



WALK TO
EMMAUS
THE UPPER ROOM®

JACKSON AREA EMMAUS

Newsletter

FALL 2020

Welcome Women's Walk #62 Fall 2020



“Faith over Fear” was the theme for this year’s Women’s Walk. Facing the Covid19 pandemic head-on and not letting it deter, these brave ladies came together to experience God’s amazing presence and share, learn, and grow.

What a thrill to welcome eleven new members into the Jackson Area Emmaus Community!



Kim Miller, Lay Director

Faith Over Fear

The Emmaus Walk # 63 Faith over Fear was a different walk, and challenging walk, but it also was a moving and amazing walk. We may have been few in numbers, but we were strong in God's word!

These ladies stepped out in Faith to Conquer their fears and let go of strong holds in their lives. God's Presence was felt and it was amazing to watch as he met each of them where they were in their Faith walk, and moved through them throughout the weekend. These ladies not only have a stronger relationship with our Heavenly Father, but they also have met and made new best Friends that will last their lifetime !!

It was my Pleasure to serve as the Lay Director for the Faith over fear walk # 63. I look forward to serving on many more walks in the Future.

God Bless, Kim

Pilgrim Testimonial

My name is Linda, I attended Emmaus #63, it was such a wonderful experience for me. It actually gave me an anchor to reconnect with my faith. In 2015 we relocated to Whitmore Lake from Grass Lake. We still come back for church and Bible study at Crusades for Christ Ministries. However I started to feel adrift leaving my church family and friends behind.

For years Kim has been asking me to attend the Emmaus Walk, but I wasn't able to attend. My husband goes drag racing that same weekend every year. This year for unexplained reasons the drag strip changed the weekend. Personally I think God could see me drifting and stepped in to make it happen!

Kathi (table leader) was a pleasure, the pilgrims in our group got to share our faith walk, our doubts and our short comings. I will cherish every single moment for all my days!

I'm happy to say after our 72 hours I know my purpose again. Thank you to every single person that was involved making the weekend happen. Most of all, I thank Kim for not giving up on me!

The next JAE Emmaus Weekend is being planned for the Spring of 2021 and will be a Men's weekend. John Vanderpool has agreed to be the Lay Director. Please be in prayer for John and the conference room team. Date and location of the walk to be announced later. Start praying now about who God would have you sponsor and stay tuned.

Pilgrim Impressions

At the Women's walk reunion, some of the new community members were asked "what is your main takeaway from the weekend, or "what was the most significant thing" about the weekend?:

"All the people who came to the candlelight and to put on the Saturday night dinner"

"Having dinner with Jesus on Saturday night" - Robin

"Grew spiritually—didn't want to leave" - Cindy

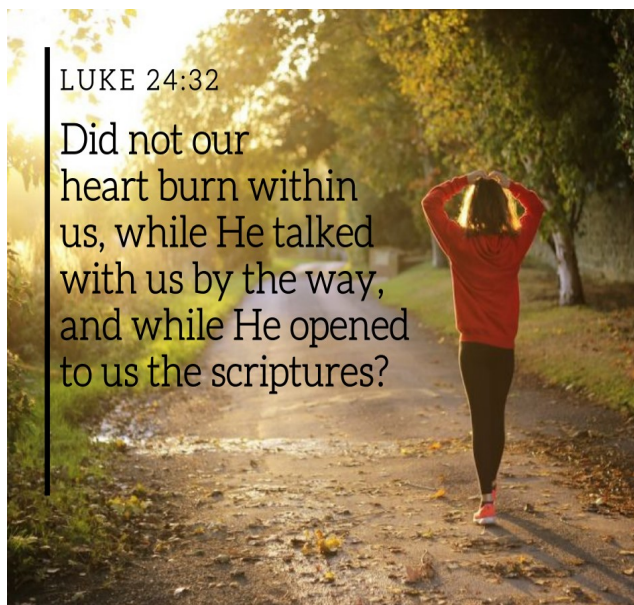
"The love and joy that all of the women shared. The love of God was tangible."

What was most surprising?:

"The kindness—how everybody treated each other."

"I went three days without a shower" - Robin

"The whole weekend—I didn't know what to expect." - Tammy



LUKE 24:32

Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the scriptures?

