



LAY DIRECTOR NEWS

BY: STEVE MCINTOSH

A message from the Lay Director,

Why is it so hard to say goodbye? Even though we know we will be together again having fun and enjoying our time together, we want our time together to last as long as possible. I think the disciples struggled greatly with saying goodbye to Jesus, even though He promised that His/Our Father would send (in Jesus' name) the comforter, a helper, advocate, strengthener, aka Holy Spirit to be with them until they would rejoin Christ again in His heavenly kingdom.

If you have ever worked a team, I think you can relate to how difficult it can be to say goodbye to the team and pilgrims at the end of a walk. We don't want the closeness we felt, or the love, laughter, and sometimes, tears we shared to end. In Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 we are reminded that there is a time (season) for everything, so endings can be looked at as an opportunity to anticipate, prepare, and participate in the "new thing" God will bring to you.

As this will be my last message to you this year, it is a great opportunity for me to share with you all how much of an honor it has been to serve alongside the Aldersgate board of brothers and sisters who love the Lord and what He does with and to us through the Emmaus experience we all cherish so much.

I am looking forward with anticipation as we prepare for the holiday season and welcome next year's Community Lay Director and board. I pray that we all, as members of the body of Christ and our Aldersgate Emmaus Community will remember the mission of Emmaus is to help build up the leadership in our churches. We have learned from our walk that discipleship, Christian action, piety, changing our world, growth through study, perseverance, grace, and being priests to one another are to be practiced and applied in our daily (4th day) walk with Christ if He is truly our Priority in life. Let's prepare our hearts, hands, and feet to participate in the "new thing" He is calling us into this holiday season and the new year! Christ is counting on us!!

DeColores!!
Steve McIntosh





2024 SCHEDULE

Men's Walk to Emmaus #162

April 4th-7th

Women's Walk to Emmaus #162

April 11th-14th

Men's Walk to Emmaus #163

September 26th-29th

Women's Walk to Emmaus #163

October 3rd-6th

CAMP LOCATION

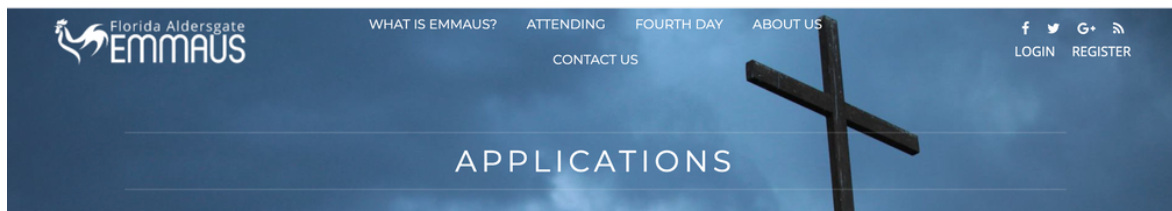
CAMP HORIZON

(352) 728-5822

INFO@CAMPHORIZON.ORG

**7369 SUNNYSIDE DRIVE
LEESBURG, FL 34748**

ON-LINE REGISTRATION



Please use the online registration option to complete pilgrim registrations and payment. As an alternative, you may download and mail paper versions of applications to attend, sponsor, or work on an Emmaus weekend. Instructions on where to mail them are listed on each application.

VISIT:

aldersgateemmaus.org

Under the drop down menu "ATTENDING" you will select APPLICATIONS"

ONLINE REGISTRATION

New! Online Registration & Payment

<https://aldersgateemmaus.org/online-registration-payment>

Complete Sponsor Sheet, Pilgrim Application, Scholarship Request and even pay online.

PAPER REGISTRATION FORMS

While the preferred way of registering your pilgrim is via the online process above, you may still download and submit paper forms.

NOTE:

Please do not use old forms. Download the current forms from the website for the correct address to mail your completed applications.

SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE

If you are interested in attending a Walk to Emmaus weekend or working an Emmaus team but cannot afford the \$200 weekend fees, you may be eligible for a scholarship. Please fill out the Scholarship form and include it with your Request for Reservation or team application.



Thank You Board Members

Thank you to the board members who served their term on the Aldersgate Emmaus Board of Directors.

