

Living Water Emmaus

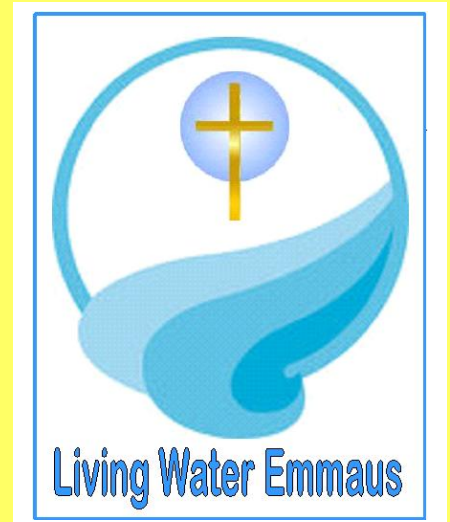
Newsletter—
May 5, 2011

De Colores!

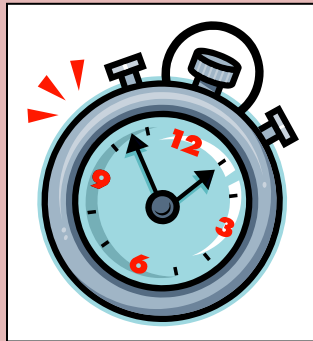
www.livingwateremmausfl.org

Newsletter Editor:

Dave Glant dglant@windstream.net



**May Gathering:
Friday May 13th
6:00—8:00 p.m.**



Bring a covered dish, please.

Trinity UMC
Youth Building
4000 NW 53rd Avenue
Gainesville, 32653

Important: Change of location for this Gathering: It will be at Trinity UMC in Gainesville, in the Youth Building (same location as the April Gathering). It was originally scheduled to be held in a different church.



Child care: Please contact Donna Edmunds at: 352-373-4705 or bedmunds@bellsouth.net

Please notify Donna no later than Monday, May 9th so that arrangements can be made.

Gathering at Youth Building: at Trinity, at north end of large parking lot, follow paved drive to Youth Building. It is located behind the Admin/Sunday School building on the northeast corner of Trinity’s property. It was also the location for both of LWE’s Emmaus Walks



State-of-the-community message
from Lay Director Donna Edmunds:

A Crossroad for a Community of the Cross

De Colores Sisters and Brothers!
I attended Aldersgate Emmaus #23 in 1987 where I sat at the Table of Ruth. Today I lead the Table of Confusion as Lay Director.

A little history: In January of 2007 small groups began exploring the possibility of establishing our own Emmaus community for this region of the State. Intense prayer was the foundation of our consideration. By August of 2008 there was consensus that this direction was being led by God and a Steering Committee was formed to lay the groundwork for a new community. In time, that Steering Committee became a formal Board of Directors which led us through our successful **Walk #1** in April of 2009.

Two Walks forward, one Walk back: **Walk #2** was scheduled for Fall of 2009 but a lack of pilgrims caused postponement to the Spring of 2010. That Spring, **Walk #2** was held successfully and everyone involved was richly blessed. Next, **Walk #3** was fully staffed with teams and volunteers and prepared to serve in March of 2011 but again, a lack of pilgrims caused cancellation. Now, the earliest that **Walk #3** can happen is Spring of 2012. Can you see a pattern developing? We do see God leading and teams and volunteers preparing, but the critical element—**pilgrim sponsorship**—is missing. This is a problem which we must remedy if our community is to be successful in hosting and sustaining Emmaus Walks at least annually.

Sponsorship: Having been a pilgrim yourself, you know that you didn’t simply sign up to attend the walk on your own; your sponsor invited you and facilitated your participation in many ways. Sponsorship includes In prayer, obtaining meaningful letters

for pilgrims, and attending candlelight and closing ceremonies. But even more than these, active sponsorship by inviting potential pilgrims is a critical *discipleship* responsibility of the Emmaus community—which is you and me. The act of sponsorship models for the pilgrim many of the qualities and actions that are highlighted in 15 talks given during the weekend.

Purpose of Emmaus Walk: for “spiritual renewal, intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders...” (Upper Room website).

Our young community is at a crossroad. I must speak plainly, here. Consider: why aren't we sponsoring pilgrims?! Without pilgrims, we cannot survive. We cannot sustain a vibrant Emmaus community. Without pilgrims, we lose our purpose for existing and may as well fold our community and dedicate ourselves to some other calling and other areas of service.

Your Board of Directors is working on this issue, seeking answers and hoping to develop strategies to change the pattern but there will not be a ‘magic’ answer nor is it ‘a problem which the Board must solve.’ It is a ‘community’ problem for which **the solution lies within all of us in the Living Water Community.** The solution is: grow or die.

