



Northern Colorado Emmaus Community Northern Lights

December 2008

Why All This Fuss About Christmas?

John 1:14

Why all this fuss about Christmas? It's nice and all, what with the beautiful decorations and wonderful food. People tend to be a little nicer at Christmas, and we can't forget the gift-giving and receiving. But there are decorations and food at other holidays. People can be nice other times during the year, or don't need any excuse in order to buy gifts for others. Most people celebrate this holiday whether they believe in God and Jesus or not. So, I ask again, why all this fuss about Christmas? Re-read John 1:14. Who is this Word and why should it matter that He dwelt among us?

The Word was with God in the very beginning and was (and is) a part of God. During the creation of the world, God spoke. He used words to create, not His hands. In fact, God has always used words to communicate to His people. He commanded Noah with words to build an ark. God promised a nation to Abram with words. Telling Moses that he would rescue His people, again, He used words. God continues to speak to His people through the whole of Scripture, the written Word. And ultimately, that Word became flesh as prophesied throughout the Old Testament, including that of Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel-which means, 'God with us'. Jesus Christ, aka Immanuel, Messiah, Root of Jesse, Only Begotten Son, and Word (to name a few!), humbled Himself to take human form so that He could be with us.

The people no longer had to merely read the Word or hear the Word - they could see and touch the Word. But why would God want us to be able to see Him, touch Him, and look into His eyes? The answer is really quite simple: because God is love and love must be given away if it is truly to be love. In fact, Jesus Christ, the Word, gave us the ultimate gift that any one person can give, to another. But unlike a regular man, His death saved everyone, not just a few. One cannot experience the full joy of Christmas without looking forward to the glorious wonder of Easter. There really is no reason for Christmas if there is no expectation of Resurrection Sunday.

The world either doesn't celebrate Christmas at all or celebrates in such a way to celebrate themselves, i.e. parties, shopping, Santa Claus, the best Christmas home light show. Now, I'm not saying that parties and gift-giving are bad, if the center of everything is Christ. As Christians, we celebrate Immanuel. We celebrate the love of God, the continuing redemption story that was started in Genesis and unfolded in the coming of the Christ Child. The story continued all the way to the cross, to the empty tomb, to the ascension, and continues still with us.

So why all the fuss? Because God made all the fuss to begin with.

Prayer: Father, continually remind us why we, as Christians, celebrate Christmas. Amen.

Rhonda York ~ printed in the Broomfield United Methodist Advent Devotion 2005

Walk schedule for 2009

Date	Application	Location
April 16-19, 2009	Deadline: April 2, 2009 Apply here	Men's Walk # 28 -- First Christian Church 2000 N Lincoln Ave, Loveland, CO Map to First Christian Church
April 23-26, 2009	Deadline: April 9, 2009 Apply here	Women's Walk # 29 -- First UMC, Laramie 1215 E. Gibbon Street, Laramie, WY Map to First UMC, Laramie
April 23-26, 2009		Columbine Emmaus Men's Walk # 14 -- Id Ra Ha Je, Bailey, CO Map to Id Ra Ja He
April 30 - May 3, 2009		Columbine Emmaus Women's Walk # 15 -- Id Ra Ha Je, Bailey, CO Map to Id Ra Ja He
June 11-14, 2009		EOTR Women's Walk # 136 -- Hermit Basin 1699 Camino Rd. Westcliffe, CO Map To Hermit Basin
June 18-21, 2009		EOTR Men's Walk # 137 -- Hermit Basin 1699 Camino Rd. Westcliffe, CO Map To Hermit Basin
September 24-27, 2009 Apply here	Deadline: September 10, 2009 Apply here	Men's Walk # 30 -- First UMC, Laramie 1215 E. Gibbon Street, Laramie, WY Map to First UMC, Laramie
October 1-4, 2009 Apply here	Deadline: September 17, 2009 Apply here	Women's Walk # 31 -- UMC of Fort Morgan, 117 E Bijou Ave, Fort Morgan, CO Map to Fort Morgan UMC
October 1-4, 2009		Columbine Emmaus Men's Walk # 16 -- Id Ra Ha Je, Bailey, CO Map to Id Ra Ja He
October 8 - 11, 2009		Columbine Emmaus Women's Walk # 17 -- Id Ra Ha Je, Bailey, CO Map to Id Ra Ja He

