



OCONEE RIVER BASIN WALK TO EMMAUS COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Volume 3

Issue 3

*** Gathering
@ 6 PM @ Mike
Rainey's farm at
725 Pea Ridge
Rd. Eatonton, GA

**** Board will
provide hot dogs.
Membership
should bring
sides, desserts &
drinks.**

****Jesus Is Counting On You****

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8*	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**This will be the
1st Gathering for
walks 11 & 12
Pilgrims.**

*** Sponsors, please
bring your Pil-
grims.**

**There will be a
Sponsorship
lesson at 5:30 PM.**



!!!!!!! ATTENTION!!!!!!!

If you Ssponsored a Pilgrim on Walks #11 OR #12 your Sponsor responsibilities include making sure that your Pilgrim is informed and gets to the Gathering on May 8, 2015

!!!!!!! VERY IMPORTANT!!!!!!!

As the Sponsor of a Pilgrim your service for that Pilgrim is not complete until you introduce him or her to a Reunion Group in the Community or work with Tom Collier to help them start a new group.

REMEMBER

The life of the Oconee River Basin Walk To Emmaus Community depends on Pilgrims becoming engaged in the Community in Reunion Groups, Gathering attendance and Walk service.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

The Board members you elected at the end of 2014 will formally take their places on the ORBEC Board of Directors on Monday, May 11 at the regular Board Meeting. Dianne Gibson, who has served as Assistant Community Lay Director, will become Community Lay Director and Susie Pressley will become Assistant CLD. The Board will elect a new Assistant CLD who will then become CLD in 2016. This pattern, we hope, will provide stability for the Leadership Team.

KNOW YOUR ORBEC BOARD MEMBERS



Community Lay Director

Dianne Gibson

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE ORBEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES? EXACTLY!! EACH MONTH WE WILL BECOME BETTER INFORMED OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT THEM TOO.

Dianne Gibson is the new Community Lay Director (CLD) for the Oconee River Basin Emmaus Community (ORBEC). She attended GA-Lina Walk to Emmaus #8 and sat at the Table of Rebecca. Since the inception of ORBEC Dianne has served on several Walks as Table Leader, Walk Coordinator, Weekend Lay Director and others. She is well-versed in The Upper Room guidelines for conducting a Walk to Emmaus Weekend. As Community Lay Director she is the Chairwoman of the ORBEC Board of Servants, and, as such, presides over regularly scheduled Board Meetings, calls special Meetings, presides over the Monthly Gatherings, and attends Closing Ceremonies of all Walks to welcome new members to the Community.

Dianne's term as CLD will last two years, and she has two primary goals for her term. First, she wants to place a stronger emphasis on prayer within the Community. Second, she hopes that through prayer and a concerted effort by our members we can become a more cohesive Community.

Dianne lives with her husband Harold in Union Point, GA. She retired from Social Services and as a CNA, part time in a Nursing Home, a year or so ago. She and Harold love to travel, as evidenced by their whirlwind trip across the country last summer. She is also an avid moviegoer. Dianne has 6 children, 17 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. She and Harold enjoy spending time with all of them as often as possible. Dianne has had another passion in her life for over 20 years now. She is active in the Kairos Prison Ministry. She and her teams go into Women's prisons and conduct a Walk to Emmaus created for the prison environment. This makes the weekend different in many ways from our traditional Walk to Emmaus weekend, but the common thread of the 2 weekends is the Love of God and His Son, Jesus Christ, which is shared by all in attendance. Dianne will appreciate the prayers of the Community as she begins her tenure as ORBEC's new CLD.
S.C. DeColores



Spotlight on Reunion Groups

The Oconee Fishermen



This group of men developed their Reunion Group after the Oconee River Basin Walk #1 was completed in 2011. They meet every Tuesday morning at 7:30 AM at Walker UMC. This group has, in their own view, too many members at a total of 12. They admit that they are unable to split into 2-3 smaller groups of a more desirable size. No members will leave. They say it's a "love thang".

