



GOLDEN ISLES WALK TO EMMAUS

July 2016 Newsletter

From the Desk of our Chairwoman:

I have some exciting news! We are two months away from our next set of Walks. Two months!

If you've heard me say anything concerning these Walks in the past few months, it is that I did not have Fall Walks in my plans. Not that I didn't want the Walks to happen, I just didn't have them on my calendar.

Now they are quickly approaching.

The best news is that they are in God's plans. I have already seen His hand at work in the weekend preparations that have been happening. That's why I'm excited.

I know He will work through the Lay Directors, Spiritual Directors, and team members that He has called.

He continues to call team members as the support teams are being put together daily. He has and will continue to call the sponsors who will sacrifice for the pilgrims He will call to be a part of this wonderful gift called the Walk to Emmaus.

We get to see God at work in all of this and see how He blesses us as individuals and a community.

That is something to excite all of us!

--Melinda Hollington

Sign up for the Men's and Women's Prayer Vigil

[CLICK HERE FOR SIGN UP GENIUS](#)

We are trying to reach as many people as we can for Willing Servant sign up.

Thank you if you have filled out a new Willing Servant Form or have signed up through email. We have a new sign up online through Sign Up Genius.

Please follow the link and select any area in which you may be willing to serve.

If you have any questions, feel free to email
Melinda Hollington
at mgholl@bellsouth.net .

Thank you.

Men's Walk #31 and Women's Walk #32

Upcoming Events

- Men's Walk # 31 September 8-11, 2016
- Lay Director: Fred DeZouche

- Women's Walk # 32 September 15-18,
2016
- Lay Director: Gail Ashurst

** Send-off is 7pm from Lions Camp; Pilgrims begin
arriving at 6 pm

** Candlelight is 8 pm at Lions Camp for the Blind,
Waycross. Please don't be late!

** Closing on Sunday at 3:30 pm (Pilgrims arrive at
4:00 pm)

Community Gatherings

July 8 at 7:00 p.m.
Southeast Community Church in Kingsland

August 5 at 7:00 p.m.
Glynn Baptist

September: NO GATHERING due to the Walks

October 14 at 7:00 p.m. (PIO Party)

College Place UMC

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.

Reflections from the Heart

Freedom in Christ

--Trisa Chancey
GIWTE #2
Table of Mary

July is always a good time to think of freedom, since it is when our country declared its independence from England. As good as our freedom from England is, our freedom in Christ is even greater! As great as our rights as American citizens are, our rights as children in the family of God are even greater!

I am very familiar with the story of Jesus going to dinner and having a sinful woman weep over his feet and anoint those feet with oil from an alabaster jar. I recently read that story again in Luke 7:36-50. Earlier in Luke 7, Jesus called out the Pharisees and Sadducees because it was impossible to please them. He reminded them of how they accused John the Baptist of being a “devil” for abstaining from bread and wine, but accused Jesus himself of being a “glutton and winebibber” because he befriended and ate with publicans and sinners.

In the verses I referenced, Simon, a Pharisee, invites Jesus to eat in his home. Simon is disgusted by the way a sinful woman approaches Jesus and cries at his feet, anointing him with oil and drying his feet with her hair. The aroma of the oil in that alabaster jar must have filled the room, drawing attention to her. But Jesus calls to Simon and asks to speak a word to him. When Simon says he is listening, Jesus provides a parable that explains how someone who is forgiven much loves much. Jesus credited the woman with loving much, and forgave her many sins. Jesus set that woman free!

Simon had that same freedom available to him, and we have that same freedom available to us. We are free to do the good works God has prepared us to do and to, “Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle you know nothing about.”

What Does Free Will Mean?

--Lori Durham
GIWTE #11
Table of Martha

Several years ago when I worked in Turkmenistan, I had an unusual experience.

My Russian friend, Catherine, had told me on a previous visit, "I think, when I was a little girl, I was Christian. But we were not allowed to go to church under the Soviet Union, so I don't know if I am Christian now or not."

Her confession came in the context of a country controlled by a dictator, who among other odd laws banned the growing of beards, attending circuses, or watching ballets ([The Telegraph](#)). That president eventually died only to be replaced by an equally bizarre one.

When I returned to the states, I prayed with fervor for my friend who didn't know if she were a Christian or not. I prayed night after night, as if my prayers alone could lead her to rediscover God.

On my next visit, Catherine took me to visit an Orthodox church that was being repaired by workers. Colorful paintings of religious icons filled the small room. I felt God's presence in this holy place. As we left the church, a man approached us on our path. He was the priest.

He and Catherine began a discussion in Russian that she occasionally remembered to translate for me. Unknown to her, and a surprise to me, the few sentences she gave me from their conversation seemed to be a message directed for me from God.

The priest spoke about the concept of Free Will. In a land controlled by dictators, the idea of Free Will was difficult for her to understand. She had many questions about it. As she asked me later, "How do I know what Free Will means, if I have never experienced freedom before?"

The priest explained God allows us to choose Him or not. He is here for us, always inviting us. We are the ones who have to decide to reach out to Him in return.

Through the priest, God gently reminded me that Catherine had Free Will to accept Him or not. She had heard His invitation, and she would have to decide what to do about it.

Did that mean I wasn't supposed to pray for her? Of course not. But I needed the reminder that this issue was between God and Catherine. Both of us were in tears the rest of the day after this visit with the priest.

Americans are a blessed people. We understand the concept of Free Will because we live in a nation of freedoms. We are not a perfect people or nation, but we have many more opportunities than most citizens of the world to follow God through our exercise of Free Will.

This July I pray for all Christians as we strive to be God's hands and feet in this broken world.

Golden Isles Walk to Emmaus Board Meeting

GIE Board Meeting July 16th, 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.