Weekend retreats may need your useful items:

If any community member has no need further for a wheelchair, set of crutches, cane, or walker - a recent Board meeting approved an idea to solicit our community members who might have such an item and be willing to part with it. We never know when an accident, illness, or condition may exist so that one of our pilgrims might need these items temporarily; so, if you have one of the above mentioned items, please contact one of our board members.

Agape Items Needed

Wanted:

Agape items for the upcoming walks - Spring 2009

If your reunion group has made items please bring them to the next gathering!

Any questions, please contact Jorie & Pete Maggs @ 303-833-4201 or by e-mail at wegotchrist@comcast.net Thanks

WANTED:

Do you have a gently used projector? Did you upgrade or buy a new lap top and don't know what to do with your old one? Well, we do! The NCEC is looking for the donation of a projector and/or Lap Top to use at trainings and walk. This is a great way to help your community and get rid of your old electronics as a donation.

PLEASE contact Kim McAleb if you can help! Call 720-352-6334 or e-mail:

cajunoutwest@comcast.net

KAIROS CLOSINGS

Kairos Closings	Date	Contact
Sterling East #6	Mar. 8	tsonntag@hamilton.net
Sterling South #12	May 3	tsonntag@hamilton.net
Denver Women's #11	June 7	glendagaycondon@yahoo.com
Sterling North #14	Nov. 8	tsonntag@hamilton.net
Denver Women's #12	Dec. 6	glendagaycondon@yahoo.com

To join the prayer vigil Dec. 9-12, 2008, for E. P. Lima #1 (Peru), contact waynepark@aol.com

Chrysalis by Pat Campbell

I have had the great fortune to be involved in the Chrysalis program here in Colorado. It is the youth version of Emmaus and is targeted for boys and girls ages 15-23. This is an incredible ministry – not only for the youth, but for the adults who participate in it. It really gives you hope for our future when you see these beautiful young people spreading their wings and taking flight as butterflies.

Many people have had questions about the differences between Emmaus and Chrysalis and I would like to talk about some of them in this article. However, there are many differences and some of them just have to be experienced to be appreciated.

The weekend is very well scripted just like Emmaus. The central message of the weekend is the same, “God Loves you and wants to be in a relationship with you.” The talks are similar in the material that is covered, but there are a few differences. For example, there is a talk called Single Life, which is given by someone who is single. The marriage talk is given by a married couple and the same talk is given by both people at both the boys’ and girls’ flights. There is a talk called “Prodigal Daughter/Son” which is typically a very moving and pivotal talk for many kids. It is given in the chapel just before their Dying Moments service.

The Dying moments service is one that I wish everyone could experience. After preparation by the clergy, we are encouraged to write our dying moment on a piece of cloth. We then take the cloth and nail it to the wooden cross. The sound of the hammers pounding the nails in the quiet of the chapel is indescribable. After all the cloths are nailed, clergy remove them, put them in a can and we go outside to burn them in silence. The next morning during our chapel service we can see that our sins have been washed clean.

After candlelight, there is a party and the support team has the job of planning the theme for the party. With the events of the first two days and candlelight, this party is quite often a time of just plain fun.

The differences between Emmaus and Chrysalis are designed to reach the target audience of young people. It is a bit more experiential than Emmaus. They have a skit that is performed by the Support team called Ragman which brings tears to my eyes every time I see it. They do a clown communion – which starts off with humor, but turns serious as the clowns realize what the true gift really is.

