

Central West Emmaus Newsletter February 2021

Meet us at the Gathering:

At Dubbo Church of Christ on Saturday 6th February
12.30pm Lunch – 2pm Gathering

BYO Lunch (we cannot share food, but tea and coffee are available)

The church is on Mitchell Highway, Dubbo, on the road to Wellington.

Gathering will also be available via Zoom



A special Welcome to Helen Paine, who has taken on the role of Community Spiritual Director.

From your Community Lay Director,

How did you spend your summer? Catching up with friends and family as much as border restrictions allowed? Catching up with jobs around the house? Looking forward to a New Year with hope?

I have been weeding the garden. Not just a few grassy weeds here and there, but ivy and jasmine and a passionfruit vine gone crazy. Hours of hauling on creeping tendrils and disentangling intertwined roots and stems that have loved the rain from winter and spring. Green bin full week after week, and trips to the tip with the trailer. And hours of thinking how easily I let sin create such complex tangles my life. But there is hope through Jesus our Lord, a new start each day with the past behind us and clear ground to sow something good and productive and beautiful, and a New Year of hope and change in our world, “fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith”, as it says in Heb 12:2.

What is God calling us to this year? We can certainly hold Gatherings, both in person and via Zoom, and we need the encouragement of meeting together. And look forward to Walks? We hope so, and your Board will be planning for Walks to take place in August or September when we meet together on Saturday. We have Lay Directors and teams who willingly made the commitment last year but were unable to follow through due to the restrictions in place at that time – if you are asked this year, will you respond to God’s call?

And as a young friend of mine told me in a text message:

Faith is trusting GOD even when you don’t understand His plan.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

De Colores

Avril



Community Spiritual Director...it happened....

Recently I was in conversation with my Pastoral Supervisor explaining some of the facets of my work here in the Territory. This year for me will be a year of letting go. A year of endings in many ways as it must be when one is considering retirement. As we reflected together, I was challenged to consider my calling, my sense of walking along side others on their journey, to encourage, to listen deeply, to be present with, and to acknowledge the gift this is.

I have found in my time in the Emmaus Community that often people who are surrounded by family and friends feel they are carrying their burdens alone. Our Emmaus Community encourages us to listen to the needs of others, to hear the plaintive cry from within. This care and concern for others is foreign to many, it's counter-cultural in our society. It's not about me but about us, about you and me, together, the body of Christ.

As we walk forward into this year, we will all be challenged in different ways. The world will never be the same again. Change must happen. We are called to look for new ways to encourage others,

new ways of celebrating who Jesus is for us and how we can share that with others. The old ways are not always the best ways and sadly we don't much like change but change we must.

Jesus gives a new commandment, to love one another as he has loved us. Loving is about respect, acceptance, giving, sharing, about being honest and open.

We read the Old Testament to hear the stories that carried the Israelites through their trials and tribulations.

We read the New, to understand what it means to be disciples of Jesus.

We read the Psalms to be reassured that God is always present, to sing God's praises through all that is, and to give thanks for the mighty gifts of God given graciously to us all.

I want to say a humble thank you for the invitation to be the Community Spiritual Director. I pray that I can live up to your hopes and expectations. I may be separated from you by distance, but you are all constantly in my thoughts and prayers.

**De Colores
Helen Paine**

A Community member has contributed the following:

Given that the focus of Emmaus is LOVE and ensuring that everyone is aware of how much God loves them, I thought this extract from a message I came across might be of interest::

Describing a biblical view of love turns out to be no simple matter. First off, the Bible was written in both Hebrew and Greek, and each of these languages has multiple words that we translate as "love." (On this count, Hebrew wins out with about a dozen words expressing a range of emotions from sexual desire to intimate friendship, and from covenantal fidelity to acts of mercy and kindness.)

There are also understandings of love floating around among different authors. So what the author of the Song of Solomon says about love isn't the same as what the author(s) of Genesis say, which isn't the same as what John says, which isn't the same as Paul ... and so on. All of which means that not only is there no single view of love in the Bible but any larger scheme you propose by which to organize these various treatises on love will inevitably fall short.

