GOLDEN ISLES
EMMAUS

May 2026 Newsletter

Hello Emmaus Family,
As spring unfolds around us, we are reminded of the beauty of renewal. Flowers bloom, days grow longer, and creation itself seems to awaken with fresh purpose. In the same way, God is always at work renewing our hearts, restoring our hope, and calling us into a deeper relationship with Him.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" – 2 Corinthians 5:17
May is a perfect time to reflect on what God is growing in your life. Where is He bringing new life? Where is He asking you to trust Him more fully? Sometimes growth feels exciting… and sometimes it feels stretching. But we can trust that He is faithful in every season.

Upcoming Training – May 16th
We're excited to offer a special training opportunity on May 16th, led by one of our own Emmaus community members, John Bostain. This session will focus on innovation and change, helping us grow as leaders and servants in a world that is constantly shifting.
Whether you're actively serving or simply feel called to learn and grow, this training is for you. Come ready to be inspired, challenged, and equipped for what God is doing next.
(More details to come—stay tuned!)

Even as we enjoy the beauty of spring, we are already beginning to plan for our Fall Emmaus Walks. These weekends are powerful moments where lives are changed, faith is renewed, and community is strengthened.

Please begin praying now for:
• The team members being called to serve
• The pilgrims who will attend
• Open hearts and transformed lives

If you feel a nudge in your spirit to serve, don't ignore it. God often calls us in gentle whispers. We would love to walk alongside you in that journey—please reach out to learn more about how you can be involved.

Spring reminds us that new life doesn't happen overnight—it grows, often quietly, beneath the surface before it blooms.

Wherever you are today, trust that God is working. Seeds are being planted. Roots are growing deeper. And in His perfect timing, new life will come forth.

De Colores!
-Angela Dunn
Community Lay Director

Free Leadership Training

DATE: Saturday May 16, 2026
TIME: 9am-12noon
WHERE: Honey Creek Episcopal Retreat Center

299 Georgia Episcopal Center Rd, Waverly, GA 31565

Speaker: John Bostain
John Bostain is the President of Command Presence Leadership, a training, coaching, and speaking company headquartered in Brunswick, GA, dedicated to helping leaders honor God through the way they serve others. A U.S. Navy veteran and former public safety professional, John has spent the past 27 years equipping more than 50,000 professionals and countless organizations across North America to build extraordinary organizational cultures rooted in integrity, humility, and service. As a John C. Maxwell Certified trainer, speaker, and coach, he draws on time-tested, biblically aligned leadership principles to inspire growth, accountability, and trust at every level of an organization.

"Built Upon the Rock: Foundations of Biblical Leadership" is a transformative 3-hour training open to everyone, whether in a leadership role or not, drawing from Matthew 7:24-27 to equip participants with enduring faith-based principles. Discover God's true purpose in your life—your personal "fire"—while exploring your followership style as the bedrock of effective leadership. Through a biblical lens, we'll examine the five exemplary practices of leadership, empowering you to build a resilient, purpose-driven life that withstands any storm.

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

Saturday May 16th 2026 9-12

Leadership Training / Gathering
Honey Creek Episcopal Camp
299 Georgia Episcopal Center Rd, Waverly, GA 31565

Friday June 5th2026 7pm

TBD

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 **Byron Johns** at **byronfjohns@yahoo.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** or **bikerbrian@tds.net**.

Click this link for the survey.

https://us4.list-manage.com/survey?u=cb607fe8e4fee4bb7a2956986&id=b5a3054597&attribution=false

Please Don’t Fight

Breaking from our Unity theme for a moment, I’d like to describe a lesson I learned from my daughter’s cat Emma this morning.

First you need to know that Emma barfed this morning. My daughter Mary let me know that Emma needed her tummy medicine. As Emma walked around the house I could hear her claws catching in the carpet. Emma has a funny habit that when she sees me coming with her tummy medicine (similar to a toothpaste tube) she hightails it to her room to try to hide. What she doesn’t seem to realize is that when she goes into her room I can shut the door, making it much easier to catch her.

Well, I caught her. I sat on the floor with her and wound my legs around her middle. She complained quietly as I clipped her nails on her first front paw. When I reached for her second front paw she complained a little louder, but she still allowed me to trim her nails without a fight. Then came the first back paw. She wriggled and squirmed and hissed, but I held tightly and managed to get the claws on that paw trimmed. Emma’s ears were back against her head and she had a monotone sound coming from deep within her. It was ominous and threatening, not quite a growl, but definitely a warning. I cradled her like a baby and managed to get the claws on the last paw trimmed.

Emma was still as could be, still voicing her displeasure but no longer fighting me. She continued her verbal complaints but rested her head against my shoulder and kept her body still as I continued to cradle her. Her objections became less and less intense and finally she was completely silent. We made eye contact and seemed to come to an understanding. Then she rolled out of my arms and onto the floor.

I reached out and petted Emma’s head and stroked her front paw. Then I put some of the tummy medicine on my finger. Emma tucked her paws underneath her, but I managed to smear the tummy medicine on her closest paw anyway. It amuses me because our other cat, Peanut Butter, thinks the tummy medicine is a treat, but Emma seems to think it’s poison.

Throughout this experience I was thinking about the chorus of the song “By Your Side” by Tenth Avenue North and the biblical promise of our Father God rejoicing over us with singing (Zephaniah 3:17-20). I never felt annoyed with Emma as she struggled against my care. As I did what she needed but didn’t want, I contemplated how many times my Father God has cradled me and cared for me as I struggled against Him.

The chorus of “By Your Side” contains these words:

I'll be by your side wherever you fall
In the dead of night whenever you call
And please, don't fight these hands that are holding you
My hands are holding you

I pray for you today, my brothers and sisters, that you will stop fighting the hands of the God who loves you. That you will learn to quietly rest in His arms and allow Him to provide you with the care you need.

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

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