.)

In our training this past weekend, your Board of Directors were reminded by our national leaders, "The less people know about Emmaus or Chrysalis, the more they want to change it. The more people know about Emmaus or Chrysalis, the less they want to change it." I don't often talk about the Devil because any spare time I have I want to learn more about God. But I'm reminded that the Devil doesn't just work through bad people. His best work is done through good people with good intentions who are ignorant of what they are doing.

Today is a new Fourth Day for you and me. I don't know what God has planned for you, but my latest marching orders include reviewing pilgrim applications and speaking with the pastor who signs the application. I want to inform them as well as assure them that the person we return to them will not be an Emmaus person but a RE-committed Christian, ready to serve.

DE COLORES!

~**Jim Ek**

Community Spiritual Director, AZ Walk to Emmaus



JUST A QUICK REMINDER: Please wear your cross as you would any other piece of jewelry. But **don't wear it Thursday evening to send-off.** DO wear your cross and name badge to gatherings, training and team meetings so we all can get better acquainted. Thanks so much for your help!



THE DIVERSITY OF THE WALK TO EMMAUS

Your Board of Directors have just completed a Regional Development meeting put on by the International Walk to Emmaus. All who I talked to felt it was well worth attending. For most of us, it was the first international conference we have attended. I had the privilege of attending the Friday afternoon pastor's conference. One of the speakers at the pastor's session was Victor Perez, retired International Spiritual Director.

One of the subjects Victor talked about was the diversity of Emmaus. Although sponsored by the Upper Room, we are open to all denominations of Christian churches. All that we require is that you be a baptized Christian and accept Jesus as your savior.

This diversity can lead to some problems on the 72-hour weekend. While the weekend is strictly devoted to the theology of God's grace some people will want to argue about subjects, some of which have been argued for centuries. Infant baptism or adult baptism are just one such issue. If we, as table leaders allow these arguments to fester, it can be a real detriment to the weekend. It will also not lead to any resolution. How can we resolve a disagreement that has festered in the church in some cases for centuries? It cannot be done in 72 hours!

If you are present in the room or at the table when these dynamics are present, please turn the matter over to a spiritual team member as quickly as possible. Do not join in the discussion or try to resolve it yourself.

If you are sponsoring, check with your potential pilgrim to make sure they can accept God's Grace as the sole theology of the weekend. If they have hang-ups on communion elements, mixed gender clergy, or any other subjects, please talk it over with your pastor before sponsoring.

Remember, the Walk to Emmaus is not for everyone. Maybe it would be best for the community if that person were not present. Check before you sponsor. For more insight on this, please talk to any Emmaus Clergy or to any board member. Please look forward to more articles on the training in the months ahead.
~Frank Northrup, Community Lay Director

Nine recent pilgrims went through training prior to the November gathering held in Flagstaff. They look forward to possible service on future teams for walk weekends and are excited about the responsibility of filling those walks through sponsorship. The northern AZ area is in the beginning stage of preparation for Walks 229 and 230 which will occur in June, 2014 in Flagstaff. There are plenty of good seats left, so pray about sponsoring a pilgrim today!
~**John Weber**, No. AZ rep

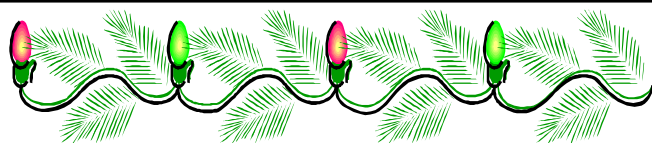
Church Reps: I Need Your Help!

Please go to the website and print out the WTE application. It has additional information (pilgrim and sponsor email addresses) to help me respond more quickly to pilgrims and sponsors when they apply to attend a walk. Thanks so much!

~**Janet Paterson**, Registrar

Welcome to all new community members!

Those of you who attended walks this year, we are so glad you did. Those butterflies who are now flying with Christ, welcome to the community. As we look forward to walks and Chrysalis weekends next year, let's keep each other in prayer. De Colores!



PHOENIX CHRISTMAS LIGHT PARADE IS COMING TO TOWN

Tres Diaz of Central AZ is inviting us to join them again for food, fellowship and fun!

When: Saturday, December 7, 2013

Where: First United Methodist Church of Phoenix, 5510 N Central Ave (northwest corner of Missouri & Central)

Food: Potluck at 5:00 PM

Fun: Parade starts at 7:00 PM
\$10 donation to church for parking

Bring camping chairs

Bring your kids (but no childcare)

This is a joint event with Walk to Emmaus

Plan your arrival carefully as Central Ave will be closed to traffic south of Bethany Home by late afternoon. Come early!



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