



Community Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

February 2009

www.tampabayemmaus.org

From Your Community Lay Director

On June 22, 2006, Tampa Bay Area Emmaus was incorporated. The first Steering Committee was formed with twenty men and women stepping up to serve our Community. This past December the first Board of Directors was elected to lead for one to three year terms.

Since the formation of this Community, over 150 men and women have attended the Walk to Emmaus. This came about because of the efforts of so many. To those who sponsored new pilgrims, worked as team members, served in the kitchen, supplied deserts, made agape, and worked anonymously behind the scenes we say a big **THANK YOU.**

Walk #5 is fast approaching. If you are thinking of someone to sponsor, please send the applications as soon as possible. A concentrated effort is needed by all to make each walk successful. Take time to sit and reflect on your walk, remembering the experience, the new friendships, the blessing you felt. God is in control of each walk and He has blessed you to be a blessing to someone else. Thank you for your commitment to Tampa Bay Area Emmaus.

De Colores

Larry Boston, Community Lay Director

Board of Directors

The Tampa Bay Area Emmaus **Steering Committee** has transitioned to a **Board of Directors** as of January 1, 2009.

The Board of Directors does not represent the Community in relation to the Walk to Emmaus rather they do the work necessary such that the 'Walk' can take place. They serve the Lord in this endeavor, which seeks to "Send" pilgrims back to their home Church ready and able to serve Christ and thus further God's kingdom.

Larry Boston — Chairman, & Kitchen

Phil Ranalli — Vice Chairman, & Education

Colleen Davis — Treasurer

Bobbie Ranalli — Secretary

Richard Crist — Spiritual Leader

Fred Hill — Outreach

Sandy Boston — Reunion Groups

Tim Grimes — Housing & Transportation

Steve Larison — Agape, 72—Hr Vigil

Don Marsh — Worship

Carol Jo Meador — Fund Raising

Steve Mitchell — Gatherings

Jim Thompson — Database, Web, & Newsletter

Tabatha Parish — Team Selection

Sandy Pullinger — Music

Laurine Richardson — Registration

Brad Sprehe — Setups & Sponsor's Hour

Richard Yeager — Quartermaster

Ken Blythe — Chrysalis Representative

Who do you know that would benefit from the Walk to Emmaus?

We still need pilgrims for the March walks. Encourage those that you feel would benefit from the walk to pray about it. You Pray for them, and with them.

Please go to www.tampabayemmaus.org and print the registration forms for pilgrims and sponsors'. Fill them out and mail them, with your registration fee of \$125.00 or deposit of \$50.00 to:

Registrar, Tampa Bay Area Emmaus
P.O. Box 129
Valrico, FL 33595

Upcoming Walks

Men's #5	March 5-8, 2009
Women's #5	March 12-15, 2009
Men's #6	October 1-4, 2009
Women's #6	October 8-11, 2009
Men's #7	March 4-7, 2010
Women's #7	March 11-14, 2010

POST WALK GATHERING

There will be a Post Walk Gathering Saturday, March 28th, at the Brandon First United Methodist Church. Pilgrims and Team Members from Walk #5 should arrive at 4:00 PM and the remainder of the Community should arrive at 5:00 PM. The Gathering should end by 7:00 PM. Bring a dish to share.

A Word About Sponsorship

Have you noticed that it is more difficult to get the men to go on a Walk than it is to get the ladies to go? Your conversation often goes something like this: **(Sponsor) Have you been on a Walk to Emmaus?** *(Potential Pilgrim) No, what is it?* **It's like a 'three day' retreat but much more. You need to go, it will change your life.** This works well for the ladies but for the MEN, the phrase, **You need to go, it will change your life** says something very different than what you intended. The male mentality is - different - odd - hard to fathom- inscrutable... Often the male is not at all sure he wants his life changed and if you think HE needs to go on the Walk then you must think he is not a very good Christian. Odd as this may sound to the ladies who are reading this, an inward looking male would admit that he may have had or has some of the described feelings.

When talking to a potential Pilgrim try to avoid the phrase, **You need to go, it will change your life.** Instead, WITNESS to them. TELL them how Emmaus has affected you and your family and your relationship with the Lord. If you are closer to the Lord now than before going to Emmaus, TELL them. Remember, 'with man many things are not possible, but with GOD all things are possible'.