You all did an incredible job representing the community. We welcome the new candidates that will begin their term 2024. Board of Directors are found at aldersgateemmaus.org under "ABOUT US"

ALDRSGATE PILGRIM

BY: FRANK PIFER

WHAT MAKES A GOOD SPONSOR FOR THE WALK TO EMMAUS?

Good sponsorship is vital to the Emmaus movement within our Aldersgate Community. When we become a sponsor, we pass the Emmaus experience from person to person, reflecting the relational nature of God and the manner in which God purposefully reaches out to people through people.

- Good sponsorship uses discernment in inviting and recruiting participants. Good sponsors don't simply set out to recruit anyone with a willingness to attend.
- Good sponsorship is the first act of agape.
- Good sponsorship demonstrates sacrificial love on behalf of each pilgrim and provides personal acts of agape during the event through acts of agape including prayer, agape letters, supportive presence at Candlelight, Closing and Fourth Day activities.

As a sponsor, our aims are to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who, in turn, will bring new life and vision to the work of the church in their congregations, homes, schools, workplaces and communities.

WHOM DO WE SPONSOR?

The Walk to Emmaus is for active Christians and church members whose personal renewal will bring fresh energy, commitment, and vision to the church and everyday environment for Christ's sake.

The sponsorship could include the following:

- Church leaders (pastors and laity)
- Dependable church members who serve as the quiet backbone of the church
- Less active members who need their awareness of grace rekindled and their commitments renewed
- Christians who hunger for "something more" and want to grow spiritually

As a Sponsor, we must be aware that the Walk to Emmaus is right for many people-BUT not for all people. Some examples of questionable sponsorship are these:

- ✓ Non-Christians or persons with no interest in the Christian faith or the church
- ✓ Christians whose theology and/or practice totally differs from the traditional theology and practices represented by Emmaus. This includes Christians who have specific dietary restrictions and Sabbath celebrations that the Emmaus experience cannot provide, members of groups who will feel a need to defend the uniqueness of their beliefs throughout the event and persons who do not share beliefs in traditional doctrines of the faith basic to the major denominations of the church and to the Emmaus ministry.
- ✓ Persons undergoing an emotional crisis.
- ✓ Persons whose behavior pattern is to disrupt
- ✓ Persons whose family members do not want them to participate "Church Hoppers"; members who frequently have an axe to grind with the church
- ✓ Persons who are always seeking another spiritual high or experience to help them "arrive"

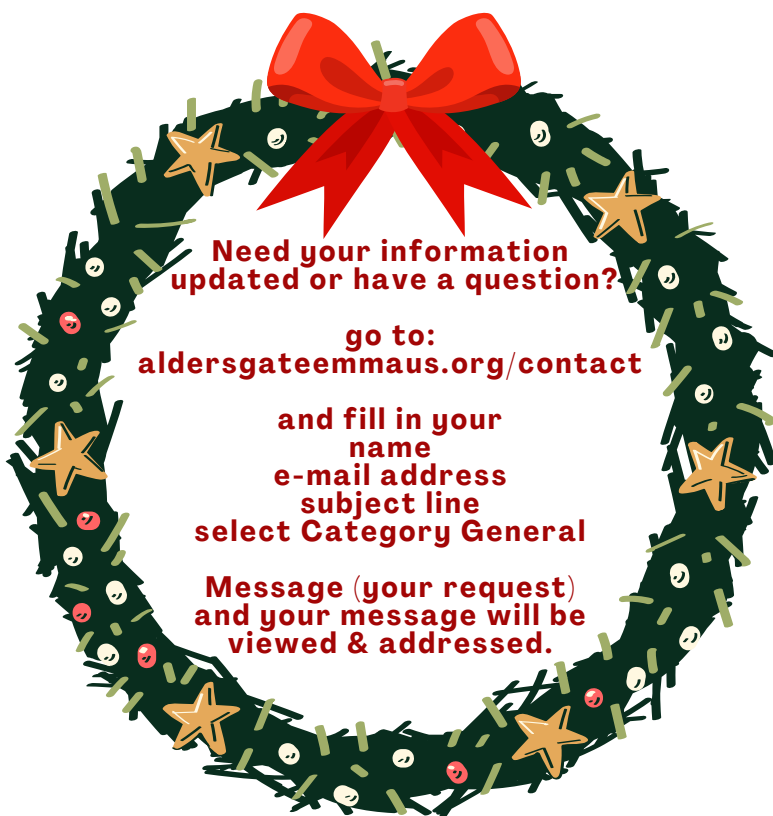
ALDRSGATE PILGRIM (CONTINUED)

