



An Attitude of Gratitude

November 2015

During the month of November our thoughts turn toward Thanksgiving. This is usually a time when families honor the traditions of getting together, sharing a meal (a very LARGE meal), watching hours of football and of course the inevitable nap.

Here are a few more statistics regarding Thanksgiving that might interest you:

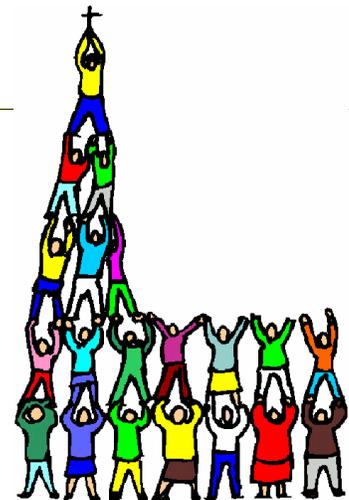
Total number of turkeys that are consumed on Thanksgiving Day	51,150,000
Total U.S spending on Thanksgiving dinner food	\$2,875,000.00
Average household spending on Thanksgiving dinner	\$56.18
Number of families that will travel for Thanksgiving	39,000,000

Those numbers are pretty staggering. It's obvious, we Americans love Thanksgiving. But, do we truly take time to give thanks to the One that makes all this possible? We are so blessed. I issue you a challenge. Let's practice an attitude of gratitude not only on the fourth Thursday of November, but every day of the year. Philippians 4:19 tells us "My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus." Let us be quick to give Him thanks.

Linda Dillingham, Communications Chair

How the Walk to Emmaus Impacts the Local Church

The Walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal which inspires, challenges, and equips those who have attended for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work. The church is impacted by this movement when those who have attended a Walk return to their local church and begin serving with that Agape love they experienced on those 72 hours with the Lord. Leaders are raised up, individual gifts and skills are developed and used, relationships are restored and revival happens in the hearts and lives of those who have attended which spreads throughout the congregation. Through reunion groups, monthly gatherings, and serving on Emmaus teams the discipleship process that began with the 3 day experience continues. It is my desire that more pastors will attend an Emmaus Weekend and then encourage their members to be part of this great opportunity to continue their journey with Christ.



Rev. Darrell Joiner
South Ga. Coastal Walk to Emmaus #7

Fourth Day Reflections

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

November offers us a season to focus on God's blessings, especially the gift of family.



When I close my eyes, I can still see my dad handle the Thanksgiving cooking like a polished maestro conducting a symphony. He never missed a beat as he timed the turkey to come out of the oven just when he needed to put in the dressing.

The dressing finished just before his homemade rolls were ready to pop in. On top of the stove was a cacophony of pots and pans in various states of readiness. Dad managed it all like a pro.

Seated at the head of the table, after our prayer and while we ate, he told one family story after another mixed with peals of laughter from us, his delighted audience. A favorite tale each Thanksgiving was introduced about midway through dinner. "Kids," he'd begin, "40 years ago today your grandfather went hunting in the woods." He'd clear his throat and look over his glasses into each of our eyes as he asked, "And do you know what he found?" We all knew the story about Grandpa hunting in the Indiana backwoods. We had heard it every Thanksgiving since our births, but we played dumb for his sake. "No, Dad. What did he find?" "A dead man!" was the gruesome reply. We gasped and pretended we had no idea the tale would turn so dark.

This probably isn't the type of wholesome story your family shares around the Thanksgiving table, but this was the tradition we embraced every year until dad passed away.

The Thanksgiving after his death, we children prepared a turkey, tried our hand at dressing, and heated up some rolls, but we had lost the heart and soul of the story. No matter how hard we tried to retell it, it never had the same zing as when dad wove the yarn.

At the end of the 18th Century, a German poet named Matthias Claudius wrote a verse. It was eventually set to music and translated into a popular English hymn called,

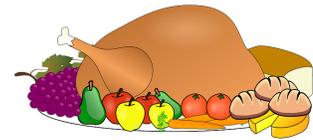
"We Plough the Fields and Scatter". In the 1970s, the musical *Godspell* included a shortened version of the song titled, "All Good Gifts". One of the stanzas of Claudius' poem expresses my thoughts as I think back to memories of dad and other family members no longer seated at the Thanksgiving table with us.

