

ALDERSGATE PILGRIM

Winter 2016

Reflection from our Lay Director

A Walk to Emmaus is like a stop at the gas station when we need to fill the tank.

The minute you turn the key and drive off you begin to deplete the supply. At some point you will have to replenish it again when it runs low if you want to keep going.

Remember your Emmaus weekend and how filled up you were? Your 4th Days slowly started to deplete that much needed supply, but... this is the real value of the Walk to Emmaus experience. It teaches us where and how to fill our tanks. Spiritual vitality does not come from attending a Walk To Emmaus, but spiritual vitality is the result of spending time in God's Word and experiencing the means of grace each day.

The Walk To Emmaus has given us the tools for replenishment. Prayer and the regular "intake" of scriptures fill our heads and our hearts. Regular worship and fellowship, especially around the Lord's Table, and routine acts of service and compassion are the results that inspire us to follow in the steps of Jesus Christ. This fills us up. This is the Walk To Emmaus and the experience that we share and value with each other every day.

Luke 24:32 "And their hearts were strangely warmed..."

DeColores!

Lisa Ralph

Aldersgate Emmaus Lay Director

March Walk Inspires a Poem

It was early Saturday morning on the most recent Men's Walk #148 when Carl Langley, a Pilgrim from Lady Lake, was inspired to jot down a poem.

"It just came to me and flowed from my pen," Carl explained. "I wrote it all out and when I read it over, I just had one minor correction." It is one of dozens of poems Carl has penned over the years. He was kind enough to allow us to reprint his Emmaus poem below.

CONFESSION

I really have tried quite hard
To let the Devil in
To find a stumbling block this week
It's all on me --- a sin!

I prayed this morning to change myself
To be open in every way
To follow through on that promise
I made on an earlier day.

Support from all has been superb
It humbles me to see
How so many strangers with open arms
Have reached out and embraced - ME!

The Lord works in mysterious ways
Anticipation is running high
Today I feel there's more to learn
Of who I am and why!

So sit back, Carl, and just let go
Let all His wisdom bring
That new awakening for which
I search

LET GOD INTO DO HIS THING!

Carl Langley, 10/29/16

Christmas House This Saturday - December 3rd



The annual Christmas House takes place from 11 a.m. till 3 p.m. this Saturday, December 3rd, on the campus of First United Methodist Church Clermont. The event coincides with the annual Clermont Christmas Parade.

Christmas House is an annual fundraiser for Aldersgate Emmaus and Chrysalis scholarships. All members of the Aldersgate community are invited to participate. We need volunteers to help decorate Christmas House on Friday, December 2 @ 10:00 at FUMC. We can also use donations of items/gift cards/services for the raffle baskets and crafts for the boutique. Christmas crafts are an especially big seller.

Contact Clint Moles at molesaeb@gmail.com if you can volunteer or donate



◆ **Did you know?** To assure your Pilgrim has a confirmed place on an upcoming walk, you must submit the Sponsor's Sheet, Pilgrim application and the deposit of \$95 to the Registrar. Pilgrims are placed based on the date the above items are received. The registrar will confirm receipt of the application and both the sponsor and Pilgrim will receive a confirmation email approximately 30 days before the walk.

Thank you, Lisa!



A special thanks goes out to Lisa Ralph, the 2016 Aldersgate Emmaus Community Lay Director. She is shown here with a Christmas cactus presented to her as a token of appreciation by the Aldersgate Board. During her tenure, Lisa

took on many challenges, including rescheduling the October Men's Walk when hurricane Matthew forced postponement of the original dates.

Thanks also to retiring board members Dawn Carr, Glenda McComb, Kathleen McCorvie, Dan Mullet and Susan Tracy.



Upcoming Weekends Mark Your Calendars



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

2017 Walks

Men's Walk #149
March 2 - 5, 2017

Women's Walk # 149
March 9 - 12, 2017

Women's Walk # 150
April 27 - 30, 2017

Men's Walk #151
October 5 - 8, 2017

Women's Walk # 151
October 12 - 15, 2017



Your green agape gifts help Aldersgate Emmaus fulfill our mission of empowering leaders to be the hands and feet of Christ. Did you know green agape is used to purchase weekend supplies and provide scholarship opportunities to pilgrims who may otherwise be unable to attend a weekend?

Aldersgate Emmaus scholarships are used to pay up to half the cost of attending. Sponsors are encouraged to seek scholarships first from the Pilgrim's church or local Emmaus community. If no local scholarships are available, Aldersgate scholarship applications are available at aldersgate.org.

