

Aldersgate Pilgrim

Spring 2016

Greetings from Your Community Lay Director...

I can't believe we're already a couple of months into 2016. Happy New Year everyone! Your Aldersgate Board is here to serve the community and our God. Surely the presence of the Lord is here with an amazing board and year in front of us.

We thank you for your prayers as we look into the future, looking for great things to happen through Christ.

With that said, our year is starting off with Walk 146 Men's and Women's in March and another Women's weekend 147 in April. Praise God that we needed to add another weekend and your board is supporting this rapid growth. In addition, our Boys Chrysalis Flight 78 is now scheduled for April. Please be in prayer for these weekends, the leadership, the teams and the pilgrims/caterpillars.

As I look ahead, I see this year as an awesome year of faith and growth as Aldersgate supports increased Emmaus Walks and the expansion of our Chrysalis Flights. Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of this faith is seeing what we believe as we travel this Road of Faith.

The Road of Faith By M. S. Lowndes

Shine Your Light, O Lord. So, that I may see just where I am heading and what's in front of me.

Your Word is the Light. The Lamp unto my feet. It may not light far ahead, nor show me where it's steep.

But it gives enough light for each step I take. Just enough to see ahead, along this Road of Faith.

For this is what it surely is, as we walk with Jesus Christ, the road we are traveling on is by Faith, not by sight.

So shine Your Light, O Lord, so we may see our way, though you only show in part, it's enough for each new day.

Serving Him with you.

DeColores, Lisa Ralph, CLD



**2016 Aldersgate
Emmaus Board of
Directors**

BACK ROW: Kathleen McCorvie (West Orange), Glenda McComb (North Lake), Kevin Early (Treasurer), Barbara Paige (Pinellas), Will Eldridge (Brevard), Dan Mullet (Past Community LD), Dawn Carr (Pasco and Secretary), Tom Bosse (Hernando), Candy Ogden (Chrysalis), Jim Hall (Hillsborough)

FRONT ROW: Rev. Rusty Belcher (Past Spiritual Director), Clint Moles (South Lake and Asst. Lay Director), Lisa Ralph (East Orange and Community Lay Dir.), Rev. Wayne Cook (Spiritual Director) and Rev. Bette-Jo (BJ) Foster (Asst. Spiritual Director).

NOT PICTURED: Mary MacLean (Citrus), Susan Tracy (Seminole), Rev. Todd Bardin (Asst. Spiritual Director), Dan Tesenair (Webservant), Cindy Wells (Music Coordinator), Terry McCorvie (Newsletter)

Board Representatives Needed in Three Areas

The Aldersgate Emmaus Board of Directors is in need of a few dedicated servants to represent the Osceola, Marion and North Brevard counties. If you reside in the area or near one of these counties, we need you on the Aldersgate Board. The Board of Directors is a vital part of the Walk to Emmaus and an essential part of each weekend. It is instrumental in the formation of teams and coordination of each weekend. The Emmaus Board is a working board where each member has a specialized job function and we meet 6 to 7 times a year on Saturday mornings.

If you have an interest in serving on the board, contact Lisa Ralph at ralphlisa12@gmail.com.

Can You Donate Weekend Supplies?

Donations are needed to help with weekend supplies kept in the Emmaus trailer. If you can help donate any of the following, you may give them to provide to your area board rep or bring to send off, candlelight or closings.

- **Medium colored gift bags with handles for Pilgrim letters**
- **Colored paper - assorted - for prayer clock**
- **Craft items - for posters and skits**

Sponsorship Tip!



How do you find the people who are important to your Pilgrim and ask them for love letters? If your Pilgrim has a Facebook page, look there for friends and family. You could also try being direct and just ask them "Who would you like to pray for you during the weekend?"

Don't know how to write a request for letters from family members and friends? Google "Emmaus letters" and you will find dozens of samples. You can use the ones you like.



Upcoming Weekends Mark Your Calendars



All scheduled Emmaus Walks will be held at the Warren W. Willis UM Camp in Leesburg, FL.

Men's Walk # 146

March 3 - 6, 2016

Women's Walk #146

March 10 - 13, 2016

Women's Walk # 147

April 28 - 31, 2016

Men's Walk #148

October 6 - 9, 2016

Women's Walk # 148

October 13 - 16, 2016



Boy's Flight #77

April 8 - 10, 2016

*Crystal River United Methodist Church
4801 N Citrus Avenue, Crystal River, FL*



Chrysalis Team Volunteers Needed

More team members and Angels are needed for the April Chrysalis Boys Flight, April 8 - 10. Both men and women can serve on the outside support team for a Boys Flight.

