



Heart of Florida

Walk to Emmaus

A Ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Bartow
December 2010 – Volume 16, Issue 7

The Newsletter of the Heart of Florida Emmaus Community

www.hof-emmaus.org

Gathering and Board Elections

Saturday January 8, 2010

5:00 – 7:00 PM

First United Methodist Church Sebring

126 S Pine Street

Sebring, Florida

863-385-0727

Bring a covered dish

The Dinner will be held in Family Life Center
Then we will go to the Sanctuary for worship

Child Care will be provided!!

The Board of Directors will meet at 3:30 PM in the Church Office

Mark your calendar and don't miss out on this wonderful time of fellowship!

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

Thursday **March 10th** - Team Dedication and Pot Luck

Men's Spring Walk #23 - **March 17-20**

Women's Spring Walk #23 - **March 24-27**

**MAY YOU HAVE A CHRIST FILLED CHRISTMAS AND A
GOD-FILLED NEW YEAR**

Hi all. I pray your time during Advent will be special. I wanted to send this message out early as the upcoming March walks for the Heart of Florida Emmaus Community Men and Women are coming quicker than we all think. We must, as both a community and individually as brothers and sisters in Christ, take an active part in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Personally, I believe there is no better way to share with believers than by the experiencing the Walk to Emmaus. We need to share this with others. That is why I ask you: What better Christmas gift could a reunion group give than to sponsor a new pilgrim for the upcoming March walks?

Even if you, or your group, can't pay for someone to attend, that should not, and cannot, stop you from talking to and sponsoring someone who has the financial ability to pay their own way. Most of the time all someone is waiting for is to be asked about walking closer with the Lord. So don't be shy! Ask someone if they want to take a walk with some friends and one of them may be Jesus. You can ask anyone - and their name does not have to be Cleopas. Let's help our friends Jeff Dodson and Faye Sarvis not have to worry about having enough pilgrims for walks #23.

GOD loves ya and so do !!!!

Tom Selander

HOF Walk#5 Table of Luke

Lay Director – Men's Walk To Emmaus #22

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Sponsorship

Before any Emmaus Walk can take place there is one important thing that must happen..... and that is **SPONSORSHIP**. While your church may be able to just say "ya'll come", sponsorship is the messenger. Sponsorship is the lifeblood to the Emmaus Walk. Most communities take sponsorship for granted and assume everyone knows the how and why of sponsorship. Unfortunately, sponsorship is often the least thought about and frequently thought about only in terms of how many pilgrims are signed up for the next walk.

- Sponsorship is the first act of agape before a Walk ever begins.
- Good sponsorship undergirds the whole weekend with sacrificial love on behalf of each pilgrim.
- Good sponsorship provides a foundation for a healthy, effective Emmaus movement, fulfilling The purpose of developing Christian leaders and renewal of the church in ministry. Those Attending the weekends are better prepared to participate in local church leadership.

Some frequently asked questions regarding sponsorship to consider.

Why do we sponsor? What is our aim?

The goal is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians, who in turn bring new life and vision to the work of the church in the congregation, home, workplace and community. The aim is to build up the body of Christ.

Who can sponsor?

Anyone who has participated in Emmaus (or Emmaus-related retreats) can sponsor others.

While it is suggested that sponsors not serve as team members on Walks when they are sponsoring, this does not prevent you from recruiting if you are serving on team. Enlist others who will take on the duties of sponsorship for you.

Who should we sponsor?

Active Christians, members of churches whose own renewal will mean energy, commitment, and vision in the church and everyday environments for Christ's sake.

Who are these people?

Church leaders, Pastors and lay people, dependable church members who are the quiet backbone of the church, Christians who are hungry for "something more" and looking to grow spiritually, members of diverse congregations, denominations, and ethnic groups.

Who pays for the pilgrim to go on the walk?

If you, or your accountability group, are able to sponsor the complete weekend - wonderful! You can also share with the pilgrim the cost involved and consider different ways this can be handled.

How do you sponsor?

1. **PRAY**, for the person to be open to God's call to discipleship.
2. Set a date, an appointment with the person to discuss participation in the Walk.
3. Extend an invitation and share your faith, explaining the basic elements of the walk, and its purpose.
4. Ask the person to make a commitment by filling out the registration form. If the person is married, speak with both partners and encourage both to commit.
5. Continue to pray for your prospective pilgrim. Collect letters of encouragement (Agape letters) from friends and family. You remember how much they meant to you when you received them.
6. Encourage your pilgrim in his or her Fourth Day. Invite him/her to your local community Reunion group.
7. Inform the pilgrim of ways to serve the Emmaus community and future walks.
8. Now help your pilgrim to sponsor someone. Keep the lifeblood of Emmaus continually flowing.

How is the pilgrim delivered to the weekend?

As the sponsor, you are responsible for bringing the pilgrim to the weekend.

Support your pilgrim through prayer and your presence at Send-Off, Candlelight, and Closing.

Why do Men's Events Precede Women's?

The original intent for this schedule is historical and practical. The original intent was to reclaim men for Christ as committed members of Christ's church, later women's weekends were developed. It is to encourage men to participate that might otherwise be unwilling to do so, and breaks the stigma of leaving religion to the women to handle.

Walk #23 Information

Get those team applications in! Faye Sarvis and Jeff Dobson are counting on you for the help needed to put Team #23 together. The training begins in January so there is not much time before the Walk begins in March. The walks are earlier this year due to Easter and other bookings at Lake Wales. Pray to know God's discernment, whether you should serve or sponsor a pilgrim, both the vital elements needed before a walk can be held.

Walk #23 - ALDO and ALDI's: **Men's Walk**

ALDO Mac McClaine
ALDI Rich Thompson

Women's Walk

ALDO Kathy Bryant
ALDI Gerry Hubbs

Board Activities

The Board of Directors presented 90 Butterfly Crosses to the Chrysalis Community we sponsor.

Send-Off will now begin at 6:15 and end at 7:00. This is a change from 5:45.

The Board will preview the "new" Upper room video to be used on Thursday evening the Walk.

Pilgrim Applications must be postmarked or received **two weeks prior** to the Men's weekend. Applications received after the cut off will be rolled over to the next set of weekends. Applications for single women will be accepted up to two weeks prior to the women's weekend.

The following members of the community have agreed to serve on the HOF Board if elected: Rodney Allen, Debbie Jones, Joe Pratt, and Charlie Pfluger. Elections will be held at the January Gathering. Board of Directors members serve 3 year terms (except for the Treasurer, who serves a 4 year term). Wade Willey, Tom Selander, Eric Garnett, and Dawn Eller will be stepping down in January, 2011. We thank them for their service and dedication to the HOF Walk to Emmaus community.

Visit the Heart of Florida Website today at
www.hof-emmaus.org

Here are a few things you will find on our website:

Directions to Masterpiece Gardens and to the churches where Gatherings will be held

Forms – Reservation for Pilgrims, Sponsor’s forms, Team Applications as well as sponsorship information.

The HOF Newsletters are posted as well. We are hoping some of you might prefer to read your newsletter online instead of receiving it by mail. If you would like to receive it via the website instead of snail mail – **please** email Sharon Harris at info@fpcbartowfl.org.

There is also a **Heart of Florida email group** – sign up for this group and receive e-mail communications about upcoming events as well as prayer concerns.

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