



Candlelight



Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Nashville Emmaus Community

October 2017

Members of the Nashville Emmaus Community,

Recently the Board of Directors made the decision to postpone the fall 2017 Men's and Women's Walk to Emmaus. The new dates for the walks are:
Men's Walk #197, 1-4 March, 2018; Women's Walk #198, 15-19 March, 2018.
These will be the only walks scheduled for the year 2018. The fall season has become congested with competing events, vacations, weddings, and school breaks, so there will not be any walks conducted in the fall.

The deadline for applications for walks #197 and #198 is January 1st, 2018.
If you plan to sponsor a pilgrim the application and registration fee must be received by the deadline.

The reason the board postponed the walks is that our community did not meet the requirements of the Emmaus model. The men's walk had only nine pilgrims registered and the women's walk had just five. Additionally, there was no spiritual team in place for the women's walk.

Since 2012, the Nashville Emmaus community has come to this same decision point for 11 of 21 walks. During the same period, the board has taken on a number of initiatives toward better communication, connection with the community, greater attendance for community events, and improved sponsorship. These initiatives included training for sponsors, a new format for gatherings, updating personal information, a mass mailing to the community, scholarships for first-time sponsors, and reduced pilgrim fees for early registration. While there has been improvement, these initiatives have not resulted in improvements in our situation with respect to conducting walks.

Moving to one set of walks per year is a big change and we need your prayers, your service and your input as we move forward. The board asks each community member to reflect on your Fourth Day. Are you in an accountability relationship with other believers? Are you discipling new believers, developing leaders in your churches, and guiding others to a greater relationship with Christ? Do you share your experience at the Walk to Emmaus with others? Have you shared your Emmaus experience with your pastor? If not, why not? Do you understand the steps to sponsor a pilgrim on the Walk to Emmaus? Have you offered to sponsor someone so that they may experience the Walk to Emmaus? Tell us how we can help. Christ is Courting on You!

DeColores,

Board of Directors
Nashville Upper Room Emmaus



My 4th Day Experience

My Emmaus weekend was one light bulb moment after another. But the biggest gift (of many) was a personal message that Christ laid on my heart and put in my head: "Stay awake with me."

After the weekend, I searched the Bible to discover if there might be a more specific meaning of those words for me. My pastor thought God might be calling me to prayer ministry. I prayed about it, and then, with his blessing, began a dedicated prayer card ministry for people on our church's "Continuing Care" list.

Every Sunday there were between 20-30 people on that list. I began to pray over each name. I really didn't quite know what I was doing. But I sat at my kitchen table, with my Bible open on my left, and a blank card lying in front of me.

Within a week or two, each time I would pray for someone, I began to feel as if I was being "led" to certain scripture. I'd write a verse or two on the card, and beneath it, I'd write a prayer. My hope was that as each person read their card, it would feel as if I was there with them and we were praying together. I didn't sign my name. I wanted each prayer card to be a gift – freely given – with no expectation of thanks or giving in return.

The process had unexpected benefits. For one, because I was constantly searching the Bible, I learned more scripture than I'd ever known before. I also learned how to listen, and where to listen, inside myself, for that still, small voice of God. And if something didn't feel right, if I didn't get that affirmation, I'd tear up the card, and start again. When I look back on it now, I know that God was teaching me how to recognize His voice, and teaching me discernment.

But after nine or ten months of faithfulness, I started to experience doubt. Were the prayer cards really making a difference?

Was I being led to verses and guided to write prayers, or was it just my imagination?

I kept going, but the doubts continued as well. So one day, I said to God, Look - I know we're not supposed to ask you for signs or anything like that, but if you don't mind – would you please just let me know if this is working? Is it helping anybody? Am I doing this the right way? And do you want me to keep doing it? Thank you, Lord. Amen.

