

Houston North Emmaus Community

Pilgrim's Journey

Volume XIII Issue I March 2017



He (Jesus) asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk long?” They stood still, their faces downcast, One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened in these days?

“What things?” he asked. “About Jesus of Nazareth”, they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in words and deed before God and all the people. The chief of priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning, but didn't find his body. They came and told us that he was alive.” Luke 24:17-23

From the Community Lay Director

De Colores!

We are blessed because we know this story, Luke 24:17-23. We know the truth with the blessing of the gospel!

I would ask you.... What are you talking about today?

We've all been given the gift of grace. We've also been given the gift of the “Walk to Emmaus” experience. With many of our churches celebrating Emmaus Sunday in February, I would ask you to pray about who you will sponsor and to share “Walk to Emmaus” with those your Heavenly Father puts on your heart. As part of our 4th day there is nothing more important than sponsorship. Here are two videos that might help answer Why Go On a Walk?

[It Might Be Time to Take a Walk](#)
[The Walk to Emmaus](#)

Will you share the gift of “Walk to Emmaus”?

Cindy van Rensburg, Community Lay Director
Houston North Emmaus Community

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HOUSTON NORTH EMMAUS COMMUNITY, INC.
6046 FM 2920, Box 201, Spring, TX 77379

WE ARE HAVING A GATHERING!

When? February 25, 2017

Where? Friendship UMC

22388 Ford Rd, Porter, TX 77365

Time? 5:15 pm – Sponsorship orientation

5:15 pm – Church contact meeting

6:00 pm – Community gathering

Last name A through L – bring main dish or casserole

Last name M through Z – bring salad, side dish, or dessert

Beverages will be provided

Let's get together and rejoice about the changes that God will plant in the hearts of this year's Pilgrims! This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce prospective pilgrims to the Emmaus Community.

For childcare reservations please contact [Sandra Harper at 832-651-7563](#) no later than Wednesday, Feb. 22nd.

**DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN FIND AND FILL OUT
All of the forms below on the website?**

[HNEC Pilgrim Application](#)

[HNEC Sponsor Form](#)

[HNEC – Sponsor Checklist](#)

[HNEC - Sponsor Request for Pilgrim Letters](#)

[HNEC - Information Sheet for Sponsors](#)

[HNEC Team Service Interest Form](#)

[HNEC Day Servant Application](#)

Remember.....

We now offer the capability to pay for walk fees for Team Members, Pilgrims, and Day Servants online via [PayPal!](#)

The 2017 Walk Schedule is published and pilgrims are needed!

Please check the following schedule, be in prayer for the walks, and help us fill our 2017 walks by contacting your prospective pilgrims and getting the application process started.

Men's Walk #92 - March 23 - 26
Women's Walk #93 - March 30 - April 2
Men's Walk #94 - July 17 - 20
Women's Walk #95 - July 24 - 27
Men's Walk #96 - September 21 - 24
Women's Walk #97 - September 28 - October 1

Remember.... We have a Men's walk scheduled this summer and both the Men's and Women's Summer Walks are **Monday - Thursday!** This decision was made to offer those on church staff and/or weekend workers and opportunity to experience an Emmaus Walk. I would ask for prayers for our Pastors and those working in our churches that they can attend the summer Walks.

When it comes to The Walk to Emmaus, prayer comes first, during, and after. Whether you are on the team, a sponsor, or a member of the 4th Day, prayer is the key to a successful experience for all involved.

The Prayer Vigil Signup pages are up for Men's Walk #92 and Women's Walk #93. There are links for the Prayer Vigils on the HNEC web site (www.hnec.org/) or you can go directly from here:

[Prayer Vigil for Men's Walk #92.](#)

[Prayer Vigil for Women's Walk #93.](#)

The opportunity to serve on a Walk whether on a Team or as 4th Day is a blessing! The links below will allow you to submit a Team Interest form and to sign-up to support 4th Day activities such as Candle Light, Closing, and others. You can also access the links from the HNEC site at www.hnec.org. If you have any questions you can e-mail serve@hnec.org.