I had a pilgrim ask me, "what does the PX on the cross mean/stand for?" I thought well, maybe others may be wondering the same thing, so here is a little explanation of the symbol that appears on the Emmaus Cross:



On the cross you receive at the end of your walk, there is a "P" superimposed over a capital "X"

This is known as the PXCross. This cross does not represent the suffering of Christ, but rather the Victory of Christ. In Greek, the "X" is pronounced with the "CHI" sound and the sound "RHO" is written as an elongated "P". Thus, the symbols on the Emmaus cross are called the "CHI-RHO" symbols. This "Chi-Rho" combination represents to the early Christians the name Christos which means "anointed". Christos, the Greek form of the name Christ, was the all important name of power in the early church. Recognizing the name of Christ was seen as the first step on the path to self-transformations. Only when a person has realized the power of Christ and the kingship of Christ can he/she begin to resurrect himself/herself. Only when a person had surrendered to Christ and left his or her old life at the foot of the cross could he/she begin the transcending journey upward to be a "new person" in Christ.

The PX symbol first came into use during the reign of Constantine I. Constantine was the first Roman Emperor to convert to Christianity in 312 AD. According to legend, while preparing for battle, Constantine saw Christ in a dream and was told to paint the "PX" symbol on his army's shields. He ordered his troops to do so and they won the battle. In 318 AD, he declared Christianity to be the start religion of Rome. Since that time, the "PX" has become a symbol of Christianity around the world.

Sue Miller—Community Lay Director

WELCOME TO THE LADIES OF WALK #63 AND THANK YOU TO THE TEAM MEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATED EITHER IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OR BEHIND THE SCENES. THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO SIGNED UP ON THE PRAYER VIGIL AND PRAYED OVER THE WEEKEND.

THIS WAS OUR FIRST WALK WITH ALL THE RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE. SOME WERE GOOD AND SOME WERE A CHALLENGE BUT NOTHING WE COULDN'T GET THROUGH WITH THE HELP FROM OUR ALMIGHTY LORD AND SAVIOR. WE HELD SPONSORS HOUR OUTSIDE WHICH WAS DIFFERENT BUT I FELT IT WAS NICE AND WENT WELL. PLENTY OF MASKS, HAND SANITIZER, GLOVES, AND TEMPS WERE GIVEN AND TAKEN THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND.

COMMUNION WAS HANDLED BY USING THE INDIVIDUAL PRE-PACKAGED COMMUNION CUPS WITH THE WAFERS.

CANDLELIGHT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE OUTSIDE, AND FOR THE MOST PART IT WAS. WE WERE EVENTUALLY FORCED INSIDE DUE TO RAINFALL RIGHT AS THE PILGRIMS WERE COMING OUT. NOT IDEAL BUT IT STILL WORKED!!

CLOSING ENDED UP BEING INSIDE DUE TO THE REQUEST OF THE CONFERENCE ROOM AND THE LIMITATIONS SOME HAD- THEY FELT IT WOULD JUST BE EASIER TO HAVE IT IN THE SMALLER CHAPEL. IT WENT WELL, AND SOME VERY INSPIRATIONAL TESTIMONIES WERE GIVEN AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING HOW THESE TESTIMONIES REVEAL THEMSELVES THROUGHOUT THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD.

IN TALKING WITH OUR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, KATHY TOMS, SHE WAS IMPRESSED WITH HOW OUR COMMUNITY PULLED TOGETHER WITH DONATIOND FOR FOOD AND MONEY FOR THIS WALK. SHE WAS HESITANT BECAUSE OF THE FINANCIAL STRAIN THAT A BUY ONE GET ONE FREE SPECIAL COULD CAUSE OUR COMMUNITY, BUT I TOLD HER SHE DIDN'T KNOW THIS COMMUNITY LIKE I DO!! I TOLD HER THAT THE COMMUNITY STEPS UP AND PRETTY MUCH DONATES ALL OF THE NON PERISHABLE ITEMS AND EVEN SOME OF THE PERISHABLE ITEMS FOR THE KITCHEN. I ALSO TOLD HER THAT PEOPLE WERE STEPPING UP AND DONATING MONETARY FUNDS BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO HELP PROVIDE WHAT WAS NEEDED IN ORDER FOR THE WALK TO BE A GO. THEY WANTED TO SEE SOMETHING POSITIVE IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW AND JUST KNOWING THAT THERE WAS A GROUP OF WOMEN BONDING AND GROWING THEIR FAITH IN THE LORD AND DRAWING CLOSER TO HIM WAS WORTH THE DONATION BEING MADE. SHE WAS IMPRESSED WITH ALL THE WAYS WE SERVED TOGETHER TO IMPLEMENT ALL THE WEEKEND ROUTINES WITH CAUTION, CARE, AND SANITATION. SHE LIKED HOW WE BANNED TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY TO SEE THIS THROUGH AND THAT WE WERE AN EXAMPLE TO OTHER COMMUNITIES-THAT IS MUSIC TO MY EARS AND I HOPE IT IS TO YOURS AS WELL. SERVING GOD AND SERVING OTHERS SO WE CAN SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES AND THEN THE WORLD-I THINK WE HEARD THAT ONCE OR TWICE ON THE WEEKEND!!

