

# Pilgrim's Journey



Walk to  
**Emmaus**  
THE UPPER ROOM<sup>®</sup>

**January  
2007**

"Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" Luke 24:32

## Houston North Emmaus Community

### FROM THE COMMUNITY CHAIR

#### Welcome to 2007!

HNEC had a GREAT Year in 2006 with seven wonderful Walks held at our new beautiful facility – Kaiserhof Retreat Center. All the 'kinks' have been worked out, and we are well equipped for our Walks this year, with two permanent golf carts, more coffee makers, and a solution to the need for bags of ice!

We have scheduled seven more walks in 2007 – Women's Walk #39 is just around the corner from March 8-11<sup>th</sup>. Walk 39 Team meetings began with team training on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Please keep the Lay Director, Jodi Lee; Servant Team Coordinator (STC) Tami Laugharn; and Spiritual Director, Rev. Cindy Hinson, in your prayers as they prepare their team.

We have all seven Lay Directors, all seven Servant Team Coordinators, and all seven Spiritual Directors in place for 2007 (listed elsewhere in this *Pilgrim's Journey*). They are a great, great group of leaders and we are very blessed to have them serve this year. Please, if you see them – give them a big thank you and a word of encouragement for the hard work they are doing to build their teams for God's work.

I encourage you to work a Walk – especially if you have not done so yet at Kaiserhof. Team Service and Day Servant applications can be found at this link on our website: [http://www.hnec.org/2007\\_applications.htm](http://www.hnec.org/2007_applications.htm). We are committed this year to honoring the tremendous gift of your time by keeping the hours required to the minimum needed.

Also, our first Gathering of the year is at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:30 pm. The HNEC Board will be hosting the meal for this Gathering, and Fourth Day members are asked to bring desserts. I encourage you to come out, spend some time with your fellow Fourth Day, and hear about all that will be happening this year.

And don't forget, if you plan to sponsor a Pilgrim, we now require that Sponsors be trained. Sponsorship training will be held just prior to the February Gathering (as with *all* Gatherings this year) at 4:30 pm. at Good Shepherd UMC. Sponsorship training is also available for any of our Fourth Day Church Communities' local Gatherings *upon request*. Just have your church's Emmaus Community Coordinator contact our Community Development Committee Chair, Tom Wanamaker. (See Board listing on page 10.)

We have seven new Board Members joining us this year: Rev. J. Larry Smith, Debbie Acord, Kirk Smith, Lindsey Tonroy, Tom Wanamaker, Shane Bird, and Joel Paulk. WELCOME and thank you for stepping up to serve HNEC. I know your hard work will be very rewarding.

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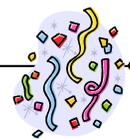
All of our current Board Members, along with their positions, are listed elsewhere in this *Pilgrim's Journey*. Please contact any of them at any time if you would like to get involved and help in their respective work areas.

Finally, I would like to say a big "thank you" to our retiring board members, who have finished their commitment to serve on the HNEC Board: Bill Maloney, Terry Bratton, Annette Smith, Jim Dennis, Rev. John Berny, John Allred and Debbie Parcel (being retained in an advisory role for CCLI music licensing). They all worked so very hard these past years, and HNEC owes them a debt of gratitude

I pray that God will continue to bless them, and all of you, with the blessing of His Grace in this New Year. I am excited about the prospect of serving with you this year!

DeColores!

Carl J. Spaeth  
Community Chair



## PILGRIM'S JOURNEY SUBSCRIPTIONS - NO MORE!

Until this year, HNEC has published and mailed the *Pilgrim's Journey* newsletter six times per year. The January and September issues were mailed to the entire Fourth Day Community mailing list, and the other issues were mailed to paid subscribers and to each Walk pilgrim for a period of one year after their Walk at no charge. This is in accordance with the HNEC By-Laws, which state that we will publish six issues per year, with two issues being mailed to all members.

Beginning in 2007, in order to save costs of printing and mailing so we can use those funds elsewhere, *we will print and mail only TWO issues--the January and September issues*. These issues will be mailed to the entire HNEC Fourth Day community mailing list. In order to comply with the by-laws, and because it is vital that we keep our Fourth Day community informed, we will continue to produce issues of the *Pilgrim's Journey* for the other months of March, May, July, and November. These issues will be *published via posting to the HNEC website at [www.hnec.org](http://www.hnec.org)*.

