



# Heart of Florida

## Walk to Emmaus

The Newsletter of the Heart of Florida Emmaus Community

March 2007

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

# Open Gathering

Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
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. Childcare will be provided.

## ...from Our Community Lay Director

A Note to the Community,

I am blessed to be a part of such a wonderful expression of Christ's love. We are, so I am told, a community of almost 1,500! I have also noticed that we have lost a few faces lately. Wouldn't it be something if, at the next gathering, we could not get all that came into the place of worship? Look back to your walk, find the mental pictures. Who is it that you have not seen that made God come into your life? Where did time go, which Brother or Sister have I meant to call or visit, or invite to a gathering lately? I share the guilt...let us renew the effort. I miss you and long to see you at the next gathering. Christ is counting on You!

De Colores!

Joe Hart

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### Heart of Florida Board of Directors

	<u>Term Ends</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Jay Allen	2008	Lake Wales
Dennis Autrey	2009	Winter Haven
A.C. Bryant	2008	Wesley Chapel
Molly DuPree	2008	Bartow
Anthony DuPree	2008	Bartow
Bill Dwinell	2007	Lake Placid
Susan Garrett	2009	Tampa
Joe Hart	2008	Lake Wales
Rev Jim Hatch	2007	Bartow
Ron Hosler	2007	Mulberry
Jeanne Icenhour	2008	Winter Haven
Karolyn Nunnallee	2007	Ft. Meade
Faye Sarvis	2009	Bartow
Bob Stephens	2007	Lake Wales
Diane Stephens	2007	Lake Wales
Richard Thompson	2009	Lake Wales
Heather White	2009	Sebring

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#### **CHRYSALIS FLIGHTS – Spring 2007**

**Girls: March 10 - 12**

**Boys: April 14 – 16**

Camp Gilead (Polk City)

The Emmaus community is invited to the **Sendoff** (Girls: 3/10, Boys 4/14) at 8:30am,  
**Candlelight** at 8pm (Girls: 3/11, Boys: 4/15)  
and **Closing** at 4pm (Girls: 3/12, Boys: 4/16).

We need agape!

Forms for the flight can be found at: [www.heartofsuncoastchrysalis.org](http://www.heartofsuncoastchrysalis.org)

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# 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.

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## Upcoming Events

**April 12, 2007**  
**6:30PM**  
**Team Dedication**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**355 S. Florida Ave.**  
**Bartow**

**April 19-22, 2007**  
**Heart Of Florida**  
**Walk #16**  
**Men's Weekend**  
**Masterpiece Gardens**  
**Lake Wales**

**April 26-29, 2007**  
**Heart Of Florida**  
**Walk #16**  
**Women's Weekend**  
**Masterpiece Gardens**  
**Lake Wales**

**May 5, 2007**  
**5 - 7PM**  
**Post-Walk Gathering**  
**First United Methodist Church**  
**230 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Lake Wales**

First Presbyterian Church of Bartow  
P.O Box 1412  
Bartow, FL 33831-1 412

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## News and Notes

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

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[www.hof-emmaus.org](http://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 posted on the website.**

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)