God Bless,

January 17th Gathering



On January 17th a gathering was held at St Andrews United Methodist Church in Brandon. The gathering was attended by 147 people who fellowshiped, shared a meal, listened to fourth day speakers, and took part in a very special communion service.

CHRYSALIS

The Tampa Bay Area Emmaus Community shared a special treat during the January 17th Gathering.

Two "Big Butterflies" (young adults that have been on a Chrysalis Flight and continue to be active in the community) from the Heart of SunCoast Chrysalis Community, Mollie Coker and Tiffany Hobby, acted out a special communion service that is used during each of the boys and girls Chrysalis Flights. It was a visual reminder of the sacrifice Christ made for us. Their communion service was definitely "closest to Christ" for many of the 147 that attended the Gathering.

We hope this glimpse of the Chrysalis weekend will encourage community members to sponsor young men and young women age 15-23 to either of the four upcoming Chrysalis Flights in 2009. The next Girl's Flight #14 is just around the corner, 21-23 March. The concurrent Boys Flight #16 will be 2-4 May. In the fall, Boy's Flight #17 comes first and is scheduled for 25-28 September followed by the Girl's Flight # 15 on 24-26 October.

Get more information, sponsor forms, and butterfly applications on line at www.heartofsuncoastchrysalis.org or call Ken Blythe, 813-643-9788, for an outreach team to come to a youth meeting to present "What About Chrysalis" to potential butterflies and their parents.

Fly with Christ!

Ken Blythe, Heart of SunCoast Chrysalis Community, Outreach

Reunion Groups

Plant City Pilgrims

(From left to right)

Janet Tindel, Loren Hall, Jim (guest), Cathy Clapper, Judy Gallup, Tabatha Parish, CarolJo Meador (peeking) and Sally and Bill Baker



The Plant City Pilgrims Emmaus Reunion Group (actually don't meet in Plant City but in Dover) wanted to share this photo with the community of our 2008 Christmas Dinner get-together at a steakhouse in Lakeland. We had a wonderful dinner and loving fellowship throughout the evening.

The Plant City Pilgrims meet 2 Friday evenings each month. The last Friday of each month is for Emmaus Pilgrims only and is held at Bill and Sally Baker's house in Dover at 6:30pm. At this meeting we follow the reunion group card for our meeting and then have a great time working on agape. Our mid-month meeting is a time of fun and fellowship. We invite potential pilgrims to join us as we share a meal, travel together on an outing (park, bowling, etc.) or just watch a movie together. We use this 2nd monthly meeting to reach out to potential pilgrims to sponsor.

Our reunion group was formed in June of 2006 and have met consistently since then. Some of the members have left to go to different groups, new ones have joined us - but it continues to be all about sharing our 4th Day journey on The Walk to Emmaus. We would welcome anyone looking for a reunion group to come and join us. For more information contact the Bakers at 813/754-3253 or e-mail us at

billandsally@peoplepc.com.

De Colores!

In each newsletter we will try and highlight an Emmaus Reunion Group. If you have pictures and would like to have your group in the newsletter, please send the picture along with a short write up to:

jthompson@tampabayemmaus.org

AGAPE IS NEEDED!

Reunion Groups and Small Groups, please consider making Agape for the upcoming walks. We are in need of table Agape for both the Men's and Women's Walk to Emmaus.

The Heart of SunCoast Chrysalis is also in need of Agape for the upcoming Chrysalis Flights.

For more information contact the following:

- For Emmaus Men's & Women's Walk #5
 - Steve Larison @ stishl@verizon.net
- For upcoming Chrysalis Flight's
 - Courtney Canady @ butterflies4cb@verizon.net or
 - Ken Blythe @ ken.blythe@d1cd.com

WEBSITE

Please check out our website at www.tampabayemmaus.org for postings of current events such as gatherings and the names of the Pilgrims that will be attending future walk's. You can also go to the Prayer Calendar from the front page and sign up to pray for our Pilgrims during the 72 hour prayer vigil.

From the Editor:

If anyone has something that they would like to see posted in future newsletter's, please submit it for review to jthompson@tampabayemmaus.org.

All articles or other material will be subject to review by the Board of Directors.

De Colores

May God's Blessings Be Upon You