



Spring Letter

March 2014

Issue 3

Goals for 2014:

- Everyone Prayerfully Consider Sponsoring
- Fill the teams
- Have a wait list
- Remain financially stable
- Update community roster
- Establish community involvement on committees
- 2nd Annual Father's Day Picnic

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Board Chair Thoughts...

This month I would like to use my article in the Newsletter to talk to you about Sponsorship and Working Walks.

First, we will talk a little about Sponsorship. For us to have a vibrant Community we must fill our walks with Pilgrims. At the Hiram Gathering last month, Reverend Steve mentioned something that I believe in whole heartedly. Emmaus is not for everyone. So as you are thinking about Sponsoring someone, pray about who you should sponsor. If God has put someone on your heart pray about that person before asking them. There are three responses you can get: "No", "Yes" or "let me think or pray about it". If the answer is "No" continue to pray for that person since God has laid them on your heart. If the answer is "yes" fill out the application as quickly as possible. Make sure they make that commitment. Close the deal. I know that sounds like sales talk but that is sort of what we are doing when we Sponsor someone. We are selling the spiritual experience that the Walk to

Emmaus brings. The tough one is "let me think about it or pray about it". You want to pray for the potential pilgrim but you need to continue to remind them about the Walk without being a pest.

As you may know we have decided to have two walks in 2015. We have changed things around a little for next year.

We are looking at Late February and early March for our first set of Women's and Men's walks. We will have our second set of Walks in mid to late July. The exact dates cannot be set till the first of May. If you have any feedback to the Board about these dates please fill free to contact us and let us know. You might notice this is an aggressive schedule. That is why we need start praying and thinking about whom we would like to sponsor.

Second, let's talk a little about working Walks. One of our biggest problems over the past few years has been not having full teams. I have

worked the Kitchen when our numbers just were not adequate to do the job properly and the Dorm was even worse. The last Men's Walk we had to have everyone doing several jobs to be



able to support the Pilgrims. I personally was the Prayer Chapel Head and felt guilty taking workers from the Kitchen,

Dorm or Agape to Pray. My assistants and I prayed several time with just one other person. If we want to have two walks, not only do we need to have a full complement of Pilgrims but we also need full teams working our Walks. Please pray about how you might be able to support our Community through working our upcoming walk.

Please keep the Board in your prayers as we make decisions that affect our Community.

DeColores,
Gordon

Agape Chair

I know it may seem a little early to start talking about agape for our fall Walks, but those Walks will be here before we know it, and I know, for myself, if I can work on something a little bit at a time I can get it done and not have to scramble at the last minute and become stressed and discouraged.

I can remember as a pilgrim one of the things that impressed and blessed me was all the agape I received. It became overwhelming, but in a very good way. It was so much more than the items themselves. I was so impressed that all these people would take their time to make and give each of these items to ME even though they did not know me. As the days, weeks, months, and years passed, those little items became even more special. I realized how much all those people planned in advance to provide them to me, someone they didn't even know, just to let me know how very much God loved me. They planned and they labored;

spent their time and their money, to produce that agape for me!

As we learned on our Walk, the word agape is defined as God's unconditional love for us. We call the items we give to the pilgrims "agape" to represent that over and over to them. Those items are a small representation of that unconditional love. Each one says, "Remember how much God loves you. This was made and given just for you."

The form of the agape is not important. It can be as simple as a piece of candy to "sweeten" their day, to the covers for their purple books, to a bookmark for their Bible. Whatever God lays on your heart to do is the important thing, for He has a plan and He will use that very thing to speak to someone and bless them. The important thing is it came from God through you to let them know they are loved beyond measure. With agape, it really is the thought that counts.

When I became your Agape Chair, I inherited a

wealth of materials from our former Agape Chair and I want to share it with the community and put it to good use. Barbara Wills and others collected an abundance of ideas and materials. We need to put all the materials to use. I will be bringing materials and ideas to the Gatherings for community members to begin to plan and create agape for the upcoming Walks. In the meantime, if you have an agape idea but need help with the materials, please give me a call and I'll see if I have anything that you could use. If you want to provide agape but don't know what to do, call me and I'll see if I can help with some ideas. God bless you for your support to this community and your faithfulness and willingness to serve Him.

De Colores,
Donna Parrish

*"I'm a little pencil
in the hand of a
writing God, who is
sending a love
letter to the world."*

— Mother Teresa



...show me how to love
...you have loved me. ♥

Thoughts

♥ 2nd Annual Father's Day Picnic will be June 21st at Acworth Beach, more details to come.

♥ If you are interested in serving on the next walk please contact any of the board members. Alan Olmstead will be serving as the Men's Lay Director & Katie Fowler will serve as the Women's Lay Director.