If you have a servant's heart and can help support the weekend, contact Clint Moles at moles60@gmail.com.

Let's Show Our Agape Love for Upcoming Pilgrims and Butterflies

Submitted by Dawn Carr
Pasco County Board Representative

AGAPE ! LOVE! How can you have that kind of persistent love for another person? To give the kind of persistent love God wants you to give, you have to refuel your love tank.



Look around at society, and you'll see it's littered with debris from relationships that have crashed and burned because people didn't refuel their love.

How do you refuel your love tank? You start by letting God love you. The Bible says, "We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19 NIV). When you're worn out, tired, and can't imagine showing love to anyone else, remember that God loved you so much that He sent His Son to die for you.

For me, I get refueled every time work an Emmaus Walk, go to a Gathering, hear someone's testimony or 4th Day Talk, sing Christian songs, go to Church and work different Ministries. This is where I see love so amazing, Agape Love that reaches out to others and then comes back to me, like a boomerang.

How can you explain Love to someone? There are many different descriptions, different types of love, but the best one is and always will be "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers." (1 John 3:16) Jesus loves you, and it is not the kind of love the world knows.

Agape is selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love

It's the highest of the four types of love in the Bible.

When we attended our Emmaus weekend, we were showered with many different types of Agape. I remember how excited I was when I would go to a meal, go back to my room or sit in the conference room and there would be a present for me; it made me smile and feel loved. We owe it to our future Pilgrims to give them the same kind of Agape love that we received by making Agape for the Pilgrims. There are many simple types of Agape you can make or if you are talented at crafting, your creativity is the limit. We need 72 pieces per Walk weekend. I do mine while I watch television; I also get my Grandchildren involved in helping me make it. If you still have your agape from either your Pilgrim Walk or other Walks you have worked, go through it to get some ideas. Get with your Reunion groups, small groups, bible study groups, your neighbors, friends, your children or grandchildren, anyone can make agape, even if they have not been on an Emmaus weekend; this could also be a good opportunity to talk with them about the Emmaus Walk. If you don't know how to get your Agape to the weekend, just contact the Agape Board Rep, or someone on the Board, we will get these items from you and deliver to the appropriate person.

Show Agape Love to others. Give Love, Get Love!

De Colores!

Cluster Gatherings and 4th Day Follow-ups

CENTRAL FLORIDA

April 2, 2016

Winter Garden United Methodist Church, 125 North Lakeview Avenue, Winter Garden

4 p.m. - 4th Day Follow-Up

Sponsors and Babe Chicks urged to attend. Open to All.

5 p.m. - Cluster Gathering/Pot Luck Covered Dish

Fellowship, Communion, Music, 4th Day Talk and more

WEST COAST

May 7, 2016

Heritage United Methodist Church, 2680 Landmark Drive, Clearwater

4:30 p.m. - 4th Day Follow-Up (Doors Open at 4 p.m.)

Vital information about getting involved in the community, sponsorship, working on a team and reunion groups.

Community Activities ...

Westcoast Cluster Update

We are so excited to begin the 2016 year with planning for many Gatherings and the Spring Walks in our future. The New Year started with a bit of a dilemma. The location we had been using for our Cluster Board planning meetings closed down in December. We found a new central location that was less than perfect, but we still had a great meeting. Nothing could keep us from starting the New Year off with planning the growth of our Emmaus community; God is with us no matter where we are.

Our Cluster Board is growing, we welcomed six new members in November; the new members have filled positions that will help us to continue to grow. We always have more room for those who feel it in your heart to be a part of growing the Emmaus Community.



ABOVE: The first Westcoast Gathering for 2016 was held on January 31 at Heritage UMC. About 80 people in attended and enjoyed the good food and fellowship. Marjorie Jagers delivered an amazing Fourth Day Talk.

There will not be a Gathering in March due to the Walks.

For April, Westcoast leaders are excited to be holding a second Joint Gathering with Tampa Bay Emmaus. It will be at Eastlake UMC, 2801 E Lake Rd S, Palm Harbor, FL 34685 on April 16. Doors open at 5; the Gathering starts at 5:30 p.m.

Note: If you go to a church in the Hillsborough area, we are looking for a church to host a Gathering. If you think your Church would be able to host a Gathering please let someone on the Cluster Board know.

Hernando County held their first Gathering on December 19th, Dan Mullet attended and said they had about 30 people there. He said they had fun and unique activities and people shared what they love about Emmaus.

An Agape Party was held on Friday January 29th at Curlew UMC, 12 people came and they made 792 pieces of Agape!! A big thank you to all who attended and to Curlew UMC for hosting. All Reunion Groups are urged to make Agape for each Walk. That is especially important now since we have an extra women's walk in April.

