



# Heart of Florida

## Walk to Emmaus

A Ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Bartow  
December 2007 / January 2008 – Volume 9, Issue 5

The Newsletter of the Heart of Florida Emmaus Community

[www.hof-emmaus.org](http://www.hof-emmaus.org)

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## Gathering

**Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

at

**First Assembly of God Church**

**1201 Burns Ave., Lake Wales**

**863-676-1221**

**5 - 7 PM**

Wear your nametag and cross &

Bring a covered dish

Child Care will be provided!!

**First Assembly is located**

**On the corner of Burns Ave., and N. Tower Blvd**

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### Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

**March 8, 2008**

Gathering

Mulberry United Methodist Church

Mulberry

**Spring Walks**

**Men's Walk #16 April 17-20,**

**Women's Walk #16 April 24-27, 2008**

**Masterpiece Gardens, Lake Wales**

## . . . from Our Community Lay Director

*Greetings Community,*

*Wow! The year is almost gone! It is sort of like the old analogy of when you are "young", the years pass by like looking out of the window of your moving car at telephone poles going by----now it seems the years are the pickets on a picket fence going by----which brings me to my "last thoughts for 2007". We have tried to focus on the fundamentals of Emmaus over the past year:*

- *Gatherings*
- *Reunion Groups*
- *Sponsorship*
- *Team Participation.*

*All these activities beg the question: Why do we do this? The answer is pretty simple, though often we have overlooked it in the continuous process of putting together the Walks and keeping up with the other Emmaus Programs. The bottom line is that Emmaus is to build up the body of Christ, to foster Leadership in your local Church Fellowship. It is to equip us to be better and more effective Disciples for Christ. If we miss this crucial point and see Emmaus as the end point and not the beginning, we failed to reach the fundamental reason for our existence. If you are not using the Spiritual Gifts that God has given you to further Christ in your home, your church, your work place, and community----then Emmaus was a wonderful, spirit -filled weekend that you enjoyed and then forgot WHO it was about-----NOT YOU-----need I say more?*

*May Christ fill every nook and cranny of every room in your life this Christmas. Revel in the birth of our Lord and Savior and determine that 2008 will be the BEST YEAR EVER serving Him!!!!*

*De Colores!  
Joe Hart*

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### **Board Nominees**

The following community members have been nominated to serve on the Heart of Florida Board. Please be in prayer for them, and for our community, as we ask them for this commitment of service.

***Ronnie Mincey***

***Michelle Brewington***  
***Wade Willie***

***Tom Sealander***  
***Dawn Eller***

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### **Reunion Groups**

Do you believe in reunion Groups? Do you think every member of our Emmaus community should be involved with a reunion group? When a pilgrim takes their Walk to Emmaus, we tell them how important it is to belong to a reunion group. In fact, we strongly encourage them to join one. We also tell them it is their sponsor who is responsible to help them find one to join, and if they can't help our community lay director will help. Is this really happening throughout our community? What about people moving into our community? How do they find us? How do they find a reunion group?

We would like to insure your Reunion Group is listed on the Heart of Florida Emmaus website. If you are not sure, and do not have Internet access, you can call Bill Dwinell - he will tell you if your group is listed. We are very flexible in how we list the groups and just what information is displayed; so don't let that be a reason to not list yours. Also, we have created a new column on our Reunion Group page called "Status". This column indicates if a Reunion group is "Open" or "Closed". This informs everyone whether new people can currently join this group or not. We all know that the size of the group can affect the effectiveness of the group, and

sometimes the group can reach that critical mass, and adding any more members would be detrimental to the group, and that is okay. We simply list it as closed until such time as you are ready to accept more members. Remember, we are listing the groups so others can see just how committed and active we are, and just how many groups we have. Please send the following information about your Reunion group to Bill Dwinell at [webmaster@hof-emmaus.org](mailto:webmaster@hof-emmaus.org) so he can add it to our website:

**Group Name** – If you have one, if not maybe you want one?

**Where:** Where you meet, include the city, and county

**Who:** Who is it for? Men, Women, Couples, etc.

**Meets:** Day of the week you meet

**Time:** Time you meet

**Phone:** Phone number for contacting the group

**Status:** Open or closed (see above)

**Contact:** Name and email address of the contact for the group. Bill Dwinell (our Web Master) will provide an email address on the Heart of Florida Emmaus website and set up a forward so you will receive any mail at your regular address, but it will not show up on the website. If you have any questions or concerns that are not addressed here, please contact: Bill Dwinell at the email address listed above, or call him at 863-465-6913.

