

ALDERSGATE PILGRIM

Fall 2022



FLORIDA ALDERSGATE EMMAUS

Scheduled 2023 Emmaus Walks will be held at Camp Geneva for March 2023 and Warren Willis Camp in Leesburg, FL for October 2023.

2023 Walks

Men's Walk #160	March 9-12
Women's Walk #160	March 16-19
Men's Walk #161	October 13-16
Women's Walk #161	October 20-23



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM®



Reflections from our Lay Director Buddy Acton

*2022 Aldersgate Community Lay Director
buddy.acton@comcast.net*

It seems like just yesterday that I was writing to introduce myself to the Aldersgate Community as the 2022 Community Lay Director. Now I am writing as my term comes to an end.

As many of you know, I like to insert movie analogies or signature lines in my talks. As we returned to action after 2 years of inactivity, I envisioned the line from the movie "Field of Dreams": "Build It and They Will Come". Not that we were building anything from scratch, but we were again going to be holding walks and 4th Day Gatherings. I thought the response would be overwhelming. But when the response was less than I expected, I was shocked. I panicked. What was going on? Then I realized I had made a major mistake. I didn't give God "**time to work**", instead, I tried to force things on *My Own*. This became evident as the year progressed. Our attendance at gatherings and the number of Pilgrims in our walks continued to improve throughout the year and ended with 2 marvelous Walks in October with a combined total of 43 Pilgrims. It's all in God's time!

However, our service to Christ through Aldersgate is not done. Our Board of Directors is dedicated to continuing the task of developing church leaders through the Walk to Emmaus. That is needed these days more than ever.

Soon, I will be passing the reins of leadership to the very capable hands of our 2023 Community Lay Director Steve McIntosh. With his guidance, and more important, YOUR help, The Aldersgate Emmaus will continue to be a driving force in the service of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

It has been an honor, a privilege, and a personal blessing to be your Community Lay Director this year. I thank you all for your support.

DeColores

Buddy Acton

WHAT MAKES A GOOD SPONSOR FOR THE WALK TO EMMAUS?

With our 2022 Fall Walks currently scheduled for October 13-16 (Men's Walk #159) and October 20-23 (Women's Walk #159) at Warren Willis, many of you are considering being a sponsor.

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"

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 and submit it to the Aldersgate Board Registrar. 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, 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!

Frank Pifer, Walk #141 Table of Luke
Board Treasurer, Community Trainer

October Walks #159 Information & News



ALDRSGATE EMMAUS
October 2022 Leesburg, Florida Men's Walk #159



ALDRSGATE EMMAUS
October 2022 Leesburg, Florida Women's Walk #159

West Orange Cluster

Editor's Note: While this was written as an informative email to West Orange Cluster, it works well for ALL of us!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At the Aldersgate board meeting this month, we voted to proceed with a new addition to the website that our beloved brother Terry McCorvie has created that will allow us to securely pay electronically (like we can do now for green agape) for pilgrims dues and team fees! We are hoping to have it in place before the October walks. We will keep you posted as to when we go live with it.

Speaking of October, we are only 75 days away from the start of the Men's walk, and if you haven't heard yet, we will be back at Warren Willis! Both the Men's and Women's teams still have opportunities to serve. You can fill out a team application on the website if you have created an account. If you have not created an account, I would be happy to help you do that. You can also print out a blank one without an account, fill it out and snail mail it in. Let me know if you need help.

As you may have noticed, we are having technical issues with the newsletter. Our brother Gary Brelsford is working on getting it together to share stories and pictures of gatherings that have taken place this year. Our next gathering will be the 4th day follow up gathering. If your church would like to host it, we are looking at the 29th of October or the 5th of November. I can think of a couple of churches out there that have not hosted in a while! ;)

Now is the time for reunion groups to start thinking of agape to make for the walks. If you would be interested in gathering to make Agape, please reply to this email. We would like to have an Agape party in September! This would be an excellent time to gather, (old friends and new) and prepare our hearts for the excitement and joy a walk brings to our community at candlelight and welcoming new babe chicks at the 4th day gathering. Speaking of new friends, we have folks relocating to our area by the bushel these days and some of them are Emmaus brothers and sisters that are interested in staying connected to a local community. Recently, I have had the pleasure of running into a couple brothers, Rex Gordon and Steve Gorman that we need to welcome along with their brides to our Aldersgate family.