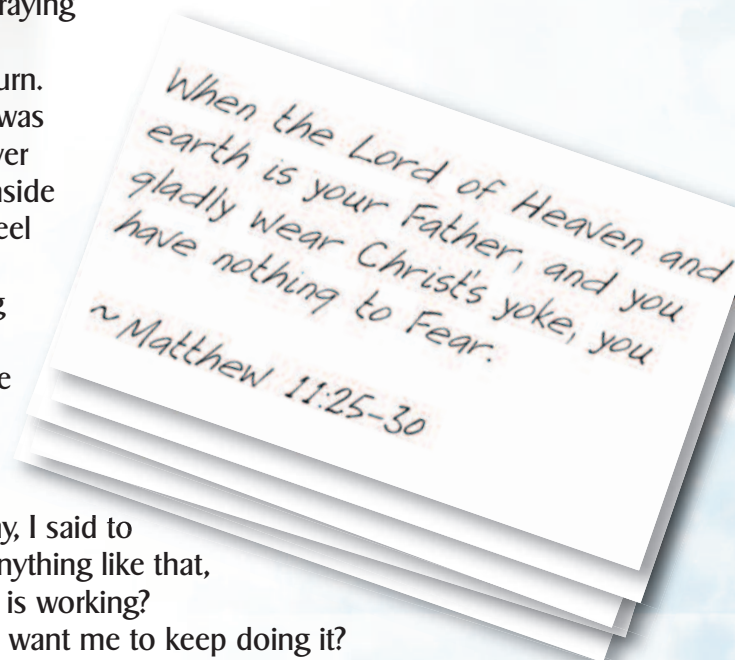
A few weeks later, I was coming out of a funeral home, and I heard someone call my name. I turned towards the voice, and saw one of my prayer card recipients getting out of her car. I smiled and waved, and she motioned for me to stop. As she made her way to me, she said, I need to talk to you. She came up beside me and said, I know you're the one who's been writing those cards and I need to tell you something. I need to tell you how much they mean to me.

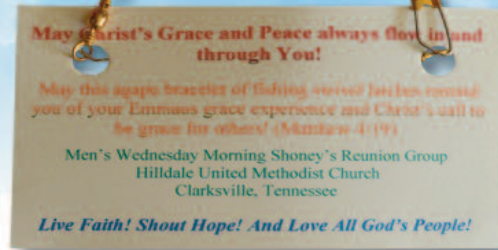
I was surprised, and more than a little relieved. I said, You know, I was beginning to wonder if they meant anything to anybody. So thank you for saying that.

She said, You also need to know that I've got one of them in my purse right now. It goes everywhere I go. I've got another one propped up on the windowsill over my kitchen sink. So yes, they do mean something. They mean a great deal.

She gave me a hug, and then we went our separate ways.

In many of my fourth day experiences, it has seemed as if I'm following God into the unknown, but I've learned that I always do best to follow Him. Always.





It's Time for Agape!

We are looking toward our Spring Walks which will be Men's Walk # 197, March 1-4 and the Women's Walk # 198, March 15-18. It takes a lot of people volunteering their time and energy during each weekend and you can help! If you are not sure what you can do to help, here are just a few ideas.

- **Come to sendoff**
- **Help prepare meals**
- **Provide snack agape for the conference room**
- **Come and help set up cots**
- **Attend Candlelight**
- **Help serve meals**
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- **Make agape to be placed on the table at meals**
- **Come and help take down cots**
- **Sort letters**
- **Come to Closing**

And something we can all do – PRAY!

If are providing table agape, please bring 75 pieces. If possible, please bring your table agape to the Agape Room Thursday night at sendoff. This will allow the Agape team to plan how many pieces need to be set out at each meal. We want to be sure there is enough for the weekend.

Thank you so much for your support.

De Colores,
Deborah Mabry
Agape Board Rep.
(615) 948-4845

Walk 142, Table of Mark





SPRING Walk Dates

Men's Walk # 197 March 1 - 4, 2018

Women's Walk # 198 March 15 - 18, 2018

**Deadline for applications for both walks
is January 1st, 2018**

Send Off - Thursday -

Registration and Reception in Gym 7:00 pm

Send Off in Sanctuary 7:45 pm -

Sponsor's Hour 8:00 pm

Candlelight - Saturday - 8:15 pm

Closing - Sunday - 4:30 pm

Fourth Day Meeting - Tuesday - 7:00 pm

What Part Can I Play?

