



www.ORBEC.org

Oconee River Basin Emmaus Community



www.upperroom.org

June 2014 Newsletter

Fall Walk Dates...

Men's # 11: September 4-7

Women's #12: September 11-14

Team Training Dates

Team Training Dates For All Teams - Support and Conference Room Time & Place

- **June 28** 8:30 a.m. Greensboro UMC (Downtown Campus) 202 West Broad Street
- **August 2** 8:30 a.m. Greensboro UMC (Carey Station Campus)
- **August 9** 8:30 a.m. Greensboro UMC (Carey Station Campus)
- **August 23** 8:30 a.m. Greensboro UMC (Carey Station Campus)

****Childcare can be provided for Team Training until 12:00 & at each of the Walk weekend services. Please call or email [Dianne Gibson](mailto:dgibson13@windstream.net) at dgibson13@windstream.net or 706-318-4812 by Wednesday of each week so that she can know whether to**

FALL WALK SCHEDULE

- **Thursday** - Send off Dinner – 5:00 p.m. Union Chapel UMC
Send Off - 7:00 p.m.
- **Saturday** - Candlelight - 7:30 p.m.
- **Sunday** - Closing - 4:00 p.m.

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This issue of the ORBEC Newsletter is LONG! There are details and schedules for Team Training, an article outlining opportunities to help with a Walk and a report from the Board of Directors on recent developments. Perhaps most important of all there are several articles on Sponsorship – the most important job in Emmaus! Please save and read as you have time.

Community/Team Training Day – Saturday, June 28,

8:30 AM Greensboro UMC, Carey Station Rd Campus

Everyone in our Emmaus Community is invited! If you are serving on Walk #11 or Walk #12 this is your first Team Training. If you are not on the teams but want to learn more about Emmaus and our community this is your chance! If you already know everything come and help teach others!

We'll worship together with Communion at 8:30 in the sanctuary and then go downstairs for Breakfast, Music, Welcome and Training. We'll be talking about what the Walk To Emmaus is all about – it's history, purpose and structure. We'll have Sponsorship training (you may not even be aware that such a thing exists!) We'll share exciting plans for the upcoming Walks and we'll have a chance to get to know each other a little better.

Please join us – especially you new members from Walks #9 and #10.

No RSVP needed. Breakfast and lunch will be provided by the Board (Donations gratefully accepted!)

If you have any manuals or schedules from past Walks please bring them with you along with your purple worship books. Wear your name tag and your cross.!

If you have not completed an application but would like to work it may not be too late. Please go to www.orbec.org and download a team application. Follow the directions for application submittal and we'll get your application to Team Selection ASAP





Emmaus Barbecued
Chicken Dinner
Fundraiser

June 29 at Harmony Clubhouse
\$10

What a deal! David McAfee assures us that this chicken, cooked by our own Emmaus brother Alex at Ga Butts, will make you slim, pretty, smart, popular and happy! Join us and check it out!

To volunteer to help, email David at davidcmcafee@gmail.com or see him Saturday at Training.

To buy tickets come to Training

Saturday



June 2014 Newsletter

TEAM TRAINING DATES

JUNE 28, AUGUST 2, AUGUST 9 AND AUGUST 23.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP IF I'M NOT ON THE TEAM?

PRAY: The most important thing you can do is pray! Go to orbec.org and follow the links to sign up for the 72 hour Prayer Vigil but start now to pray for the teams and Pilgrims of walks #11 and #12, Lay Directors Barbara Moore and Marty Phillips, and Spiritual Directors. Prayer undergirds all of Emmaus and you can be a part of that!

COME: You can come to the Community/Team Training Day on June 28 to learn more about your community and the walk to Emmaus.

DONATE: Donate to help provide snacks for the weekends. As you know there are Health Department guidelines, which now make it very difficult for the community to provide homemade goodies. In response, our Kitchen Heads have developed new ways to purchase and serve wonderful snacks with fewer leftovers. See the next article for details but the bottom line is - the easiest way to help is to donate money! If a Reunion Group wants to provide funds for a snack we can make a sign telling the Pilgrims that it was "Made Possible by Such and Such Reunion Group".