MANY ARE STILL CONTINUING TO PRAY FOR EACH OF YOU AS YOU MOVE FORWARD IN YOUR 4TH DAY. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT OUR MONTHLY GATHERINGS—THE SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH.

MAY GOD KEEP YOU SAFE AND HEALTHY,

SUE MILLER, Community Lay Director



Get involved! Board members needed!



ELECTIONS...ELECTIONS...ELECTIONS...ELECTIONS...ELECTIONS...ELECTIONS...ELECTIONS...ELECTIONS

HERE ARE THE POSITIONS THAT ARE AVAILABLE ON THE BOARD. It is nomination time for the Jackson Area Emmaus Board. Please pray and consider giving your time, energy, and creative ideas to the Jackson Area Emmaus Board. We have 8 positions to fill, so please consider being a part of the team that God directs and guides as decisions are made for the better of our community.

WITHOUT A BOARD-THERE IS NO JACKSON AREA EMMAUS COMMUNITY, SO PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A MEMBER OF THE BOARD.

The positions coming available are:

COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR - Pastor Dave is working on this one

SECRETARY- Takes notes during the meeting, types them up in minutes form, file them in the secretary's book, send them to all board members, and then bring copies to the board meetings for those who didn't or couldn't print them.

FOURTH DAY/GATHERINGS-arrives about 4 pm on gathering Saturdays to make sure things are ready for the gathering. Guides the gathering in order to keep on time schedule with fellowship/eat time, worship, announcements, prayer, devotion (spiritual director takes care of the devotion), communion, and final clean up after the gathering.

AUXILIARY- Finds the servants for each department behind the scenes. Phone calls and emails to people to volunteer to serve in each area of the walks.

SUPPLY TRAILER - Keeps the trailer and stocks the supplies for each walk. Arranges for someone to haul the trailer to/from the walks.

NEWSLETTER- Gathers information from board members and community members and designs a newsletter with all the information and then sends it to the data manager to then send out to the community members by email and then attaches it to the JAEC Facebook page.

REGISTRAR- This person collects all the applications, makes sure they are filled out properly, collects the money due and then gives to the treasurer. This person also notifies the pilgrims when their application has been accepted and mails them their acceptance letter along with a packing list of things to bring with them. This person also keeps a log of what each pilgrim needs as far as special needs then sends that log to the Auxiliary Head to let the kitchen know the special diets, and for auxiliary to know if they need special bedding or electric. This person also shows up to every walk on Thursday night for registration to sign each pilgrim in and collect any money owed. The money collected will then go to the treasurer.

MAILROOM/AGAPE CHAIR- This person finds the people to serve in the mailroom for the walks. They can either be the Head of the mailroom or find someone to take that leadership role. This person also collects world-wide agape letters from other communities and sends our agape letter out to other communities for their walks. This person pretty much oversees the mailroom for the weekend, but you do not have to be there the whole weekend. They would either need to be computer savvy or find someone to enter the data on the walk weekends.

Board meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of every month at Brookside UMC - 6:30 pm. We are normally out by 8:00 pm.

The way the nominations work is that you nominate yourself or someone else, but if it is someone else, please make sure they are willing to do the position first. All willing candidates are then brought before the board, voted on and assigned a position. ***New candidates will take over in January 2021. Each term is for three years.*** We look forward to all of the nominees that will be coming in!!! Thank you for being a great community to serve with!!

