



GOLDEN ISLES WALK TO EMMAUS

September 2018 Newsletter

From the Desk of the Community Lay Director:

In 1995, fourteen wolves were introduced into Yellowstone National Park. This event initiated a series of changes to Yellowstone. The balance of nature was greatly enhanced when new species of plants and animals began to appear.

Some animals that had been considered extinct reappeared and their presence resulted in a further expansion of flora and fauna as well. The physical geography of the park, indeed the entire ecosystem, was changed and the park is exceptionally sound today.

It is interesting how one seemingly minor event can have such a profound effect. Many events throughout our lives have shaped us to be the individuals that we are now. Let me ask you to take a moment and remember.

Remember when you were in a group of people, most of whom you did not know. Remember when you were probably out of your comfort zone and the lights were dimmed. Maybe you even thought "What have I gotten myself into?" Remember when you were made aware of the section of Luke 24 that described events that occurred on the road from Jerusalem to a place called Emmaus. Perhaps it was the first time that you had heard the story. Remember how the journey that you were beginning affected your life. Singular events can, in fact, have a tremendous impact on both people and places.

There are two groups of Pilgrims who will begin their journeys on the Fall Walks. They are probably anxious and more than a little bit excited about this event. They are soon to experience what we in the Emmaus community now know. Their lives will forever more be changed, because our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will see to it. Remember the excitement and wonder that you felt as you began your Fourth Day? What a special blessing they are about to receive!

"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the scriptures to us?"

As members of the Emmaus Community, we have several responsibilities regarding the upcoming Walks. Firstly we need to support them with our presence at Send off, Candlelight and Closing. We also need to pray for them as they go forward. And we need to give them a warm welcome into their new community. We can begin to do this at the Pio Party on October 5 at Brunswick FUMC.

There is a need for agape, and you can coordinate that with Angela Dunn. Craig Miller is overseeing the Prayer Vigil, and there are still available times to be filled. You can do this online through a link on our web site.

Again, the dates are Men's Walk #35: September 13-16, and Women's Walk #36: September 20-23. Pray for the Lay Directors, Jonetta McDonald and Byron Johns.

This is an exciting time, and we have been greatly blessed by your prayers, participation and support.

De Colores!

Phil Scott

A Little Help on Sponsorship - Letters

Okay, Sponsors, if you have not already started, now is the time to start requesting letters for your Pilgrim.

One of the hardest things for a sponsor to do is request letters from family and close friends who have not been on the walk. You're not always sure what to tell/explain to them about what you need. Below is a sample letter you can e-mail, text, and use as a talking point if you call, or even use snail mail.

I hope it helps!

Dear Family and Friends of (Pilgrim's Name),

(Pilgrim Name) will be attending the "Walk to Emmaus" on (Date) The Emmaus Walk is a spiritual weekend of renewal filled with many beautiful gifts and surprises. One such surprise is the mail that persons attending receive from their loved ones and friends.

As sponsors, we are responsible for contacting family and close friends and asking them to send a note or letter to (Pilgrim Name) so s/he will receive it during this weekend. This letter is an opportunity for you to express your appreciation of what your relationship with him/her has meant and still means to you. You might want to recall some humorous event or some happening that has been special to the two of you. This is a letter of love (agape) and **WILL BE READ BY THE PERSON TO WHOM YOU WRITE.**

Would you help make (Pilgrim Name)'s "Walk to Emmaus special by doing the following:

1. Write a letter to or get a card and sign it.
2. Put it in an envelope and seal it.
3. Write his/her name, but NOT YOURS, on the envelope where you would normally place the sending address
4. Write in the return address (upper left corner) either "family" or "friend", but not your name.
5. Put the envelope in a larger envelope and mail it to me by (Date) or hand deliver it to me by (Date) so I can get it to the proper place in time.

This should be a COMPLETE SURPRISE to (Pilgrim Name), so please help make it special by keeping this a secret until it's all over.

With Thanks!

Sponsor Name
Sponsor Address
Sponsor Phone Number

(Of course, this is just a guideline, so feel free to "tweak" it some.)

Below is a paragraph taken from the *Handbook on Emmaus* which helps answer a frequent question about requesting letters:

Sponsors sometimes ask, "Doesn't asking people who have not been through Emmaus to write letters spoil the surprise of the letters for them if and when they attend Emmaus?"

This certainly has not proven to be the case. In fact, for many, the opposite has been true.

The request for letters introduced them to Emmaus in a positive and interesting way because it gave them an opportunity to do something special for a friend or loved one. Most people who write letters do not understand the letters' purpose on the Walk; and when they go to Emmaus, they forgot about the letters by Sunday afternoon. Even the pilgrim who anticipates the Sunday afternoon delivery of the letters is neither prepared for the content of the letters nor their impact.

Awareness of the letters is not an obstacle to receiving the love they represent.

I hope all this helps!

DeColores!

