



ROOSTER TALES

The Monthly Newsletter of the Pioneer Country Emmaus Community

February 2017

FEBRUARY GATHERING



The February Gathering of the Pioneer Country Emmaus community will be held on Saturday, February 18, 2017 at St. Matthew UMC, which is located at 300 N. Air Depot in Midwest City. The Gathering will begin with a pot luck dinner at 5:30 PM, followed by worship at 7:00 PM. During the worship service, we will be commissioning the teams for the upcoming Walks.

“Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.”

Luke 24:35(NRSV)

In This Issue

- Upcoming Walks
- Chrysalis Info
- Oak Park Retreat
- Meet Your Board
- Schedule of Events
- Board Directory

www.pioneercountryemmaus.com

Upcoming Walks

March is scheduled to be a busy month for Pioneer Country Emmaus! We need everyone's support to make the Walks successful!

ATTENTION: We need applications!!!

Chrysalis Flights

March 2-5

Men's Walk

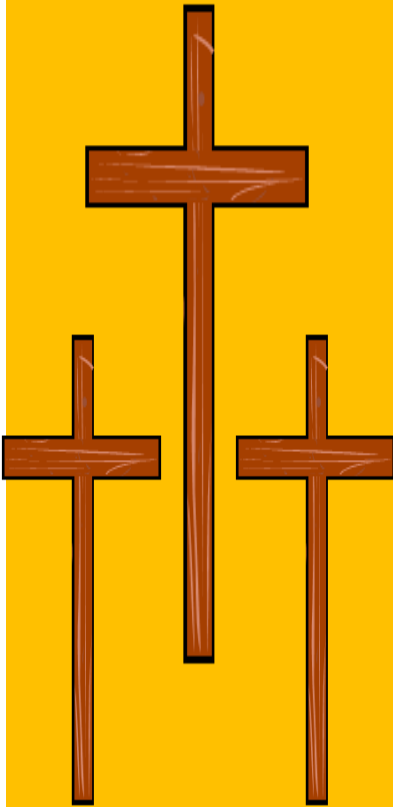
March 9-12

Women's Walk

March 23-26

The Teams have been chosen, and the training has already begun! Please be in prayerful thought about the Pilgrims and who you would like to Sponsor!

Applications can be downloaded from our website - www.pioneercountryemmaus.com.



What is Chrysalis?

Chrysalis "Flights" (for Freshmen in HS to Freshmen in college) and "Journeys" (for young adults, ages 19-24) are three-day events. This three-day spiritual renewal time provides an opportunity for you to learn more about faith, to experience Christian love and support, and to make new faith commitments. The point is to inspire, challenge and equip you for a closer friendship with Christ and for Christian action at home, church, school, and community.

Chrysalis lifts up a way for you to enjoy Christ's friendship and love and to be Christ's friend and partner in the world. The three days focus on God's grace, your experience with Christ as friend, what it means to be the body of Christ, and giving love to a needy world.

**See the attached "Special Edition"
Newsletter for more information about
Chrysalis!!**

Oak Park Retreat Center

Perkins, Oklahoma

More Pictures from Oak Park. The Emmaus Board went up there a couple of weeks ago to check out the facility again. There has been a lot of wonderful work done to get it ready!







Meet Your Board!

If you have any questions, any of these lovely people will be glad to assist!





Meet Your Board!

My name is David Smith and I am your current Community Lay Director for the Pioneer Country Emmaus Community.

When I was approached by my sponsor to attend the Walk to Emmaus, I was not familiar with the Walk, although I later found out that several members of my congregation at First Christian Church of Edmond had been on the Walk. My original Walk was #113 in February of 2009, with Don Cole as the Lay Director and Les Hastings as the Spiritual Director, and I can truly say that the Walk to Emmaus changed my life!

Not only did I continue to serve as the Moderator of Deacons in my church, but I immediately started working behind the scenes on Emmaus Walks, attended all of the Community Gatherings, and started participating on the Board of Directors, first as Facilities & Security, and then later holding the positions of Newsletter Editor, Assistant Community Lay Director, and now in my second year as Community Lay Director.

One thing that I have discovered since my original Walk is just how great of a servant's heart our Emmaus members have! What a blessing it has been to work with such amazing people on the Board, in the conference team on Walks, and behind the scenes at various events. I am so fortunate to be involved with such an amazing group of people!

I was born in Deaconess Hospital in Oklahoma City and lived all of my life in Oklahoma, except for the 4 years I spent as an over-the-road truck driver/trainer, which allowed me to visit some places that I never would have gotten to see otherwise. My work as a driver/trainer took me to all 48 adjoining states, and Ontario and Quebec in Canada. I went "back to school" in 1998, finishing an Associate's Degree in Applied Science and obtaining network certifications to become a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer. Since that time, I have worked in the technology field with Client/Server based computer networks, CCTV cameras, digital imaging projects, and Multifunctional devices (Print/Scan/Fax).