Every meeting begins with the Prayer to the Holy Spirit, and a devotion is given by different members each week. This always leads to a discussion which includes 1) when did we feel closest to Christ in the past week, 2) how were we disciples for Christ in the last week, and 3) did we have any problems and or blessings in the past week?

The members feel they are responsible and accountable to each other, and they all think that the Reunion Group enhances their individual walks with Christ. Member Jack Phares says, "It's like being recharged every week." At the end of the meeting different members close with prayer.

Every member of the Oconee Fishermen group has participated in Emmaus Walks. They look forward to sponsoring Pilgrims, and have made donations to the Scholarship Fund for every Walk.

There's little doubt of the love between the members, because if one of the group is ill and cannot go to the meeting, the meeting is brought to them. Some members are active in the Atlas Ministry, the Penfield Christian Home and the Kairos Ministry. All feel blessed by their membership in the Oconee Fishermen Group.

Are you a member of an Emmaus Reunion Group?

If you are. "Congratulations!" If you are not a member of a Reunion group you are missing a wonderful opportunity. If you would like to start-up a new group contact Tom Collier, Board Servant for Reunion Groups @ 706-296-9530, who will assist you with the process. The following people can answer questions as well:

Linda Ervin @ 706-473-9082/ Hank Raehn @ 678-333-6948/ Flo Douglas @ 478-451-7866

From the Desk of Susie Pressley

My name is Susie Pressley. I went on the North GA Walk to Emmaus where I sat at the Table of Esther. I worship with my husband, Kenneth, at Greensboro 1st Presbyterian Church. It has been my great honor and pleasure to serve as your Community Lay Director for the last two years.

You did it! Walks #11 and #12 were the Best Walks Ever!

Our thanks go to Lay Directors Barbara Agan and Marty Phillips, who have worked and planned for over a year for these Walks and to their Conference Room Team. Thank you for saying "yes". Thank you for writing Talks, previewing Talks, rewriting Talks and giving Talks! Thank you for loving our Pilgrims in Christ's name.

To the Support Teams and to their Leaders, Teresa Osborne and Ken Langolf...You were awesome-serving way beyond the call of duty! Thank you for the long hours you worked and for the delicious food you served. Thank you for wearing the crazy chicken hats and the tacky fashion show outfits. Thank you for loving our Pilgrims in Christ's name.

We always say the most important job in Emmaus is Sponsorship. So most of all=Thank you Sponsors!! It was evident that you had prayerfully and thoughtfully chosen the people you invited to come on these Walks. Thank you for loving our Pilgrims in Christ's name.

Thank you to Pilgrims! Thank you for trusting us through three long-let me say it again-three l-o-n-g days! We pray that God used us to bless you and to remind you of just how much He loves you. We look forward to knowing you better as we share and enjoy Reunion Groups and Gatherings and as we work together on Fundraisers and Walks in years to come.

And first, Last and always -Thank you God for Your faithful guidance and grace to this Community. There were times we wondered how You would do it, but we never doubted that You would do it!

And, finally, I want to thank all of you for your support and your prayers over these last two years. I have loved being Community Lay Director, and I look forward to serving with our new CLD, Dianne Gibson, as she takes my place. De Colores and God Bless each of you richly. Susie



Fourth Day

March 2015

My name is Hank Raehn; I attended Georgia-Carolina Walk to Emmaus #106 and sat at the table of John. To better understand my 4th Day, I need for you to understand a bit of my history.

I became a believer in Texas in the spring of 1977, over half my lifetime ago. From 1978 to 2004, I was a leader in Bible Study Fellowship in Texas, Georgia and California. During those years, I attended a variety of men's retreats and conferences and got a lot out of each one of them. I never heard about an Emmaus Walk. I had moved from the San Francisco Bay Area to Conyers, GA in 1990 and continued in BSF leadership for the next 5 years. But while living in Conyers from 1990 to 2007, I heard nothing about any men's groups, retreats or conferences even though I attended church regularly. My family moved from Conyers to the Lake Oconee area in June 2007, and shortly after getting settled in, I heard about a group of guys that met every Thursday morning for Bible Study and fellowship. After moving three times between 2007 and 2009, I walked in uninvited one chilly Thursday morning to that Thursday morning men's group which has been meeting regularly since the mid-1990's.