Southeast Emmaus / Chrysalis Leadership Training Held in Clermont



Emmaus and Chrysalis Board members and other leaders from all over Florida met at First United Methodist Church of Clermont on February 6th for a day of leadership training. A team of volunteers representing The Upper Room traveled here for the meeting and led a number of breakout sessions. Topics covered included servant leadership, sponsorship, board requirements, team selection, clergy involvement and Chrysalis.

John Bell, a pastor from the Nashville, Tennessee area led the discussion on servant leadership. He told the Emmaus leaders to share the weekend experience with potential pilgrims. "Tell them everything," he explained. "Even tell them about the letters, because it's not the letters themselves that are precious. It's what's in the letters." He said you don't have to share every detail, especially about Saturday night. "Just tell them there is a special worship service," he said.

The training team also explained the weekend may not be for everyone, but those who answer the call will have a uniquely personal encounter with Christ. Rev. Bell underscored the value of the weekend in our faith journey by saying, "God is not to be explained; He is to be experienced."



Rev. John Bell shared his Emmaus experience and advice on servant leadership with attendees.

Community Losses ...

Articles submitted by Ken Jones



ANITA (Nita) RUTH PARKER

November 22, 1939 - January 12, 2016

Born in Indianapolis, IN

Lived in St. Cloud, FL

Survived by and married to Rev. Pastor Randy Parker, three sons, three daughters and three grandsons. If Nita were with us today, she would quote from 2 Timothy 4:7-8, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness".

Nita accepted Christ at age seven, and was an instrument of grace that opened Randy's eyes to Christ of Calvary. She and Christ ultimately changed Randy's life to be a life for Christ. Nita's character had a major influence in shaping Randy's life. She lived her life as a life of priorities and for the benefit of others. She believed that being a part of something that contributed to others was more important than living life for self. She made her Aldersgate Emmaus Walk #40 in September 1992.

Nita's second priority was the love and care of family. Nothing mattered more to her than their collective welfare. She believed that her job, as a Mom, was to train her children to honor and follow God and to be loving, compassionate, and to exhibit high moral values. Also, Nita felt that it was more important being a part of something that contributed to others than living life for self. She was the family carpenter, plumber, cook, drywall hanger, scuba diver, cyclist, mother, counselor, and wife.

Nita loved Randy and her family. With Randy being a Master Chief in the Navy, they lived in eleven different locations during their time together. She always made a Christian home for the family, no matter where they were assigned. During this time, she found time to be the Ombudswoman for 250 U.S. Navy men.

Nita faced death with the courage that it is but a doorway to eternal life with her SAVIOR and LORD, and for anyone who knows the LORD and accept HIS offer of eternal life. Having "graduated", today, she lives with the LORD in her new home that He created for her.



Norman Joseph Messier, Jr.

March 31, 1940 - January 8, 2016

I, Ken Jones, am Norm's only brother. We celebrate Norm's life as a CHILD OF GOD on loan and born to Norman J. and Catherine Blake Messier Sr. in Putnam, Connecticut. Norm married "way over his head" when he married his high school sweetheart, Judith Nielsen Messier. What a "Saintly Lady, married to Norm for 57 years. Norm graduated on Friday, January 8, 2016, and moved to his new home that GOD had created for him.

Norm and Judy were blessed to have three sons, and three grandchildren. Norm worked as a Corrections Officer with the Connecticut Department of Corrections, rising to the position of lieutenant, before retiring after 20 years of service. Norm's free time passions were raising and training racing standard bred race horses and racing homing pigeons in Eustis, FL, where he and Judy resided, following Norm's retirement.

Having met Norm at the Walk to Emmaus #38 in March 1991, Norm was my closest friend for 25 years. This was the beginning of a close love relationship between Norm, Judy, Sandy and me. You see, Norm has always been the brother that I never had, and he was the brother and Judy the sister that Sandy never had. We are as close as biological siblings.

Well, approximately 20 years ago Norm raised a colt, and named him Best Friend Ken", now that's love! That knocked my socks off. For I never had a race horse named for me, and "Best Friend Ken" became a champion among his field.

Well, Norm being a kind, gentle-hearted and peace loving gentleman, thought to keep peace in our family that he had best name the next filly foal "Southern Sandy" for my wife.

Norm and Judy enjoyed traveling and enjoyed time on the fantastic islands of Hawaii. However, he always said their trip to the HOLY LAND was the highlight of all of their travels.

