

Northwest Georgia Walk to Emmaus

March 2019



Northwest Georgia Walk to Emmaus - For the Development of Christian Leaders. www.nwgwte.com

Greetings NWGWTE Community,

Well its that time...are you excited??!! Our Spring Walks are just around the corner!! Men's Walk #59 is February 28th - March 3rd being led by Matthew Fowler, Lay Director. Women's Walk #62 is March 7th - March 10th being led by Linda Wallace, Lay Director. A few reminders regarding the weekends. Sendoff at 7:00 on Thursday, February 28th and Thursday, March 7th; Candlelight at 8:00 on Saturday, March 2nd and Saturday, March 9th; Closing at 4:00 on Sunday, March 3rd and Sunday, March 10th. Let's ALL come and support our new pilgrims and the teams serving them.

The next board meeting, Follow-Up and Gathering will be at Villa Rica 1st UMC on Saturday, March 16, 2019. The Board will meet at 4:00, Follow-Up starts at 5:00, and the Gathering begins at 6:00. Sponsors remember your duties during your pilgrim's walk, and also the importance of bringing them to the Follow-Up and the Gathering. We are called to be good stewards in everything we do to glorify our Lord and Savior. This includes being good stewards to your pilgrim. I look forward to seeing you all at these events!

Good News: WE as a community surpassed the minimum pilgrims needed to move ahead with our Spring weekends. For the Fall weekends, we will move our minimum number of pilgrims needed to move forward with the weekends to 16 pilgrims (we CAN do BETTER). We already have a few pilgrims signed up already, which is fantastic!! Please start praying NOW for who God is putting on your heart to possibly sponsor. It's NOT too early to go ahead and start sending in pilgrim applications for the Fall Weekends. The dates for the Fall weekends are: Men's Walk #60: August 15 - 18, 2019 and Women's #63: August 22 - 25, 2019.

Be on the look-out for phone calls to start soon for the formation of the Fall teams. Remember, if you agree to work in the Conference Room, you are agreeing and required to be at ALL team meetings. Also, if you agree to give a talk, your talk needs to be ready by the first team meeting.

As always, any of the board members are here to help you! Whew....that's a lot!! But, "with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26.

In His Service,

Chuck Standridge
NWGWTE Community Lay Director

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Clergy Corner

47% Effective



As a pastor (married to a beautiful nurse), I get a flu shot every year. I don't enjoy it. I also don't have a choice. Beth (the aforementioned beautiful nurse I married) makes me get the vaccine. Not so much to keep me from getting the flu. I get a flu shot to keep her from getting the flu - from me. I visit a lot of sick people. So far - so good. The last time I had the flu was decades ago.

Last year when the flu outbreak was at its height, the news reported that last year's flu vaccine was 34.4% effective. This year based on the early testing, the flu shot is reportedly 47% effective. While that is a big improvement, 47% effective seems . . . well . . . low.

This year, I asked my wonderful nurse/wife why I should bother getting a flu vaccine if the effectiveness is so low. She simply asked, "do you want 47% protection - or zero." I got the shot.

Going on a Walk to Emmaus may not be 100% effective for everyone who goes. However, for many (as well as for me) it was. That 72-hour journey with Christ changed my life for good. Percent wise, I cannot tell you how effective my "Walk" was. I can say that twenty-one years later I am still blessed. God personally ambushed me sitting ten feet from the conference room door and said, "I am with you." When I knelt in at the cross, God lifted me up and said, "Go, you can do this through me." As I broke bread in the dining hall, a hunger was born for a Christ-like community that can laugh and love together. Seeing faces filled with love at candlelight, made my Spirit soar. Was my "Walk" effective? Absolutely!

Rating the effectiveness of a "Walk to Emmaus" might not be easy. But it was much higher than 47%. I hope your "Walk" was super effective for you as well. What about those who have not yet been on a Walk to Emmaus? The only sure thing is . . . a Walk to Emmaus has little effectiveness for those who have not been. If only someone could sponsor them. It's got to be more effective than a flu shot AND it lasts for an eternity.

Rev. James Gwin

North GA Men's Walk #50

Table of John

One of your Community Spirituals

WHO CAN I SPONSOR





Board Spotlights

What is Agape??