That was a change point in my life, because I met Jeff Wilson. Jeff and I clicked almost immediately. Shortly after my first meeting with the Thursday morning group, Jeff told me about another group that he belonged to, guys who referred to themselves as Promise-Keepers. Jeff, like Barnabas did for Paul, introduced me to the Promise-Keepers who have been meeting weekly since 1995.

Recall that ever since becoming a believer in 1977, I had never heard of Emmaus. Most of these Promise-Keepers had been on an Emmaus Walk and many of them had worked on several Walks ever since.

Jeff shared with me that his Emmaus Walk a long time ago was a marker event in his life; but, frankly, I was not interested in going on one. After all, I'd been in BSF for about 27 years and on many retreats and conferences for nearly 32 years, so what could be so special about another one? After gently nudging me for over 2 years, and, frankly, because I had no reason not to go, Jeff sponsored me to Walk #106.

That's the Prologue.....Now, the Epilogue of the 4th Day and beyond.

I do not remember much of the details of the weekend of my Emmaus Walk. But, what I do remember was that weekend crystalized my thought process about how I might spend my 4th Day and all the ones afterwards, because I desire to finish well.

I have a checkered past in "coming alongside" guys who said they wanted to grow spiritually. Some flamed out gloriously, but some really grew. I recalled some over those 25-plus years who said they were grateful that our Lord saw fit to have our lives intersect.

Then I realized that some of the guys who attended that Emmaus Walk realized that their spiritual walk had plateaued for whatever reason. They expressed their interest in becoming more spiritually mature and didn't want to lose the momentum of the weekend.

I recalled that Rabbi Jesus was really unusual in His day because He chose His disciples, rather than the customary way at the time of disciples choosing their rabbi. So the thought came to me to choose men with whom I could "come alongside." So ever since I have been explaining what believing what the Bible says about appropriating the resources God has made available to us to meet life situations....and demonstrating the relevance of the three "S's" in their lives-- Scripture, the Holy Spirit and Saints.

The past several years have been among the most fulfilling in my life, and all began with Jeff's invitation to go on a Walk to Emmaus. I want to close with this observaion:

I believe the key to a healthy and growing Emmaus Community lies with Sponsors within the Community in two ways:

- 1) by selecting a prospective pilgrim to attend a weekend and the Gatherings afterwards and encouraging him/her to get connected with an Emmaus Reunion Group
- 2) by personally investing in and encouraging your pilgrim to continue his/her spiritual maturity to live life consistently from God's perspective

I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute to that movement and want you to think about doing so also.

De Colores



Great to see Merry



March 2015 Walker UMC



Family Time



Friendship



Good Food



*Lovely Easter Centerpiece
Courtesy of the Williams*



Fun



Good Conversation



Fellowship



Joyfilled



He is Risen. He is Risen, Indeed !!



Sisterhood

Ya'll come and share in the fun and fellowship at the Gathering on May 8, 2015 at Mike Rainey's farm located at 725 Pea Ridge Rd. Eatonton, GA at 6 PM. We will have Board furnished Hot Dogs. You bring sides and drinks.



