

# Near the Cross Emmaus



July 2013  
Volume 8, Issue 7

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*No Gathering in July  
due to the Holiday!*

### Saturday, July 13th

Walks #29 & #30

Orientation

8:30am-3:30pm

Refuge Baptist Church-  
Lake City

### Saturday, August 3rd

Community Gathering

12:00pm

South Annex Building-  
FUMC Jonesboro

### September 12-15

Men's Walk #29

LD: Travis Emery

### September 19-22

Women's Walk #30

LD: Casey Emery

## INDEPENDENCE DAY REMINDERS



"At the time of the adoption of the Constitution and the amendments, the universal sentiment was that Christianity should be encouraged...In this age there can be no substitute for Christianity...That was the religion of the founders of the republic and they expected it to remain the religion of their descendents."

**House Judiciary Committee Report, March 27, 1854**

"Is it not that in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior?—that it forms a leading event in the progress of the Gospel dispensation? Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized a social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer's mission upon earth?—That it laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity."

**John Quincy Adams:  
Sixth President of the  
United States**

"It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor."

**George Washington:  
First President of the  
United States**



## AGAPE NEEDED FOR FALL WALKS

Remember all the fun agape you received on your bed or in the dining hall during your Walk? Where does it all come from? The answer is you!! Someone is waiting for you to bless them with the same special agape .

Fall Walks are just around the corner so start coming up with new and fresh ideas. There are tons of ideas on the internet or you can brainstorm at your next reunion group about what agape you can create as a group for the Walks.

If you would like for the agape to be placed on the pilgrim's beds, you will need 26 pieces. If you would like for the agape to be placed on the placemats at meal times, you will need 49 pieces. If you would like for the entire team and pilgrims to receive the agape, you will need 70 pieces. Remember groups making agape may include their group name and town. However, individuals should give their agape anonymously, in love.

So what if you are not

creative or do not have the time to create agape for upcoming walks? You can sponsor a snack table during a Walk weekend. Throughout the weekend there are 10 snack tables that are provided. You can individually or as a reunion group sponsor a table for \$35. Please send checks to: NEAR the Cross Treasurer, Sherri Slaven 1189 Hwy 91 Bono, AR 72416 On the memo line of the check please write "Snack Table".

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## EMMAUS QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Q: What is the purpose of Emmaus?**

A: The purpose of Emmaus is to renew the church as the body of the risen Christ in the world through the renewal of Christians as faithful and committed disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Q: Who controls Emmaus?**

A: Other than the Holy Spirit? Emmaus is grounded theologically and institutionally in The Upper Room section of the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church. That being said, Emmaus is ecumenical in that it invites and involves the participation of Christians of many denominations, and seeks to foster Christian unity and to reinforce the whole Christian community.

**Q: Who is in charge? Is it clergy or laity?** centuries of clergy dominance in the church, laypersons do indeed carry primary responsibility for the Walk to Emmaus. The intent is for balance, rather than dominance, of either laity or clergy.

**Q: Why do we have sponsors instead of "ya'll come"?**

A: Emmaus relies on a method that is more consistent with the walk's message: sponsorship. The personal character of sponsorship underlines God's personal care and commitment to each pilgrim. Sponsorship is vital to Emmaus in every community. Sponsors help make Emmaus an act of sacrificial love from beginning to end.

**Q: What is the aim of sponsors?**

A: The aim of a sponsor should not be "to get all my friends to go," to fill up the three-day event, to fix people's problems, or to reproduce one's religious experience in others. Rather, the sponsor's aim is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who, in turn, will bring new life and vision to the work of the church in the congregation, home, workplace, and community. The aim of sponsorship is to build up the body of Christ.

**Q: How do I decide who to sponsor?**

A: Your awareness and commitment to the purpose of Emmaus will have an influence on who and how you sponsor. Remember that Emmaus is for active Christians and members of churches whose own renewal will mean new energy, commitment, and vision in the church and community. Some examples might be: church leaders whether they are pastors or laypersons; dependable church members who are the quiet backbone of the church; perhaps less-active members who need their awareness of grace rekindled; or Christians who are hungry for "something more" and who want to grow spiritually.

**Q: Is Emmaus right for everyone?**

A: The simple answer is NO. One's religious background or emotional condition may make Emmaus an improper discipleship tool (that is what it is) for them. It certainly is not for non-Christians or for those whose theology and/or practice is notably different or incompatible with the traditional theology and practice represented by the Walk to Emmaus. It is not that they are required to be "like you" but give some thought to your selection. Are they going through an emotional upheaval that would distract from the experience? Will their belief system cause them to feel the constant need to defend the uniqueness of their beliefs?

**WALKS #29 & #30  
PILGRIM APPLICATIONS  
ARE NOW BEING  
ACCEPTED**

**When you finished your Walk to Emmaus with the Risen Lord, did you rush back to tell folks that "the Lord is risen indeed!?" It's not too late to spread the joy to those you know. Family members and friends should hear the Good News from you, and many of them deserve to share in the Emmaus experience as you did. Please consider providing Emmaus applications to those whom you know would benefit from the Walk to Emmaus weekend. Sponsor and Pilgrim applications can be found on our website [www.nearthecrossemmaus.org](http://www.nearthecrossemmaus.org).**

 Find us on  
**Facebook**

**This is a closed group to keep in touch and share our 4th Day experiences, study material, prayer requests and praises. This is not an official page of the NEAR the Cross Board of Directors.**

