

# BRIEF HISTORY

## OF THE

# PEACE IN THE HILLS

### Emmaus Gathering Group Hot Springs Village, AR

The Emmaus Gathering Group first met in early 1997. There were eight (8) people present:

Sam & Judy Hocutt  
R.T. & DeJuana Jarrell  
Jim & Virginia Rush  
Fred & Wilma Boling

Being a small Group, initially there was no President/Leader. The Hocutt's sponsored as Pilgrims the Jarrells' and Rushes'. Early on, the Rushes' sponsored Herbert & Peggy Ann Trenham, Art & Cassy Jungnickel, and Dennis & Barbara Horvath. The Bolings' went on their Emmaus Walk in Tulsa, OK in 1983. Between 1997 and early 1999, eight (8) additional people were added to the Group. They moved to the Village and went on their Walk outside of Arkansas. These eight were Steve & Jean Blasche from north TX, Dave & Donna Schores from TN, Ralph & Joyce Jones from northwest OK, and Bob & Lou Bruce from North Carolina.

Since 1997 the Group increased rapidly, expanding to around 250 past/present members. The Group name of "Peace in the Hills" was adopted in 2002. Some members live outside Hot Springs Village. The majority, but not all, attend Christ of the Hills (COH) and Village United Methodist Church (VUMC).

The first meeting in early 1997 was held at the Boling residence. Afterwards, the small Emmaus Groups held their monthly meetings on a rotating basis in member's homes (making agape, etc.)

Later, the monthly Gathering Group meeting was held in the parlor of COH on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. Following a devotional and announcements, the men and women met in their individual Reunion Group. Afterwards, everyone reconvened for refreshments.

Beginning in 2001, weekly separate Men's and Women's Reunion Groups formed and met. Gatherings remained monthly. There are now 4 Men's and 5 Women's' Reunion Groups meeting at various times and places. Monthly gatherings, usually at COH were changed from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in 2006 with no Gatherings in July, August or December. In 2009 Gatherings were changed to Quarterly.

Following their Walk, members of the "Peace in the Hills" Gathering Groups are usually active in the Emmaus Program by sponsoring other Pilgrims, working Walks, and serving as dedicated Disciples of Christ in their church and Christian life.

More Peace in the Hills history can be found in the Emmaus cabinet.