MAYBE YOU DON'T WANT TO BE ON THE BOARD, BUT YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF A COMMITTEE FOR ONE OF THE AREAS LISTED ABOVE. IF THIS IS YOU-SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO HELP BUT DOESN'T WANT TO ATTEND THE BOARD MEETINGS, THEN PLEASE LET A BOARD MEMBER KNOW THIS AS WELL. WE ARE LOOKING TO BUILD UP OUR COMMITTEES AS WELL. MANY HANDS MAKE FOR LIGHTER WORK!! THE HARVEST IS PLENTY AND THE WORKERS ARE FEW...PLEASE PRAY ABOUT IT AND HELP SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY BY EITHER BEING ON A COMMITTEE OR BEING ON THE BOARD!!



Faithful Servant—Lois Butters

Since 1997, Lois has worked either as a member of the conference room team or behind the scenes in auxiliary for every walk except for two – when she had to sit out because of surgery and when her hubby passed. In addition to bathroom detail, she has worked dining room, mail room, kitchen, and prayer room. At the women's walk this fall, I had the privilege of serving with Lois in the prayer room. When I asked Lois why she volunteers to serve on the walks, she did not even hesitate with her answer "to be a blessing and to be blessed – I am a servant of the Lord."

Whenever Lois has served as a member of the conference room team, she has benefited from getting to know all of the other team members and hearing their stories. The experiences of others who have shared their hurts, heartaches, and successes have strengthened and encouraged Lois in her spiritual life. She just loves being a part of the team whenever she is asked to serve.

Besides serving at almost every walk since 1997, Lois has served as a member of the JAE board, for two separate terms. She was registrar for one term and recently served as keeper of the kitchen trailer. Her service to the Emmaus community has been beyond measure.

Although Lois has some physical limitations, she does not let them stop her. As long as she is able, she is determined to serve. In looking back over the past 23 years of service to the community, she stated that she would "do it again in a heartbeat!"

When I asked her if there was anything else she would like me to say, her response was "I wish more people would get involved so that they would be blessed and be a blessing to others."

Lois took her Emmaus Walk in June of 1997, with her sister Linda. Her experience on the weekend was mixed. There were things about the weekend that she absolutely loved (especially the speakers and the fellowship at meal times) but other things about the weekend didn't really spark much enthusiasm. Her sister, on the other hand, was elated with the weekend and it was a life-changing event for her. While Lois wasn't as blown away as Linda, she felt that she had benefited from the weekend. Her growth was later attested to by some in her church that had noticed a marked difference in her spiritual life.

When the opportunity to serve behind the scenes at another Emmaus Weekend came, Lois' sister convinced her to help. It was always fun for the two of them to work together, so even cleaning bathrooms became a fun time of fellowship, and the two of them made countless friends who were also serving behind the scenes. They both invested their lives in the Jackson Area Emmaus Community. Anyone who knows Lois recognizes that one of her spiritual gifts is that of encouragement. She loves to love people and is very demonstrative with her warm hugs. Emmaus has been a place where Lois feels free to love others and receive love from others.

- Carolyn Lindley, Editor

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EMMAUS WEEKENDS— A PLACE WHERE GOD SHOWS UP!!

I went on my primary Emmaus Walk in the fall of 2003. I say “primary” because although a person can only be a pilgrim one time in Emmaus, every Emmaus Weekend that I have worked since that time has been a refresher of my first time. In fact, some of the subsequent walks I have worked at have actually impacted my life more than my primary walk did.

There was a particularly meaningful walk when I was a table leader, and during the dying moments portion of the weekend I responded to the Holy Spirit’s conviction of sin in my life that needed to be eradicated.

Another time I poured out my heart to the Lord over a broken relationship in my life that had left me devastated. A person I had considered one of my closest friends had severed the relationship and I couldn’t restore it however I tried. When I got home from that weekend, I went on Facebook to catch up, and there was a “friend request” from that very person! I cried buckets of tears!

At yet another Emmaus weekend I experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in the sanctuary of the church during the Friday night time of reflection and quiet. It was as though I had seen God in His Shekinah glory!

When I have worked in the auxiliary behind the scenes at Emmaus, I have also received many blessings from the Lord. On one particular weekend, as I was in the prayer room praying over the crosses, I felt the prompting of God to pray over specific needs and burdens.— such as a prompting to pray for a woman going through

marital strife and another with doubts and anxiety. Then at the closing, as the women were sharing what the weekend meant to them, I understood why God had prompted me to pray in that way—there were direct answers to those prayers!