[Click here for Community Servanthood opportunities](#)

[Click here for Team Service Information](#)



Partner with HNEC ... In Need of YOUR Help

Dear Friends of Emmaus,

Only **you** know how Emmaus has impacted **you** on **your** journey with Christ. Or, perhaps how it has impacted someone **you** know who has experienced the weekend. We are all thankful for these unique experiences, changes of hearts, and now we ask for **your** help in sharing the opportunity with others.

Your financial assistance to grow and sustain the long-term viability of our Emmaus Community is needed.

- 1) Emmaus Walk scholarships and fees:** Enables those on tight budgets to attend a Walk. Fees were increased from \$155 to \$180 to cover **\$5,000** budget shortfall in 2015. We hope to be able to offer greater scholarships where needed and encourage broader Emmaus participation.
- 2) Maintenance and acquisition of HNEC property:** Sound system (est. cost **\$3,000**) for Kaiser Hall (now borrowed), golf carts maintenance and replacement (Est cost **\$14 – 15,000**) (17 years old and aging), and other Walk-related equipment.
- 3) Maintain the quality of our current Walks, while offering financial assistance, as appropriate, to emerging sister Emmaus and other Spiritual communities,** in our area, Central America, and Africa.

Our Goal: \$30,000 ... ensures long-term planning and Emmaus community continuity.

Campaign runs from Feb 01 until February 28. However, you will be able to make donations after the 28th of February as well.

DONATE BY.....

- Online at www.hnec.org See “HNEC Donations” in left Menu for one-time or recurring donation options via PayPal.
- Send a check payable to HNEC Treasurer at the following address: Houston North Emmaus Community at HNEC, PO Box 9252, Spring, TX 77387. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Thank **you** for **your** prayerful considerations. Our fiduciary responsibility is paramount.

De Colores!

The Board of Houston North Emmaus Community

We welcome the newest HNEC member churches who joined last Summer:

Covenant Fellowship

Attn: Pastor David Valentine
1211 Financial Avenue, Suite 1
Huntsville, Texas 77340

Juncture Church

Attn: Pastor Kenneth Durham
1418 Dabney Drive
Pasadena, TX 77502

These churches bring HNEC church affiliations to 172!

Sponsorship Training Opportunities

In addition to the Sponsorship Training that will be offered before the HNEC Community Gathering on February 25th at Friendship UMC in Porter, there are other training opportunities available including:

- On **February 26th (Sunday)**, **The Foundry UMC** will offer sponsorship training at its Fry Road facility starting at 1:30 PM. If you are interested in attending e-mail Leroy Fronk at lfronk@gmail.com.
- Also **February 26, at The Woodlands UMC**, a sponsorship class is offered immediately after the Emmaus info lunch. The class should start about 1:30, and HNEC Board member Peter Eckdahl will teach. Peter's e-mail is peckdahl@aol.com.

If you are aware of anyone needing training that isn't available to attend prior to the Gathering on the 25th of February or the other two options please contact Peter Eckdahl at peckdahl@aol.com. Sponsorship training is always available at ALL HNEC Community Gatherings. Otherwise, any HNEC Board member is authorized to provide Sponsor Training. Either Peter Eckdahl and/or John Follis are available to train at your small group meetings by prior arrangement. Emergencies may necessitate a 1-on-1 training via telephone. Call us, we're available ... we're in the HNEC.org Board Directory. Additionally, newly authorized by HNEC Board is a "Sponsorship Primer" suitable to locate alongside your Re-union card ... in the "rainbow" card holder. Primer is a folded business card size. The Sponsorship Primer is a condensed version of the training presentation. All new 4th Day trainees should receive a "Primer" ... just as a reminder of how-to-do-it. Remember, HNEC Sponsorship Training methods are designated as "Best Practice" by The Upper Room.



Agape
YOU!!

thanks

The response to our email request for the Standard Agape needed for 2017 was very well received!! We asked...and you responded to cover all of our needs except a few.

We still need CROSS Lanyards and Book Covers. If you or your reunion/church group is interested in making these agape items, please contact Susan Bilberry @ susan.bilberry23@gmail.com

Love an AGAPE Servant.

For Internal /Table and Pillow Agape, here are a few reminders...

50 Pieces – Pilgrims & Table Leaders

75 Pieces – Pilgrims & Serving Team

Always make a few extra in case items are misplaced or broken.

Please label your bags, sacks, containers, etc. with the following:

- # of pieces,
- preferred time to distribute,
- Intended recipients.