Jesus is Counting On You



The Clergy Corner

With this being the week after Walks #11 and #12 I was especially pleased to receive the following piece from Reverend James Smith, Pastor of Wesley Chapel UMC in Eatonton, GA. It is very meaningful for new Members and is a good reminder for all Emmaus Community Members, It is a good way to prioritize and plan our Fourth Day in service of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

"Jesus has an agenda for us. He had an agenda when He gathered together His disciples as they walked about doing good and He still has an agenda for us today. If you look back through the Gospels, Jesus is not doing random acts of kindness. He is on a very specific and focused mission. Every move he makes unfolds yet another manifestation of what it looks like when God rules. It looks like the reversal of all that is wrong in the world. Jesus calls us to continue to walk in His shoes and to bring about the Kingdom of God. "Pastor, I am not Jesus and I can't do what He did." While on one hand that is true, on the other hand He gave us the Holy Spirit to give us power to accomplish miracles through Him. And Jesus declared, "Greater things that you have seen me do, you shall do." (John 14:12)

What's your agenda after reading this scripture? Don't be a wanderer in generality, but be specifically meaningful in all that you do. Sit down and write out your new agenda for Jesus."

James Smith

Sheryl Causey

De Colores





The Following Pages are for Informational Purposes.

Periodically, there will be various subjects covered, as well as Walk to Emmaus Forms for your use in preparation for a Walk or for use in recruiting.

In this Newsletter there is a description of Walk to Emmaus Guidelines and Sponsorship Responsibilities.



If you have an item for the Newsletter or if you would like to help with the Newsletter or Publicity please email:

Susie Pressley at jimmiepressley@yahoo.com

or Sheryl Causey at sacbanker@att.net.

DeColores!



Why Men's Events Precede Women's Events:

Men's Emmaus experiences do not precede women's Walks for theological reasons. This scheduling pattern does not reinforce a belief that men are the spiritual heads of the household and that wives should follow their lead. The reasons for this scheduling pattern are historical and practical. Cursillo's original intent was to reclaim men for Christas committed members of Christ's church; women's weekends were a later development.

The pattern of scheduling sets of three-day short courses with the men's events preceding the women's also encourages more men to participate than might otherwise and to break the machismo inclination to leave the business of religion and church to the women. Early on, Cursillo leaders observed that husbands were less likely to attend a religious weekend than their wives and, in some cases, less likely to participate if their wives had gone first. They also observed that husbands would go on a weekend if their participation enabled their wives to participate. Women, on the other hand, seemed just as likely to participate after their husband's weekend as before. These generalizations do not characterize all husbands and wives today. But in families where these generalizations are true, the likelihood of those husbands participating increases when the men's Walk precedes the women's.

Guidelines:

The sponsor should present the information about The Walk to the husband and the wife at the same time. Both parties have the opportunity to get the information firsthand and in each other's company. Each partner may ask questions and hear the questions raised by the spouse. If one partner does not choose to attend the Walk to Emmaus, the sponsor should:

Suggest that the couple think and pray about the decision for six to nine months. During this time, the couple may discuss and pray about attending The Walk to Emmaus. It is strongly recommended that the couple also meet and discuss the subject with their pastor. After that time, the sponsor should talk with them again. If the one partner is still disinterested, then sponsor the one who does want to attend, being assured that the other partner agrees. Note that if one spouse does not participate in the church, or is of another faith, and understands and supports his or her spouse's involvement, you need not wait the suggested six-to-nine-month period. The key is that the participant's attendance and subsequent activities will not adversely affect the marriage.

Submit an Equal Commitment Declaration Form "along with the standard sponsor's sheet.

*If the registrar receives such an application without the sponsor's declaration, he/she should call the sponsor and ask if they have had this conversation with the couple and discussed all the aspects listed in the Equal Commitment Declaration. If they say they have, the registrar proceeds as normal to place the candidate on the next available Walk. If not, the registrar will tell the sponsor that the application will **be** held until the sponsor has had this discussion. At that time they are to call or email the registrar stating that the discussion has taken place and they desire to have the candidate placed in the next available Walk. The sponsor should then forward the Declaration Form to the registrar as soon as possible. If the non-attending spouse is not supportive of the candidate making the Walk, then the application should be discarded and any funds submitted should be returned.*



The equal commitment rule does not mean that the non-attending spouse may never attend or that a wife can go to Emmaus unless her husband has gone first. The non-attending spouse may decide at a later date that he/she would like to go on the Walk to Emmaus. It is all in God's hands and His timing. It is strongly recommended that sponsors familiarize themselves with the equal commitment rule as it is written in the Sponsorship"

EVERYTHING YOU COULD EVER WANT TO KNOW ABOUT SPONSORSHIP

On the following pages you will find several documents to help you as you invite your friends to join our Emmaus Community.