Many kids who attend Chrysalis will come back and work future flights. The team composition is generally half adults and half youth. For example the leadership team is comprised of youth/adult pairs for each position. The tables have a table mom/dad and a youth table leader. This ministry requires adult participation in order to continue. The board of directors also is comprised of youth and adults. The board currently has several open positions.

I would like to encourage you, if you have a heart for youth at all, volunteer to work a Chrysalis flight. They follow the old model, where they select a full support team that attends all the trainings and stays on site all weekend. It is very high energy, tons of fun and a very rewarding experience.

For more information please visit the Chrysalis website at:

<http://www.emmausrock.org/chrysalis/index.html>

Thank You for a Job Well Done

It is time to say thank you to the Board members whose terms expire at the end of year. Their dedication and service to the Northern Colorado Emmaus Community has been a gift that will continue to be of benefit and joy to all of us as we work to reflect God's glory through the Walk to Emmaus.

Thank you to Jim Bessee. Jim has served on the Board in many capacities. His hard work as Facilities and Three Day Coordinator assured us that we would have locations for the Walks and the supplies that we needed. Jim's heart for Emmaus shone through each time he made the long trek from Cheyenne Wells to attend Board meetings and serve on Walks.

Thank you to Mark Janssen. Serving as our very own "Music Man", Mark faithfully brought us back to the heart of worship through the music he joyfully provided for our Gatherings. He reached out into the Community to give others an opportunity to share their gifts and talents. His wry sense of humor often kept the Board on track during meetings. (Mark, you scored the perfect 10!)

Thank you to Dan and Debbie Kiesel. True servants, Dan and Debbie have been an integral part of the NCEC leadership assuming a multitude of responsibilities. As Registrars, they were responsible for Pilgrim applications. Dan, serving as the Community Lay Director, led with humility and grace. Together they are examples of what true servant leadership is all about.

Thank you to Anita Williams. The well organized financial records and fiscal stability of the NCEC is in no small part due to Anita's work as Treasurer. Anita prepared budgets, paid bills, dealt with insurance agents, and the IRS. Because of Anita's diligence, there was never a question as to where the Community stood in relation to funds collected and disbursed. Anita was also responsible for the wonderful food enjoyed on many of the Walks. (Rumor has it that she is willing to continue to serve in that capacity.)

Serving on the Board is a blessing to those who serve, but that service also requires effort and a degree of sacrifice. The NCEC can truly say to each of the retiring Board members, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Although your tenure on Board is concluding, we know that each of you will continue to be an active presence in the life of the Community.

2009 NCEC Calendar

- January Gathering – Saturday, January 10th at 5:30 pm at Loveland Trinity UMC, 801 Cleveland Ave, Loveland, Colorado
- January Board Meeting – January 24th – this is a board retreat at Winter Park!
- February Gathering – Saturday, February 7th at 5:30 pm at Windsor UMC
- February Board Meeting – Sunday, February 8th
- And more... see [web page](#) for more information on our upcoming schedule and addresses for events

2008 Board Representatives

TITLE	NAME
Chairman and Community Lay Director	Perry Cogburn
Vice Chairman	Pat Campbell
Secretary	Rus & Kris Bakich
Treasurer	Anita Williams
Community Spiritual Director	Rev Tom Webster
3-Day	Jim Bessee
Facilities	Sue Poet
Agape	Pete and Jorie Maggs
Chrysalis Coordinator	Pat Campbell
Communications & Newsletter	Sherry Wells
Fourth Day	Perry Cogburn
Gatherings	Sherry Case
Kairos	Rus & Kris Bakich
Leadership Development	Todd & Renee Howard
Music	Mark Janssen
Nominations	Pat Campbell
Outreach	Open
Prayer Coordinator & Pre-Emmaus	Karl Winegardner
Registrar	Lisa Osler
Team Selection	Bill & Kim McAleb
Past Community Lay Director	Dan & Debbie Kiesel

Summary of Board Happenings in November:

--The election of Karl Winegardner, Judi Taylor, Elaine Prachscer, and Taylor and Milie Learning to the Class of 2011 was affirmed.