BY: FRANK PIFER

Are you willing to serve our Community as a Sponsor? Remember, recruiting and helping your Pilgrim complete the application/reservation are not the end of your responsibilities. Once you have prayed about asking a specific person or couple that you feel are ready, you meet with them privately to discuss more in-depth what they will experience without giving away the content of the weekend. Confirm that they are interested, complete their application online. If they are unable to afford the full application fee, contact your church, cluster group for financial assistance. We never want to turn away anyone that cannot afford the expense. We, the Aldersgate Community have scholarship monies also available to assist in meeting the financial expenses. Continue to spend time with them and be available for discussion and reassurance. While your Pilgrim is in attendance, you will need to handle whatever responsibilities arise. Keep in touch with their family and reassure them that things are going well. Sign up for a slot on the Prayer Clock online, be present at Sponsor's hour, Candlelight and Closing. Encourage their participation in Fourth Day Activities. Help to connect them to Reunion Groups, Cluster meetings and especially encourage them to serve on future teams. Now is the time to become proactive and recruit and sponsor. Our community can only grow stronger if we take an active role in spreading God's love.

DeColores!

Walk #141, Table of Luke



May your days be

**MERRY
& BRIGHT**

Happy New Year!

*From Your
Aldersgate Emmaus
Community*

WEBSITE HELPERS NEEDED

BY:TERRY MCCORVIE



WEBSITE HELPERS NEEDED!

Aldersgate Emmaus is developing a new website and needs some volunteer help from community members who have web development skills. In particular, our web tech committee is looking for individuals who are familiar with the Wix.com web development tool and Velo by Wix, the full stack JavaScript platform utilized for some higher-end Wix capabilities.

Once the website goes live, we will also need volunteers to keep it up to date with event dates and details, teams and articles.

If you are comfortable creating or maintaining a website and have some or all the skills listed above, please contact:

Terry McCorvie, 407-616-6758 or terrymccorvie@gmail.com.

WE CAN REALLY USE YOUR HELP!



OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

BY:STEVE MCINTOSH



The Aldersgate Emmaus Community needs a person or two that can or is willing to learn how to use pre-formatted (templates) Microsoft Word, Excel, and Publisher to create the weekend booklets that all pilgrims and team members receive at the end of each walk. Extensive knowledge is NOT required to do this as the templates and format have already been created. It will require a servant's heart that can give a few hours during each Men's & Women's' walks to receive emails from the photographer and team leaders with pictures and information that is used to drop them into the publisher template, print out copies (printer, copy paper and ink supplied) collate, staple them and arrange delivery to the camp for distribution. Ideally, it would be great to have 2-3 people that could work together as a team/committee in rotating the work, thereby giving each other additional opportunities to serve on a team or other ways, such as a board member. This just might be the opportunity you have been feeling called to, to serve, show Christ and your Aldersgate Emmaus community that they can count on you! Contact Steve McIntosh at stevemach80@gmail.com

EMMAUS QUIZ FROM

BY: STEVE MAULDIN

Hey, Emmaus Babe Chicks, long-time Walkers, and all of Aldersgate Community. So, you think you might know something about the “Walk to Emmaus”.

Try this short quiz and see how informed you are:

1. Who and where did the idea for Cursillo originate?
2. What does the term “Cursillo” mean?
3. Where were the first American events for Catholic Cursillos?
4. When did the original American ecumenical version, entitled “Upper Room Cursillo”, begin?
5. Where were the first events with the Upper Room Cursillo?
6. Why was it necessary to change the name to “Walk to Emmaus”?
7. What other systems stemming from the original Catholic version might you find in our area?
8. Surprisingly, how many versions worldwide are actively training Christian leadership through a system stemming from the original Catholic Cursillo?
9. What is the latest version to originate for an Upper Room event?
10. Where did you make your Walk/weekend, when did this occur, and at which table did you sit?