My wife, Kimberli, and I were married in March of 2013 and we moved to our new home in Stillwater in April of 2014, where we live with our diabetic and nearly-blind Yorkshire terrier, Missy. I have a daughter, Karri, who lives in Arkansas with her soon to be 2 year old son, and I also have a son, Christopher, who will be graduating from high school in Arkansas this year and will then be going into the Army Reserves. Kim and I are now members of Sunnybrook Christian Church in Stillwater, and we love being involved in the Walk to Emmaus!



@

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roostertales

Do you have a 4th Day Story?

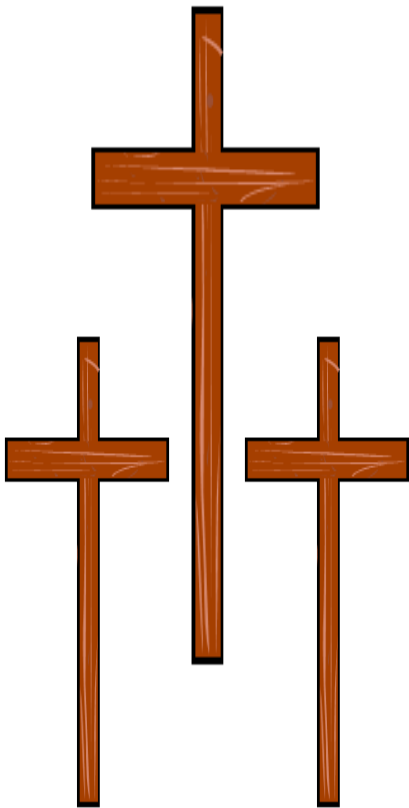
How about a good study or devotional that's worked for you?

Why not share them with the PCE community?

Email to:

roostertales@gmail.com

www.pioneercountryemmaus.com



CALENDAR

February Gathering

February 18, 2017

St. Matthew UMC

Midwest City, OK

Potluck dinner begins at 5:30 PM. Praise and worship follows at 7:00 PM. Childcare is by RVSP. Please contact Debbie Rowland at 681-2135 or 802-8113 to make the necessary preparations.

February 18, 2017

Board Meeting - 4:30 PM

February Gathering - 5:30 PM

Woship - 7:00 PM

March 2-5, 2017

Boys & Girls Chrysalis Flights

Oak Park Retreat Center

March 9-12, 2017

Men's Walk #143

Oak Park Retreat Center

Perkins, OK

March 23-26, 2017

Women's Walk #144

Oak Park Retreat Center

Perkins, OK

PIONEER COUNTRY EMMAUS

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ROOSTER TALES is published by the Pioneer Country Emmaus Board of Directors for the local Emmaus Community, with editions every month except for December. The Newsletter Editor, Linda Rinehard, can be reached by email at rooster-tales@gmail.com or by phone at 405-820-0888.



SPECIAL EDITION

The Monthly Newsletter of the Pioneer Country Emmaus Community

February 2017

This is a Special Edition Addendum to the February Emmaus Newsletter. I asked Jim Hinds to explain more about Chrysalis, and what it means to be involved with this group. I hope you enjoy learning about it as much as I did.

Linda Rinehard

~Editor

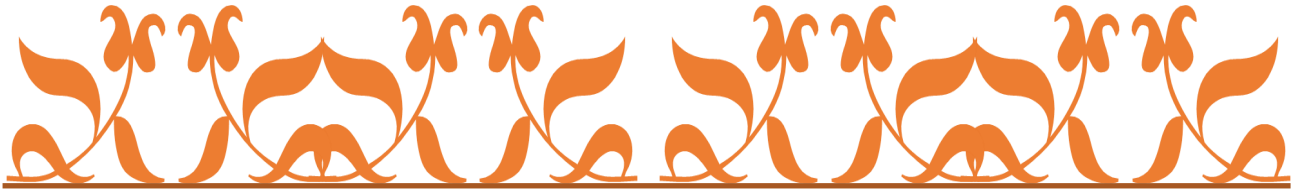
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Luke 24:35(NRSV)

In This Issue

- From a Female College Student
- High School Teacher
- Male Student Perspective
- Youth Director

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Perspective of a female college student:

Chrysalis is where I found my calling. During candlelight, God told me he wants me to teach people, and since then my goal has been to do just that. The school I go to, the scholarship I received, and even the major I chose is all because of God, and it started one night at Chrysalis. Not only did I find my calling, but I found a group of peers at my church who I can talk to about what's going on in my life. I can tell them when I feel far away from God, or when I feel he is right beside me. I can celebrate the things from God and, with their help, I can cast away the things in my life that are hindering my relationship with God.

The talk at Chrysalis armed me with enough knowledge to further help friends who were going through tough times. Just recently I had a friend with a question about her faith, and because of the tools I learned at Chrysalis, I feel I was able to give her enough information to seek out the answers God was giving her. One talk in particular that I remember was on Single Life. When you're a freshman in high school, it feels like everyone around you has someone, and when you don't have someone you feel like something is wrong with you. It is because of this talk that I realized I didn't need someone else to make my life complete. I was enough. More importantly, God was enough. I carry that talk with me still.