Houston North Emmaus Community Board Meetings

Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at The Woodlands United Methodist Church from 7:00-9:00 pm. Fourth Day members are welcome to attend as guests. If you have concerns that you would like to address with the HNEC Board, you may contact Cindy Van Rensburg, Community Lay Director at cvr2@comcast.net at least 48 hours prior to the meeting, and you will be added to the meeting agenda

Pilgrim Applications

Please make sure you are using the 2017+ forms for pilgrim applications.

Application forms should always be submitted in a timely manner and keeping the following in mind:

- The maximum number of Pilgrims per walk is 36.
- Walk registrations can be accepted up until the beginning Walk date provided openings are still available.
- Applications are considered received in the order of their postmark date.
- For questions about pilgrim applications, status, etc., contact registrar UPDATE at: registrar@h nec.org
- For financial assistance on Walk fees, please indicate this need on the Sponsor's form.

Go to the "Applications and Documents" link on the web at www.hnec.org.

Community Related Sites

[Houston West Emmaus Community](#)

[Houston Bay Area Emmaus Community](#)

[Cradle of Texas Emmaus Community](#)

[Houston West Chrysalis Community](#)

[Cradle of Texas Chrysalis Community](#)

[Kairos Prison Ministry](#)

[Texas Epiphany Ministry](#)



All HNEC Emmaus Walks are held at the beautiful Kaiserhof Retreat Center.
<http://www.kaiserhofretreatcenter.com>





Looking for a way to participate on a Walk Weekend without serving on a team or even as a day servant?? Consider volunteering for 1 of the 6 options which fall under the **"Community Servanthood" area!** These are the "behind the scenes" activities that add another special layer to the pilgrims' Walk experience . . . Remember yours?!



Listed below are the Areas of Service:

Thursday Snack Supper

Requirement: 6-8 people

Arrival time: 5:00 pm

Task: Provide light supper for team and arriving pilgrims and sponsors

Saturday Agape Dinner

Requirement: 6-12 people

Arrival time: 3:30 for decorations; 4:30 for food preparation, serving, and cleanup

Task: Provide special Agape Dinner for pilgrims and team. Fourth Day persons from multiple churches can join together. If you want to serve, let us know and we will put you together with others.

Saturday Candlelight Parking Attendants

Requirement: 4-6 people

Arrival time: 7:15 pm

Task: Direct traffic to designated parking areas.

Saturday Candlelight Luminary Team

Requirement: 6-8 people

Arrival time: 7:00 pm

Task: Set up luminaries for pilgrim arrival and take down after Candlelight is finished.

Continued on page 10

Community Servanthood Continued

Saturday Candlelight Service Team

Requirement: 6-8 people

Arrival time: 6:30 pm

Tasks: Set up the Fourth Day service area in the Dining Hall; serve as ushers; hand out candles and then collect them; assist in taking down chairs in the Dining Hall after the Fourth Day service.

Sunday Moving Cleanup

Requirement: 4-5 people

Arrival time: 1:30 pm

Task: Move furniture from cabins to the conference room; move kitchen supplies from the dining hall to the property room; move agape supplies from the inn to property room; and to assist the servant team in the cleanup of Kaiserhof.

Rose Providers

Requirement: Individual or small group Arrival time: Saturday night or early Sunday morning

Task: Bring 4 dozen (48) roses to Kaiserhof to be handed out to pilgrims, table leaders, and assistant table leaders in their rooms prior to breakfast on Sunday morning.



To volunteer for any area of service or if you have any questions, contact HNEC Board members:

Leslie Townsend – 281.381.549 / letown01@hotmail.com

or

Orpha Haag -713.202.6738 / orpha@entouch.net

*****To see what opportunities are still available check the Signup Genius website at *****

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f4dabab23a57-hnec6>

Team Selection

Dear Fourth Day,

Team Selection again thanks you so much for your willingness to serve.

We have already had two mighty walks this year. The July women's team has been selected, but we will still need the fall teams.

Please continue to be in prayer for the teams that God is calling and for the pilgrims God is calling to these walks.