- Pray for the walk, the team, the pilgrims
- Pray during the weekend by joining the online prayer chart.
- Sponsor a pilgrim
- Make table agape. 75 items.
- Bring snack agape
- Work in the kitchen
- Attend Send-off
- Attend Candlelight
- Attend Closing

**All applications for the Walk to Emmaus should be sent to :
Nita Wright, 203 Brookhaven Trail, Smyrna, Tn. 37167.**

Dear Community,

I write this article with a heavy heart, I was not ready for the phone call that I received that told me of the passing of Joe Pearson. As I began to reflect on my friendship with Joe, it centered around the Nashville Emmaus Community.

Joe and I were currently on the Emmaus Board and it was the second time that we had served together in that capacity. Joe was the strong silent type, he didn't always say a lot, but when he spoke you knew to listen because you knew he had thought through what he was saying.

He was a man who led by example, he was a true servant, and wanted to serve his Lord, his church, and the Emmaus Community in any and every way possible. He had a warm smile, a tender touch, and always an encouraging word. The worst thing that I could say about Joe is that he was a diehard fan for the Tennessee Vol's, but hey nobody is perfect.

As we continue to live our fourth days without Joe may God occasionally bring his kindness and smile to our memory and when he does may we pass it on and pay it forward. On August 30th Joe began a new fourth day. This is a fourth day where there will be no more pain, suffering, sickness, and tears, for those things have passed away. He is now in a new home, not made with hands but eternal in the heavens enjoying his new 4th day.

May you and I live our fourth day in such a way that we too will hear what Joe heard when he arrived at heaven's gate. "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Joe will be missed greatly especially by his family, but also by the Emmaus Board and the entire Emmaus Community.

DeColores,
Randy Brown





Christ is Counting on You!

Friends of Nashville Emmaus, each newsletter I appeal to you to remember some aspect of the Walk to Emmaus weekend in order to prompt your involvement in the 4th Day disciplines, service in your local church, and service in the Nashville Emmaus Community to live a life in grace. Like you, I try my best to struggle each day to grow spiritually, remembering what the scriptures say, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast." (Eph 2:8-9)

My walk took place when I was seeking to find a greater relationship with Jesus in my life, so that I would understand what my purpose or calling looked like. The Walk to Emmaus was a life-changing experience that helped me to focus on my spirituality and relationship with Christ (faith) rather than what I was or wasn't doing (works). It helped me get my priorities together. Once I forgot about the works and gave priority to piety and study, the action came with little effort. I did what I felt God calling me to do...I have served where asked or told to serve.

This is not to say that whatever is asked of me I respond as requested. Through prayer, meditation, and communication with God, I am confident when I say yes. The works that I am involved with are the products of my relationship with Christ. Whether or not I am comfortable with it, I am certain it is what God has called me to do.

The question I pose to you today is this: Why are you doing what you do? Is it because of your personal preference or will? Or, is it because you are called to it, however mundane or high-profile, easy or difficult, to bring glory to God? Take this simple test. What did the weekend mean to you? What are you going to do about it? You might remember those questions from the Closing Ceremony. It applies now just as it did then. When you are called, how do you respond? Christ is Counting on You!



Steve Zuercher
Walk 142, Table of Mark

Serve Pilgrims and Walks Through Setup/Takedown

Looking for a way to serve a Walk and further feel God's love and grace? Sign up to assist the Setup/ Takedown Committee. At least 15 people are needed to setup cots and rooms on Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m. before each walk. In addition, at least 10 people are needed to takedown at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday morning of each walk. To keep the Community revitalized and continually renewing, we need new faces and recent pilgrims. Too often it is the same faces showing up. If you can assist, please email Julius Johnson at juliusj@cpws.net and state you are able. Working humbly behind the scenes can be a true blessing to you but most assuredly for the Pilgrims.



Check out our new Website

You can go to the same link nashvilleemmaus.org. You will find a new look and easy navigation. If you see anything you would like to see add to our website please email us at nashvilleemmaus@gmail.com. We appreciate your input because you are the community. Thank you for your support. Also, if you would like to add a 4th testimony to our newsletter you may also email that to us as well.

DeColores,
Anne Proctor
Communications