At this writing, it is our hope that we can establish email address lists for the pilgrims from the past year's Walks, distribute the *Pilgrim's Journey* **via email to each Pilgrim for one year after their Walk is completed**, and also send the *Pilgrim's Journey* **via email to any Fourth Day member upon request**.

Please note and remember that EVERY issue of the *Pilgrim's Journey* is posted to the HNEC website in PDF/Adobe Acrobat format and is available at any time for download. **For ongoing updates** to our Community's activities, we strongly encourage our Fourth Day members to **utilize the website**, as that is the place for the most current news, information, and forms.

**If you have paid for a subscription that has not yet expired and you wish a refund for the unused portion:**

1. Send an email to [communications@hnec.org](mailto:communications@hnec.org) with the details--amount paid, amount due back to you, your name, and your mailing address.
2. This information will then be forwarded to the database administrator for confirmation and then to the treasurer, who will issue you a check for the amount due.

Please contact me at [communications@hnec.org](mailto:communications@hnec.org) if you have any questions. Put "Pilgrim's Journey Subscription" or "Newsletter" in the subject line. Thanks!

Rhonda Fronk, HNEC Communications

## FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

### Building on the Hill



*"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."*

*Matthew 5: 14 – 16*

I love January. It's a great month. In January, we all get to close out another chapter of our lives and open yet a new one. In January we get to feel like we've been given a second chance....as new opportunities, challenges, and promises lay before us. Often we take time as the new year unfolds to reflect on setting new goals and concentrate on balancing new priorities.

As Christians, our greatest vocation is that of spreading the good news of God's unconditional love. As disciples of Christ, we find that as we grow in our faith, we find new ways of expressing that love. When we read Matthew's Gospel, we hear Jesus set the priority of our discipleship before us. He calls us the salt and light of the world and commands us to let our light shine boldly enough that all can see the glory of God through our works. We are encouraged to think about our good works as ways in which others see God's love for them and for all of creation.

This year, may we remember that our works of mercy, of compassion, of devotion, and of worship are the ways in which we let God's light shine through us. This year, may we remember that how we treat others is always a reflection of God's love and that our good deeds indeed bring glory to God and to God's kingdom.

Happy New Year! May this year be a chapter in which you take every opportunity possible to be bold in your witness, and may you have great joy as you continue your work in building on the hill.

*Rev. Kathy Kershaw  
Community Spiritual Director*

My friends in Christ, Happy New Year to everyone! Hope the year has begun with great expectations and hope as we look forward to seeing God's amazing Love work miracles in us as we serve others. Miracles come as a result of us giving our lives to God and His Kingdom work here on earth. This may mean "change" in our priorities, attitudes and thoughts as we serve the kingdom of God.

Marcus Aurelius Antoninius says, "The universe is change; our life is what our thoughts make it." As I thought about this statement, perhaps we should look more at our lives in Jesus Christ, and less on "change". May these prayers that have been most meaningful in my life, bless you this New Year!

#### A New Year's Prayer

"Dear Lord, please give me...

A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;

A work to do, which has real value, without which the world would be the poorer;

A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed;

An understanding heart; A sense of humor;

Time for quiet, silent meditation; A feeling of the presence of God;

The patience to wait for the coming of these things,

With the wisdom to recognize them when they come. Amen."

(Author Unknown)



**Personal prayer scripture:** "I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ." Philemon 1:6

*You are needed.* Ask God in Jesus Christ,

Where? How? When? WHY? "Because he gave you life abundantly." (John 10:10)

De Colores! Rev. Dr. Carolyn McCall

## 2007 COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

### 2007 KICK-OFF GATHERING

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD**

GOOD SHEPHERD UMC, CYPRESS, TEXAS  
HNEC BOARD WILL PROVIDE THE MEAL



### SATURDAY, MAY 5TH

THE WOODLANDS UMC, THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS  
WALK FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS FOR WALKS 39, 40, AND 41