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## Team Selection

### January, 2008

Have you mailed in your Team Application?? Please send them in before Christmas – how about sending them in today?? We'd like to have them by December 20<sup>th</sup>. We need team applications to help with team selection. Did you know one-third of the team is comprised of members with **NO** team experience? If you have never worked a team you might consider giving it a try, you will be blessed. The next one-third of the team is comprised of people that have worked one team but not more than 4 teams. If you fall in this category, please send in that application. The last one-third consists of members that have worked 4 teams or more.

One more point about applications – **they are not kept!!** Each time we have team selection we need new team applications, so if you mailed in one 4 years ago please send us a new one for Walk #18!!!

Thanks so much and God Bless,

Ronnie Mincey  
Lay Director, Men's Walk #18

Michelle Brewington  
Lay Director, Women's Walk #18

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### *The Job of Registrar*

The Registrar for the Heart of Florida Walk to Emmaus receives and processes registrations for the Walks and communicates with Pilgrims and Sponsors on the status for their attendance to a scheduled Walk. The Request for Reservation applications are given to the prospective pilgrim by the sponsor. After the prospective pilgrim has completed the application, it is returned to the sponsor who then sends the request **along with their Sponsor's Form** and a \$20 non-refundable deposit to the Registrar. After the Registrar receives these two forms, they are examined for specific information. For example, if the Prospective Pilgrim is married, has the spouse attended, what church does the Prospect attend, why do they want to attend the walk, etc. Once they are inspected the forms are stapled together the stamped with the Registrar's stamp. The stamp is in fact a form itself noting the date the application was received, amount of deposit received and balance due, if the application information has been entered into the database, if the letters have been sent and any special notes of interest. This information becomes extremely important in the event of a full weekend at which time applicants are placed on a waiting list in the order in which they were received. Any

funds received with the application are noted and turned over to the Community Treasurer. If it is determined that the Prospect is married and their spouse has not yet attended a walk and no application for the spouse has been received, the registrar calls the sponsor to inquire as to the status of the spouse's application. If the spouse will not be attending, a letter is sent to the sponsor explaining the Heart of Florida Walk to Emmaus policy on married couples attending and a copy of the application is turned over to the Board of Directors to be placed on the prayer list or to direct the Registrar of any exceptions that have been made by the Board.

The information from the applications (both pilgrim and sponsor) is entered into a spreadsheet and into the master Emmaus database. **Approximately one month prior to the walk, letters are sent to the pilgrim welcoming them to our community along with a list of items they may want to bring. A letter is also sent to the sponsor which includes times and days of certain important activities such as send-off, candlelight, and closing. The sponsor also receives a letter to be used as a form to solicit letters for the pilgrim, a map to the campground and an explanation of sponsorship and its responsibilities.**

The applications are held by the Registrar until a week before the walk at which time they are turned over to the Lay Director of the walk. If any additions or deletions are made after that time the Registrar informs the Lay Director of the changes. Ten days prior to the walks, the registrar calls the director of the campground informing them of the number of people who will be attending the weekend. This number includes pilgrims & team members. The campground needs this headcount for meals. The Registrar also coordinates with the insurance company of First Presbyterian Church of Bartow to make sure a Certificate of Insurance for each weekend has been issued to the campground.

***Sponsors – please note that if you do not hear from the Registrar approximately one month prior to the walks, you will need to contact her.  
Contact Sharon Harris at First Presbyterian Church – 533-5005.***

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Here are a few things that are on the website:

**Directions** to Masterpiece Gardens and churches where gatherings are held

**Forms** – Reservation for Pilgrims, Sponsor's form, Team Application

There is also a **Heart of Florida email group** – sign up for this group and receive e-mail communications about upcoming events.

**The newsletters are also posted there.** We are hoping some of you might prefer to read your newsletter online instead of receiving it by mail. If you would like to receive it via the website instead of snail mail – please email Sharon Harris at [info@fpcbartowfl.org](mailto:info@fpcbartowfl.org).

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