

Near the Cross Emmaus



August 2011

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You Can Lift Up Jesus in 2011 Fall Walks

Our History (in brief)

The Walk to Emmaus is an adaptation of the Roman Catholic Cursillo (pronounced cur-SEE-o) Movement, which originated in Spain in 1949. Cursillo de Cristainidad means "little course in Christianity." The original Cursillo leaders designed the program to empower people to transform their living and working environments into Christian environments.

During the 1960's and 1970's, the Episcopalians and Lutherans, along with several non-denominational groups, such as Tres Dias, began to offer Cursillo. In 1978, the Upper Room of the Methodist General Board of Discipleship adopted the program for a primarily Protestant audience and began to offer it under the name The Upper Room Cursillo. In 1981, The Upper Room made further adaptations and changed the name of the program to The Upper Room Walk to Emmaus. In 1984, The Upper Room developed a youth expression of Emmaus called Chrysalis.

After attending an Emmaus walk in Memphis in 1983, the Rev. Glenn Pettus began planning for a spiritual renewal in Arkansas while serving as pastor of the Tuckerman UMC. The Noahs of Ark Emmaus Community was formed and the first walk was held in Little Rock in September, 1986. The Memphis Emmaus community brought several charter buses for the Noah's first candlelight service, as well as providing 90% of the team.

As the Noahs continued to grow, the eagerness for others to have the Emmaus experience caused other groups to form, resulting in the Heart of the Ozarks, followed by the NEAR the Cross Emmaus community in 2005. The first walks were held in September and October 2006. World-wide, there were 699 walks last year with 26,600 Pilgrims in the USA. Sometime in 2008, the one millionth Pilgrim went on a walk.

Anonymous Servanthood

Agape is unconditional love in action. Jesus modeled a life of agape. In Matthew 6:1-4, Jesus teaches the importance of working for the glory of God rather than the praises of others.

***"Be careful not to perform your religious duties in public so that people will see what you do. If you do these things publicly you will not have any reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give something to a needy person, do not make a big show of it, as the show-offs do in the synagogues and on the streets. They do it so people will praise them. Remember this! They have already been paid in full. But when you help a needy person, do it in such a way that even your closest friend will not know about it, but it will be a private matter. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you."* (Matt. 6:1-4 TEV).**

The challenge of anonymous servanthood is to do tasks no one else wants to do with no thought of self but only the desire to serve God. Remember Jesus' words, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve." (Mark 10:45)

We come to anonymous servanthood with the realization that **we are not in charge**. We are present as support servants to be one small part of the body of Christ. We learn to lead as we learn to follow. At times we will serve under the direction of someone we don't like or with whom we disagree. In the act of humble service, we serve Jesus Himself. As scripture teaches, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matt. 25:40).

The concept of anonymous servanthood comes from the Cursillo tradition of *palanca*, the Spanish word for *lever*. In the Emmaus tradition, both agape and anonymous servanthood serve as levers to lift and move Pilgrims closer to Christ.

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

John 12:32 (KJV)

Preparations for the fall walks began long ago when God began calling his servants to work toward His glory in the men's and women's walks. He is calling His people to be sponsors for those He has already selected to be Pilgrims.

Since July, workers have been training with more sessions scheduled Aug. 26-27 and Sept. 17. The Aug. 26-27 sessions will be for the inside team (assistant table leaders, table leaders, and the conference table workers). They will meet Friday night, Aug. 26, at 6:00 at Cornerstone United Methodist Church, followed by a Saturday session from 8:30 until 3:00.

All workers will meet Saturday, Sept. 17, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at Cornerstone.

Directions to Cornerstone UMC

From downtown Jonesboro, go north on Main Street, using the railroad overpass, turn right at traffic light onto Johnson Avenue (U.S. Highway 49-North). Proceed north, turn right onto Disciple Drive (just past Ace Hardware store). Look for lighted cross and flame sign.

From Paragould, it's 17 miles south on Highway 49-South. Go past the town of Brookland and past traffic lights at Arkansas Highways 351 and 361, then turn left into Disciple Drive. Look for lighted cross and flame sign on your left.

Please Send Us E-Mail Addresses

Send to tommcdonald@gmail.com or call (870) 932-8183

If you know their address, please send to us so they can receive the newsletter

Millard Cover, Jonesboro

Jeremy Harper, Heber Springs

George Nastepniak, Mt. Home

Steven & Leil Dickinson, Jonesboro

Elaine Harwell, Heber Springs

Julienne Penter, Trumann

Jo Lynn Dunivant, Rogers

Karen Holloway, Jonesboro

Phillip Smith, Heber Springs

Stephen Foust, Austin, TX

Paul Horner, Jonesboro

Kevin Stevens, Ravenden

Michael Givens, Jonesboro

Kei Lange, Batesville

Deborah Stevens, Blytheville

Michael & Linda Goad, Jonesboro

Becky Langley, Paragould

John Walters, Jonesboro

Brian Graf, Jonesboro

Lorrie McClure, Batesville

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Check us out!

www.nearthecrossemmaus.org

From the website, you can post prayers and praises, print sponsor and work forms, see reunion groups and upcoming events.

See you Saturday
At Gathering
Jonesboro FUMC

Schedule for Gatherings

Aug. 6, noon, Gathering, Jonesboro FUMC

9:00 AM, Board meeting, Jonesboro FUMC

Sept. 10, noon, Gathering, Jonesboro FUMC

9:00 AM, Board meeting, Jonesboro FUMC

October—no meeting

Nov. 5, noon, Gathering, Jonesboro FUMC

9:00 AM, Board meeting, Jonesboro FUMC

11:00, Follow-up, Jonesboro FUMC

Dec. 3, noon, Gathering, Jonesboro FUMC

9:00 AM, Board meeting, Jonesboro FUMC

Sign up for Prayer Vigil

www.nearthecrossemmaus.org

On left side, click Walk Dates/Prayer Vigils

Men's walk #21, Sept. 29-Oct. 2

Women's walk #22, Oct. 6-9

Scroll to blue box showing open

Prayer time. Choose your time.

Welcome

Rev. Ted DeWeese

Of Cherokee Village United Methodist Church

As new member of our Board.

Congratulations Rev. Jimmy Anderson

As new Community Spiritual Director.

Fall Walk Dates

Men's Walk #21

Sept. 29-Oct. 2

LD: Andy Slaven

Women's Walk #22

Oct. 6-9

LD: Wendy Jones

Walks to be at Mt. Zion Baptist Assn. Camp near Walcott

Important Walk Times

Thursday: Sendoff,

Cornerstone UMC,

Jonesboro

7:00 PM

(Sponsor's Hour to follow)

Saturday: Candlelight,

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

7:00 PM

Sunday: Closing,

Cornerstone UMC

4:45 PM