*We thank Thee, then, O Father, for all things bright and good,
The seed time and the harvest, our life, our health, and food;
Accept the gifts we offer, for all Thy love imparts,
But what Thou most desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.*

This Thanksgiving, may you and your family enjoy shared love, laughter, and delicious food as we pause to give God thanks for the blessings of our lives.

DeColores!

Lori Durham
Newsletter Committee



We are looking for newsletter articles.

If you would like to submit poems, devotions, Fourth Day testimonials, etc., please send to:

Linda Dillingham
ldillingham@tds.net

Kairos Inside

Kairos Weekend #9 at Smith State Prison will be taking place November 5-8. The team will be ministering to 42 participants throughout the weekend. Please take a moment to pray that the Holy Spirit would have the freedom to touch and change lives. To date 336 residents of Smith State have participated in a Kairos Weekend and the impact is being felt throughout the prison as they continue living out their faith in Jesus Christ.



I know Thanksgiving is a rather cliché thing to talk about in the month of November, but I think it is a concept always worth revisiting. I can't help but think of Madame Blueberry from Veggie Tales singing "I'm so blue I don't know what to do!" She was

followed by a cute veggie kid who sang, "I thank God for this day, for the clouds in the sky...for yum-my apple pie." (I'll tell you that I'm always thankful for apple pie, especially if it has whipped cream on it!)

When I consider what I am thankful for, my mind turns more to people and experiences than it does to things. I am thankful for the summer of 1976 when my parents borrowed my uncles van and we made a six-week trek from our home in Michigan to New Mexico to visit my mother's parents, to Florida to visit Disney World, and home again. I am thankful for the church camp I attended at which I accepted Christ as my Savior on June 19, 1980. I am thankful for attending Golden Isles Walk to Emmaus #2 and sitting at the table of Mary. I am thankful for

the opportunity to help at a couple of other Golden Isles Walks. Each of these events caused a paradigm shift in a way I think about life.

I am thankful for the difference Christ makes in my life. I am thankful for the peace and joy He provides regardless of my circumstances. I sincerely hope that this Thanksgiving finds you with much for which to be thankful.

Trisa Chancey
Newsletter Committee

Are You in a Reunion Group??

Participating in a Reunion Group is one of the best ways to get the encouragement and support we all need to live our 4th Day; the same kind of encouragement you received on your Walk.

A Reunion Group is a small group, ideally 4-6 members accountable to each other about their successes, failures, and plans for the coming week.

Established open Reunion Groups can be found on our website:

www.goldenislesemmaus.org/reuniongroups
or by contacting us at :
reuniongroups@goldenislesemmaus.org



The Little Hut

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect himself from the elements, and to store his few possessions. Then one day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up to the sky. The worst had happened – everything was lost. He was stunned with grief and anger. "God, how could you do this to me?" he cried.

Early the next day, however, he was awakened by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island. It had come to rescue him. "How did

you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

It's easy to get discouraged sometimes when things appear to be going badly. But we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering.

Remember, next time your little hut is burning to the ground, it just may be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God.

"Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. But endurance must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing." James 1:2-4 HCSB

Upcoming Events

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

- ♦ **Gathering** — Nov. 6 at 7:00 p.m.— Kingsland 1st United Methodist Church, Kingsland, GA
If you are missing Gatherings, you are missing out on a vital part of the Emmaus spirit. Let's strive for a **HIGH ATTENDANCE record!** Many of our Regional Training team will be there. Come and meet them. Please bring extra food for visitors who may be attending Regional Training on 7th as they have been invited to our Gathering.
- ♦ **Southeast Regional Leadership Training — Kingsland First UMC**
Clergy Training— Friday, Nov. 6th from 1:00—5:00 p.m.
Regional Training — Saturday, Nov. 7th from 8:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
- ♦ **Gathering** —Dec. 4 at 7:00 p.m. — St. Simon's UMC
Let's make our December Gathering into a **Birthday party for Jesus.**
Please bring a baby gift (to be donated to Care Net)



If you would like to offer your church to host a Gathering in the future, or would be interested in sharing a Fourth Day testimony, please contact Gretchen Bell at gbell_31566@yahoo.com for more information regarding what is required of a host church.

Save the Dates! Spring 2016 Walks to Emmaus

Men's Walk #29, March 3-6, 2016

Lay Director: Dan James

Women's Walk #30, March 10-13, 2016

Lay Director: Cheryl DeZouche

GOLDEN ISLES WALK TO EMMAUS BOARD MEETING

GIE Board Meeting November 21st, 9 AM Brunswick FUMC, Miller Building

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

