



GOLDEN ISLES
EMMAUS

DECEMBER 2024 Newsletter



Dear Golden Isles Emmaus Community,
I pray each of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family & friends and celebrating all you are thankful for, grateful for and hopeful for.

From Psalm 100:4: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is my last newsletter message to our community as Board Chair. It has been my honor and blessing to serve alongside all of you during 2024.

This year was not as fruitful as we had hoped for when we were not able to have spring walks. We did host a Town Hall meeting in July to discuss the future of our community. We were grateful for all that attended and provided their input. We are honoring the outcome of the Town Hall meeting in working on continuing our community. To that end we are “planning” for spring 2025 walk. If you receive a phone call, email or text message from our Lay Directors, Theresa Vigue and Mike Martin asking you to serve in the Conference Room, please be kind and respond to them.

The Registrar report from Sherry Casey on pilgrim applications is – 7 men and 19 women applications are in hand. Many of these applications have been on file for the last few years, Sherry is reaching out to Sponsors for their pilgrims on attending, those responses so far are 2 and 5 respectively. While we first need the conference room teams in place we also need pilgrims to attend. Pray about whom God is leading you to talk to about attending a Walk to Emmaus.

The last update from the Lay Directors as they develop the Conference Room teams, they are both experiencing challenges making contact with servants to respond and/or to serve. Thank you to those willing servants that have said, “Yes I will serve”. The Board is “planning for” with prayer and hopefulness for Spring walks. We know God is in complete control, and He will provide willing servants and pilgrims if Spring walks are meant to happen.



We are saying thank you for your service to our community to Board members Ralph Nantze, Rick Rupp, Wade Conaway, Carolyn Capps and Sherry Casey, completing their 3-year term. We are welcoming new board members, Penny Clark, Jeff Hellman, Tom McDonald, Byron Johns and Janet Rainer. Thank you all for being willing servants.

As we look toward 2025 some board members will be dual hatted with areas of responsibility. Also, some board members rolling off have asked/offered to stay on for the Spring walks for continuity.

Please welcome and support Angela Dunn who is stepping up to be the Community Lay Director/Board Chair for 2025 and Chip Strickland who will be serving as our Community Spiritual Director. Thank you both for being willing servants.

Our December Gathering will be a Saturday Gathering at the Lions Camp in Waycross. Please come and join us to celebrate the Christmas season together, fellowshiping, bringing a dish to share, singing some Christmas songs and worshipping together. Also, you can attend the Okefenokee Swamp's Holiday magic at their Annual Light Show after the Gathering ends.

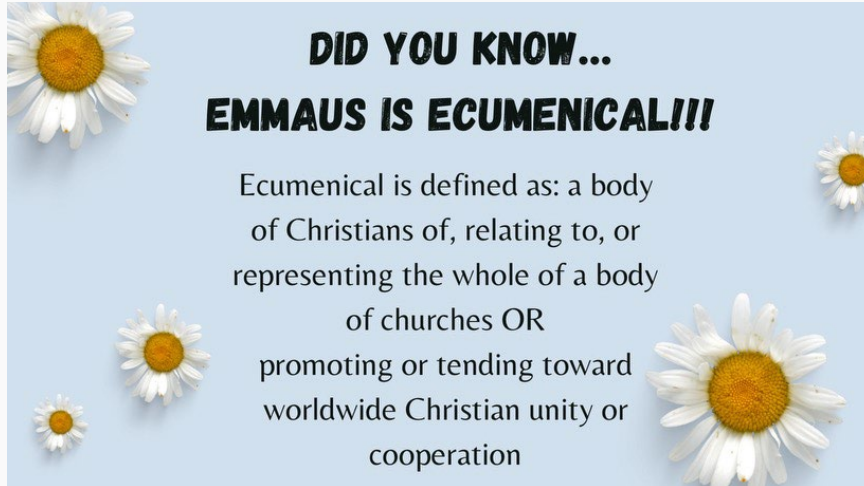
WHAT'S IN A CANDY CANE?



Merry Christmas to each of you and your families. Remember and pray for those experiencing their first Christmas season missing a loved one whether family or friends. Celebrate families this Christmas season with new family members, expanding their circle of life and love.

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” Isaiah 9:6.

De Colores! Anne,



Christmas Is...

Christmas is...the celebration of Jesus' birthday of course! I could end this article here, but I won't. I think Christmas is more.

Christmas is "the most wonderful time of the year," unless it isn't. Many people struggle with depression, particularly around the holidays. Make time in your Christmas schedule to reach out to people you know who are struggling. You never really know the positive difference a phone call, text, letter, or handwritten postcard can make. And if you're the one who is struggling, admit it. Reach out for the help you need. And don't give up if the first person you call isn't receptive. Keep trying until someone listens. The suicide prevention hotline is 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

What about presents? There was a Christmas my uncle was disappointed because he couldn't afford nice presents for all his nieces and nephews. He got the only thing he could afford...candy canes. And those candy canes were a big hit! He hadn't expected that.

One of my saddest Christmases was the year my family – my parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles – decided I was too old to receive toys for Christmas. I tried to be grateful for the things I got. But my Grandma found me

crying. The next year she bought me a Lilliput doll so I'd be sure to have a toy. The doll's box is only about 2 ½ inches long. The doll is even smaller. But I cherish that representation of my Grandma's love, and I still have it. Gifts don't have to be big or expensive to be meaningful.

Christmas is a time for family get-togethers. For some this is a beautiful time filled with love and good food. For some it is contentious, a brawl waiting to happen. For some Christmas isn't what it once was because there has been a death in the family, or someone is in jail or prison. For others Christmas is just another day to survive as best they can.

One thing more...Christmas isn't the only holiday celebrated at this time of the year. According to Time.com there are 11 holidays celebrated around the world in December. So if someone greets you with "Happy Holidays" they're not trying to be ugly. They don't know what you celebrate and it's cumbersome to try to list all the December holidays to make sure no one feels left out. Respond with a smile and ask what holiday they celebrate, and then wish them a happy whatever-it-is. And let them know you celebrate Christmas and why. Just please remember that a bold and grouchy "Merry Christmas" isn't going to make anyone excited to celebrate.

I would like to remind you that as each of us does what Christ is counting on us to do and supports others in what Christ has called them to do, we can't help but become Better Together. *How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!* Psalm 133:1.

DeColores, Emmaus Family. I hope to see you all soon.

Trisa Chancey – Golden Isles Walk to Emmaus #2 – Table of Mary

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

December 07, 2024 @ 5pm

Christmas Party

Lions Camp for the Blind

5677-5685 SR 177

Waycross, Ga 31503

PLEASE RSVP to Melissa 912-464-9320 or email mfbmoreno@gmail.com

January 10, 2024 @ 7pm

Community Church

181 Mall Blvd

Brunswick, Ga 31525

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

Melissa Bender Moreno at mfbmoreno@gmail.com for more information regarding what is required of a host church.

If you are interested in sharing your musical gifts at

Community Gatherings or Walks, please contact

Brian Vigue at [904-894-6753](tel:904-894-6753) or bikerbrian@tds.net.





There have been a few people say that they would like to connect with a reunion group. I am working on getting people connected. If you are interested in going to a reunion group or help starting a new reunion group, please contact Connie Eastwood at giwtereuniongroup@gmail.com
Please send me an email with days and times of availability.

Thank you!
Connie
Reunion Group Chair

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