The board thanks all of you (especially sponsors) that have helped to get our Aldersgate community up and running again in January and March. We are asking for all hands on deck this October to **fill** both walks with pilgrims. If you have a special brother or sister that you know is ready to walk closer with Christ, please consider sponsoring them. If you have never sponsored someone, we have seasoned sponsors that will be glad to answer your questions and offer assistance. The joy of sponsoring is (in my opinion) just as powerful as working a team. Surely you love someone out there enough to sponsor them! I heard a well seasoned Emmaus brother once say: "if you never sponsor anyone, it's like finding the fountain of youth or the love of God and never sharing it with them." Remember, Christ is counting on you!

DeColores!

Steve McIntosh
W. Orange board Rep
407-988-9963

PS: Heard it from a Rooster that the Green Agape Challenge is coming, let's get it back!!

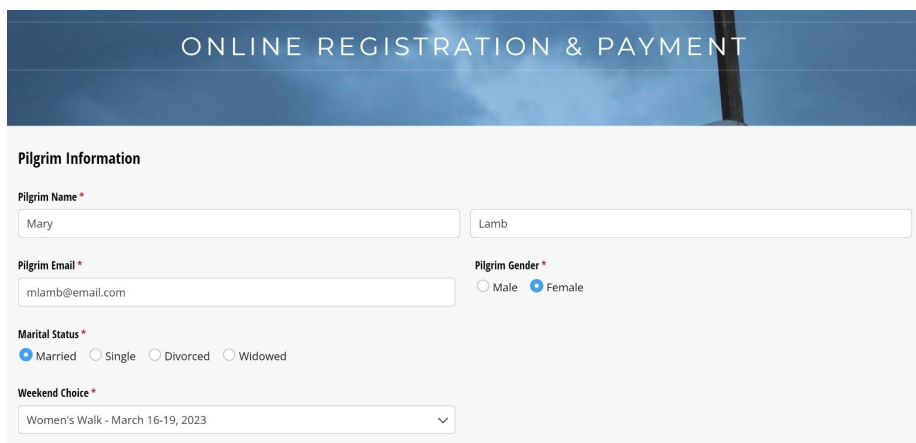
Now Available!

Online Registration and Payments

There's a new way for Sponsors and Pilgrims to register for upcoming walks – and it's all online at our website, aldersgateemmaus.org. The website "Applications" page, where paper registration forms can be downloaded, now includes a link to online registration and payment.

"The online registration form is shared between the Sponsor and the Pilgrim, so it literally just takes a few minutes for each to complete." says Terry McCorvie, who developed the online platform.

The online process incorporates the Sponsor's Sheet, Request for Registration, Scholarship Application and weekend fee payments into one seamless process. Once the process is complete the electronic applications are available to the registrar and treasurer. Weekend lay directors also will have read-only access to pilgrim applications as they arrive.



ONLINE REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

Pilgrim Information

Pilgrim Name *
Mary Lamb

Pilgrim Email *
mlamb@email.com

Pilgrim Gender *
 Male Female

Marital Status *
 Married Single Divorced Widowed

Weekend Choice *
Women's Walk - March 16-19, 2023

The registration process always starts with the Sponsor. They fill out basic information about the Pilgrim and indicate their walk preference. The Pilgrim then receives an email asking them to complete their portion of the reservation.

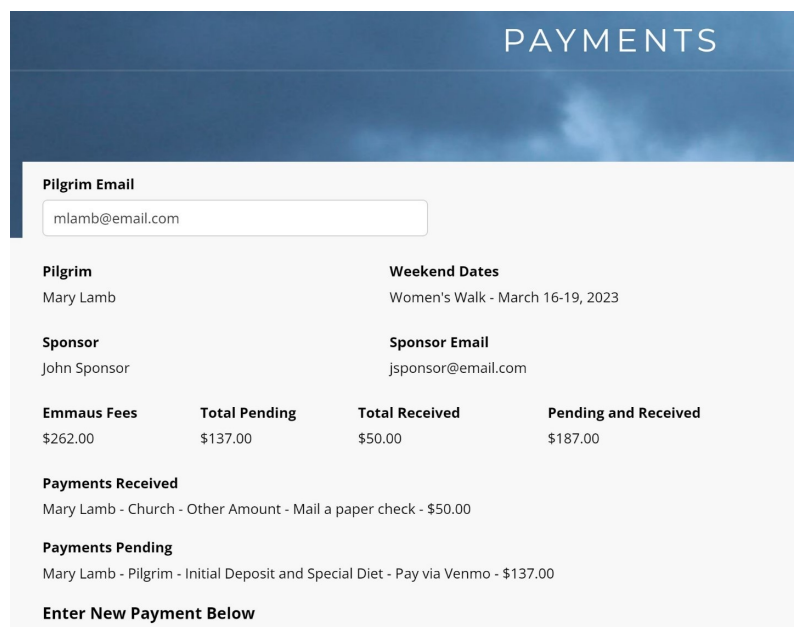
Sponsors and Pilgrims are asked if they want to make an immediate payment during the online registration process. Payments may be made at any time before the walk online using Venmo, PayPal or by mailing in a paper check.