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 4TH

CYPRESS UMC, CYPRESS, TEXAS  
WALK FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS FOR WALKS 42 AND 43



### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27TH

KLEIN UMC, SPRING, TEXAS  
WALK FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS FOR WALKS 44 AND 45  
BOARD ELECTIONS AND ANNUAL MEETING

WATCH THE WEB AT [WWW.HNEC.ORG](http://WWW.HNEC.ORG) FOR FLYERS AND FULL INFORMATION AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

## TEAM TRAINING 2007

To all of our LD's, ALD's, SD's, ASD's, and those who are prayerfully waiting for a call to serve on a 2007 Walk Team, we are planning to have a total of ONLY FOUR (4) team training sessions for the year. Lay Director Jodi Lee and the women of Team 39 had their first team meeting and Team Training on Saturday, January 13, 2007 at Fellowship of the Woodlands. This first Walk of the year will be our only Walk to have an individual single-team training session.

I am asking ALL OTHER TEAMS to tag-team with the Walk closest to yours chronologically (e.g., Men's 40 in April with Women's 41 in April, Walk 42 with 43, and Walk 44 with 45). Thus there will be three training sessions that accommodate the training requirements of two teams simultaneously. LD's will have to cooperate and, more importantly, communicate with one another early enough to make facility reservations at the home church of one of the two LD's. As Board Member for Training, I remain available at [jon.peterson@memorialhermann.org](mailto:jon.peterson@memorialhermann.org).

In ><HIS> Grip, Jon Peterson



## HNEC 2007 KICK-OFF COMMUNITY GATHERING

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD**  
**GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
20155 Cypresswood Drive, Cypress, TX (Fairfield subdivision)

Go to [www.goodchurch.us](http://www.goodchurch.us) for detailed map and driving directions.

HNEC BOARD WILL PROVIDE MAIN DISH AND BEVERAGES.  
Fourth Day members - Please bring desserts.

Childcare reservations must be made by Thursday, February 1st.  
Contact Carrie Palmer or Noreen Kennedy by phone at the  
church office - 281.373.2273.  
Or contact Noreen by email: [gsumcnk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gsumcnk@sbcglobal.net)

### Schedule for the evening:

- 4:30 P.M.    SPONSORSHIP TRAINING**  
Receive required training for sponsorship of pilgrims beginning with 2007 Walks.
- 5:30 P.M.    MEAL**
- 6:30 P.M.    COMMUNITY GATHERING**



## 2007 WALK INFORMATION

### Houston North Emmaus Community, Inc.

Registrar: Shane Bird  
15201 Mason Road, #1000-321, Cypress, TX 77433  
Email: [communications@hnec.org](mailto:communications@hnec.org)

All Walks at Kaiserhof Lutheran Retreat Center, 22610 Tuwa Road, Tomball, Texas  
<http://www.kaiserhofretreatcenter.com/>

#### Womens' Walk #39, March 8-11 (30 pilgrims as of 1/15/07)

Jodi Lee, Lay Director. Tami Laugharn, Servant Team Coordinator. Rev. Cindy Hinson, Spiritual Director.

#### Mens' Walk #40, April 19-22 (15 pilgrims as of 1/15/07)

Bill Maloney, Lay Director. Dan Chenoweth, Servant Team Coordinator. Rev. Larry Smith, Spiritual Director.

#### Womens' Walk #41, April 26-29 (8 pilgrims as of 1/15/07)

Sarah Moore, Lay Director. Lollie Duroy, Servant Team Coordinator. Rev. Kathy Kershaw, Spiritual Director.

#### Mens' Walk #42, July 19-22

Morris Davidson, Lay Director. George Skirm, Servant Team Coordinator. Rev. Ken Munn, Spiritual Director.

#### Womens' Walk #43, July 26-29 (3 pilgrims as of 1/15/07)

Margaret Fort, Lay Director. Kelly Freeman, Servant Team Coordinator. Rev. Patty When-Glowski, Spiritual Director.

#### Mens' Walk #44, September 20-23

Fred Baker, Lay Director. Hardie Davis, Servant Team Coordinator. Rev. Carl Williamson, Spiritual Director.

#### Womens' Walk #45, October 18-21

Marcie Huckabee, Lay Director. Annette Smith, Servant Team Coordinator. Rev. Dr. Carolyn McCall, Spiritual Director.

