

Near the Cross Emmaus



September 2014
Volume 9, Issue 7

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, September 6

Community Gathering

FUMC Jonesboro
Fellowship Hall at Noon

Saturday, September 20

Walks #33 & #34 Training

Cornerstone United Methodist

October 2-5

Men's Walk #33

LD: Bob Turman

October 9-12

Women's Walk #34

LD: Sara Frazier

Saturday, November 1

Community Gathering

FUMC Jonesboro
Fellowship Hall at Noon

Saturday, December 6

Community Gathering

FUMC Jonesboro
Fellowship Hall at Noon

COMMUNITY LAY LEADER

Marvin Day

COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIR.

Marion Fleming

TREASURER

Melissa Russell

SECRETARY

Sara Frazier

REGISTRAR

Pam Slaven

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Haley Mitchell

PRAYER NEEDED FOR FALL WALKS

One of the wonderful blessings of an Emmaus Weekend is the covering of all the time – night and day with prayer from our Community. Some we know and most we do not but all know Christ and His Saving Grace

The Prayer Vigil is set out on Friday afternoon of the Walk as a real and tangible sign to the Pilgrims of the loving support of many on their behalf, especially when they recognize the names of persons who have pledged to interrupt their schedules or get up at various hours of the night to pray for them.

Consider praying hymns, praise songs, and Scripture. Think about your own Walk and pray in the order of what happens on the Walk; ex., if you are praying on Thursday at 7 p.m., pray for the Team to welcome the Pilgrims in the hospitality of Jesus Christ, then continue thinking through the Weekend as you pray; if you are praying on Saturday afternoon, you might pray for the Pilgrims to see Jesus clearly at the dinner and Candlelight. The Team welcomes your prayers for Holy Spirit power and for strength and endurance in service. Your purple Worship Booklet has many good prayers and Biblical prayer references, so use it!

Go to our website www.nearthecrossemmaus.org, click on the Prayer Vigil tab and then find Walks #33 and #34 to sign up for your prayer time.

SPONSORSHIP...WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

There's an old joke about a warden who asked a man on death row what he would like to eat for his last meal. The inmate said, "I would like to have a huge piece of watermelon." The warden said, "You must be kidding? It is December. Watermelons have not yet been planted, let alone harvested." The inmate said, "That's okay **I don't mind waiting.**"

I wonder if this is the attitude of the Community when it comes to sponsoring a pilgrim. "I know the walks are over a month away and you're thinking that there's plenty of time, **I don't mind waiting.**"

Each and every time we get close to the walks there is a flurry of activity. This time could be referred to as a "Chinese fire drill". It seems like each and every walk most of the sponsoring is done at the last minute. Many times we have only a few pilgrims right up to the deadline. It may be difficult to get a commitment from some people but as a sponsor, it is your responsibility to move this process along as quickly as possible.

We need to be intentional in our sponsorship. While it's not our intention that sponsors pressure the perspective pilgrims, we need to make sure that we get this process done in a timely manner. As sponsors, we believe we need to pray that God will give us the strength to overcome the obstacles we shall surely meet, and the wisdom to make good use of the opportunities we shall surely find. In that way you will help all involved and help this community to realize its fullest potential.

THINGS TO PRAY FOR DURING 72 HOUR PRAYER VIGIL

Pray:

- for each pilgrim by name, and ask God to help them forget the outside world for the weekend
- that God will be with each pilgrim who may be resisting the Spirit's call
- that each pilgrim will enter into table discussions and freely give of her/himself when it comes to responding to questions, etc. for peace of mind
- for each pilgrim so that s/he will hear the messages shared by each speaker
- that each pilgrim will faithfully die out to some obstacle in their life during Dying Moments Communion, and really examine their life during other chapel services
- for each pilgrim by name that, if s/he doesn't know the Lord Jesus as personal Savior, s/he will ask Him into his or her heart
- that each pilgrim will feel the love of Christ in a very special way that s/he has never felt before and that s/he will accept it, then take this love back home to be shared with others
- that each letter and each piece of agape will warm the heart of each pilgrim
- that the letters of agape received from other communities will show them how far and wide God's love reaches
- that the Holy Spirit will work in each pilgrim's life at the Closing service and into all of their Fourth days for each pilgrim that, when s/he returns home at the end of the Walk, s/he will be able to go back to work without too much difficulty making up the work they may have missed on days of the Walk
- that each pilgrim will walk closely with Lord Jesus and keep His name on their lips, and His Spirit in their heart at all times
- that when appropriate each pilgrim will thank their sponsor sincerely for their support of the Walk
- for each team member by name, and ask God to help them forget the outside world for the weekend and to concentrate their total effort on serving Lord Jesus through their interactions with the pilgrims
- that all family members of each pilgrim and team member who was left at home during the weekend will be protected from harm and be maintained in good health
- that God will grant good health and restful sleep to each pilgrim and team member throughout the weekend
- for each pilgrim and team member that they will be able to "Let go and let God" in all they think or do this weekend
- that gifts of agape to pilgrims and team members will be accepted with love for the donor(s), knowing they were Christ-inspired
- for the Spiritual Directors that Lord Jesus will continue to bless them, and that through them, the Lord's Gospel will be clarified and His name will be glorified
- for the Lay Director that Lord Jesus will continue to bless them, and that through them the Lord's Gospel will be clarified and His name will be glorified
- for the Lay Director-in-Training that Lord Jesus will continue to bless them, and that through them, the Lord's Gospel in this Walk and the next one will be clarified and His name will be glorified
- for the Music Directors that Lord Jesus will continue to bless them, and that through them and their gift of music the Lord's Gospel will be clarified and His name will be Glorified
- for the Asst. Lay Directors that Lord Jesus will continue to bless them, and that through them, the Lord's Gospel will be clarified and His name will be glorified
- for the Table Leaders that Lord Jesus will continue to bless them, and that through them, the Lord's Gospel will be clarified and His name will be glorified
- for the Asst. Table Leaders that Lord Jesus will continue to bless them, and that through them, the Lord's Gospel will be clarified and His name will be glorified
- for the Board Representative that Lord Jesus will continue to bless them, and that through them the Lord will be glorified
- for each Speaker that the Lord will speak to pilgrims through them and that each talk will be a blessing to all those who will hear it
- for those who are preparing the food and helping serve it to each pilgrim and team member, asking God to bless them, and to use the food to nourish each person in the manner God intends
- for each Sponsor who loved the pilgrim so much that s/he made this Walk possible for the pilgrim
- that there will be no problems encountered in matters that compromise the safety or comfort of the pilgrims and team members, such as fire, break-ins, theft, etc.
- that Lord Jesus will reap a harvest of souls due to the efforts of these new Fourth Day members as they establish their own ministries
- that our Lord will be blessed by all that is done in His name throughout the weekend
- that all which is done over the weekend will be done in our Lord's name
- that the Lord will remind me to continue praying faithfully throughout the weekend that His will shall be done

Amen.
