



GOLDEN ISLES WALK TO EMMAUS

April 2015

Mark Your Calendar

After much prayer and anticipation, Golden Isles Walk to Emmaus will be holding our spring set of Walks. As stated before, these Walks do not belong to the lay directors, the background teams or even to the pilgrims; first and foremost, they belong to God and then to the Golden Isles Emmaus Community which includes all of the above. For these Walks to be all they can be and accomplish all they are designed to accomplish, we must each do our part to support them. Will you make a commitment to support them with your prayers and your presence at each event listed below? Will you show your Agape love to the pilgrims of Golden Isles Walks to Emmaus #27 and #28?

Send Off

Lion's Camp
Waycross, GA

Men's Walk #27 - Apr. 16
Women's Walk #28 - Apr 23

7:00 p.m.

Sponsors, new pilgrims need to arrive **no later than 6:30 p.m.** Follow parking signs which will lead to luggage drop-off site. Send Off will commence at 7:00 p.m. in the Activity Building (large green metal building). Sponsor's Hour will begin after the pilgrims have left. The Community is invited to stay and pray for the pilgrims by name.

Candlelight

Oct. 25, 8:00 p.m.

Men's Walk #27 - Apr. 18
Women's Walk #28 - Apr 25

Community meets for Candlelight at **8:00 p.m.** We meet in the dining room of the Lion's Camp, where we pray for the pilgrims, enjoy Praise & Worship and Holy Communion. We will then go outside the Chapel to await the arrival of the pilgrims. **Community guitar players, please bring your guitars to help lead the community in Jesus, Jesus.**

Closing

Oct. 26, 4:00 p.m.

Men's Walk #27 - Apr. 19
Women's Walk #28 - Apr 26

Community begins gathering at **4:00 p.m.** Closing is also held in the Activity Building. Please arrive as quietly as possible as the pilgrims are in the chapel for their Cross Ceremony and we don't want to alert them to our presence.

Pio Party

College Place UMC,
Brunswick, GA

May. 1, 7:00 p.m.

Sponsorship training is offered prior to Gathering at 6:15. Bring **plenty** of food to share as we are hosting the new Pilgrims of Walks #27 and #28 and guests (suggestion 2x the amount you would normally bring).

Fourth Day Reflections

On Easter morning of my senior year in high school in March 1978, I watched my breath lift like fog every time I shivered and exhaled. I sat on a folding chair near the edge of Winton Lake, cradled my frozen trombone with gloved hands, and tried to blow life into it. Although spring had officially arrived on the calendar, the Cincinnati area was still experiencing frigid temperatures as an aftermath of the Blizzard of '78. Playing in a brass ensemble for the community's Easter sunrise service was usually a pleasant experience, but this year, the icy winds made the task nearly impossible.

I glanced at my friends and saw them struggling with the cold as well. Our instruments were hard to keep in tune, but that didn't matter much, as the gathering of Christians who had formed to watch the sun rise over the lake was bundled in multiple layers of clothing. Their ears were covered so thickly by scarves and caps, it's a wonder they could hear us play at all.

When we had first begun to play traditional Easter hymns like, "Were You There," darkness had obscured the growing crowd from my eyes. But by the time we belted out "Up from the Grave He Arose" first light broke over my shoulders, and I could make out smiling faces glowing with the new day. No doubt they were cold. The wind had already painted exposed cheeks and chins red. Some clasped thermoses of hot coffee close to them. Steam rose with every sip they took. Others huddled together, drawing warmth from each other. Yet despite the chill, voices trembled in harmony as young and old of all faiths joined with our ensemble to welcome the rising sun on this most special of all days.

I've been to many Easter sunrise services since then, but this is the one I most fondly remember. As I partook in the celebration and watched the world awaken in God's light, the words of Job 19:25 resounded in my soul: "As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth."

Happy Easter and De Colores!
Lori Durham, Newsletter Committee



I greatly appreciate this newsletter and the opportunities it gives me to share my stories. I love spring! Not as much as I love Christmas, but that's a story for another time. I learned to love spring when I was a child living in Michigan. There are four very distinct seasons there, and in spring we would watch for snow to melt, the first robin-red-breast, and for the flowers to bloom. Living in South Georgia as I do now, I find a particular joy in watching the pale pink azaleas bud and bloom outside our front window. The azaleas are particularly inspiring to me this year because

there was a huge chunk of the bush that died and I cut away last year. The way the healthy parts of the bush took over and filled in the empty spaces warms my heart. Golden Isles Walk to Emmaus numbers 27 and 28 are just around the corner. As I recall my own Emmaus experience, I anticipate the budding and blooming of this new set of Pilgrims. They will have some dead spaces that need to be cut away, as we all do. But, oh, the glory of our Lord when He fills in the space with what is healthy, good, and beautiful! Let's pray together for the Pilgrims, and pray for all those who will be working to make these two Walks the memorable experiences they will treasure for the rest of their lives. And, as we celebrate Easter, let us greet each morning with the remembrance that He is Risen. He is Risen Indeed!

Trisa Chancey
Newsletter Committee

What I Love About Emmaus

Since October 2000 I have been asked many times "What does Emmaus mean to me". Up until the Coastal Georgia Walk to Emmaus #55 that was to take place in Savannah, it didn't have a meaning to me at all. Jane and I had moved to Brunswick a little over two years earlier and did not know a single person when we moved here but the council of a friend in North Carolina; from where we had moved, kept going through my mind. Mr. Lee Adams had said to me that if I looked in the right place I would find people of God and that when I did God would let me know that my heart was in a new home.