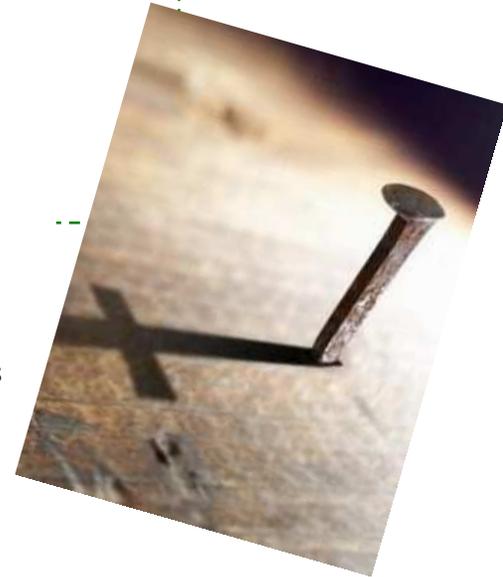
Please contact Ed Beacham or Gordon Norman with your most recent information, phone numbers, addresses or email addresses, so we are able to contact you to serve or send out any new information quickly and efficiently. Info on the last page.

Fall 2014 Walks
Men Sept 25-28
Women Oct 2-5

*There will not be a Gathering in April, the board made the decision, due to the fact, the gathering fell over the weekend of Easter, this may be a conflict for various churches to host, based on previous events hosted at churches on that weekend.

march gathering

Saturday, March 15th at Hollydale UMC
6:00 pot luck, remember to bring your favorite dish
7:00 worship with your Emmaus brothers and sisters
2364 Powder Springs Road, Marietta GA 30064



From the Spiritual's Heart...

We are about to enter into the season of Lent. For those who celebrate this, Lent is the 40 days before Easter, not including Sundays. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 5, many folks will give up one of their favorite foods, like chocolate or hamburgers or chili dogs or chocolate for this season. For many, Lent is a time to give up something that they know is difficult for them to give up for the season of preparation for East-

er. It is a way to show God that with His help, we can give up even things that we think we cannot live without....like chocolate. However, some folks also take something on for Lent such as reading the Bible daily or writing a note of encouragement to a different person for 40 days. And this is where I would like for you to prayerfully consider doing the same. I would like to ask that beginning on Wed March 5th that each of

you include in your prayers our Emmaus community. Pray whatever God lays on your heart, but here are some suggestions: pray for the leadership, pray for our lay leaders, pray for the folks whom God wants to serve and pray for those whom God is hoping will join us in the Fall for the walks.... Blessings and much love,
Leonard





**North West Georgia
Walk to Emmaus**

Contact Heather Halbrooks if you have any communication requests:
HeatherReneeHalbrooks@gmail.com

*For the Development
of Christian Leaders*

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Gatherings 2014

- January 18 Midway UMC
- February 15 Hiram UMC
- March 15 Hollydale UMC
- April 19 No Gathering
- May 17 Love Community
- June 21 Acworth Beach
- “2nd Annual Father’s Day Picnic”
- July 19-Jasper UMC
- August 16 Mars Hill Pres
- September 20 Smyrna UMC
- October 18 Acworth UMC
- November 15 DUE WEST Meth
- December Merry Christmas!

2014 Board Members

- Gordon Norman-Head Chair**
rgnorman@tds.net 706-299-1410 (cell) 770-893-1310 (home)
- Toni Cox-Vice Chair/Training**
Toni.cox@childressklein.com 770-598-5589(cell) 770-499-1860 (home)
- Leslie Israel Treasurer**
georgialeslie@bellsouth.net 770-289-1721(cell) 77-489-2153 (home)
- Heather Halbrooks Secretary/Communications**
heatherreenehalbrooks@gmail.com 770-842-2889(cell)
- Donna Lucas-Co Spiritual**
donnatlucas@comcast.net 404-663-1828(cell) 770-975-8042(home)
- Leonard Akers- Co Spiritual**
leonard.akers@ngumc.net 678-895-0040(cell)
- Mike Morris -Spiritual Support**
Mikeharris@yahoo.com 706-506-1857(cell)
- Mike Amsbaugh Music**
mamsbaugh@water.com 404-386-4088(cell)
- Marsi Arcaro Women’s Team Selection**
marsiarcaro@comcast.net 404-353-1960
- Ed Beacham-Sponsorship/ Follow-Up**
Edward.beacham@gmail.com 404-520-0614(cell) 770-428-2006
- Brenda Crump-Kitchen**
brendacrump@comcast.net 678-970-9598(cell) 770-974-9604 (home)
- Spencer Dillard -Set-Up/Tear-Down**
irishbeau26@gmail.com 678-9982-2452(cell)
- Gary Grenier-Head Chair Support**
gardongre@aol.com 770-505-7481(home)
- Marge Griffin- Gatherings**
marge7321@aol.com 404-625-6492(cell) 770-832-6378(home)
- Gary Henkel-Men’s Team Selection**
GTHENKEL3@gmail.com 404-702-2799(cell)
- Gary Hulsey-Send-off/Candlelight**
Prayerwalk4u@gmail.com 770-380-1893(cell) 770-783-9140 (home)
- Donna Parrish- Agape**
parrish1732@bellsouth.net 404-376-2353
- Flora Rockett-Lowe-Registrar**
florarockett1@gmail.com 908-451-6305(cell) 770-529-5451(home)
- Bruce Straw-Literature**
770-712-0526(cell)