SPECIAL SPONSORSHIP SECTION

We often hear in Emmaus circles that "the most important job in Emmaus is sponsorship" and It is! Without the thoughtful, prayerful, intentional act of sponsorship there would be no Emmaus.

So let's start with the very basic facts about sponsorship and how to do it . The only way anyone can attend a Walk to Emmaus is to be sponsored by a member of the Emmaus community. Anyone who has attended a Walk to Emmaus, Cursillo, Chrysallis, or Tres Dias Weekend may sponsor someone to go on one of our Oconee River Basin Walks.

It's important and easy. Here's how:

Step 1 - Pray for potential pilgrims. Ask God to help you understand which of your friends and relatives would benefit and enjoy, not just going on a Walk, but being a part of our community.

Step 2 - Make time to explain Emmaus to your friend and to answer questions. Some good resource material explaining The Walk to Emmaus are available at The Upper Room Website - www.upperroom.org or on the ORB website www.orbec.org , or from any Board Servant at Gatherings. Remember, there are no secrets!

Ideally husband and wife are invited, as a couple, to attend back to back weekends. Men's weekends are first, Women's a week or so later. There are practical and spiritual reasons for this practice. This is not a hard and fast rule. If you share the information and invitation with a married couple and the wife wishes to go but the husband does not, the couple must decide, but the wife is welcome to attend.


Step 3—Download an application form from www.orbec.org or contact Clif Smith, Board Sponsorship Servant at clifsmith39@gmail.com

YOUR PILGRIM HAS SAID "YES" and you have the application with the pastor's signature. Wonderful! Of course you have been praying for your pilgrim as you invited them. Don't stop now! Prayer is your greatest responsibility. But what comes next?



4- Application AND SPONSOR'S INFO SHEET: If you can, please e-mail me, Susie Pressley, the Community Lay Director, at jimmiepressley@yahoo.com or Mike Percival, Registrar, at mperc1792@gmail.com or call me at 404-630-7592 and let us know that the application is coming. Mail the application (with the Pilgrim fee of \$200 or a deposit of \$100 if possible) and mail the Sponsor's Info Sheet (We must have your information) to:

Attn: Mike Percival
ORBEC
6350 Lake Oconee Parkway
Suite 102 - 29
Greensboro, GA 30642

5- Letters: Contact close friends and family of the pilgrim and ask for letters. You will find a sample request letter with detailed instructions below. You should try to have 8-10 letters and must have a spouse letter and a pastor letter. If there is no spouse, be sure to tell someone on the team. Bring these letters to Send Off. After the pilgrims leave, a LETTER BOX will be provided to put them in. 

6- For Your Pilgrim: Download the "What to Bring" list from our website www.orbec.org and give it to your pilgrim.

It's a good idea to take your pilgrim to lunch or to meet at some other time before the weekend to answer any questions he/she might have and to reassure him/her about their decision. Encourage both husband and wife to attend.

Be prepared to make yourself available to care for the needs of your pilgrim's family or spouse for the weekend. You will be the emergency contact for your pilgrim but will only have contact with him/her in the event of emergency.

7- Thursday's Send Off Dinner: Pick your pilgrim up at their home and be sure they have dinner before you bring them to the camp.



We will be serving pilgrims, sponsors and team at the Send Off Dinner at 5:30 at Union Chapel Methodist Church near the back entrance to Rock Eagle. It's a nice icebreaker. The cost is \$10. Sponsors usually treat their pilgrims.