*Please pray for these persons and the teams they represent as they prepare their hearts, minds, and hands for service.*

#### Houston West Emmaus Community, Inc.

Registrar: Jan Vogel  
P.O. Box 631684, Houston, TX 77263-1684  
Email: [registrar@hwec.org](mailto:registrar@hwec.org)  
Website: [www.hwec.org](http://www.hwec.org)



Walk #38 (Men)	March 1-4 (a)
Walk #39 (Women)	March 8-11 (a)
Walk #40 (Men)	April 26-29 (a)
Walk #41 (Women)	May 3-6 (a)
Walk #42 (Women)	September 13-16 (a)
Walk #43 (Men)	October 18-21 (a)
Walk #44 (Women)	November 1-4 (b)
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(a) J BAR J RANCH, SEALY (b) KAISERHOF, TOMBALL	

#### Cradle of Texas Emmaus Community, Inc.

Registrar: Gary Foose  
P. O. Box 563, Lake Jackson, TX 77566  
Email: [gary.foose@agedwards.com](mailto:gary.foose@agedwards.com)  
Website: [www.geocities.com/cotemmaus](http://www.geocities.com/cotemmaus)



Walk #30 (Men)	March 22-25 (a)
Walk #31 (Women)	April 19-22 (a)
Walk #32 (Women)	July 12-15 (b)
Walk #33 (Men)	September 20-23 (b)
Walk #34 (Women)	October 18-21 (a)
<hr/>	
(a) TEXAS BAPTIST ENCAMPMENT, PALACIOS (b) THE LODGE AT DANBURY	

#### Houston Bay Area Emmaus Community, Inc.

Registrar: Edith Schultz  
P. O. Box 890134, Houston, TX 77289-0134  
Email: [registration@hbaec.org](mailto:registration@hbaec.org)  
Website: [www.hbaec.org](http://www.hbaec.org)



Walk #40 (Men)	June 21-24
Walk #41 (Women)	June 28-July 1
Walk #42 (Men)	September 27-30
Walk #43 (Women)	October 4-7
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WALK LOCATIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED.	

## COMMUNITY SERVANTHOOD

### Let's Get Together...and Serve!

Community Servanthood opportunities continue to fill up quickly, but all churches and individuals still have a chance to help serve the team and pilgrims on the walks this year. To serve in any area, please contact Lindsey Tonroy or Jeff Reinhart at the email addresses below and indicate if you will serve as an individual or will serve as a church community.

Lindsey Tonroy [linzlou23@hotmail.com](mailto:linzlou23@hotmail.com)      Jeff Reinhart [txjtr@yahoo.com](mailto:txjtr@yahoo.com)

#### **Thursday Snack Supper** for team and arriving pilgrims and sponsors.

Requires 6-8 people to arrive at 5 pm and provide food and service.

Open walks:

Walk #39 March 8th	Walk #42 July 19th
Walk #40 April 19th	Walk #43 July 26th
Walk #41 April 26th	Walk #45 October 18th



#### **Friday Egg Casseroles**

Requires 8 casseroles to be put together (but not cooked) and delivered on Thursday.

Open Walks:

Walk #40 April 19th	Walk #44 September 20th
Walk #41 April 26th	Walk #45 October 18th

#### **Saturday Agape Dinner**

Requires 16-20 people to arrive at 3:30pm to cook, decorate, and serve.

Open walks:

Walk #39 March 8th	Walk #42 July 19th
Walk #40 April 19th	Walk #45 October 18th



#### **Saturday Candlelight Parking Attendants**

Requires 6-8 people to arrive at 7:30 and direct traffic.

Open walks:

Walk #41 April 26th	Walk #44 September 20th
Walk #42 July 19th	Walk #45 October 18th
Walk #43 July 26th	

#### **Saturday Candlelight Luminary Team**

Requires 5-6 people to arrive at 7:00 to set up luminaries and take them down after Candlelight service.

Open walks:

Walk #39 March 8th	Walk #42 July 19th
Walk #40 April 19th	Walk #43 July 26th
Walk #41 April 26th	Walk #44 September 20th

#### **Saturday Candlelight Service Team**

Requires 4-8 people to arrive at 6:30 to set up the service area, act as ushers, and help pass out candles. They will also assist in taking down the chairs in the service area after Candlelight.

