



Southern New England Emmaus Newsletter

Greetings to the SNE Emmaus Community! It is with sadness that we have to announce that Walk #77 has been canceled. Unfortunately, we just did not get the pilgrim applications needed to run a weekend. While Glenn and I feel a loss by this, we also know that this is God's plan and that He still has great things planned for our community.

Recently, I was reading my Jesus Calling devotional. The scripture that morning was Matthew 6:34 **"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."** It immediately brought to mind the situation we were facing concerning the weekends and the lack of pilgrims.

At that time we still didn't know if we would have enough pilgrims to hold a weekend. But this scripture reminded me that it is not in my hands. God is in control.

In her book, Amazed and Confused Heather Zempel writes:

"Faith does not mean God meets our expectations. It means we cling to God's character, knowing that God will always accomplish His purposes. God wants to forge in us a faith that is far greater than our circumstances. Faith means knowing God can, believing God will, but clinging to Him even if He doesn't. Faith is not an assurance that everything is going to be okay; it is the assurance that God is in control. That's the only way to live, knowing that some of the pains and

confusion of life will remain mysteries even to our graves."

So now we ask each of you to take a moment and remember that "God will always accomplish His purposes".

We would also like to take this time to thank each member of Team #77, whose names you will find later in this newsletter. Each of you gave sacrificially and cheerfully of your time, with the hearts of servants of Christ. We shared thoughts, singing, laughter, some tears, worship and, of course, food together. We certainly were transformed from a group of people who answered God's call to a team held together with bonds of love.

Now we ask you, the SNE Emmaus Community, to also answer a call, the call to pray for our community. That God will make plain to us just what His purposes are for us and that we will be blessed with the strength, energy, courage and wisdom to accomplish His purposes.

And please join us at the upcoming Gathering to be held on Saturday, May 2nd! (See details on the next page). This would have been the day of the Women's Candlelight Gathering so many of you have already planned to be with the Emmaus community. Let's come together to fellowship, worship and witness to God's love in our lives!

Shalom,
Donna and Glenn Moody

IT'S ELECTION TIME! The nominees for the Board of Directors, Class of 2018 are: Barbara Fortin, Dean Fortin, Debbie Humm, Coni Ferland, Ruth Sperry, Jay Sperry, Bonnie-jean Rowe and Mike Rowe. Ballots will be available at the Gathering on May 2nd or you can request one by email at sneemmaus@gmail.com.

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND EMMAUS GATHERING
AND POT LUCK DINNER

Saturday, May 2nd, 2015 @ 3 p.m.
Blackstone Valley UMC,
Whitinsville, MA

2 p.m. - Board of Directors Meeting

3 p.m. **Gathering** – The Community and guests are invited for a time of singing, sharing and fellowship.



4 p.m. **Worship, Music and Witness**

5 p.m. **Pot Luck Dinner**

(Please bring your favorite dish! It can be a main dish, side-dish, salad or dessert.)



Directions to Blackstone Valley UMC:

From Providence and points South: Route 146N to Exit 5 (Main St. Northbridge); bear right at end of ramp onto Main St. (Follow directions below after **)

From Worcester and point North: Route 146S to Exit 5 (Main St., Northbridge); Turn left at end of ramp on Main St. (Follow directions below after **)

** Continue 2.5 miles to two traffic lights at Memorial Square. Go through 1st light and bear left at second light into Church St. About .1 mile ahead on right (Past Post Office, barber shop and lawyer's office – but before Domino's Pizza) is a narrow street disguised as an alley. Take that right onto St. James Court. The church and parking lot is straight ahead. GPS USERS! The parking lot is in the rear of the church building. Use address: 2 St. James Ct., Whitinsville, MA

WE ARE ALL POTENTIAL SPONSORS!

Do you know of someone who could benefit from a weekend of spiritual renewal? Is there someone in your church ready to experience the Walk To Emmaus?

If so, then here's how to sponsor that person for a Walk to Emmaus. Here are a few suggestions and guidelines to help you properly interpret Emmaus and understand your responsibility in sharing God's grace as a sponsor. If there is someone that you have felt a nudge to sponsor your first step is to pray about it. Then pray some more. Then pray some more. While praying be sure to leave some quiet time to hear what God is telling you concerning your prospective pilgrim. Schedule a time to sit down with your candidate and explain the weekend to him/her. If you are talking to a married person, we suggest you talk with both husband and wife. It's important that they make the decision to attend together and that their applications be turned in together. If only one spouse wishes to attend, it's important that he/she have the complete support of the spouse.