For directions to Union Chapel <http://www.ngumc.org/churches/detail/1829>

Address: 225 Union Chapel Rd, Eatonton, GA 31024

8- Registration 6:00-6:45: After you eat, take your pilgrim to Rock Eagle. Tell the guard at the gate that you are with the Emmaus group and ask for directions to the Gas Building.





You will check your pilgrim in at the table you will see set up in front of the building. You may park in front of the building while you unload but will then be asked to move to the area designated for parking.

If the team fees have not been paid, Mike Percival, the Registrar, will be there to collect them for your convenience and to direct you to the cabin, room and bed reserved for your pilgrim. You and one of our smiling team members will take your pilgrim and their baggage to the room and find the bed with their name on it.

9-Send Off 7:00 After settling your pilgrim in you will take them to the Pool Pavilion (a short walk) on the hill right across from the Gas Building for Send Off. He/she will sit with you until his/her name is called by the Lay Director at 7:00.

During all of this time it is best if everyone refrains from a lot of hugging and greeting so that the pilgrims will not feel left out.

10- Sponsor's Hour: After the pilgrims leave the pavilion at 7:00, you will remain in the pavilion for Sponsor's Hour. You will have a chance to hold your pilgrim's cross and pray for him/her.

If you are serving on the team on the weekend and you are sponsoring a pilgrim: If possible have another member of our community who knows your pilgrim take over these Send Off duties for you. If that is not possible or if you think it is not wise, your duties as sponsor come first. Tell the Lay Director or Support Coordinator ahead of time and they will explain how you can handle the situation.

11- Saturday 7:30 Candlelight: Come to the gate, tell the guard that you are with the Emmaus group and ask directions to the Rock Chapel. Park on the opposite side of the street from the chapel and down a little to be out of the way.

The Community will hear announcements and perhaps sing a few songs while we wait for the pilgrims who will come into the pavilion at about 4:00. The community will visit as we gather outside Rock Chapel, but when you come into the church you will find a subdued and reverent spirit. Please speak quietly or take this time to meditate and pray for your pilgrim either in your seat or at the altar.

The community will hear a report on the progress of the weekend and will share communion. You will be given instructions.

12- Sunday 3:00: Come to Rock Eagle to the cabin where your pilgrim was staying and gather their things, which should be on their bed. You will then go to the Pool Pavilion where you had Send Off.

Always - at send Off, Candlelight and Closing, the community is prepared to wait for the pilgrims. They are never rushed through an experience to meet a specific time schedule. This is part of the agape we give them for the weekend.

All of the weekend events are only for those who have been on a Walk in any Emmaus or other 4th Day Community. They are not for visitors, even family. Each of these events is part of the experience shared by only the 4th Day Community and the pilgrims.





- After Closing - you will take your pilgrim home. On the way you will have time to:

1-Invite them to join you at your Reunion Group. If you don't have a Reunion Group email Tom Collier, the Reunion Group Board Servant, at

tomandbjc@yahoo.com and he will help find a group for your pilgrim (and for you!)

2-Give them the dates of the next Gathering.



3 - On Monday morning, if possible, call your pilgrim to check on them. Pick them up for Reunion Group and then bring them to the next Gathering. Get them an application to work the next Walk with you and help them as they sponsor pilgrims for that Walk.

Don't forget that post walk sponsorship duties are just as important as inviting someone in the first place! A Walk to Emmaus is a once in a lifetime experience – there are no do-overs - so we have just this one time to get it right!

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me at 404-630-7592 or email me at jimmiepressley@yahoo.com



Resources for Sponsors and prospective Pilgrims:

Just click or double click (depends on your system) on any of the red printing to take you to the video or article.

Video link - <http://vimeocom/8697255> You could cut and paste the link into an email and send to a friend as a way to introduce the Walk.

Rock Eagle: <http://www.rockeagle> (These pictures don't show the new cabins which all ORBEC Walks will be using.) This is an example if you'd like to share it.

