

# Near the Cross Emmaus

October 2016  
Volume 11 Issue 4

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Follow-Up Meeting

Walks #41 & #42  
11:00am-12:00 PM  
FUMC Jonesboro  
Saturday Nov 5<sup>th</sup>

### November Gathering

12:00 PM  
FUMC Jonesboro  
Fellowship Hall  
Saturday Nov 5<sup>th</sup>

### December Gathering

12:00 PM  
FUMC Jonesboro  
Fellowship Hall  
Saturday Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Community Lay Leader**  
Grant McDaniel

**Community Spiritual Dir.**  
Dan Brand  
**Treasurer**  
Melissa Russell  
**Secretary**  
C H Overbay  
**Registrar**  
Joe Ferguson  
**Newsletter Editor**  
Colleen Wise

See Page 2  
for  
Ballot  
Information



[www.nearthecrossemmaus.org](http://www.nearthecrossemmaus.org)

## NEAR THE CROSS- BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS SEE BELOW FOR LAY NOMINEES

**Teresa Branch, First United Methodist Church, (Paragould)** Attended NEAR the Cross Walk # 14. Teresa lives in Paragould with her husband Jeff Branch. They have 4 children and 1 grandson. Teresa was Lay Director on Women's Walk #38. Teresa says that she has been blessed to serve on many Walks and she hopes to help grow the NEAR the Cross Emmaus Community and work for God to help strengthen the gap between God and His People.

**Gary Brooks, Caraway United Methodist Church-** Attended NEAR the Cross Walk #31. Gary is married to Becky Brooks and they have been married for 16 years. Becky attended Walk #34 and worked Agape on Walk #38. They have two children, Faith (16) and Austin (15). Gary owns Brooks Rental LLC where he manages rental properties for several different individuals and real estate groups. He oversees the day to day operations of over 100 different commercial and residential properties. Gary says he has been in love with Emmaus, both the ideology and the people ever since his Walk. He states he just can't seem to get enough of it! He has worked in the kitchen on Walks #35 & #37, and was blessed to be kitchen coordinator on Walk#39. He will be an assistant Table leader on Walk #41. Gary looks forward to being a member of this community for many years to come and serving God in whichever capacity the good Lord sees.

**Dewayne Crouse, First Baptist Church, Corning-** Dewayne is married to Ms. Alice Crouse and they live in Corning, AR, They have four children: a son in Graford, Tx and a daughter in Houston, TX. One daughter lives in Hoxie, AR and the other daughter lives with Dewayne and Alice. They have 6 grandchildren. Dewayne and Alice have been involved with NEAR the Cross for 5 years. Dewayne went on NEAR the Cross Walk # 23. Dewayne and Alice have served in the kitchen and Agape. Dewayne says he has enjoyed his association with Emmaus and wants to help anytime he can. He has the luxury of being able to go to the camp and help set-up and when he is able he likes to run errands for thing needed for the weekend. He says-"I have met some pretty awesome folks at Emmaus." He looks at this as a journey that we all get to take and how we respond to the opportunities we face each day helps make this a better journey.

**Kathy Murphy, First United Methodist Church, West Memphis.-** Kathy took her Walk to Emmaus at Noah's Of Ark Emmaus, Walk #117, table of Ruth. She is the mother of two beautiful, grown adults and the grandmother of none-YET! After retiring as an elementary school teacher, she became an advocate for children in foster care. The NEAR theCross Emmaus Community has provided many opportunities to grow along with this community. She was blessed to work Walk #1 and serve on Walk #40 as Lay Director. Her concept of God has evolved into a gracious, merciful and loving Father. Thanks to God and the Emmaus community. "I may not be where I want to be, but I am not where I used to be."

**Jeff Wicker, Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro-**Jeff attended the Near the Cross Walk #9. He lives in Jonesboro and is the managing partner of Thomas, Speight & Noble, CPA's in Jonesboro. Jeff's wife Debbie attended Walk #16. They have 5 children ages 27 to 3. Jeff credits his Emmaus experience as one of his spiritual markers in his life, and would love the opportunity to serve this community.

## CLERGY NOMINEES

**Rev. Cory Pfeifer, Pastor at Brookland United Methodist Church-** Am in my fourth year of pastoral ministry. Walk #13 was his pilgrim walk, and it truly did change my life. I had been struggling with my call to ministry for a while, and it wasn't until the time I spent with God on my walk that I truly knew what path my life was supposed to take. Since then I have been on the music team and spiritual team on the walks I have worked, including being spiritual director on walks #39 and #41. I am always excited to see how God works through this amazing community of believers to make lasting changes in not only the lives of our pilgrims, but in the lives of those around our communities and churches where those pilgrims live and serve. It has truly been a blessing to be a part of this community for the last six years.

**Rev. Casey Turner, Pastor at Jonesboro FUMC Church.** Attended Walk # 31 and is an Assistant Spiritual Director on Walk #41. Casey is married to Tiffany Turner, Walk #32. They have two children, Keaton 18, and Camry 23. Casey leads the Breaking Bonds ministry and preaches at the Elevations service on Sundays. Casey and Tiffany are active in the community. They have a passion to sponsor pilgrims!

## NEAR THE CROSS- BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

The board consists of twelve laypersons and three clergy elected at large generally. Five members are elected yearly, each serving a three-year term. This provides the opportunity to maintain continuity for the board, yet allows new members to be added each year. Such a procedure sustains the viability of the board and simultaneously maintains the vitality of the board. Please read through the nominees and cast your vote!

If both spouses are Emmaus members, you may vote with separate emails/ballots.

**Deadline: Must be Postmarked by October 31 OR**

**either Emailed or hard copy delivered by November 3rd.**

**Vote for (4) Lay Positions and for (1) Clergy Position. Submit ballots by mail or email to:**

**NEAR the Cross c/o Grant McDaniel, 2015 Rosemond, Jonesboro, AR 72401**

**Or [grantalope@suddenlink.net](mailto:grantalope@suddenlink.net)**

You may Email to Grant McDaniel at [grantalope@suddenlink.net](mailto:grantalope@suddenlink.net).

\*\*Voters please email your Name (or both Names) .

### 2017-2019 Lay Board Nominees

Teresa Branch     Gary Brooks     Dewayne Crouse     Kathy Murphy     Jeff Wicker

### 2017-2019 Clergy Board Nominees

Rev. Cory Pfeifer     Rev. Casey Turner

Name

Name

### Pilgrims Walk #41

Asa Boatman  
William Cecil  
Terry Dutton  
William Eubanks  
Brook Hively  
Gary Hoggard  
Chris Jarchow  
Mark Jordon  
Mike Leatherwood  
Chuck Lemmons  
Jonathan Young

Philip Northcutt  
Dirk Owens  
Lance Pope  
Robby Rigsbee  
Jessie Rogers  
William Sawyer  
Reggie Smith  
Chris Treadway  
Brian Tullos  
Scot Woodruff

Welcome  
New  
Members



### Pilgrims Walk #42

Anita Boatman  
Renee Butler  
Cassie Cambron  
Tesesa Cecil  
Brittany George  
Linda Halford  
Amber Huffman  
Becky Jones  
Jamie Jordan  
Doris Kail  
Misty Lacy

Claire Majewski  
Nedra Matthews  
Stella Mitchell  
Carole Montgomery  
Shea Nunley  
Wendi Rigsby  
Marie Schonewitz  
Debbie Thomas  
Heather Wallace