O.K., so now you might have your interest piqued.
Check out the “**History of Walk to Emmaus**” found further in this newsletter.



NOAH'S ARK

EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW, I LEARNED FROM NOAH'S ARK.

1. **DON'T MISS THE BOAT.**
2. **REMEMBER THAT WE ARE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT!**
3. **PLAN AHEAD. IT WASN'T RAINING WHEN NOAH BUILT THE ARK.**
4. **STAY FIT. WHEN YOU'RE 60 YEARS OLD, SOMEONE MAY ASK YOU TO DO SOMETHING REALLY BIG.**
5. **DON'T LISTEN TO CRITICS; JUST GET ON WITH THE JOB THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.**
6. **BUILD YOUR FUTURE ON HIGH GROUND.**
7. **FOR SAFETY'S SAKE, TRAVEL IN PAIRS.**
8. **SPEED ISN'T ALWAYS AN ADVANTAGE. THE SNAILS WERE ON BOARD WITH THE CHEETAHS.**
9. **WHEN YOU'RE STRESSED, FLOAT AWHILE.**
10. **REMEMBER, THE ARK WAS BUILT BY AMATEURS; THE TITANIC BY PROFESSIONALS.**
11. **NO MATTER THE STORM, WHEN YOU ARE WITH GOD, THERE'S ALWAYS A RAINBOW WAITING.**

HISTORY OF THE WALK TO EMMAUS

BY: STEVE MAULDIN

History of the Walk to Emmaus

The "Walk to Emmaus" comes out of the Roman Catholic Cursillo tradition. In Spanish, the word "Cursillo" means "little or mini-course". The Emmaus weekend is a short course in Christianity. Cursillo began on the island of Majorca, just off the coast of Spain, about 1944. After World War II, a Roman Catholic bishop saw the deterioration of the Christian faith in his diocese. Along with some laymen, he developed this program to develop leaders among the men of his parish. The first Cursillos were very penitential in nature; in fact, the team and pilgrims fasted for the full 72 hours of the retreat.

Cursillo came to the United States in 1956, when two Spanish Air Cadets came to Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas for flight training. There was a Spanish priest in the area who was also a Cursillista (one who has attended a Cursillo). They got permission from the Catholic Church to start a Cursillo in the United States. At first, Cursillos were given on the Mexican/United States border, and only in Spanish, and originally only to Catholics. It spread to other Spanish speaking communities before being translated into English. Cursillo has spread across the United States, and across many denominations. Today, except in a very few areas, Cursillo is not ecumenical; it remains single-denominational.

By the early 1970's Cursillo caught on and the invitation was given to enjoin Christians of any denomination. One center was begun in 1972 in New York under the Reformed Church, and is now "Tres Dias." Another center of the ecumenical Cursillo was in Peoria, Illinois when in 1976 Maxie Dunnam, World Editor of the Upper Room, was leading a workshop entitled "An Adventure in Living Prayer." The Peoria Cursillistas of all denominations had been asked to act as servants for the weekend. Maxie noticed that the servants seemed to be of various denominations (some with clergy collars), and found that this group had learned how to be true servants to the church. Returning to his position at the Upper Room, Maxie could not get the experience of the former weekend out of his mind. In sharing with fellow staff members, they decided to explore this "thing" further, and to make the Cursillo experience available for a broader Protestant participation. So, in the fall of 1976, the Upper Room, an agency of the United Methodist Church, became interested in the Cursillo program and sponsored two United Methodist models of Cursillo in Peoria, Illinois.

In 1981, with it becoming increasingly evident that the National Office of the Cursillo Movement was not happy with the Upper Room ecumenical stance, and in mutual agreement with the National Secretariat of the Roman Catholic Cursillo, "Upper Room Cursillo" changed its name to "Walk to Emmaus". Since that time, the Walk to Emmaus has grown to an international ministry, with an average of nearly 50 walks occurring somewhere every weekend. For more information about the Walk to Emmaus ministry, visit the Upper Room Walk to Emmaus web site.

