

Rooster Tales



Vol. 16 No. 4

April 2015



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM®

Gathering/Hoot/Training Schedule

Flagstaff Area:

May 16 - Trinity Heights UMC

Potluck at 5:00, gathering at 6:00 PM at

June 20 - 4th Day Dinner

John Weber's email is zjweber@juno.com

Prescott Area:

May 9 - Gathering at Prescott Valley UMC 1-3 PM.

A speaker from Kairos Outside will give us a preview of their weekends. Come prepare agape for June Walks. Light snacks provided.

Phoenix Area:

Apr 10 - 2nd Friday of each month Central UMC,
1875 North Central Ave. Phoenix, corner of Central &
Palm Lane, **6:30 PM Dessert/7:15 PM Worship.**

Apr 24 - 4th Friday of each month

West Side Gathering at Spirit of Hope UMC, 14403 N
75th Ave, Peoria.

6:30 PM Dessert/fellowship, 7:00 PM Worship.

Please call ahead to Valerie Fairchild at 623-824-1357, if child care is needed.

Apr 25 - West Side Training - Colleen Centner
Dove of the Desert UMC, 7201 W Beardsley Rd,
Glendale, 1-4 PM

Tucson Area:

**May 16 - 5:00 PM Potluck followed by worship/
communion at Desert Skies UMC, 3255 N**
Houghton Rd, Tucson

Manny Abeles' email is mannyct1@yahoo.com

Yuma continued in next column

- **Walk #235, June 4-7, 2015** Trinity Heights UMC
Flagstaff, **Paul Robinson**, Lay Director
- **Walk #236, June 11-14,** Trinity Heights UMC
Flagstaff, **Hazelee Robinson**, Lay Director
- **Chrysalis Flight, Sept. 5-7, 2015,** Catalina UMC
- **Walk #237, Oct 1-4, 2015** Paradise Valley UMC,
Don Davis, Lay Director
- **Walk #238, Oct 8-11, 2015** Paradise Valley UMC,
Rosemary James, Lay Director

The Nominating Committee of the AZ Walk to Emmaus Board of Directors is pleased to announce the following **slate of nominees** for the following positions:

Colleen Centner - 4th Day

Bob Cook & Robbi Fowler - Both to serve as Gathering chairs for mid-region of Arizona, including Phoenix

The entire 4th Day community will be asked to vote on these available positions at gatherings around the state in May. Please be certain to be at a gathering to cast your vote.

Thanks to all who submitted interest in these positions!

Ted Bachelder, Becky Case, Janet Paterson
Nominating Committee Members

Save
the
Date!

30th Anniversary of AZ Walk to Emmaus

Date: Saturday, October 24, 2015

Location: Central UMC, 1875 North
Central Avenue, Phoenix

Time: All Day!

Yuma Area: Potluck at 6 PM/gathering 7 PM

May 8 - First United Methodist Church, 298 W 3rd
St, Yuma

July 10 - Gila Mtn. UMC, 12716 E N Frontage Rd,
Yuma

AnnaMarie Sollars' email is amsazmama@aol.com

From the LaNoue Coop

I wanted to let all my Emmaus brothers and sisters that did not attend the March 13 and February 13 Gatherings, held at Central UMC in Phoenix know that we missed you! We will be at Central on the 2nd Friday of every month for the remainder of the year, except for October when the walks are held at PV UMC, and the 4th Day potluck held at PV in November. We come together at 6:30, for delicious snacks and fellowship. The Gathering begins at 7:15 pm, just like it was way back when (for those of us old enough to remember!)

Come join in the fun, visit with your fellow Emmaus brothers and sisters, listen to witnesses and share in communion. Don't wait to see that special Emmaus friend from your walk, or a walk you served on, give that friend a call, make a plan to see them there! To use a tired but true phrase, if you snooze you lose. We are several thousand strong in number in Arizona, but there are usually less than 50 people at our Gatherings, and this is true for the northern and southern Gatherings, also. I remember when there were 100 to 150 of us at *every* Gathering. Well, we have been snoozing long enough, let's get the fire going again at full blaze. With several thousand on the rolls, 100 to 150 attending should be easy enough, right?

Call a friend, let those in your Church know when and where, not everyone gets on the web site, rally YOUR group brothers and sisters. I know you are busy; just one Friday evening a month, it really is worth it!

Next Phoenix-area Gathering is being held at Central UMC April 10 6:30 -- 8:30 pm. I pray I will see you there.

Dusty LaNoue, Community Lay Director-Elect

Please **join me** in praying for other three-day events here in the US and around the world:

- 4/09-12 Upper NY- Closer Walk, Women
- 4/16-19 Green Country, OK Emmaus Agape, Men
Chattanooga, TN Emmaus Community,
Women
- 4/17-19 AZ Kairos Outside, Women
- 4/23-26 N AL/S TN New Covenant Emmaus, Men
Greater Columbus, OH Emmaus, Men
Peoria, IN Wall Agape, Men
Austin, TX Emmaus Agape, Women
Heart of OH Emmaus Community, Women
- 4/25-27 Central IN Emmaus Community, Women
Central IN Kairos Outside, Women
- 4/30-5/3 N AL/S TN New Covenant Emmaus, Women
Peoria, IN Wall Agape, Women
Green Country, OK Emmaus Agape, Women
S Africa Drakensberg Emmaus Community,
Men

Becky Case, Agape Chair



Have you moved?
Let your landline go?
Using a new cell number?
Have a new email?



