



# Fort Worth 4<sup>th</sup> Day Gathering News

Publisher Pamela Gann

August 7, 2009

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

### TAKE THE FIRST STEP

“Blessed are the poor in spirit” **Matthew 5:3**

“Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment” **Romans 12:3**

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble”  
**James 4:6**

“ Lord, we offer our prayers for those who need this the most, and for the ones who think they need it the least.” **Emmaus Walk Prayer**

At the congregation I serve, River Oaks United Methodist Church, we are in the process of starting a new Ministry. CELEBRATE RECOVERY is a Christ centered 12 step program which was started at Rick Warren’s Saddleback church in California. In the 12 Step programs the first step is expressed this way: “WE ADMITTED THAT WE WERE POWERLESS OVER OUR ADDICTIONS AND COMPULSIVE BEHAVIORS, THAT OUR LIVES HAD BECOME UNMANAGEABLE.” In Celebrate Recovery, this step is expressed first in Matthew 5:3, “Blessed are the poor in spirit” and then in this principle”: “I REALIZE I’M NOT GOD. I ADMIT THAT I AM POWERLESS TO CONTROL MY TENDENCY TO DO THE WRONG THING AND THAT MY LIFE IS UNMANAGEABLE.

Let’s be clear and look reality in the face with clear eyes and an honest answer. EVERYONE HAS HURTS, HANGUPS AND HABITS that are “obstacles to God’s grace” working fully in our lives. EVERYONE HAS MESSED UP AREAS OF THEIR LIVES AND EVERYONE HAS MADE, IS MAKING OR WILL MAKE A MESS OF THINGS. It’s human nature. It’s Sin. It’s the “I” in the middle of sIn. As Christians our problem is that we too often live in a world of pretense; pretending we have no problems and our public expressions of faith are too often a façade to cover our fallibility and failures. Our religious expressions are often just superficial habits and obligations that “keep up appearances” but which don’t help us become “NEW CREATURES IN CHRIST.” But there is hope. The Christian life is God’s recovery program. Paul, after speaking of his struggle with sin says, “WRETCHED MAN THAT I AM; WHO SHALL DELIVER ME FROM THIS BODY OF DEATH?” Then he says, THANKS BE TO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.” The key to recovery, the key to redemption, the key to salvation is Jesus Christ, but the proud and the self-sufficient can’t be saved (can’t overcome their hurts, habits and hang-ups) until they accept that they are poor in spirit and need God to save them. Any of us can become proud and self-sufficient and pretentious in our spirituality when it seems like we’ve got it all together and that all is going well. But sooner or later we need to return to our knees in humble recognition that we really do need God, the church, the Sunday school, the Emmaus movement with Gatherings and re-union groups,

our Christian family and friends and perhaps even a program of recovery. LET’S BE HONEST WITH OURSELVES, WITH GOD ( He already knows) AND WITH EACH OTHER. Let’s share our struggles so we can help each other live the saved life. When we recognize that we are poor in spirit, the riches of God’s grace pour out upon us for help and healing. So take the first step of salvation and of recovery and you will find that God does want to save you.

Bro. David



## AUGUST GATHERING

**7 PM**

August 21, 2009  
Benbrook UMC

Benbrook, TX 76126

817-249-1257

**Everyone is welcome!!**

**Keep our 4th day speaker in your prayers.**

The **September** Gathering will be at Crowley UMC. Note: Gatherings are held the **3<sup>rd</sup>** Friday of each month.

## 2009 OFFICERS

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## NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

**E-mail newsletter is FREE, send your e-mail address to: [Emmaus@HatLadyRealEstate.com](mailto:Emmaus@HatLadyRealEstate.com)**  
OR  
**Mailed subscriptions are \$6.00 for the 2009 year.**  
Make checks payable to FW Emmaus Community  
Mail to: Pamela Gann  
5013 Alicia Dr.  
Fort Worth, Texas 76133

## UPCOMING WALKS and FLIGHTS 2009

WALK	GENDER	DATE	LOCATION
<b>344</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Sept. 10-13</b>	<b>LSBC</b>
<b>345</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Sept. 24-27</b>	<b>LSBC</b>
<b>346</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Oct. 8-11</b>	<b>GLCRC</b>

Check our local web site for reunion groups, walk info and other information  
[www.fwemmaus.org](http://www.fwemmaus.org)

**Arlington/Mid-Cities, Fort Worth, and North Tarrant County's Joint **Christmas** Gathering. It will be at 1st UMC Mansfield on **December 11**. Get the word out! More info later.**



## A NOTE FROM YOUR LAY DIRECTOR

Dear Ones,

Can you believe this year is more than half over? How have you allowed God to use you so far? Have you listened for and answered God's call? Have you recognized those opportunities God has given you to witness for Him? Have you done so JOYFULLY? ("As a people of love, we will serve You with JOY!) I pray you answered "yes, Yes, YES"!!! And if you didn't, you still have the rest of the year to make up for it!

July was a glorious month for the Fort Worth and Central Texas Emmaus communities! We welcomed many new Pilgrims with the completion of Women's Walk 342 and Men's Walk 343. Fort Worth had the blessing and privilege of being Sponsoring Community for both so there were LOTS of opportunities for joyful service: the best Pilgrims, walks and teams ever! Praise God!

We offer thanksgiving for Susan Ferguson's (Rev. David Ferguson's wife) health situation. David and Susan we love you and we so appreciate your support of our Emmaus community throughout your ordeal! You inspire us and we love you and your family!

Calling ALL Sponsors!!! **We need Pilgrims.** As of August 3rd, here's the Walk Status Update:

Women's **Walk 344** beginning 09/10/09 has 15 Pilgrims: has NOT made the minimum

Men's **Walk 345** beginning 09/24/09 has 7 Pilgrims: has NOT made the minimum

Men's **Walk 346** beginning 10/08/09 has 7 Pilgrims: has NOT made the minimum.

Women's **Walk 347** beginning 10/22/09 has 16 Pilgrims: has NOT made the minimum.

The new Emmaus Worship books are available. The FW Community has pre-purchased 50 copies. You can purchase yours for only \$2; they will be available at our Gatherings. The Central Texas Emmaus Community will begin using them with the September Walks so you will need yours by September 12th for Candlelight. Yes, the Worship service has changed enough that you will need a new book.

This month's gathering will be at Benbrook UMC. Thank you so much, Benbrook Emmaus Family for welcoming us on such short notice! David and I will be in Florida for our youngest son's wedding, so we will be with you in the Spirit and look forward to seeing you in September.

Remember to glorify Him in all things!

DeColores with love,  
Eva Huey  
FW Lay Director for 2009

## On the Wings of Prayer: An Evening Prayer Experience at Genesis UMC

Churches in the Fort Worth District will be hosted by Genesis UMC in a special evening of prayer.

Mark your calendar now for a special evening of prayer at Genesis. You'll find events planned to enrich the lives of every member of your family.

**Worship and Holy Communion**  
Rev. Dr. Bob Holloway, District Superintendent  
Rev. Judy Holloway

**Prayer Opportunities**  
Singing Our Prayers    Praying in Color  
Writing Our Prayers    Walking the Labyrinth  
Dancing Our Prayers    Walking Meditation

## Specially Planned Program on Prayer for Children

**August 30, 2009**  
**5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Genesis United Methodist Church  
7635 South Hulen  
Fort Worth, Texas 76133  
Phone: 817-292-4551

Nursery available upon request. Call the church office by August 27.