



March 2015

GOLDEN ISLES WALK TO EMMAUS

Board of Directors Vote to Proceed With Walks

Golden Isles Walk to Emmaus Community – Have you heard????!!! The Board of Directors are so excited that 2 walks are right around the corner. The teams for the Walks on April 16-19 (Men) and April 23-26 (Women) are ready to minister to the Pilgrims God has intended to come and experience this Walk to Emmaus.

If you are planning on sponsoring pilgrims, their applications need to be received ASAP! Respond to me at annewojcik59@gmail.com with the number of folks you are planning to bless with the gift of an Emmaus weekend. This will give us some idea of how many more applications to expect.

DeColores!

Anne Wojcik, Chairperson



A Letter From Robert

Kristie Wood
GIWTE #19, Table of Ruth

My walk to Emmaus was in 2011. It was a deeply spiritual experience which I will never forget. The fellowship, the study of God's word and God's love, the music and the testimonies are things I will never forget. It had almost a mystical feel to it. My favorite part of the weekend was reading the letters from family and friends who were praying for me during this time and keeping me close in their hearts. I kept all the literature, gifts and letters I received during that weekend.

This past November, my baby brother, Robert, passed away unexpectedly. Robert and I had had a rocky relationship at times as he struggled with health problems and addictions. After he passed, I have worried, knowing how many times our conversations were filled with anger and disappointment. I was filled with guilt and was afraid Robert did not know how much I loved him and hoping we had not destroyed our relationship. I had prayed: God please show me that all is well between my brother and me. I need to know he and I are ok.

As I gathered together all the sympathy cards, notes, newspaper announcements for Robert, I opened my cedar chest. This is where I keep all the things in my life I treasure such as pictures, letters, articles, etc. When I opened the trunk I noticed the bag from my Emmaus Walk. I took it out and began to read the letters. I cried as I read letters of friends from all over who had taken the time to let me know they loved me and wanted this to be a meaningful experience. Then I opened a legal sized paper which was folded so it fit in a small envelope. It was a handwritten letter from Robert. I could hardly read the letter through my tears as he told me how much he loved me. How as a little boy, he was always so proud I was his big sister and that he had always thought I was beautiful. It was such a sweet heartfelt message in his own handwriting and I thanked God for giving me such a wonderful gift from my precious brother, Robert, who I love. I loved the message when I received it on my Emmaus Walk and so very thankful I had gone in order for Robert to have a reason to write this letter. I never knew the day would come when I would reach into that bag for much needed reassurance from my brother himself. It gave me peace and closure. God is good. All the time!

Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way. James 1:2-4 The Message

I enjoy reading The Message as it makes sense to me. I don't know that I will ever consider it pure joy when I face trials (NIV), but I do see the advantage of maturing in my faith. Although the Message may not be an exact translation, this paraphrase has helped me better understand difficult passages so that I can apply them to my life situation.

Before my walk, I would get discouraged easily and give up in studying the Bible. Sadly, I missed out on getting to know God more intimately. So I'd like to share a story from a conference that I attended a few years ago. The speaker talked about meeting his college Greek language teacher several years after he graduated. She had read his translation of a particular Bible passage and congratulated him on getting it correct. He pointed out that she had given him D's in her class, while she thought he had once earned a C. Then they spoke about another student who had earned stellar grades in Greek and went on to write one of the classic texts in studying the bible. While many will not recognize the latter student, many have probably heard of the speaker who was none other than Eugene Peterson, the author of the popular translation, The Message.

I write this to encourage you to persevere. (Remember Emmaus gives us the tools to persevere in our fourth days?) Had Dr. Peterson given up when he didn't earn top grades, we might not have The Message. But more important, studying God's word is one of the ways that we get to know God more. The more that we know God, the more that we can trust him even if things do not go the way we want. Pray for guidance of the Holy Spirit when you study the word; He will give wisdom as well as revelation.

Janet Mohr
Coastal Georgia Walk to Emmaus #65
Table of Ruth

I shared with my Reunion Group the idea of collecting money each week to be able to sponsor pilgrims as a group and they all thought it was a great idea. So my group has adopted the idea of contributing \$1 a week each (x6 = \$288 for the remainder of the year) so that we can sponsor 2 people each year. I challenge all of you to consider this. \$1 a week is all we have to do. Come on guys, let there be change and let it begin with us! Thanks for the idea Mike Martin!

