

Northwest Georgia Walk to Emmaus

August 2019



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

Greetings NWGWTE Community,

I pray that everyone has had a wonderful summer and that getting back into a regular routine has been an easy transition. WE as a community have had a few ups and downs this past year with the loss of some community members and the postponement of the Fall Walks. We as a board work hard and care deeply what happens within our community. WE are asking that ALL community members either call, text, email, or come to any board meeting if you have suggestions and possibly answers that may enhance and uplift our community.

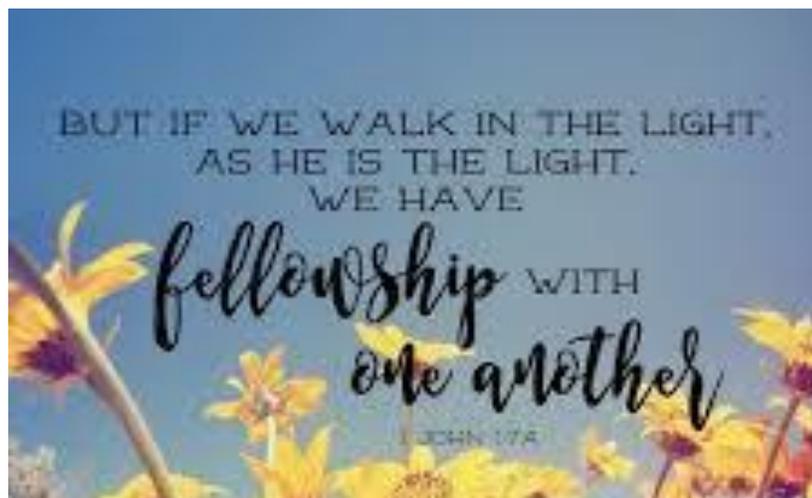
THIS Saturday, August 17th, the board will meet at 4:00pm and we have our monthly Gathering starting at 6:00. This month our Gathering will be hosted by New Beginnings United Methodist Church, located at 2975 Cobb Parkway Kennesaw, GA 30152. Please make plans to attend!!

Please think about the following questions: Where are you?? Where are the pilgrims you have sponsored on previous walks?? What can we do to help prayerfully seek answers to these questions?? Search your heart!!

We will be praying for you all THIS Saturday, August 17th, at New Beginnings UMC!! Come join us!! We look forward to good spiritual fellowship and food!!

In HIS Service,

Chuck Standridge
Community Lay Director



Moment of Reflection

"To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." ~ John 8:31-36 NIV

Whether to myself or to my congregation in a sermon, I like to ask a lot of questions. As we celebrated our nation's freedom in July, it got me questioning what it truly means to be free. In our nation, we can go to worship freely, we can carry our bibles around wherever we go, and we can stop and pray anytime we want no matter the setting, all without worry or fear of persecution. That freedom has come with a price to many that have fought for our freedom and died. I know for me, most days I take this freedom for granted. I do indeed give God thanks, for this freedom, this country, and for all those that have fought and continue to serve our country for freedom.

In thinking about the freedom I have taken for granted in living in the USA, I also asked myself and pose to question to you- Do you take the freedom we have received from Jesus Christ for granted? As in, are we still living in bondage and chains- from fear, addiction, pride, regret, worry, or any other emotion that keeps a wall up between us and God? When we attended our WTE/Chrysalis weekends, we had an opportunity to die to that "thing" that kept us in bondage and held us from fully living a free life in Christ. We can all remember the feeling of freedom and how light we felt after removing that weight from us and laid it at the foot of the cross. When is the last time we laid those "things/chains" down at the foot of the cross? We all have them and they are keeping us from Christ setting us FREE to live abundant life! So, as we continue to celebrate freedom both for our country and as followers of Christ, may we allow God to fully set us free. May we seek to serve and lead others to know the FREEDOM found in a relationship with Christ Jesus.

De Colores,
Julie Fuller
Community Spiritual Director



Board Spotlights

Just Glad to Be Here

Hello, all. My name is Mark Michalisko. I went on NWGWTE #54, where I sat at the table of Luke and that's where my life changed, forever. I experienced grace, forgiveness, peace, and love like I've never known in my entire life! Intellectually, I was pretty sure God, and the people in my life loved me, beforehand. My wife, my pastor and my friends all showed they cared. I thought God had watched over me, and protected me, during the more 'stupid' phases of my life. But as they say, traveling that 18 inches from the head to the heart, the difference between thinking and believing can sometimes take years. Such was the case for me.

Since that weekend, I have felt a desire to bring others to that same realization. Life didn't suddenly get easier, but having a purpose, an idea of the end game, makes the struggle more... tolerable. I've since participated in every men's walk save for one when I backed out at the last minute to take a 500+ mile drive and attend the funeral of a dear friend's father (sorry again, Gary). Anyone who has worked a walk will happily tell you that the rewards of doing so are a joy unto themselves. It can be exhausting both mentally and physically, but it's well worth it to see the transformation in people that came in Thursday unsure, nervous, and introverted to singing joyously, arm in arm, hugging, smiling and bonding Sunday morning!