Volunteer to help with Send Off Dinners. See Kenneth Pressley at Community/Team Training on June 28 or email him at kennethpressley@gmail.com

Volunteer to help with unloading Pilgrim's belongings on Thursday night. See Mike Percival on June 28^t or email him at mperc1792@gmail.com to tell him you can help.

Support Team and Pilgrims by taking part in weekend services. Do you remember how you felt when you saw all of those people at your candlelight and closing? You can be part of that for these Pilgrims!



New Procedures to Save Money on Snack Agape!

By Sheryl Causey Weekend Kitchen Head #12

There have been announcements made in past training sessions and gatherings, etc. that the most efficient and economical means of providing snack items for our walks is to give cash or grocery store gift cards. Now we have information that proves that point.

I'd like to share the results of some calculations I made after taking closing inventory for the women's walk #10.

I discovered that we had a significant amount of snack food items leftover from our walks. The approximate retail value of these foods came to \$785.62.

These items have expiration dates for consumption. Therefore, according to ORBEC policy, these soon to be expired snacks were donated to Circle of Love and Penfield after the walks.

The results of the inventory audit indicate that the methods being used for providing snacks by individual members are not efficiently providing for the walks. Many are ultimately being given away.

The kitchen teams have utilized a "runner" servant on the last 2 walks. This person makes daily grocery store "runs" to purchase food as needed. This has proved to be very efficient and economical, as we only buy what we are going to use daily.

If you can contribute to the upcoming walks, please consider taking the money you would spend if buying snacks and put it in an envelope or purchase a grocery store gift card and give it to the weekend kitchen heads for each walk. For #11 and #12 the kitchen heads are Kenneth Pressley and me, Sheryl Causey.

Calling all Parents and Kids!



ORBEC is blessed to have an increasing number of young adults attending Walks and participating in our community. The Board is committed to encouraging that participation by providing childcare at Gatherings, Team Training and Walk events.

We are putting a plan into place and hope to have ORBEC community members (two each time) provide childcare. In return, we will offer a \$15 per hour credit towards application for

Gathering News:

Our July 11TH Gathering will be at Walker United Methodist Church. The Fishermen's Reunion group will be our hosts. Bring refreshments to share.

Walker Church
2730 Walker Church Road
Greensboro, Georgia 30642



SPONSORSHIP

Your pilgrim has said “yes” and you have the application with the pastor’s signature. Wonderful! Of course you have been praying for your pilgrim as you invited them. Don’t stop now! Prayer is your greatest responsibility. But what comes next?

1 - Application AND SPONSORS’ INFO SHEET: Email me, Susie Pressley, Community Lay Director, at jimmiypressley@yahoo.com or Mike Percival, Registrar, at mperc1792@gmail.com or call me at 404-630-7592 and let us know that the application is coming.

Mail the application (with the Pilgrim fee of \$175 or a deposit of \$75 if possible) and the **Sponsor’s Info Sheet** (We must have your information) to: ORBEC, Attn: Mike Percival, 6350 Lake Oconee Parkway, Suite 102 – 29 Greensboro, GA 30642

2 - Letters: Contact close friends and family of the pilgrim and ask for letters. You will find a sample request letter with detailed instructions below. You should try to have 8-10 letters and must have a spouse letter and a pastor letter. If there is no spouse be sure to tell someone on the team.

Bring these letters to Send Off. After the pilgrims leave, a LETTER BOX will be provided to put them in.

3 - For Your Pilgrim: Download the “What to Bring” list from our website orbec.org and give it to your pilgrim.

It’s a good idea to talk to your pilgrim sometime time before the weekend and answer any questions he/she might have and to reassure him/her about their decision. Encourage both husband and wife to attend.

Be prepared to make yourself available to care for the needs of your pilgrim’s family or spouse for the weekend. You will be the emergency contact for your pilgrim but will only have contact with him/her in the event of emergency.

4 - Thursday’s Send Off Dinner: Pick your pilgrim up at their home and be sure they have dinner before you bring them to the camp. We will be serving pilgrims, sponsors and team at the Send Off Dinner at **5:30** at Union Chapel Methodist Church near the back entrance to Rock Eagle. It’s a nice icebreaker. The cost is \$10. Sponsors usually treat their pilgrims.