If you would like to serve on a team, please let us know if you have not already done so. You may register your desire to serve on a team by going to the HNEC website, and selecting "Team Service" under Fourth Day Community on the Left side. Read through if you have any questions and then look for the "Team Service Interest" link which will take you to the page to actually notify Team Selection of your interest. Names that are submitted through the website or any Fourth Day activity are brought to each Team Selection meeting to be considered for appropriate positions.

Please help us honor your offering of service if you presented your name this year but did not get a call to work a walk. Please re-submit your name and give us a note that you submitted your name but did not receive a call in 2016. We will try and give you priority for next year.

Please also help us to spread the word among our clergy! Remind them how the walk to Emmaus has deepened your faith and prompted you to serve in your local church. Encourage them to talk to the congregation about the Walk to Emmaus opportunity and, if appropriate, ask if they would be willing to serve as a clergy for a day or for the weekend.

Remember, Christ is counting on each of us!!

DeColores,

Robin Collier
serve@h nec.org

Note from Communications -

If you have not received any emails from HNEC yet this year (and haven't opted out of our email system) please let us know at communications@h nec.org so we can check on the problem. If you're not sure, we can send you a test email to check and see if our system can reach your email address.

You can find lots of information about handling your HNEC email at www.h nec.org/email, including changing your email options and changing your contact information in the HNEC data base.





Is Your 4th Day Reunion Group Listing Up-to-Date?

HNEC strives to maintain a comprehensive listing of [Reunion Groups on our web site](#) (**Reunion Groups** is the first item listed in the **Stay Connected** section of the menu). This information includes the day, time, and place when/where the group meets as well as contact information.

We need your help to keep this information current! Recently a 4th day moved into our area and attempted to contact some 4th day groups. There was some discouragement when calling the contact phone numbers resulted in “no longer in service” messages and emails were not returned.

If you are a member of an active 4th day group, please check our [Reunion Groups page](#) for the accuracy of the information about your group. If your group isn't listed, please forward the information about your group as seen on the page for other groups to communications@h nec.org and your group will be immediately added to the page.

A personal story.....*What Emmaus Means to Me*

I'm still new to this; went on Walk 80 in the Fall of 2014, and only knew about Emmaus vaguely from church alumni. Emmaus seemed secretive to me, perhaps too much so, but I couldn't argue with the lives and witness of those who had been. So, I went seeking an experience of God that would lead me to become more like them - the pillars of our church, but more than that they show a deep level of joy and commitment in serving the Lord. Looking around at those wearing the crosses, I could see those most involved in our food pantry, the Men's Bible study, our deeply spiritual choir director, and in general those willing to be there and serve the Lord and others. I seemed a slacker by comparison.

Did I find that experience? In a way, yes. God spoke through my table leaders and table mates, as well as the presentations. One person at my table who had an obvious and abiding peace and sense of God's love had been homeless as a teenager, before working his way through college. A pastor at a church he was doing a bricklaying job for led him to Christ, and he was then leading others to Christ with his wife and small child as house-parents at an orphanage. Later, God led me to drive my son the extra miles on the spur of the moment just so my son could meet him and hear his story. And of course, during Emmaus, seeing those who filled the chapel Saturday evening brought home some small sense of the reality and immediacy of God's love.

Coming home, my youngest said "Oh – you're all nice now." I hope the impact lasts, and I never go back, but keep open to ways to live for and serve Him. I trust it will, but one thing is certain – don't pray for opportunities to serve unless you mean it. The very next week someone may nominate you for a board position on an organization with which you're barely familiar.

Ed Kelly
HNEC Board, Communications & Agape

Let us share your story in upcoming editions and email Ed Kelly at ed.kelly@ihs.com.

HNEC at the Texas Annual Conference of the UMC

HNEC will again sponsor an informational booth at the Texas Annual Conference (Methodist) during the Memorial Day Weekend. Pictured is Stephanie Brassoan, HNEC Board Member. The booth represented the "Walk to Emmaus," not HNEC only, and the Houston West Community also helped to staff the booth.

Many Conference Delegates and clergy stopped for a visit. The 2016 TX Annual Conference was held in downtown Houston at the Hilton Americas. The Conference for 2017 will be at The Woodlands United Methodist Church, and staffing will be by HNEC Board members. Our desire is to include the other Houston Emmaus communities of Lake Jackson, Bay Area, and Houston West ... unity!

