



January 2018

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We have a Brand New Year!

Revelation 21: 5-6, "And he that sat upon the throne said, BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW. And he said unto me, Write for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done, I AM Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is a thirst of the fountain of the water of life freely."

*** What a better what way to begin than to renew your participation in Emmaus! Spring Walks are just ahead: April 5 - 8th and April 12 - 15, 2018. Feb 3rd at noon is the next Gathering at the First United Methodist Church in Jonesboro.

Gatherings are the 1st Saturday of each month (except Walk months and July).

In the January board meeting CH Overbay was elected as Community Lay Director. "I'm humbled to be selected by the Near the Cross Board of Directors to serve as your Board Chairman/Community Lay Leader. I would also like to thank the outgoing Board Chairman/Community Lay Director, Grant McDaniel for his leadership and commitment to the Community. I have discussed with the board that I would like to focus this year on three (3) areas: better communication with our membership, increased participation and involvement with our committees and emphasis on sponsorship. With our spring walks coming up soon I would like to take this opportunity to address sponsorship.

SPONSORSHIP

"Just like the three legs of the stool that we hear about in the talks given during the Emmaus walk weekend, we need three things to come together for a successful walk.

Team members, pilgrims, and SPONSORS. Without a team, there would be no Walk. Without pilgrims, there would be no need for a team. But it is

YOU, the sponsor, who brings the pilgrim to “Send Off “, for the team to work by and through the leading of the Holy Spirit. When team, pilgrims, and sponsors converge at Mt Zion Camp, the Holy Spirit takes over.

I ask you this year for us to pray for our sponsors just as diligently as we pray for the team and pilgrims. Being a sponsor is a loving sacrifice of both time and money. Do you remember your own sponsor? Someone lovingly did it for YOU.

If you have not sponsored a pilgrim for a while, please take time to pray that God puts the very person in your path that HE would choose for the next walk. Today more than ever we must lift up our leaders in the church who are hungry for a deeper relationship with Him.

Being a sponsor means being the hands and feet of Christ as we not only make preparations for our pilgrim, but we also attend to any needs of the pilgrim’s family while they are participating in the Walk.

I personally have family members and friends that I have hounded and badgered for years to go on the Walk, but when I started asking God who He wanted there, then potential pilgrims started crossing my path quite often.

Jesus himself was not taken seriously by those in his own family and in his own community. But that did not deter him from doing his father’s work. I thank God for each member of this community. Every one of you has a unique and special gift, and when the Holy Spirit fills the walk, the fruit of the Spirit are overflowing.

In our board discussions over the last couple of years, sponsorship has come up often. I want to continue to challenge everyone to be prayerful in their sponsorship. Thank you for being a member of the Near the Cross Emmaus community, and I look forward to seeing you at Mt. Zion or First United Methodist Church very soon.

CH Overbay



January Board Meeting was Friday evening, January 5th, 2018.

2018 Officers were elected and committee leadership assigned.

CH Overbay- Community Lay Director and Board Chairman 870.919.1269

Emmett Smith- Community Spiritual Director 870.335.7527

Teresa Branch- Board Secretary/ Follow-up/ Reunion groups 870.450.4656

Garry Brooks -Kitchen Coordinator 870.919.6709

Kathy Murphy- Prayer 901-619-8139

Brian Stahl -Literature/Social media 870.281.4187

Andy Adams -Logistics 870.680.2499

Joe Ferguson -Transportation/Luggage 870.340.6342

Allan Jones -Agape 870-275.0731

Paula Hensley - Registrar 870.897.7055

Kathy Roberson -Newsletter 870.243.7675

Jeff Wicker -Treasurer 870.761.0992

Stacy Arnell-Candlelight/Closing 870-243-5720

Carol Moore and Corey Pfeifer- Committee to be assigned

Grant McDaniel - outgoing community lay director providing board support 870.219.5213

www.nearthecrossemmaus.org

Important Near the Cross Walk to Emmaus: to all members

“The Board is reaching out to all interested community members to pitch in to support the walks and strengthen the 4th Day Community.” Opportunities to serve on a committee with things like Candlelight, entertainment, luggage, camp setup, clean-up, making agape, follow up on reunion groups, etc. Prayer is always appreciated! Contact one of the board members if you want to help or with questions about helping out.

More information on Sponsorship

Teams are forming for the Spring Walks. It is time to think about who you can sponsor. Here are a few more tips on Sponsorship.

Sponsorship is a very, very big responsibility. It should not be taken lightly. The purpose of the Emmaus Walk as you heard in the Body of Christ talk is to help build church leaders. Sponsorship is one of the most important aspects of The Walk to Emmaus. The strength of any Emmaus community is a direct result of that community’s recruiting practices. Sponsorship starts with prayer asking God for that person whom God wants you to contact to go on the walk. Wise sponsorship builds up the body of Christ. Keep in mind when sponsoring that The Walk to Emmaus is not for everyone. The first discussion with prospective pilgrim about the Emmaus Walk is extremely important. You want to tell them everything about the walk and what it meant to you. God will do the rest, just plant the seed. You will always harvest what you plant! Who will see get to see God’s Kingdom grow?

“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone- especially to those in the family of faith.” Galatians 6:9-10 NLT



Who Should I Sponsor?

There are several qualities in a pilgrim that you should look for. First, the Prospective Pilgrim should already be on a pilgrimage, willing to grow and move forward in his or her journey of faith. Second, the person should have a Christian fervor. The Pilgrim knows God can make and has made a difference in their life. Third, the prospective Pilgrim is not so consumed by other situations that he or she will not be able to give full attention to the message and experience of the Walk to Emmaus during the 72 hour experience or follow-up activities.

Pray. Make an appointment. Casual conversation about your experience with Emmaus is helpful, but if you are serious about asking someone to become a part of Emmaus, make an appointment to make the invitation. If the person is married, share with both spouses. Do not recruit one and expect that person to recruit the spouse.

Invite. Share your experience. Make sure the person knows that your invitation is to a more vitally alive relationship with Jesus Christ, not just to attend a weekend retreat. The three days are just a part of a whole new way of life. Explain group reunion, gatherings, team membership and formation and the renewed interest in serving one's church.

The commitment. Have a registration form with you and ask the prospective Pilgrim to fill it out in your presence, answering questions he/she may have. If the person is married, get an application from the spouse at the same time. Complete the form and mail to the registrar with the fee.

Now, the fun begins. Pray for your pilgrim and stay close to him or her. Collect letters. Offer assistance to the family. Attend Sponsors Hour, Candlelight and Closing. Help them find a reunion group. Stay in touch as they find their ministry within their church. Help the pilgrim to sponsor appropriately. Always be prayerful. Smile.

GRACE, unmerited favor –A **CHOICE**,
He had a choice and He chose You!

Near the The Cross Emmaus Community
PO Box 1924, Jonesboro, AR 72403.