I am Mel Crowe. I serve on the Board as your Agape Chair. I have been very blessed by doing Agape, and have learned a lot more about God and our Emmaus community. If you remember from your weekend, agape is unconditional love. We show this unconditional love for pilgrims and team members by making small (or big) items that are given anonymously as gifts on weekends. Anyone can make agape for weekends!! You can definitely be very creative with the agape you make, or you can take simple things and make agape (if you don't feel creative). You can always get new ideas from Pinterest, our community Agape albums, or by simply seeing things that are made on weekends you serve on!

The biggest question I usually get is: How many pieces of agape do I make for weekends?? The answer is that it depends on who exactly you are making agape for. If you are making agape for only the Conference Room, you need to make at least 60 pieces of agape. If you are making agape for the entire team, you need to make at least 80-100 pieces of agape. It's important that you label the amount of pieces of agape you have when you bring agape to a weekend. This helps the agape servants know where they need to give the agape. Additionally, you need to make sure you let agape know if you want your additional agape back at the end of the weekend. If you do not, the leftover agape will be given to me at the end of the weekend. This is used to help provide ideas for future weekends. If you ever need suggestions about what you could make for agape, please let me know!! I have two large totes full of various things that can be used to make agape. I am always happy to share!!

Agape items aren't just things made to give as gifts!! We also always need Oven and Snack Agape. Oven Agape are food items such as cookies, brownies, cupcakes, etc. that are given out as dessert in the kitchen. These items can be homemade or store bought. We also need sugar and gluten free options for Oven Agape because some people have diet restrictions. Snack Agape are the yummy snacks that are available during the weekend outside the Conference Rooms. These items include chips, pretzels, candy, bottled water, two-liter drinks, etc. These events are housed in the Snack Agape room, which is located between the Conference Room and the Chapel.

There are other forms of agape that we give out during the weekend. We are always needing updated books that can be given away on the book table during the weekends. The only requirements that we have for the books we give is that they are Christian-based and are free from writing or highlighting. These books can be taken to the Agape room to donate. Other forms of agape are letters that can be written to pilgrims and team. These letters are huge forms of encouragement to people and serve as great reminders of how much they are loved!! Probably one of the best forms of agape we give on weekends are the countless prayers we lift up for our pilgrims, team, speakers, and each other!!

DeColores
Your Sister in Christ,
Mel Crowe

King's Retreat Board Representative

Hope you all are having a BLESSED day! As I write and think of the many ways God has blessed me, the Emmaus Community comes to mind. So many wonderful memories of walks and gatherings we have shared together and times when you have supported and prayed for me and my family. Real people showing God's love! I LOVE my Emmaus Community and am blessed to serve alongside you using our gifts and talents to grow leaders and share the love of Christ with those we meet.

As many know, I serve on the board as your Community Treasurer, and I hope you will always feel comfortable in reaching out to me with any questions or concerns you might have. I also serve as the NW representative on the King's Retreat Trustee Committee, working along with others from the North Georgia community to maintain and handle things for King's Retreat. Gwen Hamill, the Superintendent of King's Retreat sent out a WISH LIST of needs for King's Retreat a few months ago and she has shared that it's been like Christmas at her house all month! Her wish list is almost complete, but still has a few items that she wants to share so those that are willing will help fulfill the needs. Please check out the list below and if there is anything you can help with, please do. We all have a special place in our heart for King's Retreat. Please contact Gwen Hamill at momma4god@comcast.net with any questions or to coordinate delivery of your gifts to Kings Retreat. Thank you for your support!

NEW ITEMS FOR WISH LIST - 2019

- Inside and outside doormats - black/navy/brown....2'x 3', 4'x 6'
- White coffee carafes....with lids
- Corelle - winter frost plain white....dessert plates, cereal/salad bowls, mug type coffee cups
 - (looking for 100-125 each)
- 8-10 White table cloths - rectangular for 8' tables, washable, and possibly polyester (non-wrinkle)
- Shower curtains
- Twin size vinyl zippered mattress covers
- Oven mitts
- First Aid supplies - for burns, headaches, cuts, allergies, etc.

In His Service,
Susan Davis



You're Invited

Follow-up

You are invited to our March Follow-Up and Gathering!!

