

Near the Cross Emmaus



March 2014
Volume 9, Issue 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 6-9

Men's Walk #31

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

March 13-16

Women's Walk #32

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

April 5

Walk Follow Up Meeting

FUMC Jonesboro

At 11:00am

Community Gathering

FUMC Jonesboro

At Noon

October 2-5

Men's Walk #33

October 9-12

Women's Walk #34

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LAY DIRECTORS PREPARE FOR SPRING WALKS

As *The Walk to Emmaus Team Manual* points out, "The Weekend Lay Director for a Walk to Emmaus Weekend is selected by the Board of Directors to lead a team through team formation, and the team and pilgrims through an Emmaus Weekend."

Shane Faulkner and Jill Belk were chosen by the board several months in advance as the Lay Directors for our Spring Walks #31 and #32. They both have served in the NEAR the Cross Emmaus community in several aspects of the progressive servanthood required by the Upper Room.

Shane went on his Pilgrim Walk at Noah's of ARK, Walk #125. "I really didn't fully know or understand God's grace until I went on my Pilgrim Walk," he explains. "Emmaus has made me know that I am forgiven and accepted as a child of God. I didn't think I could get into heaven before my Walk, but now I know I am going. What an awesome feeling!"

Jill also went on her Pilgrim Walk at Noah's of ARK, Walk #83. "After my Pilgrim Walk I knew I needed to be closer to God. Emmaus has meant growing closer to Christ and persevering on this pilgrimage of life with Christian friends," states Belk.

Many hours of preparation and team training have consumed the Lay Directors as they have diligently be doing God's work through Emmaus.

"I am learning to let go and trust God for everything! Nothing takes him by surprise," explains Jill from her LD experience thus far.

"This team has been a true blessing for their sacrifices and for what they have done for this upcoming Walk," Faulkner said. He also stated that he only had one person turn him down to work the Walk, who actually ended up serving in another area on the Walk.

Shane resides in Brookland with his wife Ann and his eleven year old twin daughters Taylor and Sydney.

Jill resides in Jonesboro with her husband Mark. They have three children Kaitlyn, 20; Kristyn, 16; and Nathan, 11.

PRAYER VIGIL STILL HAS OPEN PRAYER TIMES

The local Emmaus community provides prayer support for the whole Walk, the pilgrims, and the team by organizing a 72-Hour Prayer Vigil. The Vigil chart is posted in the conference room Friday afternoon of the Walk. The prayer vigil is a real and tangible sign to the pilgrims of the loving support of many on their behalf, especially when they recognize the names of persons who have pledged to interrupt their schedules or to get up at various hours of the night to pray for them.

Our Prayer Vigil can be found on our website www.nearthecrossemmaus.org. There are still several slots available. Please sign up as soon as possible.

Progressive servanthood on Emmaus teams

One of the primary purposes of The Walk to Emmaus is to develop leaders for the church, for Emmaus, and for the world. Emmaus leadership development is not a how-to endeavor but rather a walk-with-me endeavor; it requires on-the-job training.

Emmaus encompasses many areas of leadership development. Some are subtle, while others are delineated. One of the hallmarks of Emmaus leadership development is progressive servanthood. The Emmaus movement provides living proof that stronger leadership and experience result from progressive servanthood.

One obstacle to grace and leadership development is the tendency to assume more responsibility because "I can do this quicker and better if I just do it all myself." This attitude is inappropriate in Emmaus because it hinders leadership

development. Persons with this mind-set rob others of the opportunity to serve. Getting the job done is important, but leadership development is more important. Doing it all ourselves costs others the preparation they need if they are to follow us in leadership.

Working behind the scenes allows us to be involved with a variety of people. We learn to work harmoniously and effectively with those we don't know and operate within our defined role. This allows others to perform their assigned tasks without our interference but with our encouragement. Leadership development in Emmaus is taught, demonstrated, modeled, and caught.

Team formation is a process of prayer and discernment. Before a person is asked to serve on a team, the community's board selects a lay director. A team formation

committee then suggests the names of people who have the experience, abilities and willingness to participate on a team. The list is prayed over and through guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit, a team is formed.

Team members depend on one another. Each team should include some pilgrims who have never been on a team, some who have been members more than once, and other who have a good deal of Emmaus experience. Because of the variety of gifts we bring and the dynamics of spiritual formation within the team, each person has a chance to grow in faith. A team that is strengthened by and committed to Jesus and understands itself as the body of Christ will help bring the blessings of the Holy Spirit to all who participate in the Walk to Emmaus.

Important Walk Weekend Information

Send Off: Thursday at 7:00pm
FUMC Jonesboro Fellowship Hall
*Sponsor's Hour Immediately following

Candlelight: Saturday at 7:00pm
Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Closing: Sunday at 4:45pm
FUMC Jonesboro Sanctuary

*All times and locations are the same for the Men's and the Women's Walks.



Candlelight Volunteers Needed

We are in need for a few volunteers to help with the set up and clean up before and after Candlelight of each Walk . If you are interested in helping please contact Jimmy Hudspeth at 501-206-9770 or by email jimmyhudspeth@aol.com