Youth should be encouraged to go to Chrysalis to prepare them for what happens after they leave the youth group. I have had a hard time finding a place to worship while in college, but it is because I set a foundation when I was younger that I am in the place I am today. Without the encouragement of the adults in my church, I would never have gone to Chrysalis. My life would be completely different if I hadn't become a butterfly. I'm glad I did.



Perspective of a High School Teacher

I've been a member of the Emmaus community for quite a few years. I've also been teaching and coaching kids in public schools for a decade, or maybe two, or more. How many? Well, we don't need to provide any fuel for discussions about one's age, do we? I only mention my experience to tell you this story.

I had the privilege of serving as a musician, along with a friend of mine, on a recent Men's Walk. During that weekend, a young man who'd attended Chrysalis a few years prior joined us. In all of the Walks I've worked, this is the only time I recall having the opportunity to mentor a Chrysalis youth in such a setting. It's obvious this young man has a God-given talent, and it was certainly a wonderful opportunity to meet and work with a young person who has a passion for music. However, the music part takes a back seat to the true joy I found in leading worship with a young man who is willing to put his talents to use for God and in the service of others.

As we spent time behind the scenes coaching this young man on the intricacies of the music ministry in an Emmaus weekend, I'm not sure who benefited more. It was during these times that I was reminded that the youth are not the future of the church; rather, they ARE the church. Right now. All we have to do is provide the opportunities for them to serve with the energy only a teen can muster.

All of my experience as a high school educator leads me to believe that these people are looking for purpose, and it is beyond measure the joy you experience when you see these kids find their purpose in serving God and others. Chrysalis and Emmaus are not meant to be "fixes" for people who are struggling with life events. These 3-Day events provide a solid foundation for people who are on the path of leadership in God's church. However, we all know that Pilgrims tend to walk away with a lot more than just knowledge of "Christianity 101."

From the perspective of a male college student:

When I was younger, my mother was the Children's Director at the church my family attended. I helped served and volunteered in the church any way I possibly could. I felt that my faith was strong and I had a close relationship with God.

I first heard of Chrysalis was from my father. He had joined the Emmaus Walk and was strongly encouraging me to attend the weekend. Although many people in the church community have attended. I was not really anxious to go. I was in the middle of the wrestling season and was preparing for a tournament. I certainly was not ready to give up my weekend.

Although I missed a couple of days of practice; I truly believe that this walk helped me rekindle my flame of faith and has helped me grow my relationship with Jesus Christ. The Chrysalis flight helped me renew spirit and show me how to live my life as a child of God. I am now the Music Intern at the University of Central Oklahoma Wesley Foundation. This walk has been a blessing and I would not be where I am without this amazing family.






Perspective of a Youth Director




In 2014, I found myself sitting at a table with a group of teenage girls, listening to them discuss theology. They had been presented with a topic they were familiar with: the Holy Spirit. But instead of answering text-book-type questions about what or who the Holy Spirit is, they were sharing about their experience with the Holy Spirit while other girls at the table listened and asked questions. They worked together to create a visual representation of what the Holy Spirit means to them. And in that moment, the Holy Spirit was present and working.

Serving in the Chrysalis conference room was a great experience for me as a Youth Director. I watched other people invest in the lives of my youth as they shared about their faith and taught my youth. I facilitated conversation as a table leader. This allowed me to listen more than I spoke. Over the weekend, I heard deep theological questions that young people were wrestling with. I also heard about parts of the lives of my youth that are not brought up during regular weekly youth programming. Chrysalis helped me to gain a better understanding of where my youth are in their faith journey and to identify areas of potential growth. Once the weekend was over, I was able to engage the youth in further conversations around those areas.

The youth who have participated in a Chrysalis weekend have become the leaders of the youth ministry. They exhibit an ownership of their beliefs, share openly and willingly about their faith, pray out loud, and volunteer for service opportunities. They provide leadership to other young people in the youth ministry by encouraging them to grow in their faith through conversation and prayer.

Chrysalis was especially transformational for one of my youth named Chris. Chris was a studious young man—very knowledgeable about the biblical narrative—but he was also very quiet, shy, and somewhat closed off at youth. Each week, he left as soon as youth was over. I was surprised that he chose to attend Chrysalis, but even more surprised when his Chrysalis flight was over. Chris came to youth the following week and was almost giddy to share about his experience, telling anyone who would listen. He has been transformed into a social butterfly who wants to be a part of everything. I truly believe it was because he experienced the overwhelming love of God in a new and very real way.

Sending your youth to Chrysalis has the potential to deepen their faith, ignite a fire in their hearts, and change their lives. Going to Chrysalis with your youth could change your relationship with them in ways that allow you to more fully encourage them to grow in their faith. And as your youth return from Chrysalis, they could transform the youth ministry at your church as they take on leadership roles and inspire others to boldly live out their faith.

Youth leading worship last Gathering



We need more of these
leaders! Please sponsor
someone for Chrysalis!