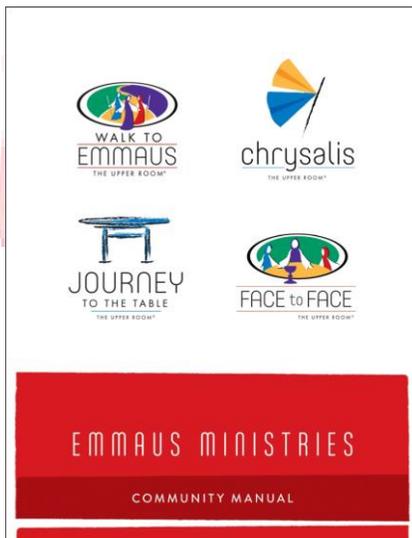
Our March Gathering will be held Saturday, March 16, 2019 at
Villa Rica First United Methodist Church
1789 Carrollton-Villa Rica Hwy.
Villa Rica, GA 30180

The Board meets prior to the Gatherings at 4:00. Follow-Up will begin at 5:00.
At Follow-Up, you will learn more information about the Emmaus community.
The Gathering begins with a covered dish supper at 6:00 followed by Praise and
Worship at 7:00. Childcare is provided for the Gatherings. Directions will be
available on the website.

NEW PILGRIMS: As a final act of agape, you do not have to bring anything, but
yourself to your first Gathering!! Please come, reconnect with people from your
weekend and meet new people. Learn more about the amazing Northwest
Georgia Walk to Emmaus community you are now part of!!



Upper Room Handbooks



The new Upper Room Handbook is available for purchase. There are a few options if you would like to order one: either digital or a hard copy. I hope you will order one and help keep your board accountable to what the manual says. Here is the link you need in order to get your copy

<http://emmaus.upperroom.org/news/291>

just follow the instructions once you click the link.

Communication Updates

There are several ways to communicate and stay in touch with your NWGWTE community:

- ✚ Visit our website www.nwgwte.com to find applications, upcoming walk information, Gathering directions, and other community info.
- ✚ Like us on Facebook: "Northwest Georgia Walk to Emmaus"
- ✚ Email us at nwgwtenews@gmail.com to share any prayer requests or contributions for the monthly newsletter.

We look forward to hearing from you, and staying in touch in the future!



2019 Board Members

Name	Current Board Position	Contact Information
*Chuck Standridge	Community Lay Director/ Group Reunions	wcsjr3@comcast.net 770-366-0587
*Ed McGrory	Co-Vice Chair/ Gatherings	emajk@yahoo.com 770-864-4545
*Mark Michalisko	Co-Vice Chair/ Sponsorship/Webpage	mark.michalisko@gmail.com 678-596-3566
*Katie Fowler	Secretary/ Communication	katie.fowler@carrollcountyschools.com 770-265-3763
*Susan Davis	Treasurer/ King's Retreat Trustee	susan.davis@childressklein.com 770-789-3552
Winnie Buchanan	Registrar	winnie19@bellsouth.net 678-838-3325
Linda Wallace	Asst. Women's Team Selection	lindajwallace66@gmail.com 662-420-3135
Mel Crowe	Agape	bornhigh38@yahoo.com 678-392-6568
Janice Russell	Co-Literature & Supplies	russell_janice@bellsouth.net 770-853-3545
Fran Davis	Kitchen	fdavis2552@aol.com 770-375-6604
Guppy Gladstone	Set-Up & Take Down/ Follow Up	guppy731@gmail.com 770-617-1625
Marcia Dillard	Women's Team Selection	marciadillard@gmail.com 678-232-2451
Bonnie Standridge	Co-Literature & Supplies	bonniestandridge@gmail.com 770-941-2914
*James Gwin	Co-Community Spiritual Director	jamesrgwin@gmail.com 770-757-0403
Ronnie Dishman	Men's Team Selection/ Send-Off & Candlelight	rdishman@bellsouth.net 678-386-6425
*Julie Fuller	Co-Community Spiritual Director	butterflyrev@gmail.com 770-900-4614
Flora Lowe-Rockett	King's Retreat Trustee/ Chrysalis Rep	florarockett1@gmail.com 908-451-6305
Judi Rainey	Ex-Officio/ Trainer	judi.rainey@yahoo.com 678-416-9440

* Denotes Executive Board members