



December 2016 Newsletter

From the Desk of our Community Lay Director:

It's the time of year when I spend a lot of time thinking about gifts. Yes, this includes the gifts I plan to give my family but it is more than that.

For the past year, I've been calling the Walk to Emmaus a gift that we need to share with those we know. It is a gift that can change the course of a friend's personal relationship with Jesus. It can strengthen and encourage leaders in the church. It can help a friend hear what God has for them.

That gift of Emmaus is given as God is presented again or re-presented not only during the Walk Weekend but at monthly gatherings and through reunion groups.

Is there someone you know that would be happy to receive this gift? Have you considered giving this gift?

As we spend time reflecting on the greatest gift to the world, let's ask God to reveal who He would like to share in this gift.

--Melinda Hollington

Helpful Links for GIWTE Community Members

Click on the link below to view a video about the Walk to Emmaus. It's a great introduction for

[Click HERE for Information to Become a Sponsor](#)

[Click HERE for Pilgrim Applications](#)

prospective pilgrims.

[Upper Room video about the Walk to Emmaus](#)

[Click HERE for the Upper Room Walk to Emmaus Website](#)

Upcoming Events

Community Gatherings

December 2 at 7:00 Wesley at Frederica UMC on St. Simons Island

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 Phil Scott at scottjp@comcast.net for more information regarding what is required of a host church.

REUNION GROUPS: We Need Your Help!

Elizabeth Houston is compiling an updated list of Reunion Groups to put on the GIWTE Webpage.

Kindly assist her by clicking **HERE** to email her. Be sure to include the name of your Reunion Group and the day, time, and location where you meet.

Thank you!

Reflections from the Heart

The Ripple Effect

--Lori Durham, GIWTE #11

Drop a pebble into the water. What do you see? As the stone sinks to the depths, do you notice the ripples that emanate well beyond the shore?

17th century poet and cleric, John Donne looked at the ripples and pondered the interconnections among us. He wrote about the "ripple effect" of our lives and proclaimed, "No man is an island."

Reginald Fessenden, a Canadian inventor, sat beside the banks of Lake Ontario in 1896 and watched as the ripples of a stone he had tossed into the water grew and moved across the surface. Fessenden was in competition with Guglielmo Marconi to create the first wireless radio, but he had recently endured setbacks in his work. Discouraged, he fled to Lake Ontario to rest his overtired mind.

As he watched the ripples, he wondered if sound waves weren't similar in design. From that inspiration, he returned to his lab to continue his work. His goal: to not just broadcast beeps like Morse Code, but to actually broadcast "speech, music, and singing."

On December 24, 1906, Fessenden successfully sent the first radio broadcast to the world. U.S. Navy ships and others with receivers heard his message.

What comprised the first wireless radio broadcast? Fessenden wrote the following account of the transmission:

"The program on Christmas Eve was as follows: first a short speech by me saying what we were going to do, then some phonograph music...Handel's 'Largo'. Then came a violin solo by me, being a composition...called 'O, Holy Night', and ending up with the words 'Adore and be still' of which I sang one verse....Then came the Bible text, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of good will', and finally we wound up by wishing them a Merry Christmas..."

Did you know the Christmas story from Luke was part of the first radio broadcast? I didn't.

Fessenden was eventually overshadowed by Marconi and is now little more than a footnote in history, but as Donne noted long ago, actions create ripple effects that continue to touch us all.

As we enter this Advent Season, I challenge you to consider the ripples you make around you. What exactly are you broadcasting to the world?

I pray we all will reflect on the focus of our hearts and the message of our lives so that all glory will go to the One we love and follow.

--DeColores

CHRISTmas

--Trisa Chancey

Golden Isles Walk to Emmaus #2

Table of Mary

For the past several Christmases, I have noticed a disturbing trend. We have “holiday trees” for sale, rather than Christmas trees. Cashiers are trained to say “Happy Holidays” rather than “Merry Christmas.” But even more disturbing to me is the reaction of people who purport to be Christians. In a season that is supposed to bring “peace on earth, good will to men,” these people angrily proclaim that they want to be wished a “Merry Christmas.” The minute we respond to “Happy Holidays” in anger, anything we say cannot be received well.

We each have choices to make. We can choose to shine the light of Jesus into whatever situation we find ourselves in, or we can choose to increase the darkness.

Just to be clear, there are appropriate times to exhibit anger. Jesus himself was angered by people who pretended to be holy, but weren't. If we are going to show the love of Christ to the world around us, we need to be sure we reserve our anger for times when it is appropriate. Someone wishes you “Happy Holidays?” Simply thank them with a smile, and give them a positive greeting in return. If “Merry Christmas” is your positive greeting of choice, use it!

As we wander through this holy season, let's look intently for ways that we can be the hands and feet of Christ. As we keep Christ central to our own Christmases, we can quietly set a positive example for those around us. One of the easiest ways to represent Christ in a positive light is to “Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle you know nothing about.”

Golden Isles Walk to Emmaus Board Meeting

GIE Board Meeting December 3rd, 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 United Methodist Church.