--The proposed by law change was approved by the Community

--The list of names proposed by the Team Selection Committee to serve on the Spring Walks was affirmed and prayed over.

--Team and Pilgrim fees for 2009 were set at \$75.00.

--If a laptop projector is not donated to the Community, the Board authorized funds to purchase one.

--The next Board meeting will be in January.

Bio from our Nominations Board Rep Pat Campbell

I am a Clinical Affairs Specialist and I work out of my home managing clinical trials for new medical devices. Many of my trials have been in such places as Russia, Hungary, Germany as well as the U.S. I attended walk #48 in Allenspark in October, 1997. I was at the table of Martha. I am a single parent, of two young adults, Brendan is almost 24 and Shannon is almost 21. I grew up in southern Connecticut, went to college in northern Connecticut and then moved all the way across the country to live in California for a couple of years before settling down here in Colorado. I have worked many Emmaus walks and Chrysalis flights as ATL, TL, ALD and HS. I was Lay Director for Chrysalis last January and recently was Lay Director for Emmaus walk # 27 in Allenspark. I am the worship chairperson at Good Shepherd UMC in Thornton and love participating in visioning the future of our church.

An interesting fact about me is that I used to perform in Sing-Out Monroe which was a local off-shoot of Up with People. We used to travel all over Connecticut and New York performing shows.

I have recently finalized my divorce and have begun the transition of going back to my maiden name of Olsen. With that new beginning, I have also returned to college online at Ashford University. It's time to finish up what I started all those years ago. I will be graduating in the fall of 2009 with a B.A. in Organizational Management.

More News from Nominations:

As chairman of the nominations committee, it is my honor and privilege to introduce our newest board members to you. They are the class of 2011:

**Judi Taylor
Karl Winegardner
Elaine Prascher
Taylor and Millie Leaming**

We are still short one position and I will be looking to fill that position by appointment after the first of the year. If this is something that you feel that God is calling you to, please feel free to contact me.

Pat Campbell

BIO from new Board Rep Judi Taylor:

Hi all! I'm Judi Taylor, currently living in Loveland, Colorado. On my walk in 1992 at Cedaredge, Colorado, I was at the table of Esther. Since that time, I've served on support on two walks on the western slope, as a silent table leader at a walk in Holyoke, as clergy on three walks on the western slope and one on this side of the mountain, and as Spiritual Director on three walks. I also served on the Western Colorado Emmaus Board for four years, before moving to the Front Range area. I have a daughter and son who live in Colorado, and a daughter who lives in Connecticut. I am currently serving as pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Loveland, and because that doesn't keep me busy enough, I am also serving as commander of the Loveland Police Chaplains, on the Loveland/Berthoud Salvation Army Board and as mentor coordinator on the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Don't Forget!

- † Don't forget the January Emmaus gathering — don't forget your rainbow book, name tag, and Emmaus cross.
- † Don't forget to prayerfully consider whom you would like to bless by inviting them to attend a "Walk to Emmaus".
- † Don't forget to get involved in a Reunion Group.
- † Don't forget to start thinking about table or pillow agape for the spring Walks.
- † Don't forget there are other Emmaus walks scheduled. Visit <http://www.upperroom.org/Emmaus/community/default.asp> to sign up for a prayer vigil in a far away place.
- † Don't forget "Christ is counting on YOU!"
- † Don't forget to count on Christ!

Visit the Northern Colorado Emmaus Community website often.

The address is <http://www.northcoloemmaus.org/index.htm>.

If you just love the praying Santa figurine on the header of this newsletter - please look for it at Currentcatalog.com, item # 475921.

To include an article or personal story in the January issue of Northern Lights, it must be received by December 22nd. Email it to Sherry Wells, Communications at:

cosherrywells@yahoo.com.

DeColores,
Sherry