"I've been getting requests for payment options besides paper checks, so giving Pilgrims the ability to make multiple payments over time using various options will be a welcome addition," says Evelyn Day, Aldersgate Registrar.

If the Sponsor requests a scholarship, an automatic email is sent to the Scholarship Chair to review and approve or deny, all online.

Behind the scenes, the platform is designed to reduce the workload for the Registrar and Treasurer since many previously manual processes are now automated.

While paper applications are still welcome, they will be entered into the online platform so all registrations and payments are housed in one location.



PAYMENTS

Pilgrim Email
mlamb@email.com

Pilgrim Mary Lamb	Weekend Dates Women's Walk - March 16-19, 2023
Sponsor John Sponsor	Sponsor Email jsponsor@email.com

Emmaus Fees	Total Pending	Total Received	Pending and Received
\$262.00	\$137.00	\$50.00	\$187.00

Payments Received
Mary Lamb - Church - Other Amount - Mail a paper check - \$50.00

Payments Pending
Mary Lamb - Pilgrim - Initial Deposit and Special Diet - Pay via Venmo - \$137.00

Enter New Payment Below

Fourth Day Information & News

Osceola Cluster Fourth Day Follow-Up and Gathering, May 22, 2022



This is Ricky Johnson, the Fourth Day speaker. He did his Walk in March and did an amazing job! By the way, he has signed up to be on the October team!



Aldersgate Emmaus Central Florida 4th day Training & Gathering

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What an honor and privilege it is to share with you the great news that the fire of God's Love is so vibrantly alive and burning intensely in the hearts of the 43 that attended (13 were Babe chicks!) the last gathering and 4th day follow-up training for 2022 this past Sunday, November 6. For some, this was the first gathering they have attended since the pandemic shut Emmaus down in March 2020! As your W. Orange Board Rep. and Central Florida 4th day training coordinator, my prayer for our Aldersgate Community in the coming year is to see the hearts of our brothers and sisters that have drifted away, **rekindle** and make it a **priority** to dig out their bag of Agape letters and handmade trinkets that provided such tangible proof (like candlelight, the prayer clock and the closing hug line) of the magnitude of His *unending* Love for YOU!!

Reread what those who you cherish most wrote to/about you and your significance in their lives. Then, I challenge us **all** to look at the back of our crosses and read what it says.

As I write this, there are 121 days, 02 hrs, 22 min and 35 sec until the Aldersgate Men's walk #160 begins. Brothers and Sisters, we are on the clock! Take away **ALL** of our material possessions, and the one thing we have of greatest value to give is our time! Let's make it OUR PRIORITY to give as much time as possible in 2023 praying, sponsoring, serving and leading those HE is calling to experience the Love HE showered upon **US** *whenever* we first did our walk!

Steve McIntosh

W. Orange Board Rep



Gathering Information

Joint Gathering at Hope UMC, 2200 Little Rd, New Port Richey (Trinity Area), January 14, 2023, 5-8 PM. It's a potluck and communion with our friends from Tampa Bay Emmaus! More info to come!



Putting Discipleship to Work

Terry McCorvie

I recently spent a few nights in the hospital and had a chance to see the power of Discipleship Ministry at work, I wanted to share my story below.

A disciple is a minister. As disciples we serve as partners with Christ in his healing ministry. We are all ministers with a task to help others become the whole people God calls us to be. And you don't have to hit 'em in the face with scripture.

I am always amazed how easy it is to engage with others. I am intentional about it. I practiced it during a recent hospital stay. I decided I would be a reflection of Christ to anyone who came in my room. So I showed the healthcare workers love and kindness, even at 4 in the morning. I welcomed them and asked about their lives.

I didn't openly preach; I just showed I cared about them as people. Amazingly, love changes everything. They opened up to me -- shared their hopes and dreams. One nurse even asked for advice on how to handle a difficult conversation she had to have with her dad. They became people. In fact, the nurse I had my first night stopped by my room on another floor where I was moved the next day. He just wanted to thank me for our conversation the night before and to wish me well.

Showing God's grace. It's not difficult, but it is powerful.