



Candlelight



Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Nashville Emmaus Community

February 2018

“Come...Follow Me”

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Many times, I preach on subjects which strike right to my own heart, and remind me of areas I need to work on in my own actions, responsibilities, and, especially, in my heart.

This past Sunday I preached at both of my churches with a primary subject matter of procrastination. The Scripture was Mark's account of Jesus calling Simon and Andrew, as well as James and John, to “Come, and Follow me!” What struck me was the use, in both accounts, of the word IMMEDIATELY. Mark uses this word 40 times in 16 Chapters of his Gospel account, more than any other single word. Do you think Mark believes there is a sense of urgency here?

The disciples drop what they are doing and leave home, community, livelihood, and relationships, and immediately follow Jesus. To make a life-long and life-giving commitment to being at the heart of ministry following Jesus wherever he leads.

I challenge anyone to find a place in the Bible where Jesus says, “Go on home, think about it, talk to your family, and get back with me tomorrow.” Or, “Don't talk about the kingdom of God yet...wait and make sure everything is right where you want it to be. THEN, talk to them.” There is a true sense of urgency in Jesus' calling to the disciples... and to us!

How often have we told ourselves that we just don't have the time to devote to all the things God calls us to do. In our homes, our churches... and in Emmaus. Sponsorship takes so much time when we do it right. Serving on teams takes all those team meetings and giving up a whole weekend. Serving on a Committee with the Board is more time than I can spare. Gatherings mean I have to drive all the way there and get home later than normal. And behind every one of these is the thought, “What if the walks are cancelled?”



Think back to your Emmaus experience, whether it was a Walk, Flight, Encounter, Journey, Pilgrimage, etc. When you felt Jesus walking next to you, interpreting the scriptures to you, breaking bread with you, do you remember Jesus telling you to go home and keep this all to yourself? I don't! I was on fire to go, and make disciples...

Where is our sense of urgency? Where is our commitment to help others experience this wonderful ministry that has touched us so deeply? I want to invite all of the community to stop and pray that God will guide you in the ways that will bless others and bless this ministry of Emmaus. It may be God is calling you to serve on a committee or in the background of the walks. It may be that God will place people on your heart and mind to sponsor into this life-long and life-giving relationship. But I'd be willing to bet, if you honestly offer yourself to be devoted to a ministry with Jesus by your side - you won't hear the words, “Wait, don't do anything yet.”

“Follow Me. I will make you fish for people!” And immediately, they left their nets and followed Him.
Mark 1:17-18 NRSV

Where is your sense of urgency?

Doc Hall
Interim Community Spiritual Director
Nashville Emmaus Community



These days of my Fourth Day

The light bulb moments of my Emmaus weekend have stayed with me – most especially a message God that put on my heart: “Stay awake with me.” He called me to prayer ministry.

In that process of discovery, I learned discernment; I learned where and how God speaks to me. I grew more and more sure of His leading. And then one day my life changed abruptly, almost throwing me to the ground, figuratively speaking. And it was my post-Emmaus ‘training’ that kept me alive and going. Literally.

You see, one day the mail came early to my house, and in that way, I discovered that my then-husband had emptied our retirement account. The money was gone. All of it. Later that day he told me he had a prescription drug addiction. A few weeks later, he would confess he’d been lying to me the entire time we’d known each other – 22 years. But he refused to tell me which parts were lies, and which parts were real. (I still don’t know; he has never been willing to say.)

Not long after, there was a heavy snow predicted for our area. He had recently moved out, but he wanted to take our child sledding, so I agreed he could sleep on the sofa that night. When I woke up, the ground was covered with a thick blanket of snow. No one was going in or out of our neighborhood. It was then that I became aware of this odd thought pressing on my forehead: ‘Look in the car.’ I remember thinking, ‘What?’ and then ‘Why?’ But those words just kept repeating, slowly and steadily. ‘Look in the car.’ And a few minutes later, ‘Look in the car.’ Calm. But persistent. As if God might be giving me a directive. ‘Look in the car.’ My husband’s car was parked in my garage. So I got up, went downstairs, and looked in his car.

I found a box of bullets in the back of the glove compartment. The gun was hidden in our child’s over the seat storage bag. And under a dirty blanket in the trunk, I discovered an empty baby wipes box, except for one carefully wrapped little packet of tissue paper, which – I discovered - held five or six loose diamonds, along with a pair of antique earrings. Later he would admit to stealing it from his great-uncle’s estate while we were helping his aunt clear out the house.