For directions to Union Chapel <http://www.ngumc.org/churches/detail/1829>

Address: 225 Union Chapel Rd, Eatonton, GA 31024

5 – Registration 6:00-6:45 After you eat, take your pilgrim to Rock Eagle. Tell the guard at the gate that you are with the Emmaus group and ask for directions to the Gas Building.

You will check your pilgrim in at the table you will see set up in front of the cabins. You may park there while you unload but will then be asked to move to the area designated for parking.

If the Pilgrim's Walk fee have not been paid, Mike Percival, the Registrar, will be there to collect them for your convenience and to direct you to the cabin, room and bed reserved for your pilgrim. You and one of our smiling team members will take your pilgrim and their baggage to the room and find the bed with their name on it.

6 - Send Off 7:00 After settling your pilgrim in at their cabin, you will take them to the Pool Pavilion (a short walk) on the hill right across from the Gas Building for Send Off. He/she will sit with you until his/her name is called by the Lay Director at 7:00.

During all of this time it is best if everyone refrains from a lot of hugging and greeting so that the pilgrims will not feel left out.

7 - Sponsor's Hour: After the pilgrims leave the pavilion at 7:00, you will remain in the pavilion for Sponsor's Hour. You will have a chance to hold your pilgrim's cross and pray for him/her.

If you are serving on the team on the weekend and you are sponsoring a pilgrim: If possible have another member of our community who knows your pilgrim take over these Send Off duties for you. If that is not possible or if you think it is not wise, your duties as sponsor come first. Tell the Lay Director or Support Coordinator ahead of time and they will explain how you can handle the situation.

8 – Saturday 7:30 Candlelight: Come to the gate, tell the guard that you are with the Emmaus group and ask directions to the Rock Chapel. Park on the opposite side of the street from the chapel and down a little to be out of the way. The community will visit as we gather outside Rock Chapel, but when you come into the church you will find a subdued and reverent spirit. Please speak quietly or take this time to meditate and pray for your pilgrim either in your seat or at the altar.

9 – Sunday 3:00 Come to Rock Eagle to the cabin where your pilgrim was staying and gather their things, which should be on their bed. You will then go to the Pool Pavilion where you had Send Off.

The Community will hear announcements and perhaps sing a few songs while we wait for the pilgrims who will come into the pavilion at about 4:00.

Always - at send Off, Candlelight and Closing, the community is prepared to wait for the

pilgrims. They are never rushed through an experience to meet a specific time schedule. This is part of the agape we give them for the weekend.

All of the weekend events are only for those who have been on a Walk in any Emmaus or other 4th Day Community. They are not for visitors, even family. Each of these events is part of the experience shared by only the 4th Day Community and the pilgrims.

10 - After Closing - you will take your pilgrim home. On the way you will have time to:

- 1- Invite them to join you at your Reunion Group. If you don't have a Reunion Group check out Links at orbec.org or email Tom Collier at tomandbjc@yahoo.com or call him at 706-296-9530 and he will help you find a group for your pilgrim (and for you!)
- 2- Give them the dates of the next Gathering.
- 3 - On Monday morning, if possible, call your pilgrim to check on them. Pick them up for Reunion Group and then bring them to the next Gathering. Get them an application to work the next Walk with you and help them as they sponsor pilgrims on future Walks.

Don't forget that post walk sponsorship duties are just as important as inviting someone in the first place! A Walk to Emmaus is a once in a lifetime experience – there are no do-overs - so we have just this one time to get it right! Reunion Groups, Gatherings and working on Walks are the things that make Emmaus a community and not just a weekend!

REMINDER – THE PILGRIM APPLICATION IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL WE GET THE SPONSOR'S INFO SHEET

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me at 404-630-7592 or email me at jimmiepressley@yahoo.com or contact Cliff Smith at 706-817-8188 or clifsmith39@gmail.com

De Colores, Susie Pressley, Community Lay Director

HAVE YOU SPONSORED A PILGRIM ON AN ORBEC WALK IN THE PAST? IS YOUR PILGRIM INVOLVED IN OUR COMMUNITY? DO WE SEE HIM AT GATHERINGS? IS SHE IN A REUNION GROUP? ARE THEY WORKING ON THIS WALK? IF NOT THEN YOUR JOB IS NOT FINISHED! SPONSOR THAT PILGRIM AGAIN – INVITE THEM TO COMMUNITY/TEAM TRAINING ON JUNE 28 OR TO THE NEXT GATHERING ON JULY 11 AT RIVER OF LIFE CHURCH ON SCOTT ROAD OR TO REUNION GROUP WITH YOU – OR TO ALL OF THESE! REMEMBER – THE JOB ISN'T DONE 'TILL YOUR PILGRIM BECOMES OUR COMMUNITY MEMBER!



