



# Heart of Florida

## Walk to Emmaus

The Newsletter of the Heart of Florida Emmaus Community

May/June 2005

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

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## Gathering

**Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

at

**Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**

**500 W. Stuart St.**

**Bartow, FL**

**863-533-3581**

**5 - 7 PM**

**Bring a covered dish**

*Please remember to wear your name badge and cross.*

**Holy Trinity is located**

On the corner of W Stuart and Floral

South of Business Rt. 60 & West of US RT 17/98

Stuart St can be accessed from

US RT 17/98 or South Broadway Ave.

## . . . From Our Community Lay Director

Greetings HOF Community:

God is good...all the time and all the time...God is good!!! Thank you so much for the generosity regarding "Feeding the Rooster", our debt to First Presbyterian is shrinking significantly. It is amazing how rising costs are so prevalent...gasoline, milk, construction prices (Did that slip?) Kim and I have been dealing with patience...actually, we are not dealing with it very well, hence it is apparent we need more of it (patience that is, smile)

I believe God spoke to us during a recent worship service and I was made aware (again) how blessed we ALL are! God is so patient with me and He wants more than anything to have ME curl up in HIS lap and LOVE HIM! So I have made a great decision.... My decision is to get very alone with my Savior and bask in His love!! Sounds a little peculiar...but aren't we to be a little peculiar?

The reason I used the word "decision" is because I really have several choices in my life every day...My actual decision is based on those choices. I pray that as you make decisions in the next few weeks...(applying to serve on a team, sponsoring a pilgrim, attending a weekly reunion group, praying for our community, etc.) you will do so as a servant of God...willingly and joyfully.

By the way, God is good...the closing on our home loan is this week, even if my patience was wearing thin...God's purpose was right on time!!!

See you at the next gathering

Decolores,

Jeff and Kim

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## Heart of Florida Walk # 14

Dates for the fall walks are:

**Men's Walk #14 - October 20-23, 2005**

Lay Director - Bob Stephens

ALDI - Arne Oak, ALDO - Jeff Allen

Spiritual Director -

**Women's Walk #14 - October 28-30, 2005**

Lay Director - Karolyn Nunnallee

ALDI - Stevie Hosler, ALDO - Laura Oak

Spiritual Director - A.C. Bryant

If you would like to serve on Walk # 14 please mail your Team Application to Cathy Hatch by **June 30<sup>th</sup>** (the address is on the application and application forms are available on our website). There are more that want to serve than there are places on the teams, so please send in an application!!

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## Notes from your Board of Directors

Due to the rising costs of our weekends, the Board of Directors voted to **increase the fee for our weekends from \$115 to \$130**. This is effective for the Fall 2005 Walks.

The cost for each pilgrim has reached \$132.50 for the weekend.

The Board also voted to charge a fee for replacement name badges. These will now be \$5.

It was also noted there were cameras present on the last set of walks, especially at the Women's Closing. The Handbook on Emmaus states "that no part of the 72-hour experience will be videotaped, electronically recorded, photographed, digitally recorded or tape recorded."

The only photos that should be taken are the ones taken on Friday morning for the picture books.

Thank you for understanding.

## Sponsorship: The Most Important Job of All

Excerpted from The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus

Good sponsorship is the first act of agape before a Walk ever begins; the experience of the Walk for a pilgrim really begins with how we handle sponsorship. Good sponsorship undergirds the whole weekend with sacrificial love on behalf of each pilgrim. Sponsors use discernment in recruiting pilgrims, and provide personal acts of agape during the three days for the pilgrims. These acts of agape include prayer, agape letters, presence at Sponsor's Hour, Candlelight and Closing, and follow-up. Good sponsorship is the foundation for a healthy, effective Emmaus Movement that is fulfilling its true purpose: the development of Christian leaders and the renewal of the church in ministry. The aim of a sponsor should not be "to get all my friends to go," to fill up the weekend, to fix people's problems, or to reproduce one's own religious experience in others. Rather, the aim of the sponsor is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who, in turn, will bring new life and vision to the work of the church in the congregation, home, workplace, and community.

**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. Some examples of questionable sponsorship are as follows:

- Non-Christians
- Persons undergoing an emotional crisis (for example, family breakup, job loss, severe grief) or who are psychologically unstable
- Persons who decide not to make a Walk after being presented the opportunity
- "Church hoppers" - members who always have an axe to grind against the church; persons who will use Emmaus as a tool to divide the body
- Persons who are always looking for another spiritual high or another experience to help them "arrive."

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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Thank you to the team of Men's Walk #13 for your dedication and hard work. Also, thank you to the community for your support and prayers.

God Bless all of you,

Don Miller

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## Upcoming Events

**July 29-31<sup>st</sup>, 2005**  
Beach Weekend  
El Caribe Hotel, Daytona Beach  
Contact Lisa Valeriay

**September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005**  
Open Gathering  
Location TBA

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

This Newsletter is posted there, as will be all future newsletters.

**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](mailto:info@fpcbartow.org). This would save our community the cost of postage.**

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Just a small "Thank You" for all the hard work and prayers that made the Women's Walk #13 such a powerful weekend. God's Love was poured out in so many ways to the pilgrims and the team. It has been such a pleasure and honor being a part of this community. Thank each of you for all the gifts and ways to take you with us in our hearts. Bob and I thank God for allowing us to serve alongside of you. Please keep in touch and stop and visit if you are ever in the Brunswick area. Our new information is: 207 Palm Club Circle, Brunswick, GA 31525; (912) 264-1047; [bob@hicksmail.net](mailto:bob@hicksmail.net), [sally@hicksmail.net](mailto:sally@hicksmail.net).  
May God continue to bless each of you.  
In His Love, Sally