Cindy Jones
Sponsorship Board Rep

Prayer Vigil Information

Prayer Vigil Sign-up forms are available on our website. Click on the buttons below to access the forms. Men's Walk #35 is scheduled September 13-16 and the Women's Walk #36 will be held September 20-23. Please find a time on the sign-up sheets where you can commit to go to God in prayer for the new pilgrims. We all know the POWER of prayer and how God answers ALL prayers. Remember that people were praying for you during your Walk with the Lord and how amazing it felt when you found out yourselves.

De Colores!
Craig Miller
GIWTE #12
Prayer Vigil Chair

[GIWTE Men's Walk #35](#)

[GIWTE Women's Walk #36](#)

WHAT DO I PRAY FOR DURING THE PRAYER VIGIL?

Have you ever wondered how to fill an entire hour with prayer during the Prayer Vigil?

It's an issue I struggle with each walk, so I did a little research and found some suggestions from other Emmaus Communities that they provide their members.

Each button below will take you to their ideas.

--Lori Durham
Communications Board Representative

[Dayspring Walk to Emmaus](#)

[Florida Crown Emmaus](#)

[Southwest Virginia Walk to Emmaus](#)

It's Agape Time!!

Agape gifts are given to participants by Community members over the course of a Walk weekend as a sign of God's loving presence.

There are three main types of Agape:

- * **Community Agape**
- * **Table & Pillow Agape**
- * **Letter Agape**

It's time to start thinking about all that Table & Pillow Agape!

Those are the little gifts that appear on the conference room tables, or on beds, starting on Friday evening.

Table & Pillow Agape must be provided for everyone on the weekend (65 pieces max.)

Start making them now so they will be ready in time for the Walks. They will be here before we know it.

Please deliver your items in a labeled bag so the team can return any extras!

Contact [Angela Dunn](#) if you have any questions on Agape Items.

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

[Click HERE for Pilgrim Applications](#)

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

ATTENTION MUSICIANS:

If you are interested in sharing your musical gifts at Community Gatherings or Walks, please contact Jim Hitt, the Music Board Rep, at: (912) 614-4701.

Upcoming Events

Community Gatherings:

There will be no Gathering in September due to the Walks.

Friday, October 5th--7:00 p.m. Pio Party Brunswick FUMC

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.

Schedule of Events for the Upcoming Walks

Set-up at Lion's Camp

Saturday, Sept. 8th: 9.a.m.-noon

Men's Walk #35: September 13-16

Send-off: Thursday 7 pm from Lions Camp; Pilgrims begin arriving at 6 pm

Candlelight: Saturday 8 pm at Lions Camp for the Blind. Please don't be late!

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

Women's Walk #36: September 20-23

Send-off: Thursday 7 pm from Lions Camp; Pilgrims begin arriving at 6 pm

Candlelight: Saturday 8 pm at Lions Camp for the Blind. Please don't be late!

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

Reflections from the Heart

New Life

Trisa Chancey
GIWTE #2
Table of Mary

As part of the Emmaus family, it is understood that we have New Life in Christ. September may seem like an odd time to write about New Life, but consider that I write in the month before the newsletter comes out...and as I write this, my cat just had kittens! New Life has always captured my attention. Whether that New Life be in the form of the bud of a rose, a newborn human, a newborn kitten, or any of a myriad of other things that represent New Life.

Years ago I remember being at a craft fair with my Mom and noticing a hand-painted sign that read, "A baby is God's opinion that the world should go on." There is a song I love with the verse, "How sweet to hold a newborn baby, to feel the love and joy he gives. But greater still the calm assurance, this child can face uncertain days because He lives."

We live in uncertain days. This world we are in is such a mess right now. With war, famine, draught, flood, hurricane, earthquake...you name it. We have a choice to make. We can either reflect the hopelessness of the chaos around us, or we can be the hands and feet of Jesus. It is our privilege to show love to the seemingly unlovable, to be there for people as they face life's storms so they know they are not alone, to feed the hungry and give a drink to the thirsty, to provide financial assistance when we can, and always to offer prayers on behalf of those in need.

Another sign I remember seeing years ago read, "Be a Lert. The world needs more Lerts!" Take time to be alert to the needs around you. Sometimes we can get so bogged down in our own lives that we forget that others have greater and more pressing needs. I don't mean to minimize the pain you yourself are experiencing. Only open your eyes to the fact that other people hurt too.

Speech is a gift from God. Proverbs 18:21 reminds us that "The power of life and death is in the tongue." Again, we have a choice. We can use God's gift of speech to tear others apart. Or we can use God's gift of speech to lift others up. To offer a word of encouragement. To introduce people to a New Life in Christ. This month, be especially alert to the words you choose to use, and the impact they have on those around you.

De Colores!

Golden Isles Walk to Emmaus Board Meeting

The next GIWTE Board Meeting will be held on October 20 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.