The Board is open to all prayerful, thoughtful ideas. Please share them with me or any Board member. We are planning events which are instructional or coaching in nature. Please stay connected through our newsletter and attend Gatherings to learn more and to help make this community an active, vital ministry of discipleship preparing leaders for local churches and other ministries for Christ.

“Did not our hearts burn within us...?” Luke 24:32 Be prayerful in this matter; ask Christ how this issue involves you. Reflect upon your own experience during and after your Walk to Emmaus. Was it worthwhile? Did it bring you closer to Christ? Did it make a difference in your relationships or service to Christ, the body of believers and your local church? Do you believe the Emmaus Walk offers still offers life-changing opportunities? If so, please ask yourself “what am I doing to offer that opportunity to others to experience similar benefits?”

God calls us to be accountable and be at work for His kingdom. If God is calling you to His service in other ways, we certainly encourage that, too. After all, a major purpose of the Emmaus Walk is to raise up leaders in ministry—all kinds of ministry. However, even if you are active in other areas of service for God, sponsorship of a pilgrim couple to an Emmaus Walk can still be done. If you need some help or need a ‘co-sponsor’, perhaps other members of our community can assist you in sponsoring your pilgrims. In this way, the entire community can share the joy of seeing your pilgrims grow in their relationship and understanding of Jesus Christ. Let’s all be praying for discernment, surrender and right priorities. **De Colores! Donna Edmunds**

2011 Living Water Emmaus Board of Directors
www.livingwateremmausfl.org

| Name/e-mail | Phone | Address | Board Position/Term |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Donna Edmunds bedmunds@bellsouth.net | (352) 373-4705 H (352) 538-4374 C | 5417 NW 67 th St Gainesville 32653 | Lay Director <i>Term ends 2025 or at The Rapture, whichever First occurs</i> |
| Bob Wright Rwright19@cox.net | (352) 281-2115 | 1650 NW 34 th Ave Gainesville, FL 32605 | Secretary <i>Term ends 2014</i> |
| Monica Lindberg lindberm@ufl.edu | (352) 371-8198 | 6011 NW 54 th Terr. Gainesville, FL | Treasurer <i>Term ends 2014</i> |
| Carol Saylor chamsaylor@aol.com | (352) 625-2202 H (352) 572-2838 C | 2411 SE 173 rd Ct. Silver Springs, FL. 34488 | Training <i>Term ends December 2012</i> |
| Doug Fleming footballflemings@yahoo.com | (386) 418-3728 | 14685 NW 151 st Blvd Alachua, FL 32615 | Sponsorship <i>Term ends 2014</i> |
| Gene Layfield kymemail@wildblue.net | (386) 752-3139 | 1502 SW Carl Wilson Rd Fort White, Fl. 32038 | Agape <i>Term ends December 2012</i> |
| Open | | | Registrar/Reunion Groups <i>Term ends December</i> |
| Craig Fuller Cef33@bellsouth.net | (352) 489-3701 H (352) 572-0557 C | 19990 SW 71ST PL DUNNELLON FL. 34431 | Facilities/Set-up <i>Term ends December 2011</i> |
| Vickie Crane Vickiesings7@netscape.com | (352) 472-3380 | 5621 NW 204th St Alachua, FL 32615 | Music <i>Term ends 2014</i> |
| Sharon Fielding sfieldfl@gmail.com | 386) 497-4735 H (352) 665-0555 C | | Gatherings <i>Term ends 2011</i> |
| Cham Saylor chamsaylor@aol.com | (352) 625-2202 H (352) 572-2838 C | 2411 SE 173 rd Ct. Silver Springs, FL. 34488 | Supplies <i>Term ends December 2012</i> |
| Jan Huffstetler jhuffstetler@ufl.edu | (352) 281-4735 | 5095 NW 21 st Terr Gainesville, Fl 32605 | Webmaster <i>Term ends December 2013</i> |
| Hans Henson hannds27@embarqmail.com | (352) 207-1682 C | | Prayer <i>Term ends December 2011</i> |
| Louise Krause ldkrause@windstream.net | (386) 454-4534 H (352) 316-3696 C | 269 SW Quail Place Ft. White, Fl. 32038 | Gatherings <i>Term ends December 2011</i> |
| Geary Rowell grow0441@yahoo.com | (941) 374-1785 C (386) 854-5205 H | PO Box 583 Mayo, Fl 32066 | Community Spiritual Director <i>Term ends 2013</i> |

And now a word from your newsletter Editor and *Grand Pooh-Bah of The Insignificant*: This is going to be complicated, but stay with me. Focus.

Think of the Emmaus Community as a **partnership**. We share our Christian ministries and seek opportunities to witness for Christ. A partnership is a 'win-win' for everybody. This complex thought paradigm can best be illustrated as a visual:



News items? Send to Dave Glant dglant@windstream.net.

Complaints? Send to Ed Garvin hegarvin@aol.com