It's important to give all the relevant details: dates of the weekend, times they will be picked up and returned home, the schedule, the sleeping arrangements, meals, etc. While it's sometimes difficult to explain the Walk to Emmaus, start with these basics and then talk about your experience. How were you affected by the weekend? Explain that there are no expectations and that their experience will be completely their own. Answer all questions openly and honestly. Once the person says yes, have him/her complete the application and give it to you. You then complete the sponsor's form and mail both forms, together with the \$75 deposit to the address on the form. (Remember that the total cost is \$225, with the balance due at registration.)

Both forms can be obtained by visiting our website or by calling the registrars, Nina and Richard Dunne at 401-789-3228. Both forms and the deposit fee should be mailed together **BEFORE THE DEADLINE DATE**. You will receive a confirmation sometime after the deadline date, which is normally 4-5 weeks **BEFORE** the Men's weekend.

Once confirmed, it's time for you to get busy requesting agape letters from that person's family and friends. (Since this is a surprise element, you'll need to be discreet!) Be sure to allow plenty of time for this as it may require some detective work. All letters should be addressed to the candidate (full name on outside of envelope), and then given or mailed to you. You may then bring them to the retreat center when you bring your candidate. As a sponsor, you also have the responsibility to care for your pilgrim's family, home or pets while he/she is away, if there is a need. You also might want to prepare some table agape, home-baked food item, or special treat for the weekend. And of course you'll transport your pilgrim to and from the retreat center, attend the weekend community events (Candlelight and Closing), and encourage your pilgrim in his/her continued journey after the walk is over by helping to join or form a Group Reunion and bringing him/her to 4th Day insights and gatherings. Most importantly, pray for your candidate before, during and after the weekend.

Remember, the Walk to Emmaus is not for everyone. The aim of a sponsor should not be "to get all my friends to go," to fill up the weekend, to fix people's problems, or to reproduce one's own religious experience in others. Rather, the aim of the sponsor is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who will, in turn, bring new life and vision to the work of the church in the congregation, home, workplace, and community. The aim of sponsorship is to build up the body of Christ. Sponsorship is an act of love for God, for the participants in the Walk to Emmaus, for the Emmaus community and for the Church. It is a demonstration of Agape love.



Upcoming Walks:

Men's Walk #78	October 22-25, 2015
Women's Walk #78	Oct. 29-Nov. 1, 2015
Men's Walk #79	April 21-24, 2016
Women's Walk #79	April 28-May 1, 2016
Men's Walk #80	Oct. 27-Oct. 30, 2016
Women's Walk #80	Nov. 3-Nov. 6, 2016

WHY IS THE DEADLINE SO FAR IN ADVANCE AND JUST WHAT HAPPENS?

You might wonder just why the deadline is set so far in advance of the weekends and what happens behind the scene with the applications.

Once the team is formed and before the deadline, the PO Box is checked regularly for applications. As applications are received, a short note is sent to the sponsor by email or phone to confirm that the registrar has received it. All the information is checked to be sure it is complete and entered into the database. Then on the application deadline date, the names of the pilgrims are sent to the editor of the newsletter so they can be published and the newsletter can be mailed out 3-4 weeks before the Men's Walk. **The community can then begin praying for the pilgrims and the team well before the weekends even begin! Remember, the power of Emmaus is through prayer, so this period of prayer is vital.**

(Also, please note that if Agape letters are to be sent to the SNE Emmaus Post Office Box, they MUST be received no later than one week prior to the weekend registration.) We hope you found this information helpful and have a better understanding of this part in the preparation of a Walk to Emmaus Weekend. If you have any questions about the registration process, please call the registrars at Nina or Richard Dunne at 401-789-3228.



Emmaus Website

Visit our website at www.sneemmaus.org. The members' user name is: "freely" and the password is: "freely". You'll be able to download forms and find useful information on upcoming events.

Many thanks to the team of Walk #77

Men's Team

Rick Bourne
Stan Culy
Dave Dextraze
Wayne Fernandes
Dean Fortin
Charles Frasier
Darryl Gifford
Jay Hickey
John McMillen
Debra Miller
Don Miller
Donna Moody
Glenn Moody
Johnell Norton
Doug Osborne
Jim Paiva
Rene Perez
Jay Sperry
Dick Thompson
Carolyn Thompson

Women's Team

Katie Carmine
Sue DiMarzo
Lori Eldredge
Barbara Fortin
Eilene Hawthorne
Debbie Humm
Karrie Juengel
Chris Kilmonis
Kathy Koziol
Donna Moody
Glenn Moody
Liane Osborne
Jill Peters
Pam Reeve
Audry Sherry
Ruth Sperry
Carrie White-Toomey
Jackie Trotter-Dove
Joan White
Kim Whynacht