This Christian event, the Walk to Emmaus, was a life changing time in Norm's and my life. We all worked as servants at these walks for about 15 years, before Norm's health began to fail. We loved giving back to the attendees the love, grace, and mercy of Jesus Christ that we experienced on our walk. Norm and Judy have always been mission minded and served on the first Walk to Emmaus team in Cuba, and they are responsible for establishing the walk in Guatemala.

Norm had his quadruple bi-pass, December 28, 2015. At Judy's request, on December 31st, Sandy and I visited Norm in Florida Hospital, Orlando, in an attempt to lift Norm's spirits. Prior to our visit, we had been in daily contact with Judy to check on Norm. On January 8, 2016, Judy called to give us the news of Norm's graduation, my heart was broken.

God took my crushed heart and wrapped His loving arms around me to comfort me and assure me that Norm and I would be separated for only a brief time, for we will soon be rejoined together with the LORD.

I remembered "whose" Norm, Judy, Sandy and I are. We belong to the Lord. The Apostle, Paul revealed in Colossians 1:26-27, that "Christ lives in all who believe in HIM. No longer is God just with His people—God now lives IN His people. (Cont'd next page)

Do You Not Know? Have You not Heard? REC is Changing Lives!



- Help Wanted:** Spreading the good news of God's grace
- Qualifications:** Compassionate individuals who love Jesus and have completed a Walk to Emmaus or its equivalency.
- Compensation:** Serve on commission – the Great Commission!
Matthew 28:16-20

Submitted by Susan Tracy

Residents Encounter Christ (REC) is a weekend much like a Walk to Emmaus Weekend, however, it is done on the outside (in the community) AND on the inside (in jail). REC is an inter-denominational Christian ministry that **brings the Good News of God's grace to residents of jails in Florida.**

During a three-day REC experience, a team of about 35-45 Christian men and women from different denominational backgrounds, both lay and clergy, enter a correctional facility to share three days of Christian community. Through a series of talks and group discussions, we teach priorities, goal setting, and encourage a strong faith as a way of life for their future.

The Greater Orlando REC team will walk with Jesus into the men and women detention centers of the Orange County Jail on **July 29-31** and **December 16-18**. Volunteer roles may include serving as a table leader, speaker, musician, or clergy. If you are interested in serving on a team, or would like some additional information, please email Brian Fisher at bafisher2727@gmail.com and/or visit the REC of Florida Web site at <http://www.recfl.org/>.

REC Candlelight: if you feel like the Holy Spirit may be leading you to this ministry, but are feeling a little apprehensive about serving in jail, perhaps candlelight would be an awesome beginning. On the Saturday afternoon of each weekend (July 30 and December 17), community members from all over Central Florida will go to into the Orange County Jail where the REC weekends are being held and will walk into the room holding candles, and singing *Jesus, Jesus* – just like our Saturday evening Emmaus candlelight. And just like our Emmaus pilgrims, the pilgrims attending the REC inside are incredibly blessed by this expression of unconditional love. Please note that the jail allows a limited number of people inside for candlelight and they need to know 45 days in advance.

Please pray for the Orange County Jail residents and the REC teams for both of these weekends.

July 29-31 and December 16-18

"With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine. To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 3:20

What is the Purpose of the Walk to Emmaus?

The purpose of the Walk to Emmaus is to "renew the church as the body of the risen Christ in the world through the renewal of Christians as faithful and committed disciples of Jesus Christ."

Emmaus can enhance participants' spiritual lives, lead them to deeper discipleship and rekindle Christian leadership in churches and communities. The true purpose is not fully realized during the 3 days of the event itself, but in the 4th Days that follow as Pilgrims join their community with a renewed sense of servant leadership.

Prayerfully consider those you invite to attend. The future of our church requires a new generation of leaders and our pilgrims must be a reflection of our diverse community, both in age and cultures.

Messier (Continued from page 5) Norm was a great husband, father, brother, grandfather, uncle, and friend. He loved his wife, children and grandchildren with a passion, and his greatest wish is that his family spend eternity with him in the place that God has prepared for all of us who accept and make His Son, Jesus Lord of our lives.

I ask that as you remember Norm, that you rejoice along with Judy and her family as we know that Norm has no further pain or suffering. For today, he sits with God and all of the Saints who have proceeded him to the Heavenly Home prepared by God for all who are believers and who have accepted Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior of our lives Norm was a Disciple, and he would ask of me to relay to you, if you have not made that decision to accept Christ Jesus, that there is no better time than today to make that decision, and Norm would close by saying, "Come and enjoy this Heavenly Home that God has for me and you".

I simply close saying, so long dear brother and loving, closest friend, see you soon!