More Sponsorship Info

SAMPLE LETTER TO FRIEND OR FAMILY OF A PILGRIM ASKING FOR LETTERS

Dear _____,

The "Walk To Emmaus" is a weekend of spiritual renewal with many beautiful gifts and surprises. One of the surprises is the mail that persons attending receive from their loved ones. _____ is going to attend a "Walk to Emmaus."

As sponsors, we are responsible for contacting family and close friends and asking them to send a note or letter to _____ so that he/she will receive it during this special weekend. Since it will be a total surprise, we sometimes have to do a little detective work in order to get names and addresses of persons from whom we need help. Perhaps you'd like to pass this along to someone that you know _____ would like to hear from.

This letter is an opportunity for you to express your appreciation of _____ and what your relationship with him/her has meant and means. You might want to recall some humorous event or some happening that has been special to the two of you. This is a letter of love and WILL BE READ ONLY BY THE PERSON TO WHOM YOU WRITE.

Would you help make _____'s "Walk to Emmaus" special by doing the following:

1. Write a letter to _____ and sign it.
2. Put it into an envelope and seal it.

3. Write _____'s name (but not yours) on the envelope.
4. In the upper left hand corner of the envelope write your relationship to _____ - friend, family, Sunday school Teacher etc.
5. Put the envelope in a larger envelope and mail it to Me, _____'s sponsor, prior to _____ so we can get it to the proper place on time.

This should be a complete surprise to _____ so please help make it special by keeping "mum" until it's over.

We hope you'll help us by getting a letter to us. It will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you, _____

For a printable copy email me at jimmiepressley@yahoo.com and ask for Sponsor's Agape Letter. Susie pressley

ANNOUNCING NEW ORBEC SPONSORSHIP TRAINING CLASSES

DO YOU KNOW WHAT "EQUAL COMMITMENT" MEANS TO AN EMMAUS SPONSOR?

DO YOU SOMETIMES WONDER ABOUT THE BEST WAY TO EXPLANE "WHAT EMMAUS IS" TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY YOU'D LIKE TO INVITE?

ARE YOU UNSURE ABOUT WHAT "SECRETS" TO REVEAL?



News From the Board – May and June Meetings

TEAM FEES INCREASED TO \$200.00

After months of concern, discussion and prayer the ORBEC Board of Directors voted unanimously to increase the TEAM FEES for our community from \$175 to \$200.

Notice that this increase applies only to Team Fees. Pilgrim Fee remains \$175.

Please continue to support our Fundraisers – the next one is the Patriotic Chicken BBQ dinner on Sunday, June 29 at Harmony Clubhouse on Hwy 44, Eatonton.

The profits from our Fundraisers go to the general fund. The Board has designated \$1250 per set of Walks for Pilgrim Scholarships. Scholarships for Team members are available only in rare circumstances.

Please continue to pray for your Board. They are very hardworking and faithful in servants.

PLANS FOR SPONSORSHIP TRAINING AND NEW COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED.

For the last year and a half the Board has focused on organization. We've written and adopted Guidelines and By-laws and standardized Team Training. We've put in place an orderly progression and training model for Lay Directors.

With the encouragement of our Community Spiritual Director Grady Mosley, the Board voted in June to focus on Sponsorship in the upcoming year. After all, we always hear "It's the most important job in Emmaus" and the most rewarding!

The Upper Room suggests that community members have some training before they begin to bring others into the community.

So – as a way to encourage and equip sponsors we will be offering Sponsorship

Training opportunities at various times throughout the year.

The first will be at the June 28th Community/Team Training Day. For those of you who may not be able to attend this training, additional classes will be offered at 6:30 before each monthly Gathering.

In these sessions members of the Board will share their experiences as well as the Upper Room guidelines and ORBEC forms and information. But most importantly of all we will talk about who you will be sponsoring.