SPONSORSHIP

The Rewards of Sponsorship

Submitted by Barbara Paige

Sponsorship is one of the most important jobs of an Emmaus weekend. Without Sponsorship, there would be no pilgrims and Emmaus weekends would not be held. Sponsorship is vital to the Walk to Emmaus and is a strong commitment that continues far beyond a weekend.

Here are some tips to follow:

Pray. Prayer should be focused on how this pilgrim can strengthen their Christian walk and how their faith will last a lifetime. Continue to pray for and stay close to the prospective Pilgrim to answer any questions or concerns that may arise. Pray before, during and after their weekend.

Be Honest. Feel free to share the entire weekend. Until it is experienced, they will not understand. Explain that there are 15 talks and how they will require hours of sitting and writing. Explain the bunk style housing and cafeteria style food. Explain the long days and ensure that the prospective Pilgrim has the stamina to last the entire 3 days. Explain that phones, laptops and cameras are discouraged.

Willing. The sponsor should be sure the prospective pilgrim is ready to be on a pilgrimage, willing to grow and move forward in their journey of faith. The sponsor should make sure that the pilgrim knows God and agrees that a closer walk will make a difference in their life. If the prospective pilgrim is unsure, do not push, give them time. Continue praying, it may not be the right time, or God has other plans for their journey. Remember, The Walk to Emmaus is not the way to renewal for every Christian.

No Distractions. Most importantly, the sponsor should ensure the prospective pilgrim is not so consumed by other situations (i.e. sickness, children, spouse, other family, etc.) that he or she will not be able to give their full attention to the experience of the Walk to Emmaus during the seventy two hour experience. Be sure your pilgrim has all their medications and comforts needed to get a good night's rest and essentials for the conference room (i.e. Jacket, back rest, etc.).

Commitment. Be sure YOU are ready for the commitment of sponsoring, it is an act of agape. Help comfort your pilgrim by letting them know you are there for their family while they are away. This includes possibly house-sitting, baby sitting, watering plants, caring for pets, picking up mail, and to be available to spouse not attending. As a sponsor, you commit to bring your pilgrim and to be on time to Send Off, stay for Sponsor's hour, attend Candlelight and of course come to Closing and ensure your pilgrim is taken home. Remember "No Children" or visitors, that have not attended an Upper Room sanctioned 72 hour event, can be at *any* Emmaus walk weekend events.

Agape. Once you in send in your pilgrim's application, start collecting agape letters and letting friends know that he or she is going to attend a Walk to Emmaus, enlisting their prayers. Ensure your pilgrim has 10-12 letters. Remember no personal gifts. But you and your reunion group can make agape to be given out during the weekend. It just takes 72 pieces.

Remember Day Four. After your pilgrim has attended the Walk, don't forget him or her. Spend some time together helping them digest their experience. Ensure your pilgrim gets into a reunion group and bring your pilgrim to a Gathering. Explain how to sponsor and how to work a team.

A good experience during the Walk to Emmaus can be insured when your pilgrim is fully prepared. Start praying today to sponsor someone tomorrow.

YOU CAN HELP!

Volunteers are needed to serve on the Aldersgate Emmaus Board. There are openings for several positions:

**Alachua, Osceola, Pasco,
East Orange and North Brevard**

Willing to serve? Contact:

laydirector@aldersgateemmaus.org

Agape FAQ's

Making Agape can be a fun group, reunion group, Bible study or even date night activity. Ideas are endless and whether you are crafty or not there is always something you can provide! Here are some FAQ's concerning Agape:

Q: How many pieces of Agape do I need to make for a Walk?

A: To cover the Conference Room (Inside) and Outside team (Angels) of a Men's OR Women's walk you need to provide 72 pieces. If you want to cover both walks, it takes 144 pieces. Put the total number of items on a note inside the bag.

Q: How should I label the Agape?

A: Agape should be labeled with an appropriate Bible verse or De Colores, then the name of the "group" or church group that provided it. No personal names, please.

What if I want leftover Agape returned to me?

Please indicate that with a note and your contact information. You or a friend can retrieve it at the Walk's Closing. Or ask the Walk Board Rep. to bring it to the next Aldersgate Board of Directors meeting to pass along to your area Board Representative.

Q: What is the latest date I should get the Agape to a Walk?

A: Ideally, Thursday at Send-off. There will be a collection box at the Sponsor's Hour.

Q: What should I make?

A: Ideas are limitless. Check out *Pinterest*; they have an Emmaus Agape Pin. You can also check out your local Christian bookstore or Oriental Trading Company.