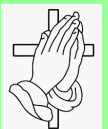
At the walk this fall, one of the spiritual directors shared with me that she had overcome an addiction that I have currently struggled with.

At home, the day after the walk ended, I was reading of the forest fires in CA and how relief workers were overwhelmed with all of the natural disasters that have happened in our country in the past few months –hurricanes, derecho, tornadoes, etc. I had donated to a relief organization a few times, but did not feel that I had the resources to do so right now. Then I remembered Deb sharing about her quitting the Diet Coke habit. I mentally calculated and realized that if I sacrificed my addiction, I could send \$35 per month to a charity that does relief work. So for the past few weeks, I have taken strides to wean—starting with the caffeine. I’m thrilled to be able to send my first monthly gift to a Christian relief organization on my next pay day. God used Deb in a way that she wasn’t even aware of.

Why does God show up at Emmaus?

Because it is bathed in prayer. When we draw near to God, He draws near to us. That 72-hour prayer vigil is dy-no-mite!

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16
KJV



CALLING ALL CHRISTIAN GUARDS

Pastor Dave Goolsby

Community Spiritual Director

How many of you are sports fans? Well then if you are, maybe you can identify with me. Since it is fall I'm going to use a football analogy. I'm in the stadium watching a football game. It's the 4th quarter with 4 seconds left on the clock. The home team is down by 5 points and the ball is placed on the 15-yard line. (In other words, they have only to move the ball 15 yards for the touchdown and the win before their hometown fans.) The quarterback throws a pass to his open receiver in the end zone, but instead of throwing a bullet, he lofts the pass toward the receiver and the defender recovers and intercepts the ball and the home team loses.

How many of you can identify with that scenario?



What are your emotions as the visiting team celebrates in the end zone? Anger? Frustration? Pity? Rage? All of the above?

Why did the quarterback loop the pass like that? Why didn't he throw a bullet? Why didn't he throw it earlier?

See, it's easy to be an armchair quarterback, especially if we listen to the sports announcers and commentators lambasting the quarterback. But no one ever talked to the quarterback.

If you ever got a chance to talk to the quarterback, he'd tell you that he saw the receiver get open but just as he throw it, a linebacker rushed through the line and hit him just as he released the ball.

Now your anger, frustration, pity, and rage change from being directed at him to the offensive guard who should have blocked the linebacker.

I think that's how it is when we as Christians are falling for the "us and them" divide that's been espoused over the internet, radio, and television, etc.

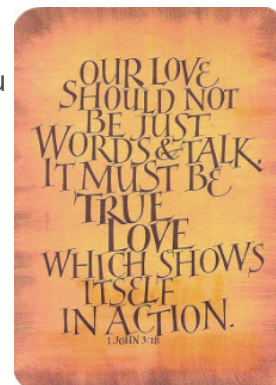
We can watch the game from our easy chairs in the living room, surrounded by chips, salsa, popcorn, potato chips and dip, and cold beverages and be critics. We are good at pointing fingers, but not blocking. Had we been there as a guard to block, our team would have won.

Where are my blockers/guards?

When was the last time (or first time) you stepped out of your comfort zone to be a guard and blocked? When was the last time you counseled a young woman considering an abortion? When was the last time you told someone that you'd adopt their baby so that they wouldn't have an abortion? How many of you have been foster parents? How many of you have adopted children to be raised in the nurture and admonition of The Lord? Or how many of you have counseled a woman considering abortion and said that you'd pay her medical expenses so she could give the baby up for adoption? Or offer to purchase diapers, formula, or childcare expenses for the first two years?

What happens to the children? Some of them end up neglected, in poverty, in crime-infested areas, and end of being victims of their circumstances, where they and their parents have a greater likelihood to live a life below poverty.

We march and carry signs and scream "baby-killers" and "murderers" and point at the people, but who has been there to talk with the people? (Notice I said with and not to the people. Most Christians talk/scream/yell at the people.) Not many sit with the people. So the question is, "Are you a finger-pointer, or are you a guard? If we as Christians got involved, became guards, and did what Christ told us to do, we could wipe abortion out of the conversation completely. So do like the Good Samaritan and cross the road and minister to people.



Jesus sat with the people, so that He could stand for the people and He gave His Life for the people. So are we, as The Body of Christ, should be part of the solution.

Again, where are my guards?