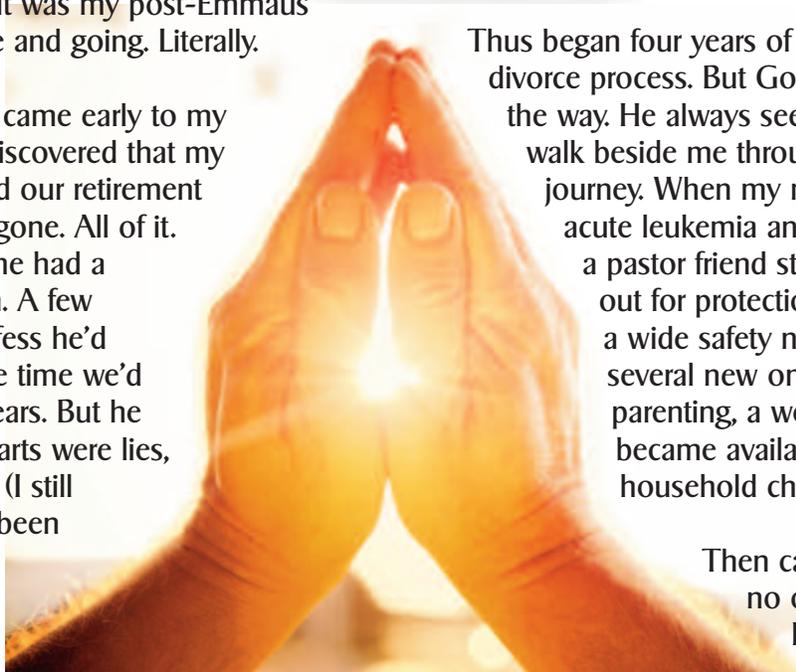
Thus began four years of an intense, often frightening divorce process. But God was faithful, leading me all the way. He always seemed to bring someone to walk beside me through different parts of that journey. When my mother was diagnosed with acute leukemia and died within three months, a pastor friend stayed near. When I reached out for protection from the ex, I discovered a wide safety net of old friends, along with several new ones. As I struggled with single parenting, a wonderful young woman became available to babysit and help with household chores.

Then came a time when there was no one walking alongside me. I suddenly realized I wouldn’t be able to keep my house.

My legal fees had been exorbitant, the ex had stopped paying alimony after three months, and only paid child support when he felt like it. Yet “somehow” my child and I were able to stay in our home until he graduated high school. The numbers still don’t add up. I’ve tried to figure it out time and time again. But now I just accept the fact that God made it happen.

These days, when God gives me a directive, I know I had best do what He is telling me to do. I trust God now in a way I never could have, had it not been for those years of trial and crisis, learning to recognize His voice, and paying attention to what He was telling me to do. Even when I didn’t know why.

De Celores
Gloria Gregory





The Walks are Happening

I hope you are all having a blessed new year! I have the privilege of serving as the Community Lay Director of YOUR Nashville Emmaus Community.

THE WALKS ARE HAPPENING - PRAISE GOD!!!!

The men's and women's teams begin meeting this Saturday. Please join me in deliberate prayer for these men and women as they prepare to welcome these pilgrims and to share with them what God have in store for all of us. Let us also join in prayer for these pilgrims that they will be receptive to hear what is spoken and to realize God's love and grace like never before.

In the coming months, we will be preparing for a new structure for our Board and committees that will take place in 2019. Much of this preparation will involve your participation as we will need volunteers to serve on different groups. You will be receiving more information on this after the walks take place. Please prayerfully consider giving your time to this when help is asked for.

I would also ask you to consider sponsoring a pilgrim for our upcoming walks. We all remember the experience we had when we went on our walks and we are able to give that agape love to others as we sponsor. We will also need help in the kitchen, the agape room and on the prayer charts as well as community attendance for send-off, candlelight and closing.

I look forward to working with all of you this year and would ask you to pray for our Community as we strive to bring the Emmaus experience to others.
Remember - Christ is counting on us!

Blessings to you and yours - and De Colores!

Nita Wright
Community Lay Director

Notes from the Agape Team

Table/bed agape is needed for both sets of walks.
75 pieces for each walk.

Agape can come from reunion groups or individuals just remember not to attach individual names on the Agape.

Agape can be as simple or elaborate that you choose. For ideas look on Pinterest....and please remember to have it to the Agape room by Thursday night so the Agape team does not have to worry if there is not enough.

To another point if you would be interested in being part of the weekend Agape team please contact Charlene Clark or Deborah Mabry. We need 4 to 5 team members for each weekend. This is a great entry point for those wishing to be part of the weekend.

Remember Christ is counting on you and so is the Nashville Emmaus Community.

Charlene Clark and Deborah Mabry

From the Emmaus Kitchen

The Spring Walks are right around the corner and the teams are preparing for an amazing walk. Praise God we have a someone who feels led to lead the kitchen team during the Women's Walk March 15 - 18.

We are still looking for someone to lead the kitchen during the Men's walk Mar 1 - 4. Please prayerfully consider if this is an area you would like to serve.

