

Near the Cross Emmaus



January 2014
Volume 9, Issue 1

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, January 4
Community Gathering
FUMC Jonesboro
12:00 pm

Saturday, February 1
Community Gathering
FUMC Jonesboro
12:00 pm

March 6-9, 2014
Men's Walk #31
Mt. Zion Baptist Church

March 13-16, 2014
Women's Walk #32
Mt. Zion Baptist Church

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CHANGES TO NEAR THE CROSS BOARD IN 2014

The NEAR the Cross Board of Directors would like to welcome new board members Dan Brand, Jimmy Hudspeth, Christy Lemmons, Toy Morgan, Jerry Martin and Melissa Russell. Their terms on the board will be from January 2014 through December 2016.

The Board would like to thank Jimmy Anderson, Jeff Branch, Keith Churchill, Jim Markley and Sherri Slaven for their time served on the board over the last three years. Their time and leadership have been greatly appreciated by the entire community.

CONTACT INFORMATION NEEDED

As our community continues to grow, we strive to stay in contact with each other about upcoming events in the NEAR the Cross Community. The following is a list of community members that we no longer have correct email addresses for. If you have recent contact information for any of the following please forward the information to Newsletter Editor, Haley Mitchell at haley_jo_01@yahoo.com.

Blake Culbreath
Bob Taylor
Tina Cook
Callie Wagner
Candi Ibanez
Chad Daniels
Ron Clines
Carolyn Jones
Debbie Leisure

Lea Ann Vanaman
Peggy Sue Mizell
Amanda Roberts
Debbie Miller
Angela Newby
Ruth Ann Cain
Bob Burnham
Sally Williams
Sara Culbreath

Peggy Trail
Tony Hill
Jeff Puryear
Joe Kaiser
Jerry Morgan
Charles Thompson
Matt Holder
Stacey Orr
Sherry Redden

2014 WORKER APPLICATIONS NEEDED

Preparing for Walk Weekends is a process that starts several months before a Walk weekend even takes place. Walk dates have been set for 2014, and team preparation has already begun. If you are interested in serving on the Spring or Fall Walks in 2014 please fill out a new worker application as soon as possible and submit to Pam Slaven, Registrar. It is important for community members to fill out a new worker application yearly so that we have members correct contact information and worker history in our database for the team selection committee. Applications can be found on our website at www.nearthecrossemmaus.org or you can contact Pam Slaven at 870-919-2149.



Chrysalis is the growth stage between caterpillars and butterflies. While on the outside it may look like nothing is happening, however, on the inside, a very unique crafted change is taking place. This change, from a caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly symbolizes that through dying of the self, Christ can transform us into new people. Jesus Christ is able to change, re-do, or delete our old selves into a brand new person! However, we must be willing and open in order for Jesus to come into our lives and re-create this new person.

The name Chrysalis was chosen for the Young Adult Walk to Emmaus because it represents a growth of faith in the lives of college students and other young adults. This spiritual growth is vital to help the transformation between teens and adulthood.

Chrysalis is a three-day

spiritual renewal retreat that gives participants the opportunity to learn more about their faith and experience Christ's love and grace in a new and exciting way. It also provides the chance to make new friends and establish new commitments in their spiritual journey.

Participants or butterflies as they are called throughout the weekend, will spend three days surrounded by other young adults from throughout the state. They will experience the love of Christ through the prayers and many acts of service from a loving community of believers. Butterflies will hear talks given by other young adults, older adults as well as clergy. These talks focus on the needs of young adults in today's society and discuss the obstacles that we face as Christian believers. Each day consists of five talks followed by

a time of reflection and discussion with your group.

A Chrysalis flight is for young people aged 15 to 18. A Journey is for young persons aged 19-24. It is suggested for Emmaus communities to offer the one that best fits their community.

The NEAR the Cross Board has reviewed information and presentations regarding forming a Chrysalis Community in Northeast Arkansas. If anyone is interested in serving on the steering committee please contact: Jim Markley, Community Lay Leader at 870-761-5400 or at jmarkley_best@msn.com. Jim is also available for any further questions or concerns from the community regarding forming a Chrysalis Community. The board has not made any decisions thus far but is looking for feedback and support from the community on this matter.