Open walks:

Walk #39 March 8th	Walk #42 July 19th
Walk #40 April 19th	Walk #45 October 18th
Walk #41 April 26th	

#### **Rose Providers**

Requires the provision of 48 roses for Sunday on the women's walks only.

Walk #43 July 26th  
Walk #45 October 18th

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE!**

**TEAM SELECTION NEWS****WANT TO WORK A WALK?**

Team Selection would love to have your application!



We have been asked in the last couple of years by many people if they needed to fill out new Team Service applications on a regular basis. Almost always the answer has been “NO”.

However, we have started using a new Access database and have discovered that some information is old or incorrect. We would love to have your information **completely updated**. We don't necessarily need you to list all of your team service information, but we would like you to send in your current contact information, such as telephone numbers, email address, physical address and any other data you would like us to know.

Sending in a new Team Service application will also let us know that you **WANT** to work a Walk to Emmaus. Some of you have been on a Team Selection list and we just could not find your information, so please help us out and send that in. You can **download the form** off of the website and **print it out and send it in**. We know that this is the world of email, but in this case, **snail mail would really help us out**; we would also have that physical record to go back and look at in the future.



**Musicians, especially**, would you ladies and gentlemen send us an updated Team Selection application and **list the musical instruments you play well enough to play on a walk?** We would really appreciate it.

**OK, so here's what you do:**

- 1. Go to the website at [www.hnec.org](http://www.hnec.org).**
- 2. Click on the “2007 Applications” button on the home page.**
- 3. Open up the “Team Application” form.**
- 4. Print it out.**
- 5. Fill it in.**
- 6. Mail it to the HNEC address on the form.**

God Bless you all and we look forward to hearing from you soon!

Steve Mackey, Janie Gulley and The Team Selection Committee



## SPONSORSHIP TRAINING & DAY SERVANT APPLICATION PROCESS

### Houston North Emmaus Community Sponsorship Training Required for 2007 Walks

Sponsorship is THE most important role in the Walk to Emmaus. Therefore, the HNEC Board has implemented a Sponsorship Training initiative. Completion of this training is now required prior to the sponsorship of any pilgrim on any Walk going forward.

Training sessions will be provided by the HNEC Board immediately prior to each HNEC community gathering. Board members (see Page 10) are available upon request to meet with your church's local Emmaus community and provide training in that setting. Local churches and reunion groups are encouraged to schedule sponsorship training in conjunction with their local gatherings and reunion group meetings.

*"Sponsorship is the act of your revisiting The Walk to Emmaus experience with the person whom God has laid upon your heart. Sponsorship is one of the most important aspects of The Walk to Emmaus and must be taken seriously. Sponsorship requires extensive prayer, diligent thought, careful planning and follow-through. The strength of an Emmaus Community is a direct result of its sponsorship practices." (a)*

(a) from *Sponsorship*, by Richard and Janine Gilmore

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## 2007 Sponsor and Pilgrim Applications

2007 SPONSOR and PILGRIM applications can be downloaded from our website @ [www.hnec.org](http://www.hnec.org), received via email through [communications@hnec.org](mailto:communications@hnec.org), or requested by telephone at 281.225.9831.

Please PRINT or TYPE applications, especially the email address. Sponsors should encourage Pilgrims to request three different Walk dates and to reserve those dates on their calendars. Walks are filled as applications are received and it is recommended that applications be filed three months in advance to ensure first choice of Walk dates. Walk placement **cannot** be reserved via email or telephone call--only by postmark on application.



### BEING A DAY SERVANT

In the position of "day servant", Fourth Day members have the flexibility of working individual days on Walks rather than committing to an entire weekend of Team service. Men and women can work on any Walks in the roles of Kitchen Servant or Chapel Servant. Agape Servants can serve in that role on Walks of their same gender only.

#### **TO BE A DAY SERVANT, FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS:**

1. Download an application from the web at [www.hnec.org](http://www.hnec.org).
2. Choose the Walk number, Walk day(s), and role(s) you want to work.
3. Send in the application form to the HNEC address listed on the form.