The Lay Directors continually are frustrated when trying to reach servants once they are discerned. Can you help by contacting any of the Board members listed on the back page of each Rooster Tales and giving them your current information? Also, if you know of community members who have passed or no longer want to serve, please share that information, also!

We know people would love to serve. If you have not been contacted in a long time, but are still interested in serving on a team, please contact a Holly Case and make sure your information is correct in the database.

If God is calling you to serve, we want to be able to contact you!

Thank you for your speedy response!



UPDATE!



LAST-MINUTE TRAINING UPDATE!

An additional training will be held on **Sunday, April 19 at New**

Song UMC located at 16303 W Bell Rd in Surprise. Come at noon for lunch. Stay for training so you can be called to serve on a Walk weekend! Please call **Joyce Cardoza (951-310-6143)** if you plan to come for lunch.

Training will be 1:00-3:00 PM. Mark your calendar. Plan to be there! Janet Paterson will lead the training class. All are invited.



*Celebrate the risen Christ!
April 5 is Easter Sunday.*

Communique from Community Lay Director, Wally Athey

Each of you in the Arizona Walk to Emmaus community are probably well aware from where we get our name. On the Walk weekend, the Emmaus Road text from Luke 24:13-35 is read on Thursday evening as part of the Lay Director's first talk before going to the Chapel. And the story is told again as part of the evening devotion and reflection on Friday night with the aide of the "three dudes" statues. Luke's Emmaus road experience takes place on the first Easter afternoon when the risen Christ appears to the two disciples and explains to them all the scripture concerning himself.

However, it is not until Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to them that their eyes were opened and they recognized the risen savior. They were changed in that moment. And this change prompted them to return to their friends to share the good news. The same change can take place on a Walk weekend.

During a recent Board of Director's meeting, our Community Spiritual Director, Rev. Jim Ek, reminded each of us that communion should always bring about change. He said, "If you're not changed when you receive communion, it has lost its significance for you. It is in remembering the sacrifice communion represents that we are called to change ourselves and change the world in which we live." Rev. Ek urged each of us to look for that change and to recognize it when it occurs.

Over the past two-plus decades I've been part of this movement I've never been to a team meeting, Walk weekend, Gathering, Candlelight or Closing worship where communion wasn't offered. In my weekly Group Reunion, receiving communion during the last week is always my "2. Closest to Christ" moment. I feel confident of the change communion has brought to my life, but I may have always recognized it. Now I'm consciously looking for it.

My prayer for each of you during this Easter season and beyond is to be changed through communion with God and to proclaim the mystery of faith, "Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Alleluia."

Reversal of Fortune

My wife and I have been in a Bible study over the past 9 weeks. It is Beth Moore's series on Esther. Now, I've read Esther many times. Mostly, it's been because I didn't remember some of the details of the Jewish festival of Purim.

Beth is a bit of a drama queen. She does that for a reason. You see, the way I have always read scripture is to find out what God was trying to tell me. Coming out of a rules based upbringing and spiritual training, I was mostly looking for rules or procedures or paths to follow.

Beth doesn't do that! She brings the message to life and expands the least little things to bring out the flavor and excitement of both the First (old) and Second (new) Testament. And in Esther, Beth helps us to 'wonder' about the reversal of fortunes as we experience the 'wonder' of living a life of exceeding grace.

The name, Purim, comes from the word 'Pur' or lot. The story starts out with Haman casting 'Pur' to figure out when to destroy all the Jews. According to scripture, "The lot fell on the twelfth month, the month of Adar." That's our February/March timeframe. Well, to get the whole story, read Esther. That's where we find that the Jews prevailed because the tables were turned and thus Purim is celebrated on the 14th and 15th day of Adar. That was March 4th and 5th of 2015.

So, why do I bring that up? Well, we have our own reversal (among many) when Saul of Tarsus, the enemy of the Jesus movement, experienced one of the greatest reversals in history. (Well, it was for us.) He flipped from persecutor to promoter and started calling himself Paul (which was a Greek rather than Jewish name).

James, the brother of Jesus, watched this new figure on the forefront of Christianity and was very suspicious; even alarmed! (Don't you get it?! This Saul guy was chief enemy! He wanted to see you and me suffer and die!) How can we trust a man who had previously been dedicated to our destruction?!

The rest of the story is history (albeit, a very exciting one if you read it again)! What I find interesting is that the Walk to Emmaus program is designed to do the same thing that Saul did - start a fire under burned-out believers! And, for some who have never been on an Emmaus weekend, sat in true Christian community, and experienced the grace that God offers us daily in that community, the doubt is strong! Just go to the internet and look up 'Emmaus'. There will be both pro and con statements. People 'doubt' our integrity, our intention, our love.

Beth Moore pointed out one interesting fact about 'Pur' or 'lot'. The Hebrew word has other uses in scripture. It is also used to indicate 'destiny.' What is your 'Pur' now that you have experienced the grace of God?

In Esther, there is no mention of God. But one must wonder how it is that the Jews have endured, even thrived, all these millennia if not for the 'destiny' God has provided. Now there's faithfulness... Praise be to our Almighty, Everlasting, and Loving God!

De Colores,

Pastor Jim, Community Spiritual Director



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