

Near the Cross Emmaus



May 2013
Volume 8, Issue 5

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 4th

12:00pm

FUMC Jonesboro
South Annex Building
(Formerly known as
First Christian Church)

Saturday, June 1st

Monthly Gathering

12:00pm

FUMC Jonesboro
South Annex Building

*There will not be a
Gathering in July
due to the Holiday!*

September 12-15

Men's Walk #29

LD: Travis Emery

September 19-22

Women's Walk #30

LD: Casey Emery

REGIONAL TRAINING BENEFICIAL FOR COMMUNITY

On Saturday, April 20, 2013, 38 members of NEAR the Cross and Noah's of Ark and Heart of the Ozarks spent the day with the Upper Room Regional Leadership for Emmaus. At the same time the laity were experiencing leadership development training, clergy were with Rev. Mike Cave discussing the important information that clergy need to know about developing spiritual leaders for Emmaus, Chrysalis, and ultimately for our local churches. The topics that were covered were: Servant Leadership, Board of Directors, Fourth Day, Core Elements,

Sponsorship, Behind the Scenes, Team Selection and Team Information.

NEAR the Cross was chosen to host the Upper Room Leadership Development Event because of our dedication in striving for excellence as a community. We have been in existence for six years and have had tremendous growth since our beginning. Our goal has always been to follow what is written in the Upper Room manuals because that is what keeps us focused on the spiritual formation of all of our events; from our walks to our gatherings to our group reunions to our walk team formation.

The Upper Room leadership recognizes NEAR the Cross as one of the main communities in the South Central Region of the U.S. that is purposeful in its intention to remain focused on serving others with very little focus on ourselves. We will strive to always stay focused in that direction. The main thing that helps us stay focused is our constant awareness of the power of the Holy Spirit and how that empowers us to move beyond our comfort zone to minister to the pilgrims that God brings to us. We have been very blessed indeed!

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NEAR THE CROSS SHIRTS AVAILABLE

New NEAR the Cross Walk to Emmaus shirts are available to purchase. The shirts come in short sleeve or long sleeve. The new shirt design can be viewed on our website.

Shirt sizes range from Adult Small to Adult 3XL.

If you have questions or would like to place an order Contact Pam Slaven at 870-919-2149 or pam72403@yahoo.com

"The Regional Upper Room Emmaus training was very successful. The training produced a lot of good ideas, which we will be discussing in the near future. We were given many helpful hints as to how we can keep NTC vital and healthy. I would like to thank all the reunion groups that helped out before and after the training, and for those who provided food. It was a fantastic day."

4TH DAY SERVANTS — EAT, PRAY, LOVE

Editor's Note: The following article was published in a recent newsletter from The Three Rivers Community in Pennsylvania.

Yes, it is the title of a novel based on a true story. Yes, it was made into a movie starring Julia Roberts in 2010 and yes, Oprah dedicated two whole episodes of her show to it. But NO, I am not recommending you go see the movie or read the book. I am shamelessly playing on the title to make a point about the essence of our Walk to Emmaus faith community – eat, pray, love – in the name of Christ, it's what we do!

EAT (Luke 22:19)– When we were on our walks, we ate well. At Gatherings – we eat. When in our group reunions, holding one another accountable to the order of the Group Reunion card, we often share a meal or a snack at least. And when we eat, we remember these words: “and in the breaking of the bread, their eyes were opened.” It is my prayer that the next time you eat

your eyes will be opened to the opportunities to pray and love and then act on them. In fact, why wait? Why not just do it now?

PRAY (1Thess5:17).– The 24-Hour Prayer Vigils for Walks is always posted on the web ready for you to sign up. Look for an open slot that suits you and fill in your name. Don't stop there! In this pre-walk time, **pray** for Pilgrims, **pray** for team, **pray** over the camp and its staff, **pray** without ceasing.

LOVE (Hebrews: 10:24-25) - When you went on your Walk you were loved on by many people you didn't even know. Now, it's your turn! Please – as you eat, as you pray, consider how you might love on people that you don't even know by serving in a 4th day capacity for the upcoming walks. Make Agape? Clean bathrooms? Serve a meal? Set up on Thursday? Help pack up on Sunday after closing? Don't want to do it alone? Great! Invite all of your Group Reunion friends to come along with you.

COME AND SEE A MAN

The Samaritan woman (John 4:1-42) was unable to hide anything from Jesus. He knew her well. She left her water jar at the well, went into the city, and said to all who would listen “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done!” (4:29). Many Samaritans believed in Jesus because of what the woman said, and they asked Jesus to stay. For two days, he taught them: and many more believed. After that, the people of Samaria said that they believed in Jesus, not because of the woman's witness, but because they had heard for themselves. They said, “We know that this is truly the Savior of the world” (4:42).

Like the woman at the well, members of an Emmaus team invite

People to “come and see a man” who knows and loves us. We work toward a weekend Walk to which pilgrims will come. By trusting God and serving as team members, we create an experience in which they can see Jesus and believe, not because of their sponsor's invitation, but because they have seen and heard for themselves.

In John 4:35, Jesus tells his disciples that the fields are ripe for harvest and that the reapers are gathering fruit for eternal life. All that we do and say on a Walk to Emmaus matters in eternity. We invite people to “come and see a man.” Jesus gathers them in and gives them life.

**The Emmaus Library
-Spiritual Growth through
Team Experience**

**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. 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.

