



Heart of Florida

Walk to Emmaus

The Newsletter of the Heart of Florida Emmaus Community
March 2006
www.hof-emmaus.org

Open Gathering

Saturday, March 11th, 2006

at

**Mulberry United Methodist Church
306 North Church Ave. (St. Rd. 37)**

Mulberry

863-425-3401

5 - 7 PM

Bring a covered dish

And your prospective pilgrims!

**Mulberry UMC is located on the west side of St Rd 37
2 and a half blocks north of St Rd 60
There is parking north and south of the sanctuary**

. . .from Our Community Lay Director

Dear Heart of Florida Community,

What a blessing it has been to be a part of this Emmaus Community! What a blessing it is to actively serve our Lord Jesus!

Please lift up your Board of Directors in prayer as well as your individual ministers. Each of us in the Community is part of the Body of Christ and a minister for our Lord and Savior. We are all subject to attack. Please pray for our Country and its leadership as well.

If any of you are in special need of prayer please don't hesitate to let us know.

We are getting close to beginning our team meetings for the rescheduled Heart of Florida #14. God had other plans for our original weekends and so we adapt to his plan as we do in our daily lives. Our weekends are scheduled for April 20-23(men) and April 27-30(women).

Our Community continues to grow and has become geographically wide spread. This sometimes presents difficulties in attending events and in providing weekend support. If you are unable to attend please keep the team and the pilgrims in prayer support throughout our weekends. Prayer brings the Lord closer to all of us. I personally covet your prayer as I assume the role of your Community Lay Director.

De Colores! Christ is counting on You!

Brian Hinton

Heart of Florida Board of Directors

	<u>Term Ends</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Jay Allen	2008	Lake Wales
A.C. Bryant	2008	Wesley Chapel
Bev Clark	2006	Lake Wales
Molly DuPree	2008	Bartow
Anthony DuPree	2008	Bartow
Bill Dwinell	2007	Lake Placid
Joe Hart	2008	Lake Wales
Rev Jim Hatch	2007	Bartow
Brian Hinton	2006	Bartow
Ron Hosler	2007	Mulberry
Stevie Hosler	2006	Mulberry
Jeanne Icenhour	2008	Winter Haven
Karolyn Nunnallee	2007	Ft. Meade
Arne Oak	2006	Lakeland
Kim Sheffield	2006	Bartow
Bob Stephens	2007	Lake Wales
Diane Stephens	2007	Lake Wales
Jeff Allen	2006	Lake Wales

COMMUNITY-WIDE CHRYSALIS TRAINING

March 11, 2006 1-3 pm

First United Methodist Church, Pinellas Park

Dick Gilmore, Interim Dir. International Chrysalis will be the trainer

Any 4th day interested person from any community may come and learn more about this ministry for teens

The Purpose of Emmaus and Sponsorship

The purpose of Emmaus is to develop leaders for the church. The corollary is that active Christians and church members are the ones invited to participate in Emmaus so they can go back to their churches and be effective, or more effective, leaders.

There are two important points about this. First, Emmaus is predicated on the participants having, or acknowledging having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Thus, Emmaus is NOT an evangelism instrument, and Emmaus IS a discipleship-building instrument.

The second point is that if people are not active Christians or members of a church, how can they go back to be leaders in the church? The proper response is they can't. Therefore, people who are not active Christians or church members should not be invited to participate in Emmaus.

(Excerpt from National Emmaus Newsletter)

The aim of sponsorship is to build up the body of Christ. Whom do we sponsor? Emmaus is for active Christians and members of churches whose own renewal will mean new energy, commitment, and vision in the church and everyday environments for Christ's sake. Those sponsored could include the following:

- Church leaders (pastors and laypersons) who will bring the experience back to their church
- Dependable church members who are the quiet backbone of the church
- Less active members who need their awareness of grace rekindled
- Christians who are hungry for "something more" and who want to grow spiritually

Emmaus is right for many people – but not for everyone. The religious background or emotional condition of some people may make Emmaus an improper discipleship tool for them. Other persons' may be unsuitable choices for sponsorship to Emmaus because of the negative effect they might have on an Emmaus Weekend or the divisive influence they might bring to the church. Sponsorship requires sensitivity to these factors.

Sponsorship is an act of love for God, for the pilgrims, for the Emmaus community, and for the church. It demonstrates agape love, making us instruments of prevenient grace.

Any persons who have participated in Emmaus can sponsor another person to Emmaus so long as they understand the aim and responsibilities of sponsorship and can fulfill them for the person they would sponsor.

Upcoming Events

**April 6, 2006
6:30PM
Team Dedication
First Presbyterian Church
355 S. Florida Ave.
Bartow**

**April 20-23, 2006
Heart Of Florida
Walk #14
Men's Weekend
Masterpiece Gardens
Lake Wales**

**April 27-30, 2006
Heart Of Florida
Walk #14
Women's Weekend
Masterpiece Gardens
Lake Wales**

**May 6, 2006
5 - 7PM
Post-Walk Gathering
First United Methodist Church
230 N. 5th St.
Lake Wales**

First Presbyterian Church of Bartow
P.O Box 1412
Bartow, FL 33831-1412

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News and Notes

Beach Weekend Fast Approaching!

If you would like to attend the HOF 4th Annual Beach Weekend held in Daytona Beach, contact Lisa Valeriay at 863-206-0616. The dates are July 28 – 30, 2006. Make your reservations now!

Do you have a **golf cart** that could be used at Masterpiece during the weekends? The teams would be very grateful if they could borrow one.

Please contact Ron Hosler at 863-425-7455 if you can help.

Do you know someone that would like to attend Emmaus? There are openings for the upcoming walks on both the women's and men's weekends.

Send your sponsor form and the pilgrim reservation form to:

Sharon Harris
355 S. Florida Ave.
Bartow, FL 33830

www.hof-emmaus.org

Please visit the Heart of Florida website.

Here are a few things that are on the website:

Links to other Communities - Links to churches in the Heart of Florida Community

Upcoming Walks and the Teams - Board of Director's Page

Mapquest links 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 email 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@fpcbartow.org.