Of course the first step in sponsorship is to pray for God's leading in who he would have you invite. Emmaus is a prayer focused ministry and we believe sincerely that God will answer our prayers for guidance.

We believe also that God, through his Holy Spirit, has guided the development of the Walk To Emmaus from its earliest inception over 50 years ago. We believe that it is an affective tool, which God has used to enrich the spiritual lives of his people and to strengthen his church. For this reason we, the ORBEC Board of Directors sign a Covenant Letter with the Upper Room each year and agree to follow Upper Room guidance in all areas.

One of the areas the Upper Room is very clear on is the role of sponsors and their duties. The authors of *Emmaus Sponsorship* write:

“The strength of any Emmaus community is a direct result of that community's recruiting practices. A sponsor should commit to recruiting strong church leaders in order to strengthen the local church. The Walk to Emmaus cannot do everything; instead it narrows its focus.”

The Upper Room encourages us to sponsor the following people:

Church leaders.

People who are active in their local churches.

People who have the support of their pastors.

People who will influence other members of their churches to become involved.

The Upper Room is also clear on who it is best not to invite.

Those you want to “fix” or “improve through the Emmaus weekend.

Those who have not yet made a commitment to Jesus Christ and his church or those who have only recently made that commitment. If you have a friend like that you might

think about inviting them to Bible Studies, Discipleship class, Men's Club or Women of the Church. Come alongside and help them to grow into the life of the church and then, next year sponsor them to Emmaus when they will be better able to benefit – when they will be challenged to take the “next step”!.

Those who are not involved in and committed to a church. Committed, not just to Jesus but to his church. That's who we are, not just believers but church people.

Those the Upper Room calls Soap boxers – people with an overly zealous concern about one or two issues.

Those who will have serious theological disagreements with Wesleyan Theology represented by the Walk to Emmaus.

For instance, If I have a friend who is not going to be able to accept women pastors, it's not up to me or to us to change his/her belief system. Out of respect for them and for the community - Emmaus just isn't going to be for them.

People in emotional crisis, or those who are psychologically unstable.

The point in this is not to exclude anyone or to judge anyone as unworthy but to recognize that that the Emmaus program is structured to benefit a particular segment of the Christian Community – the church going, church committed, mature Christian.

Emmaus is constructed to encourage, energize and equip that person to go back to their church and make a difference.

The Weekend program is tailored to that person's needs. Meditations are focused on that person. Talks should be written with that person in mind. Table discussions are meant to benefit that person. The weekend process is constructed for them.

The model pilgrim is able to sit at a table for 15 hours to listen, process and then discuss talks, to sit again in chapel and focus on a serious message and to accommodate the needs of 50 other people. There are a lot of perfectly lovely people who just don't fit that pattern.

It's not unkindness or a judgmental thing to say – Emmaus is not for my friend and my friend is not for Emmaus. If there is too wide a gap between the model pilgrim and my friend, the whole program can be thrown off and we may not accomplish anything for my friend or for the other pilgrims.

The Board has put in place an Application Review Committee to offer guidance and support for Sponsors whose pilgrims have made application to attend our Walks. As you will notice the Pilgrim's application states clearly that acceptance for a walk is not

THE BOARD MEETS EACH MONTH ON THE 3RD MONDAY NIGHT – 6:30

RIVER OF LIFE CHURCH – SCOTT ROAD, EATONTON GA.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME. IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE PLEASE CONTACT SUSIE PRESSLEY AT 404-6307592 OR jimmiepressley@yahoo.com TO HAVE YOUR ITEM PLACED ON THE AGENDA.

guaranteed. Serving on this committee will be Flo Douglas, Jane Lang and Butch Thompson. Grady Mosley will advise.

We assume that 90% of our applications would be just automatically accepted but sometimes we get an application that falls outside the norm – no pastor's signature or a sponsor we don't know – or sometimes we don't even have a sponsor's name. These applications need further attention. In these cases a member of the committee will call the sponsor and say "Tell me about your pilgrim."

We need as much information as possible so that we can make wise decisions in Table and cabin assignments and assure that each Pilgrim has the best experience possible.

So – here's the bottom line. As you begin to sponsor friends and relatives to Emmaus, there are many things to consider. We invite you come to a training session to learn more.

De Colores, ORBEC Board of Directors

