



GOLDEN ISLES WALK TO EMMAUS

December 2018 Newsletter

From the Desk of the Community Lay Director:

Michelangelo is recognized as an inspirational and incredibly talented artist from the Renaissance period. He is most widely renowned for his painting of the frescoes on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome. These frescoes depict scenes from Genesis, the most famous of which is the iconic Creation of Adam. What is not so widely known is that Michelangelo considered himself, first and foremost, to be a sculptor. His most famous works are David, the Pieta, and Moses. It was frequently said that he could visualize the finished sculpture by simply gazing at the block of marble.

Perhaps God, the Master Sculptor, can see the finished product in us, by simply gazing into our hearts. As this most precious season of Christmas approaches, may we keep that thought with us daily.

The Christmas season is always busy and many demands are made on our time. It is exciting to plan celebrations and holiday activities. It is particularly satisfying to join in these celebrations in our churches, communities, and families. What could be more satisfying than to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior as a Community? Our Emmaus Community will have its December Gathering on Friday, December 7 at 7:00 pm at Wesley UMC. Please come and enjoy the festivities with fellowship and worship.

We have scheduled the Spring Walks for 2019. The Men's Walk will be March 7-10, and the Women's Walk will be March 14-17. You are encouraged to complete pilgrim applications and forward them to Anne Wojcik. Please remember to consider appropriate sponsorship guidelines. Team formation is progressing, and please respond prayerfully and promptly if called upon to serve. Willing servanthood is critical to our Community. Thank you in advance for your service.

The Golden Isles Emmaus Board for 2019 will be formed soon. Board members who will be rotating off are: Mike Martin, Cory Knox, Sheree Mobley, Kathy Marshall, and Lori Durham. Please join me in thanking them for serving and for all of their contributions. A special note of thanks must go out to Darrell Joiner for steadfastly serving as Community Spiritual Director in a "not so interim" way.

It has been such a privilege to serve as the Community Lay Director for 2018. We were blessed to have Spring and Fall Walks, where Christ was proclaimed, and lives were changed. I have experienced firsthand the energy and enthusiasm in the Golden Isles Community. As we move toward the coming year, may we keep the spirit alive within Emmaus.

DeColores!

Phil Scott

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

[Click HERE for Pilgrim Applications](#)

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

Upcoming Events

Community Gatherings

December 7th --Wesley UMC at Frederica 7 PM

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 [David DuBois](#) for more information regarding what is required of a host church.

Reflections from the Heart

Christmas

Trisa Chancey
GIWTE #2
Table of Mary

Last Christmas was a beautiful and humbling experience for my husband Keith and me. We were in the hospital in Gainesville, Florida following his kidney and pancreas transplants. Christmas evening a nurse made the rounds with her guitar. She stopped in each room and sang two songs for each patient and their visitors. Her voice was beautiful. The part that made her gift so special was the fact that the other nurses on the floor didn't know she played guitar!

God has given each of us gifts that he expects us to share. Do you know what yours is? Mine is the gift of encouragement. So many people have encouraged me over the years that it spills out of me and onto those God places in my path. I cannot adequately describe the warm feeling of hearing someone provide me with just the word of encouragement I needed, when I needed it. As difficult as that is to describe, it is even harder for me to describe those rare occasions that I have been able to gently say what another needed to hear, and see their heart warm as they received the encouragement I offered, and to know that the words of encouragement were provided to me by God.

Proverbs 25:11 states, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver." Psalm 141:3 is a verse I keep on my desk at work. It says, "Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth and keep watch over the door of my lips!" My mother-in-law keeps that same verse on her bathroom mirror, and it brings me joy to know that our hearts and minds are connected by that verse and our mutual love for the God who inspired it.

Of all the gifts you can give this Christmas, keep in mind that the gift of "a word fitly spoken" can provide greater and longer-lasting pleasure than anything you can pick up off a store shelf. And the gift of your time is of greater worth than any costly bauble. This Christmas season, set about being the hands and feet of Christ to those around you. Begin with those you see every day, and extend the exercise to the cashier, the waiter or waitress, the person at the next pump at the gas station, the mail carrier, the delivery driver, and anyone else who comes to mind. You'll be amazed to see the change in yourself as you deliberately spread the love of Christ!

DeColores!

Below are two videos worth taking a look at this Season.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Click [HERE](#) to watch "Christmas According to Kids" by Southland Christian Church

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Click [HERE](#) to watch "Christmas Presents" from Forest Hill Church, Charlotte, NC.

Luke 2:1-20 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

The Birth of Jesus

¹ About that time Emperor Augustus gave orders for the names of all the people to be listed in record books. ² These first records were made when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

³ Everyone had to go to their own hometown to be listed. ⁴ So Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee and go to Bethlehem in Judea. Long ago Bethlehem had been King David's hometown, and Joseph went there because he was from David's family.

⁵ Mary was engaged to Joseph and traveled with him to Bethlehem. She was soon going to have a baby, ⁶ and while they were there, ⁷ she gave birth to her first-born son. She dressed him in baby clothes and laid him on a bed of hay, because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Shepherds

⁸ That night in the fields near Bethlehem some shepherds were guarding their sheep. ⁹ All at once an angel came down to them from the Lord, and the brightness of the Lord's glory flashed around them. The shepherds were frightened. ¹⁰ But the angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy. ¹¹ This very day in King David's hometown a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² You will know who he is, because you will find him dressed in baby clothes and lying on a bed of hay."

¹³ Suddenly many other angels came down from heaven and joined in praising God. They said:

¹⁴ "Praise God in heaven!
Peace on earth to everyone
who pleases God."

¹⁵ After the angels had left and gone back to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶ They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and they saw the baby lying on a bed of hay.

¹⁷ When the shepherds saw Jesus, they told his parents what the angel had said about him. ¹⁸ Everyone listened and was surprised. ¹⁹ But Mary kept thinking about all this and wondering what it meant.

²⁰ As the shepherds returned to their sheep, they were praising God and saying wonderful things about him. Everything they had seen and heard was just as the angel had said.

Golden Isles Walk to Emmaus Board Meeting

The next GIWTE Board Meeting will be held on December 8th at 9 A.M.

Emmaus community members are always welcome at Golden Isles Emmaus Board Meetings, which are normally held the third Saturday of each month in the Open Door Classroom at Brunswick First United Methodist Church.