Q: What if I have a question that is not in this list, who can I contact?

A: Barbara Paige – ba.paige@verizon.net or 727-796-1059.



New Registrar for 2017

Effective January 1, 2017 Elaine Gillam will become the Registrar for our Aldersgate Walk to Emmaus Community. Please mail registration forms to her at 12459 SE 91st Terrace Road, Summerfield, FL 34491. She can be reached at (352) 307-6801 or Gillam5758@aol.com

Please download the revised **Request for Reservation** and **Sponsor Sheet** registration forms in January.

Thanksgiving Brings Out Emmaus Community Volunteers



Dozens of 4th Day Pilgrims from throughout the Aldersgate Emmaus community participated in Thanksgiving service events.

Above: Ted Eckbreth loads his pickup with boxes of food to be delivered to needy families. Food for Families is organized by the Bread of Life Fellowship. Publix Supermarkets donates the food.

Below: Kathleen McCorvie, outgoing West Orange Board member, teams up to load food boxes with Tim May, incoming West Orange Emmaus board representative.





Men's Walk #148 - October 27-30, 2016

<i>LAST NAME</i>	<i>FIRST NAME</i>	<i>SPONSOR</i>	<i>CHURCH</i>
Azard	Nahama	Rev. Russ Montgomery	Keystone Community
Betts	Steve	Don Coscia	Hope Lutheran Church
Chapin	Gordy	Joe and Betty Paez	FUMC Spring Hill
Cook	Art	Craig Carlson	Hope Lutheran Church
Diehl	Dan	Mike Deloughery	St. Luke's UMC
Gines	Ron	Jerry Swedberg	New Covenant UMC
Langley	Carl	Allen Arnwine	Hope Lutheran Church
McVige	Mark	Bill Wendell	Faith Outreach Church
Pafford	Mark	Beth Pafford	Aloma UMC
Pearce	Jim	Charlie Purvis	Hope UMC
Ramsdale	Charlie	Kalynn Pressly	New Covenant UMC
Saltness	Jerry	Bill Anderson	Hope Lutheran Church
Stewart	John	Scott Ziegler	Quest Church
Tripp	Ron	Cindy Brodie	Belleview UMC
Warren	Barnett	Santiago Creus	St. Luke's UMC
Ziegler	Brent	Scott Ziegler	Quest Church



Women's Walk #148 - October 13-16, 2016

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SPONSOR	CHURCH
Accles	Steph	Angel Walter	Mosaic
Baker	Robyn	Tracey Shadday	FUMC Lutz
Bell	Mattie	Bonnie Wendell	Love Temple of Faith
Best	Kim	Larry Hagerty	Inverness UMC
Chapin	Martie	Betty Paez	FUMC Spring Hill
Chinchilla	Sarah	Janice Cronier	Sylvan Abbey UMC
Clark-Hughes	Mary	Jan Swedberg	New Covenant UMC
Crouse	Maxine	Gracia Luoma	Hope Lutheran Church
De Martino	Tristan	Angel Walter	Mosaic
Diehl	Sharon	Carol Crowley	St. Luke's UMC
Faber	Clare	Jan Swedberg	New Covenant UMC
Gerena	Marcy	Angel Walter	Discovery Church
Harding	Heather	Debra Woodard	Fleming Island UMC
Hurt	Sally	Marilyn Swinehart	Hope Lutheran Church
Kasperski	Nancy	Marilyn Swinehart	Hope Lutheran Church
Klemmedson	Misti	Pam Wooten	Marietta Church of God
Langley	Kathy	Margaret Harrison	Hope Lutheran Church
LeCroy	Nancy	Pat Irber	Cornerstone
Martin	Salley	Joline Krolicki	St. Luke's UMC
McGovern	Suzanne	Mary Maxwell	FUMC Orlando
McVige	Maranda	Bonnie Wendell	Faith Outreach
Morgan	Irma	Pat Bridger	FUMC Tavares
Pauzé	Carol	Pat Dorey	Bellevue UMC
Pearce	Mary Lou	Deborah Purvis	Hope UMC
Picking	Claire	Diann Miracle	Bellevue UMC
Schmalenberger	Katie	Jerry Bressin	FUMC Tavares
Snow	Jan	Wanda Barker	St. Paul UMC
Taylor	Julia	Nancy Bacon	Crystal River UMC
Toledo	Liza	Yolanda Leano	Cornerstone
West	Joan	Bobbie Pomeroy	New Covenant UMC