The Servant Team Coordinator (STC) for each Walk will review the applications. The STCs will then contact individuals and fill the needed positions on their Walks. If you are asked and agree to serve, you will submit the Walk fee of \$25 per day to the Servant Team Coordinator.

*Please note that the \$25 fee is required because Day Servants are subject to the same Walk expenses, such as insurance and use of the facilities, as are the weekend Team members. HNEC is charged per head by Kaiserhof for every Team member, whether weekend team or Day Servant.*

## YOUR HNEC BOARD

## ~HNEC 2007 Board Information~

**HNEC 2007 Board of Directors**

<b>Community Chair</b>	Carl Spaeth	281.379.6441
<b>Ass't. Community Chair</b>	Susan Kent	281.360.2886
<b>Past Community Chair</b>	Tami Laugharn	281.292.5607
<b>Secretary</b>	Joleen Wright	281.955.1173
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mike Kennedy	281.373.5468
<b>Spiritual Director</b>	Rev. Kathy Kershaw	281.379.1388
<b>Ass't. Spiritual Director</b>	Rev. Larry Smith	936.653.2288
<b>Past Spiritual Director</b>	Rev. Carolyn McCall	281.852.3065
<b>Agape (Internal and External)</b>	Jeanie Domingues	281.353.2436
<b>Books and Manuals</b>	Bill Swaim	936.588.3350
<b>Community Development</b>	Tom Wanamaker	281.367.7943
<b>Gatherings/Reunions</b>	Henri Kennedy	936.365.4504
<b>Kitchen</b>	Debbie Acord	936.588.0657
<b>Kitchen</b>	Kirk Smith	281.379.5993
<b>Community Servanthood</b>	Lindsey Tonroy	713.447.9962
<b>Community Servanthood</b>	Jeff Reinhart	281.537.0439
<b>Property</b>	Arch Kennedy	936.365.4504
<b>Property</b>	Fred Baker	281.462.0139
<b>Publications/Communications</b>	Rhonda Fronk	281.345.0761
<b>Team Selection</b>	Steve Mackey	281.441.8193
<b>Team Selection</b>	Janie Gully	281.296.8938
<b>Training</b>	Jon Peterson	281.320.2688
<b>Database</b>	Goran Haag	281.320.8064
<b>Registrar</b>	Shane Bird	281.225.9831
<b>Music</b>	Joel Paulk	713.686.8000
<b>Music - CCLI Licensing</b>	Debbie Parcel	281.894.6344

**2007 BOARD MEETING DATES SET**

All meetings will be held at Kaiserhof Lutheran Retreat Center in Tomball, Texas. Meetings fall on the third Tuesday of the month except for November and December, as follows:



February 20th; March 20th; April 17th; May 15th; June 19th;  
July 17th; August 21st; September 18th; October 16th; November 13th;  
and December 11.

All meetings start at 7:00 PM and are open to any Fourth Day who might wish to attend. Meeting agendas are set in advance, so anyone wishing to have a specific item placed on the agenda or with a desire to address the Board during a meeting should contact Carl Spaeth, Community Chair, at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Carl can be reached at [cjspaeth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cjspaeth@sbcglobal.net), or by phone at 281.379.6441.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

### A "PARADE" STATE OF MIND

My New Year's Day 2007 started at 4:00 a.m., getting up in time to attend the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. After having witnessed this beautiful spectacle in person for the first time, it has become my resolution for 2007 to adopt a "parade mentality" toward life.

First, a few facts about the Rose Parade:

- There are over 900 official volunteers of the Rose Parade who log a combined 80,000 volunteer hours per year.
- Each float has to be constructed of 100% natural materials—flowers, foliage, seeds, fruits, grains, etc.
- The parade route is 4-1/2 miles long and the parade goes on, rain or shine.
- The participating bands of the Rose Bowl teams march the 4-1/2 mile route, then immediately go to the stadium for a pre-game show, and then march during half-time. (My feet started hurting just reading about this!)

This year's parade theme was "Our Good Nature", celebrating the natural world around us as well as the display of good nature of God and humankind. There were 93 entries comprised of floats, bands (including the Kingwood High School band), dignitaries, and other special groups.

Since the parade was the beginning of a week-long vacation for me, I had some time to philosophize about it. I had to, you see, because, more than once I found tears coming to my eyes--you know, like what happens during a "closest-to-Christ" moment.