2014 WALK DATES

**Mark your calendars. The 2014
NEAR the Cross Emmaus Walk Dates have been set!**

Spring Walks

Men's Walk #31
March 6-9, 2014

Women's Walk #32
March 13-16, 2014

Fall Walks

Men's Walk #33
October 2-5, 2014

Women's Walk #34
October 9-12, 2014



Find us on
Facebook

**This is a closed group
to keep in touch and
share our 4th Day
experiences, study
material, prayer re-
quests and praises.
This is not an official
page of the NEAR the
Cross Board of
Directors.**

4th Day Speaker

Marvin Day Speaks at November Gathering

I grew up in the church. I was active in our youth group, mostly for fun. When I was 14, I asked Jesus into my heart, on top of Petti Jean Mountain.

Over the next few years, honestly, I at best straddled the fence. At the beginning of my sophomore year of college, it was hard to see that I was even straddling the fence. I was doing stuff that was not where I really wanted to be in life. I had a senior come up to me and say "If this is what you want to do, that is great, but don't live this life because others are doing it." That was a fork in the road for me and I started a new path at that time.

During my junior year, I had a great roommate who got me involved with a campus ministry and a men's bible study. This was the first time I really started studying the bible and understanding the power of scripture and His word.

I started going to a church that invigorated me and made me excited about being a Christian. And this continued after college through my move back home to Jonesboro.

But then I started doing things because I "ought to". I went to Sunday school and I taught in three different classes. I was quickly getting burned out and I really didn't understand why.

A friend from my Sunday school class, Kevin Lawrence, asked if I would be interested in going to Little Rock to go to the Walk to Emmaus. I agreed and I learned a lot!

First, I learned that God loves you for who you are and forgives

you for where you have been. Second, I learned the Holy Spirit is real and strengthens you (I was burned out). And third, God has a plan.

During my Fourth Days, I have learned to lean on God and the Holy Spirit for direction and perseverance. God has lead me to tasks that I have not been comfortable with but He has strengthened me to do His work. God's strength is the only way to make it in this world!

The second point I want to make is on God's plan. We as human's make our own choices. Some good and some bad. Some are with God's plan and some are not. I have learned in my Fourth Day that God can use both our good and bad choices for His greater good, if we let him!

One more story and I will wrap up. I am a Civil Engineer by training. That discipline of Engineering can take you in many directions. Environmental, orthopedics, petro chemical, structural, construction and many others. I chose to be in construction. I developed skills in project management, budgeting, managing people and subcontractors. I had become quite good at this. I was co-owner of my business and outwardly things were good. My personality and work situation had developed me into a classic workaholic. My normal work day was from 7am to 6:30pm. I worked more than this during the summer. I worked 8 hours on most Saturdays. For a long time this was fine. My wife didn't mind and the

kids didn't seem to notice. But about 4 or 5 years ago, I had a couple things happen. One happened while I was in the duck blind with an older friend of mine. He had grown children and mentioned to me that when my boys turn 16 basically they are gone. That really hit home. I had already missed a lot. Is this what I wanted? I mentioned this to my wife and she said it was funny that I told her this because just the night before one of the kids said "Daddy is never home and when he is home he is not at home." Wow!

I think of this time in my life as my time as the mouse in the wheel. Work...provide for the family...work. I had not thought on the big picture at all. I look at this conversation in the duck blind, like the one I had in college with the senior. Was I doing what God wanted me to do? Why was I living my life this way? Was I being a good husband and father?

A lot of discussions and prayer followed. It was easy to decide I wanted to be a better husband and dad. I really struggled with giving up what I was good at for work. What would I do from here? The feeling of wasting my training overwhelmed me.

I made the change though. God used my training in other ways, such as helping with the plans for the new church building. More importantly, my life change has helped me minister to other men who need encouragement. DeColores!