"Emmaus" is ecumenical in nature, which means that any person from any denomination is welcome to participate fully in any capacity. The hope of the Emmaus community is that we may come to a better understanding of our brothers and sisters of differing denominations, and a better understanding of the church of Jesus Christ, which has no denominational boundaries. The goal of the "Walk to Emmaus" is to make Christian communities possible in neighborhoods, churches, work situations, and all the other places where people live the greater part of their lives. It attempts to make it possible for everyone to live a Christian life in a natural way and to put renewed meaning and added boldness into the most important proclamation that anyone will ever make - "I am a Christian".

Walks keeping to a single-denomination system are the Catholic, Episcopal and Presbyterian Cursillos. Other ecumenical Protestant movements in our area are now "Tres Dias", the Lutheran "Via de Christo", "Kairos" in the prison systems, "R.E.C." in local jails, and several Presbyterian communities, plus other smaller communities around the USA. The latest version to generate from the Upper Room is entitled "Face-to-Face" – similar to Emmaus, but locally brought to those who are shut-in or not physically able to go away for an Emmaus event. With all these events, there are currently 81 versions around the world stemming from the original Catholic Cursillo system. The "Walk to Emmaus" is by far the largest.



FACE TO FACE

BY:RISE WILSON



An adaptation of The Walk to Emmaus, Face to Face is specifically crafted to meet the needs and life stages of older adults. The program seeks to invite men and women, ages 60 and older, to experience Jesus through a 4-session journey, covering subjects such as discipleship, mission, grief, and end-of-life issues. The highly flexible schedule allows participants the freedom to engage in structured Bible study and prayer in a church setting or other community space. Led by clergy and lay leaders, Face to Face strengthens and renews followers of Christ and bolsters the spiritual life of individuals, families, and congregations everywhere. Face to Face is open to members of any Christian denomination who want to strengthen their spiritual lives, discover answers to their questions about faith, and are open to understanding the responsibility of living a Christian lifestyle.

Face to Face allows participants the opportunity to rediscover Christ's presence in their life, gain fresh understanding of God's transforming grace, and to form friendships that foster faith and support spiritual maturity.

If you desire a deeper, more meaningful walk with the risen Christ; if you would like that relationship to be reflected in every other relationship in your life; if you wish to make a deeper impact on the world around you by living a life centered on Jesus Christ; please join us as we encounter the risen Christ ... Face to Face.

Dates & locations for the next F2F are being finalized.
Watch for details on the Aldersgate Emmaus website.



FIRST GATHERING IN 2024

BY: DAWN CARR



Bzzzzz ...

SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 27TH for our First 2024 Gathering....

This will kick start our new Gathering format for 2024 and we are so excited to share an evening with you all. The Emmaus Community is Family, so it is like a family celebration each time we Gather together.

January 27th we will kick off with

BEE A FRIEND, MAKE A FRIEND, BRING A FRIEND TO A GATHERING.

Start thinking of people that you want to ask to sponsor on a Walk in 2024, bring them to the Gathering, we will have an informational session to help them better understand the Walk. Everyone that brings a Guest, you and your Guests will get a ticket for a Grand Prize drawing!!

The more you bring, the more chances you will have to win. We will still have a covered dish, so start thinking of your favorite recipe to make and bring to share with all of us.

A flyer will be sent the beginning of January to remind you, with all the details of location and time, but **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW** and save the date of January 27th, start asking those special people you would like to invite to the Emmaus Walk, invite them to the Gathering.

Spring 2024 Walks #162

Men's April 4-7 & Women's April 11-14

Fall 2024 Walks #163

Men's September 26-29 & Women's October 3-6

See you and your friends in January!!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

OCTOBER WALKS #161



ALDERSGATE EMMAUS
October 2023 Leesburg, Florida Ladies Walk #161



ALDERSGATE EMMAUS
October 2023 Leesburg, Florida Men's Walk #161

OCTOBER LEADERSHIP TEAM



SEMINOLE & EAST ORANGE GATHERING



WESTCOAST CLUSTER GATHERING

JAKE AUTHIER



NELSON SIMPSON

THANKFUL
AND
BLESSED



Save the Date

Sunday, January 14th

Come support your Emmaus Community,
wear your colors as we promote
the upcoming walks.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
10:30AM

Mariner United Methodist Church
7079 Mariner Blvd, Spring Hill
352-596-0080

Save the Date