

Near the Cross Emmaus



June 2013
Volume 8, Issue 6

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 1st
Monthly Gathering
12:00pm
FUMC Jonesboro
South Annex Building

**No Gathering in July
due to the Holiday!**

Saturday, July 13th
**Orientation for
Walks #29 & #30**
8:30am-3:30pm

September 12-15
Men's Walk #29
LD: Travis Emery

September 19-22
Women's Walk #30
LD: Casey Emery

COMMUNITY LAY LEADER
Jim Markley
jmarkley_best@msn.com

COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIR.
Jimmy Anderson
jwa36@juno.com

TREASURER
Sherril Slaven
sherrislaven@yahoo.com

SECRETARY
Sara Frazier
wsfrazier@live.com

REGISTRAR
Shelly Fulks
shellyfulksemmaus@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Haley Mitchell
haley_jo_01@yahoo.com

THE UPPER ROOM "Fourth Day Leaders Embodying Christ" OUR MISSION

Empowering leaders through Emmaus/Chrysalis to be the hands and feet of Christ

To Embody Christ means:

If you have gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if His love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care—then do me a favor:

- Agree with each other
- Love each other
- Be deep-spirited friends
- Don't push your way to the front
- Don't sweet-talk your way to the top
- Put yourself aside and help others to get ahead
- Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage
- Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand
- Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of Himself

Philippians 2:1-5
(The Message)

Beyond the Walk...

What did you do today to show My Son lives in your heart? Did you wait patiently in the checkout line when the call went out for a price check? Did you smile at the clerk in the store who you knew was having a bad day? Did you anonymously pay for an elderly man's meal just because? What about the homeless man carrying a "need work" sign? Did you take time to listen to your child tell you excitedly about their day? Remember through you others will come to know Me.

Love, God

UNPLUGGED: PRACTICAL LOVE

What would happen if love were the goal of every event in your church? What would change if people prayed for each program and then offered it to the church or community for the glory of God? What if the church's agenda were based on loving as Jesus loves? What if the chairperson of the board of trustees began by saying, "Our job is to use and care for our facility so that people feel the love of Christ when they are here." What would change if all the committees of the congregation sought to love God's people, rather than to do God's chores?

The goal of Emmaus is not to recreate the Walk in the local church or to recruit people for the weekend retreat. The goal is to return the spirit of agape, which is also the spirit of Emmaus, to the local church. As pilgrims return from Emmaus, they need to ask themselves questions such as these: How can I help my congregation be intensely

loving? How can I help my congregation think of ministry as an act of agape?

Jesus said, "just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35). Returning to the congregation is above all a matter of returning with a greater awareness of and reliance on God's love.

In the excitement of the Walk to Emmaus, we sometimes forget that the purpose of the event is to develop Christian disciples who will renew local churches. How do pilgrims bring agape to their congregations? To be agents of renewal, they must make God's love tangible.

Here's a list of twenty ways to renew local churches. What would you add to the list? What is God calling you to do?

20 Ways to Renew the Church

1. Ask your pastor how you can be in ministry.
2. Be the friendliest person at a church event.
3. Teach a Sunday school class.
4. Start a prayer group.
5. Sponsor a congregational leader for the next Walk to Emmaus.
6. Begin a Bible study group.
7. Help with the youth group.
8. Sponsor the pastor and his or her spouse to a Walk.
9. Help the church secretary with the newsletter or other duties.
10. Write about the Walk to Emmaus for the church newsletter.
11. Visit the homebound for prayer and fellowship.
12. Visit people in the hospital.
13. Join the women's or men's group in the church. (If your church doesn't have a group, could you start one?)
14. Be a friendly usher at worship.
15. Volunteer to serve on the worship, mission or evangelism committee or in another area of ministry that interests you.
16. Help with the church library.
17. Serve on the board of trustees; open the church building to the community.
18. Tithe.
19. Send agape to church members in crisis.
20. Start a program to feed the hungry or to shelter the homeless.

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

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. Submit all applications to Registrar Shelly Fulks.

 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.



*The Emmaus Library
-Coming Down from the Mountain:
Returning to Your Congregations*