Cheryl DeZouche
Coastal Georgia Walk to Emmaus #78
Table of Rebekah

Attention Reunion Groups.... If you have not already begun working on your Agape gifts for tables and pillows, now is the time!

Fourth Day Reflections

Since the start of February, my friends and family in the Midwest have counted down days until March 20, the official start of spring. Every sign whether a groundhog's shadow or the early arrival of robins has been eagerly embraced in hopeful anticipation of spring.

Before I moved to Brunswick, I also participated in this passionate quest for signs of spring. After one particularly long winter, when I was an undergrad, I clearly recall how ecstatic I became when I spotted a tulip gingerly pushing its way out of the frozen earth. Even though I was headed to a dreaded exam, I still had an extra bounce in my step for the rest of the day. Hope transformed my attitude even as it permeated my soul.

Spring is symbolic of rebirth and new life. For Christians, the Easter season we have entered doubly fills our lives with hope. 1 Peter 1: 3-4 expresses this great hope Christians have through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

As you wait in watchful expectation for this radiant transformation of the world around us while it springs to new life, remember Jesus died to transform our lives, and because He has, we should radiate that good news and hope to those around us. Walk cheerfully and step lightly as you share the light of His love with all whom you encounter this hopeful season!

DeColores!

Lori Durham, Newsletter Committee

St. Patrick Walked Too



Saint Patrick. Who hasn't heard of him? He's the reason we wish each other a "Happy Saint Patrick's Day". We wish each other "The Luck o' the Irish," and wear green to avoid being pinched. I wonder how Saint Patrick would feel about that. I also wonder how he would feel about some of the other ways people choose to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. What do you actually know about the man?

The Emmaus website provides the reason Emmaus exists: "The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip the local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work" (<http://emmaus.upperroom.org/about>). When you think about it, that was Saint Patrick's goal as well. He was kidnapped and taken to Ireland to work. He escaped and returned home to Britain, walking much of the way. He later had a dream that the people of Ireland asked him to come back to them and teach them about Jesus. He taught them about the Trinity; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, using the shamrock. He devoted his life to inspiring, challenging, and equipping the Irish to live out the Christian life.

God continues to use His people to draw others to Himself. Have you considered who God is leading you to invite to experience the Walk to Emmaus? Have you considered how you might help with the upcoming Walks? Saint Patrick didn't have an official Walk to Emmaus, but he did devote his life to walking with the God he so faithfully served. Let us walk with Christ, wherever He may lead, and bring as many people with us as He allows.

Trisa Chancey

Newsletter Committee

Upcoming Events

Spring 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

Walk Training Meeting Dates and Locations

1st Team Training Meeting—Very successful Walk training meeting was held Feb. 28, at Kingsland First Baptist Church, Kingsland. Team bonding has begun!

**2nd Team Training—Conference Room only
March 14th at Kingsland United Methodist, Kingsland at 8:30 a.m.**

3rd Team Training— Full Team (Conference Room and Background) March 21st at The Chapel, Brunswick, 8:30 a.m.



Gathering Information

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

Gathering March 6, 2015 at 7:00 PM — Nahunta FBC, Nahunta (No Sponsorship Training prior to Gathering)

No Gathering in April due to Walks

Pio Party: **May 1, 2015** at 7:00 PM — College Place UMC, Brunswick

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

GOLDEN ISLES WALK TO EMMAUS BOARD MEETING

*Due to scheduled Training Meetings for Walks 27 & 28 the GIE Board Meeting has been scheduled for **March 28, 9 AM** Brunswick FUMC, Miller Building.*

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.

Prayer Vigil

Walks #27 and #28 need Prayer Warriors! Can they count on you??

- Go to www.3dayol.org
- Click on the button that says "Prayer Vigil Listings".
- Scroll down to find Golden Isles Walk to Emmaus. Click on the date of the walk (in blue) for which you would like to sign up.
- Scroll down until you find the time you would like to pray. Click on the blue Sign-up. Fill in the requested information and click on Submit Form. You're done! You will receive an email reminder of your prayer time. Thank you for praying.