

Near the Cross Emmaus



March 2011

Volume 6, Issue 2

Walks Coming in Just 4 Weeks !

Sponsors must act SOON!

It's time to send your sponsor forms to Registrar Bob Rogers. Near the Cross must have 20 men paid & registered by **March 11** and 20 women by **March 18** or the walks will be cancelled.

To get forms for Sponsors & Pilgrims:

www.nearthecrossemmaus.org

or mail to:

bobgoeagle@att.net
Bob Rogers, Box 11,
Blytheville AR 72416

Electronic Newsletter

Read the Emmaus newsletter on your computer before others get their edition by mail... in color, too! On the website click on "newsletter" in the blue column on the left side. Under 2011, click on "March" or whatever newsletter you wish to read. It might be fun to go back and read some of the early editions about the birth of a new Emmaus community.

You can save money for Near the Cross Emmaus by switching to the electronic edition. It costs us 24 cents to send a newsletter by mail, money that can be spent to help more Pilgrims attend future walks.

Just ask us to remove your name from the mailing list by clicking on the link on our web site or you can send an email directly to tommcdonald@gmail.com (note there is a lower case "n" between tom and mcdonald.)

We are working on a new plan to send your newsletter by email, so you do not need to do anything but open your email.

Home-Grown Directors

Grant McDaniel and Haley Mitchell are Lay Directors for the spring walks, while Bill Fish and Angie Gage will be Spiritual Directors. Haley and Angie were Pilgrims on Near the Cross Walk #2 in October 2006, so they are the first women's directors produced by Near the Cross. Jason Chandler was the first men's Lay Director produced by Near the Cross.

A native of Wilson, Haley was Class President at Rivercrest High School where she was a cheerleader and played softball in addition to working three summer jobs. A high energy young woman, she went on to earn a journalism degree at Arkansas State with a minor in marketing.

After her walk in October, 2006, she was baptized two months later by Rev. John Miles at First United Methodist Church, Jonesboro. Following the Emmaus guidelines, she has worked several walks to prepare for her job as Lay Director. She and her neighbor Kathy Garner are organizing a Reunion Group in their home of West Plains, Mo., 110 miles from Jonesboro.

Haley and her husband Justin own Colton's Restaurants in West Plains and Rolla, Mo. Justin is active in Emmaus with his spiritual and kitchen gifts.

McDaniel did his Pilgrim walk at Near the Cross Walk #1 and since then has worked several walks. A member of the Board, he was Registrar last year and currently serves as Treasurer.

Baptized at the age of 14 at Southwest Church of Christ, Grant has been on medical mission trips to Guyana 10 times, Honduras once and Zambia (Africa) once. He is devoted to walking, memorizing five books of The Palms during his quiet time.

Grant's mom, Jane, & his wife, Jacque, also are active in Emmaus. They have two children, Jenna (walk #12), a graduate of Harding University and Arkansas State, and Jackson, a junior at Harding. Jane is well known as host for St. Bernard's KAIT Channel 8 program on health. Grant has been an engineer at City Water & Light for 25 years.

**Sign up Now
For Prayer Vigil**
www.nearthecrossemmaus.org

Look for link in left column.



Men's Walk #19
March 31-April 3
LD: Grant McDaniel



Women's Walk #20
April 7-10
LD: Haley Mitchell



Sendoff: Thurs., March 31 & April 7
Jonesboro 1st Methodist
Family Life Center, 6:45 pm

Closing: Sun., April 3 & April 10
Jonesboro 1st Methodist
Family Life Center, 4:45 pm



Candlelight: Sat., April 2 & April 9
Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Walcott, 7:00 pm



Registrar: Bob Rogers
PO Box 11, Blytheville AR 72316



Newsletter:
Tom McDonald
PO Box 1385, Jonesboro AR 72403

**Near The Cross Emmaus
712 Buttry Drive
Jonesboro, AR 72401**

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Spanning Three Centuries

“My grandparents on my father’s side were born in 1849, and my parents were born in 1886 and 1887. Although all of my grandparents died before I was born, their viewpoints were instilled deep in our family traditions and had a great influence on my life. Since I was born in the 20th century and I’m still here in the 21st century, I reflect those areas in my personality and basic beliefs. Thus the three centuries,” says Betty Waser, Near the Cross board member in charge of the prayer vigil.

The world looked a great deal differently in 1922, the year Betty was born. Consider discoveries since then: radar, sound movies, television, sliced bread, antibiotics, Band Aids, microwave, jet airplanes, ballpoint pens, Nylon, helicopters, ATM’s, nuclear bombs, nuclear power, transistors, credit cards, computers, satellites, lasers, LED TV, plasma TV, quartz watches, the internet, the World Wide Web, email, cell phones, Walkman, CD’s, DNA, digital cameras, digital video recorders, Facebook and Twitter.

When she was a child, religion was very strict with the Sabbath observed as a day of rest. “I could read, play with my dolls, go for a walk and occasionally enjoy a picnic,” Betty recalled. “I was not permitted to go to another church other

other than Methodist and subtly encouraged not to foster Catholics for friends. (What a bigoted and closed life was observed.)”

“My Father was the head of our home as my Mother lost her health during the flu epidemic following World War One,” she continued. “Mother’s body was so stressed when I was born that she was diagnosed with Parkinson disease. At that time there wasn’t any medicine to treat that condition, and it took a rapid toll on her. She was privileged to receive one of the first medicines developed for it. There was slight improvement, but not lasting, nor really significant, and she lived only 14 years after the diagnosis.”

“Dad hired a young woman to care for Mother and take on the household duties for a family of four children: 2, 8, 12 and 14 years of age. She remained with us for the rest of her life, becoming as one of our family,” Betty continued.

Those who know Betty at the Cherokee Village Methodist Church are amazed at her packed schedule of activities: lead Bible study classes (presently *The Living Prayer* by Maxie Dunnam), assist in the presentation of the School of Mission study on *Joy to the World* and *Epistle of John*, with

Olive Kingsford, prepare for monthly communion, attend Emmaus reunion group, serve on the Labyrinth Committee, active in CVUMW and the Lydia Circle, volunteer at the Spring River Area Chamber of Commerce five days a week, five hours a day, serve as attendant at Fountain Place Independent Living Facility two Sunday evenings a month for five hours each, plus serve on three boards to provide services for the Developmentally Challenged individuals in the Network of Community Options, Fulton County Community Housing (secretary) and North Arkansas Special Housing (secretary).

**Final Training
March 12
For ALL workers**

**8:30 a.m.
First United Methodist
Jonesboro**