And the gatherings.... WOW! They were a whole new way of worshipping for me. A less structured, more authentic way of praising God. Yeah, I was pretty much hooked. But then, something else happened.

So, I'm workin' a walk one day, and this industrious, recruiting minded member of the board spoke with me and after a while she said, "You should be on the board." Well, I had no idea what to say. I was flattered and humbled, but also pretty sure a noob like me should NOT be doing something so important. But I'm learning, 'When God comes a knockin' your best answer the door, boy'. So, I mustered up any spare confidence I have had and said, "Whatever I can do to help". I do mean that when I say it as I can never repay God for all the blessings he has seen fit to bestow upon me. So, when asked to serve, I find it hard to say 'no'.

Flash forward a year, and here we are. I am honored to be a member of the class of 2019 for your NWGWTE board. It's like drinking from a fire hose trying to learn all there is to be a functioning member, but it's the kind of problem one wants to have. Along with Ed McGrory, I am a co-vice chair of the board. Some of my duties are managing the website, made simple by standing on the work of Ed Beacham, and working on a new way to reach out to sponsors during walks with regular communications and updates.

One item we have considered recently, is the reinstatement of the 'phone tree'. In its original format, it's a method of calling everyone as a reminder of upcoming events such as candlelight and closing ceremonies during the walks, and the gatherings every third Saturday of the month. But we thought of possibly putting a 21st century spin on the old paradigm. We thought we might send a digital message attached to a text message to everyone's mobile phone. You can then listen when it's best for you. We feel a 'same day' reminder may increase participation as we know everyone has a busy life and we often forget when these events are happening until it is too late. So, tell us what you think! Should we start up the phone tree system? What other things can we do to better serve you? What can we do to induce growth and make this a more vibrant, active community? Your opinions matter, and we want to hear them.

De Colores!

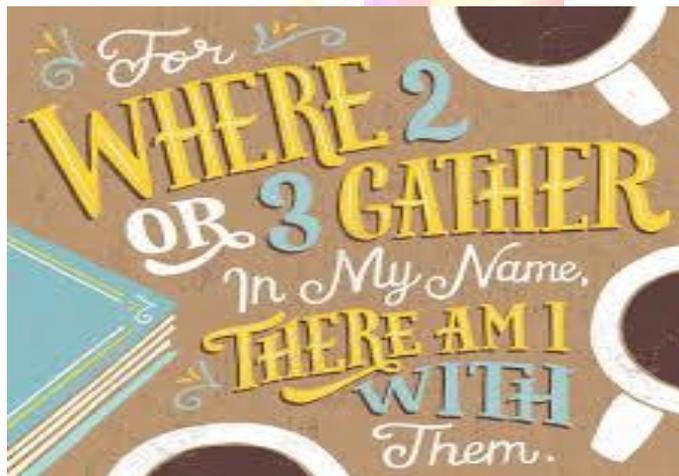
Mark Michalisko

Co-Board Vice-Chair

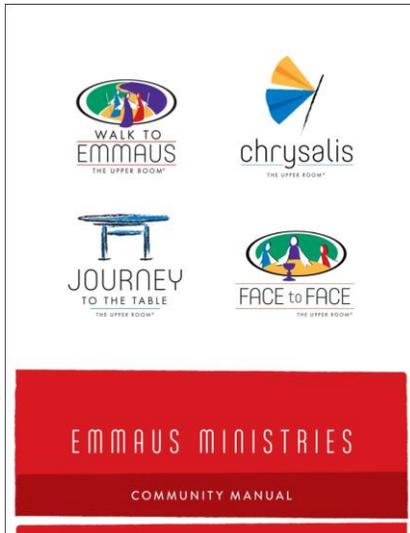


Please make plans to join us for our August Gathering.
Our August Gathering will be held Saturday, August 17, 2019 at
New Beginnings United Methodist Church
2975 Cobb Parkway
Kennesaw, GA 30152

The Board meets prior to the Gathering at 4:00. 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.



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!

YOU WILL SEEK
ME & FIND ME
WHEN YOU SEARCH FOR ME
WITH YOUR HEART.

JOHN 1:12

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
Ronnie Dishman	Men's Team Selection/ Send-Off & Candlelight	rdishman@bellsouth.net 678-386-6425
*Julie Fuller	Community Spiritual Director	butterflyrev@gmail.com 770-900-4614
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Daphne Lyle		daffydo19@aol.com 678-492-7396
Judi Rainey	Ex-Officio/ Trainer	judi.rainey@yahoo.com 678-416-9440

* Denotes Executive Board members