Nevertheless it may still be a useful, if far from perfect, endeavor. To get at it, I'll borrow the classic formula that distinguishes between three Greek words: *eros*, romantic, passionate love, from which we get our word "erotic"; *phileo*, the love of great friends and siblings, from which we get "Philadelphia," the "city of brotherly love"; and *agape*, parental, self-sacrificing love that seeks only the welfare of the other. All three kinds of love are represented in the Bible, which means that all three are considered to be created and blessed by God.

David Lose, Senior Pastor, Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (Minneapolis, MN)

Current Board Members

Community Spiritual Director - Helen Paine
Spiritual Oversight and prayer for our Community and Board Meetings and Walks and building up the Community in love.

Community Lay Director – Avril Butler
Connecting, loving, encouraging and building the Community, Oversight of Community and Walks, Inspiring the board and chairing meetings, running Gatherings, future direction.

Secretary – Sandra Mudford
Taking and compiling Board minutes from meetings, maintaining community contact details.

Treasurer, Registrar & Ridgecrest Liaison- Don Butler
All financial matters, updating forms, being registrar for the walks and our campsite communication person.

Reunion Groups and Newsletter - Vacant
Inspiring and encouraging our Reunion Groups, Encouraging the Community to sponsor and following up on new Pilgrims. Putting the newsletter together and distributing to the Community.

Prayer – Andrew Alder
Sourcing Community for Prayer for walks. Praying for us all.

Supplies - Helen Harris
Obtaining all things necessary to run Walks including handbooks and equipping Lay Directors.

Copyright - Jenny Gilbertson
Keeping our song lists and music Copyright

updated.

Music Coordinator – Leisha Chaseling
Coordination and delegation of music for Emmaus events.

Community Agape & Walk Agape - Jenny Gilbertson
Keeping us connected to Emmaus Communities, both Overseas and Australian, as well as organising local agape from Reunion Groups for Walks.

Gatherings - Geoff Hoskins
Sourcing the Fourth Day Speaker and booking venues for Gatherings. Looking after the kitchen at Gatherings and preparing the Communion Table.

Candlelighting – Avril Butler
Ensuring materials are available for Candlelighting.

Training – Helen Harris & Avril Butler
Overseeing One Day Team Training, Board Talks and lunch.

Website - Michael Flack & Andrew Alder
Keeping our website current, updated, interesting and informative.

IT Oversight - Andrew Alder
Support with and custody of electronic equipment

Sponsoring – Jenny Gilbertson
Providing information and support to sponsors

Book Table – Michael Flack
Organising the Book Table for both Walks Pack up and set up – Overseeing set up and packing up for Training and the Walks

Positions Vacant

Board Members—Your Emmaus Community is led by a Board of dedicated people, whose desire is to see the Community grow in faith and obedience to God. If you feel called to assist the work of the Board in running the Community, please speak to any Board member about nominating.

Newsletter editor—we are seeking a new editor for our Newsletter. Please contact Avril for more information.



God has no phone but I still talk to Him
He has no Facebook but he is still my friend
He doesn't have Twitter but I still follow Him

Reunion Groups

Bathurst Butterflies (First Sat of month)—0417 479 676

Bathurst Gold—6331 2729

Bathurst Rainbow Connection—6331 9241

Dubbo Zooey Zebras—6882 2639

Dubbo Wild Ducks—6885 4454

Misfits—Dubbo 6887 2191

Hassans Walls (Last Sat of odd months)—6351 4214

Lithgow Zigzags (Last Sat of odd months)—6351 4214

Mendooran Doers—6886 1265

Narromine Sunflowers—6889 1791

Nyngan Nutmegs—6832 1339

Oberon Pine Nuts—0412 907 843

Orange Blossoms—6361 0127

Parkes Stargazers—6869 1969

Peak Hill Gold Seekers (First Sun of month)—6869 1784

WWW.com Wellington—6845 2404