As always, we are looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen during both walks. We need volunteers to help with all meals starting Friday morning breakfast through Sunday noon lunch. You will be blessed by serving others.

Mary Craig and Jenny Shelton



Nashville Emmaus Calender

Emmaus Walks 2018-2019

- Men's Walk # 197, March 1 - March 4, 2018
- Women's Walk # 198, March 15 - March 19, 2018
- Men's Walk # 199, March 21 - March 24, 2019
- Women's Walk # 200, April 4 - April 7, 2019

All walks are held @ Hermitage UMC, Hermitage, Tn.

Face to Face Encounters

- F2F#8, Spring 2018 - April 30th, May 3rd, 7th, 10th
Smyrna FUMC 301 Sam Davis Rd, Smyrna, TN 37167

Chrysalis Flights

- Boys Flight # 110, February 17-19, 2018

Gatherings

- February Boy's Chrysalis Candlelight- Fellowship UMC, Murfreesboro, Tn. 8:00 pm.
- March Men's and Women's Walks @ Hermitage UMC. Candlelight @ 8:00pm.
- April Smyrna 1st UMC, 301 Sam Davis Rd, Smyrna, Tennessee 37167 @ 6:00.
Potluck with Fellowship to follow.

FACE TO FACE ENCOUNTER IS COMING!!!

Face to Face is an experience in the tradition of the Walk to Emmaus designed for persons 60 and older. Open to Christians of all denominations who want to strengthen their spiritual lives, Face to Face allows the opportunity to rediscover Christ's presence, gain fresh understanding of God's transforming grace, and form friendships that foster faith and spiritual maturity.

It is, of course, open to Christians of all denominations who want to strengthen their spiritual lives. Loyd Mabry will be the Spiritual Director and Cathy Wedekind will be the Lay Director.

It will be held at Smyrna FUMC on April 30, May 3, May 7 and May 10 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Please contact Nita Wright at 615-459-9279 or nita_wright@bellsouth.net for more information.

Again, remember -Christ is counting on us!





Hello Emmaus Family

My name is Kimberly Mungin, walk 116 Northern Indiana Walk to Emmaus, March 1998, Table of Abigale. It has been a blessed 2017, and I cannot wait to see what 2018 has to offer?

A little about myself... I am about to celebrate my 47th birthday, while our family celebrates my husband's retirement from the US Army after 27 years of service. We have 4 children; Denzel a senior at Fort Campbell High School (graduation in May!), Joey is a freshman, Wesley is in 7th grade, and Ava Marie is in 5th. Joseph and I are both job hunting as well, adding another exciting blimp to our busy lives.

We only moved to Fort Campbell a year and a half ago. I googled Methodist churches in the area needing two aspects to appear on their websites. A strong youth group and a link to Emmaus. We visited Fellowship UMC in Clarksville and have found a church family. It just so happened that first Sunday a nice man by the name of Steve Zuercher came up and introduced himself. I asked him if he knew anyone that could help with linking me to an Emmaus community. Little did I know who I was talking to? If you know Steve, I have found a life long friend, who also is a friend in Jesus.

It wasn't much longer than a few months I was attending gatherings, and looking to get more involved. I have served for the last year as the acting secretary and a part of the gatherings/prayer chapel team. I love being apart of the community, seeing you all monthly, and building relationships with you and God. The relationships have even stretched over cities, and our community is growing to include a great Face2Face community and Chrysalis community. I went to my first Chrysalis candlelight two weeks ago, what a wonderful evening. Our Community will be having its March gathering at the Boy's flight Feb 19. We surprised the Girl's Chrysalis community and made it great event. Let us do it again!

There will be no March Gathering because of the two walks. The men's candlelight will be March 3rd, and the Women's will be March 17th. Please come to both and make them God blessed. Candlelight's begin at 8pm. The community's April gathering will be held at Smyrna UMC. Remember gatherings start at 6pm with potluck then a Fourth day speaker and communion to follow.

I need your help volunteering your church's Emmaus community, to host an upcoming gathering. All I need from you is the location, a member from your community who would like to share their fourth day experience, and a pastor that can lead us in communion. The community brings the food, the board reps show up with paper products, utensils and communion elements. I need to fill May through Nov. I hope to have Dec at the Upper Room again. Please fill free to contact me at 757-753-5558 or email me at kimberly.mungin2471@gmail.com .

Have a blessed week. I hope to meet many more family in Christ at the Boy's flight in Feb., or at either of the next walk's Candlelight in March? God is Good, All the time.

DeColores,

Kimberly Mungin



Nashville Emmaus Board of Directors

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Above is your 2018 Nashville Emmaus Board. If you have questions that you need answered feel free to contact us. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, we would love to hear from you. In 2019 we will be bringing new and exciting changes to our board structure and will need help your help. Be in prayer this year in how you can become active part of the Nashville Emmaus Community.