We found a good church family at a small church and had become content to do the weekly church things. I often wondered if this was the right place because I had not received that revelation that my heart was home yet. Then some friends asked Jane and me if we had considered going on the Walk to Emmaus. Of course we said no because we had never heard of it. It took three tries before I went because of work scheduling and being sick. On the third set of Walks since being asked I was sick again. On the day I was to be taken to Savannah by my sponsors Matt and Debbie Hall, Jane said we needed to call them and tell them I was sick and couldn't go. But I had prayed for God's help so I told her it was the devil's way of keeping God out of my life and unless I was dead before dark I was going on this Walk. Before they came to pick me up I felt fine. During the Walk I have to say that the surprises and abundance of Blessings just blew me away and I knew then why the evil one didn't want me to go. That was the first time I remember being asked "What does Emmaus mean you?" but the additional challenge, "What are you going to do about it" was included. Like most of the manly men on that Walk at Closing I cried and blubbered out something that was understood by no one but me and God.

I say all of this to get to the latest question "What I love about Emmaus". I love the fact that during my Walk I became aware of the unmerited love that God has for me through

the servants that he put in place. I learned that my Lord would have died on the cross even it had been just for me. I now knew that I would never take another step on this earth alone. I knew that my soul mate that had accepted me in marriage was in for the shock of her life when I got home. I learned that even though I am included in his plan, it is not about me. But the most important thing I learned was that no matter what I did or did not do from that point on my God and Lord would never desert me and that is what I love most about Emmaus.

You see; at least for me, the two questions "What does Emmaus mean to me" and "What do I love about Emmaus" are one in the same question.

I am continually blessed by Emmaus in that I have had the opportunity to work many Walks to include the upcoming Walk #27. I have been blessed to sponsor people for whom I continue to pray. I am blessed to know that my Lord is still willing to go to the cross because there are still some of his children in our community of Christ that have not experience what I/we did.

Mr. Lee Adams was right, I looked in the right place I found people of God and God did let me know that my heart was in a new home. The home that I now know as Golden Isles Walk to Emmaus.

David Latner
Coastal Georgia Walk to Emmaus # 55
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In the years since my own Emmaus Walk one of my greatest joys has been the privilege of sponsorship. I have had the opportunity to sponsor several friends whom I have seen go on to become Willing Servants and then sponsors themselves. It is through sponsorship that our community grows. Below is a checklist for extending God's grace through sponsorship:

Before the Walk

- Pray for your pilgrim and their family.
- Begin preparations to request the personal agape letters for your pilgrim.
- Meet with your pilgrim in an informal setting and discuss further the Walk to Emmaus and the weekend. Offer guidance about what to pack, provide positive encouragement and reassurance, and encourage the discussion of any fears or apprehension the pilgrim may be experiencing.
- Answer honestly any questions your pilgrim has about the weekend. There are no SECRETS, only surprises. You may want to share the sleeping and showering arrangements so your pilgrim will not be caught by surprise.
- Have 8-14 letters of agape from family members and close friends of your pilgrim delivered to Agape team by Saturday night.

During the Walk

- Pick your pilgrim up at their home and treat them to an evening meal.
- Take your pilgrim to the Walk site and assist with check-in.
- Spend as much time as possible in prayer for your pilgrim.
- Be part of the 72-hour prayer vigil. When your pilgrim sees your name on the 72-hour prayer vigil chart it provides a special lift.
- Attend sponsor's hour and pray for your pilgrim.
- Check on your pilgrim's family and/or household to provide necessary assistance.
- Attend Saturday candlelight service and Communion.
- Attend the closing and take your pilgrim home. They will appreciate someone who understands their excitement and/or silence.

After the Walk

- Pray for your pilgrim. Allow them time to digest and/or discuss what they discovered on the weekend.
- Take your pilgrim to the Post-Walk **Fourth Day Meeting: May 8, Waynesville, Baptist 7:00-8:00 pm**
- Invite and take them to their Pio Party: **May 1, College Place UMC, Brunswick 7:00 pm**
- Assist your pilgrim in joining a reunion group.
- Inform your pilgrim of upcoming training meetings.
- Teach the new Emmaus member how to be a good sponsor.
- Encourage them the complete and submit a Willing Servant form to Registrar.

What, When and Where?

If you would like to offer your church as a location for a Gathering, please contact Gretchen Bell, gbell_31566@yahoo.com

No Gathering in April due to Walks

Men's Walk #27 April 16-19, 2015 Gene Barber, Lay Director

Women's Walk #28 April 23 –26, 2015 Lucy Hunter, Lay Director

Men's Walk #27

Send-Off, Apr 16 at 7:00 p.m. (New Pilgrims arrive at 6:30) at Lion's Camp

Candlelight, Apr 18. at 8:00 p.m. — Lion's Camp

Closing, Apr 19 at 4:00 p.m. — Lion's Camp

Women's Walk #28

Send-Off, Apr 23 at 7:00 p.m. (New Pilgrims arrive at 6:30) at Lion's Camp

Candlelight, Apr 25. at 8:00 p.m. — Lion's Camp

Closing, Apr 26 at 4:00 p.m. — Lion's Camp

Sponsorship Training May 1 at 6:15 p.m. — College Place UMC

Gathering/Pio Party May 1 at 7:00 PM — College Place UMC

4th Day Meeting—May 8, 7:00—8:00 pm — Waynesville Baptist Church, Waynesville (Walk #27 , #28 Teams, Pilgrims and Sponsors)

Gathering **June 5, 2015** at 7:00 PM—Blackshear UMC, Blackshear

GOLDEN ISLES WALK TO EMMAUS BOARD MEETING

*GIE Board Meeting is normally scheduled for the third Saturday in the month at 9 AM. Due to the Walks, there will be **no Board meeting in April.***

Emmaus community members are always welcome at Golden Isles Emmaus Board Meetings normally held the third Saturday of each month at the Miller Building behind Brunswick First UMC.