- First, the opening entry—a fly-over of an Air Force B-2A "Spirit" Stealth Bomber, flanked by two F-22A "Raptor" Advanced Fighter jets.
- Or when a lady on our row said, "Look! There's my niece Meagan!" Meagan was helping carry a banner, leading her high school band. The aunt yelled Meagan's name but Meagan did not hear. So the aunt rallied a group of us and on "3" we all yelled "Hi, Meagan!" I think we helped "make Meagan's day".
- The many unique animals in the parade—llamas, Andalusian stallions, miniature horses, donkeys, mules, and gypsy horses.
- From "Star Wars", Darth Vader, C3PO, R2D2, Ewoks, Jedi Knights, Obi Wan, and the 501<sup>st</sup> Legion of marching storm troopers.
- The beautiful butterfly floats.
- The pageantry, enthusiasm and joyful sounds of the marching bands.



Here are the words I thought of when reflecting on the sights and sounds of the day.

Power. Strength. Protection. Preparation. Organization. Order. Anticipation. Beauty. Inspiration. Pageantry. Sacrifice. Diversity. Unity. Joy. Laughter. Whimsy. Imagination. Endurance. Attention to detail. Engineering. Construction. Time. Spectators giving encouragement. Participants. Guides and sponsors. Celebrities. Tradition. Enthusiasm. Talent. Nature-creation. Nature-attitudes of the heart. Nature-of God,

So, what exactly is a "parade mentality"? It's those parade attributes that you can apply to your spiritual life.

1. A meaningful spiritual life requires planning, hard work, discipline, teamwork, and endurance.
2. Start each day with excitement and anticipation for what the Lord is going to accomplish.
3. Remember that the power of God, His Spirit, and His angels are doing "fly-bys" over you, protecting you, even when you don't hear or see them.
4. As a parade participant, make sure you have people in the crowd cheering you on.
5. As a parade spectator, give encouragement to those passing by who may be weary or struggling.
6. In the Body of Christ, there is beauty in diversity, and we must continue to strive for unity of purpose.
7. And the whole reason for a parade--CELEBRATE! Acknowledge the blessings of God's grace.

"Return to your rest, O my soul,  
For the Lord has dealt bountifully with you."  
--Psalm 116: 7

OK, gotta run. The parade is about to start!



De Colores, and Happy New Year!

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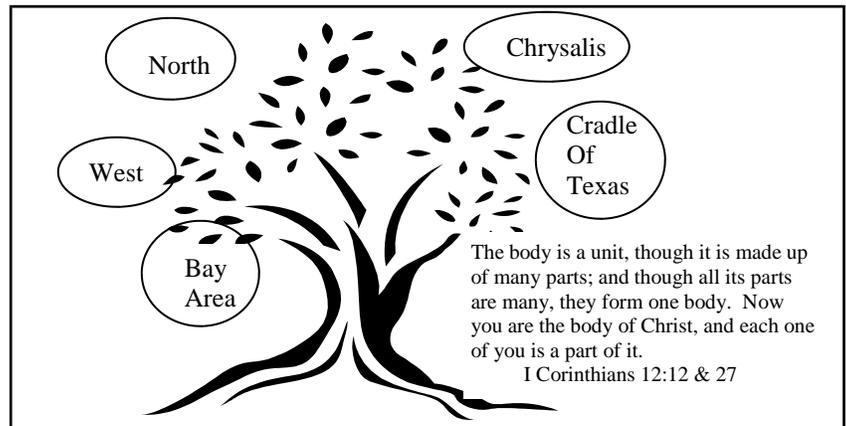
### **Deadline for Pilgrim's Journey**

Fourth Day members are encouraged to submit articles to be published in the *Pilgrim's Journey*.

The newsletter is published six times each year-- January, March, May, July, September, and November. January and September issues are mailed to all Fourth Day members in the Community. ALL issues are published to the website at [www.hnec.org](http://www.hnec.org) in electronic form and are available for download.

For permission to reproduce articles printed in the *Pilgrim's Journey*, please contact the editor as shown below. Original articles, Walk information, or other news items must be submitted by the 5th day of the publication month.

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