



Tuscaloosa Emmaus Cluster

Handbook

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Dear Fourth Day Pilgrim:

Welcome to the Tuscaloosa Emmaus Cluster! We are excited you have completed your Walk to Emmaus, and pray as you begin your “Fourth Days” that you are filled with renewed excitement over your walk with the Lord and that your heart continues to “burn within you” over the things He revealed during your three day experience.

We, the members of the Tuscaloosa Emmaus Cluster, look forward to being a part of your extended Christian family, and hope to share in the excitement of your “Fourth Days”. It is our desire to provide encouragement and support in your walk with Christ as you continue to serve Him through your church, in your home, in your workplace, and now through the Emmaus Community.

Our monthly Emmaus Cluster meetings are designed to complement and build on your Walk experience. We seek only to follow the Holy Spirit as we meet for times of worship, prayer, and fellowship.

As in every family, there is a place in our Emmaus family for you with a role that only you can fill. We pray that you will be willing and eager to find and fill your special place in the Tuscaloosa Emmaus Cluster, remembering, however, that service to your home church always comes first. This handbook is provided as a resource to give you useful information in finding and filling that special place.

You’ll find a list of cluster leaders and their phone numbers included in this section of the handbook. We, as your brothers and sisters in Christ, are available to you for any need you may have. Feel Free to call us!

Again, we welcome you!

Your Tuscaloosa Cluster Lay Director

## TUSCALOOSA EMMAUS CLUSTER HISTORY

The Emmaus Movement in the United Methodist Church has its ancestry in the Roman Catholic Cursillo (*pronounced coor-see-yo*) which began in Spain in the 1940's. Cursillo is derived from a Spanish word which means "little course". In the 1950's it was brought to the U.S. and adapted to the shorter format we know today of 3 days. The United Methodist Church began its expression of Cursillo around 1977 and was given the name of "The Walk to Emmaus" in 1981.

The Emmaus Movement came to the Tuscaloosa area in 1982 when six couples from St. Mark United Methodist Church were among the first to attend the earliest Emmaus Walks held at Camp Sumatanga. After their "Walks" these couples began the West Alabama Cluster.

As is the design of the Emmaus program, the first pilgrims from our area sponsored others and over the years there has been a steady flow from Tuscaloosa and surrounding areas to Emmaus Walks. Pilgrims are welcomed back at Follow-Up to share their experiences and to bring renewal for all.

In the late 1990's, as our Cluster continued to grow, we had the privilege of helping with the formation of a new "West Alabama Cluster." Membership of the new Cluster was made up primarily of those living and worshipping in the western most parts of Tuscaloosa County and surrounding West Alabama area. The group which continued to meet in the Tuscaloosa/Northport area subsequently became known as "The Tuscaloosa Emmaus Cluster."

Laities and clergy from our Cluster have been called to serve in all capacities of Alabama Emmaus Walks—from the position of Humble Servant to that of Lay and Spiritual Directors and everything in between! Our Cluster has provided Board Members to the Alabama Emmaus Community as well as to other Communities throughout the State of Alabama. Members from the Tuscaloosa Cluster were part of the team for the very first Walk at the Blue Lake Emmaus Community in South Alabama, and that of the Birmingham (Inner City) Walk, as well as the early Living Waters (formerly Presbyterian Community) Walks in Birmingham/Calera, Alabama. Our members have served tirelessly on both men's and women's Kairos (Prison) Ministry Walks and on Chrysalis "Flights" for Youth.

And from the beginning, we have been blessed to have godly men and women to help lead our Cluster. Some of our earliest known leaders, known as "Cluster Lay Directors", were: Paul Conger, Bob McKenzie, David Phipps, and Susan Motes. In the late 1990's, as the governing body of our Cluster became more organized, records began to be maintained in a more detailed fashion. Therefore, beginning in 1998, we began listing Cluster Lay Directors by the year served. They are: 1998-Barney Cargile; 1999-Carolyn Lindsey; 2000—Chris Kyle, Sr.; 2001-Noah Funderburg; 2002-Harry Goodall; 2003-Ken Hanby, Sr.; 2004- Lynn Holmes; 2005-Sandra Brasher; 2006-Kenny Burns; 2007-Cindy Coleman; 2008-R.L. Guffm; 2009-Freddie Hammond; 2010-Candace Robbins; 2011-Danielle Eppes; 2012-Mike Brewer; 2013-Betsy Hass; 2014-Mark Scogin; 2015-Paul Hass; 2016-Ronnie Brasher.

## IMPORTANCE OF REUNION GROUPS

One of the most importance areas of living out our Fourth Days after returning from our Emmaus Walk is to get involved with a Reunion Group. Some people call them Small Groups or Accountability Groups. Regardless of what name is attached to them they are a vital part of our Fourth Days. The members of your Reunion Group don't have to be only people who have attended an Emmaus Walk.

These are groups where we gather with a small group of people on a regular basis, where we can share our hearts, pray together, fellowship, and find accountability for every area of our lives.

The Reunion Group, to be effective, needs to meet weekly on a set day and place and members need to attend on a regular basis. The meetings need to be confidential (what is said in the group stays in the group). Because of the confidential nature of meetings, most Reunion Groups are either all Men or all Women. You can follow the guidelines set forth in your Reunion Cards you received on the last day of your Emmaus Walk or you can set your own agenda for how your meetings are done. The most important thing is that you are involved in a Reunion Group weekly with accountability partners that you are comfortable with sharing what is going on in your life.

On the next page you will find a list of the current Reunion Groups listed in the Tuscaloosa Cluster Monthly Newsletter. You can try to find one of these Groups that will work for you or start you own within your church or network of friends.

## **Cluster Reunion Groups**

To list new Reunion Groups or make corrections/changes please call the Reunion Group Chair

### **Knuckleheads Reunion Group.**

When: Tuesdays, 6:30 a.m. - Where: First United Methodist Church - Room: Choir Room  
Contact: Bob Harris - Phone: 556-7000 - E-Mail: [bharris172@comcast.net](mailto:bharris172@comcast.net)

### **The Harbor Light Reunion Group.**

When: Tuesdays, 5:30p.m. (except Cluster Gathering Tuesdays) - Where: Orange Crate  
Contact: Sherry Lockhart - Phone 242-6048 - E-Mail: [slclockhart@yahoo.com](mailto:slclockhart@yahoo.com)

### **Morning Bread Reunion Group.**

When: Thursdays, 7:00 a.m. - Where: Heritage House  
Contact: Sandra Brasher - Phone: 333-3694 - E-Mail: [sanbrasher@comcast.net](mailto:sanbrasher@comcast.net)

### **To Love Christ (TLC) Reunion Group.**

When: Tuesday evenings at 5:30 pm - Where: - Where: Capstone Claims, 1000 Fairfax Park  
Contact: Tinia McLaughlin - Phone 799-0203 - E-Mail: [tiniatrn@gmail.com](mailto:tiniatrn@gmail.com)

### **Saturday Morning Reunion Group.**

When: Saturdays, 7:30 a.m. - Where: St. Mark United Methodist Church - Room: Parlor  
Contact: Paul Bourgeois - Phone: 333-1370 - E-Mail: [pcbouge@gmail.com](mailto:pcbouge@gmail.com)

### **Called to Serve Reunion Group**

When: Every Thursday except cluster meeting weeks, 2:30 pm - Where: St. Mark UMC Library  
Contact: Mickey Cargile- Phone: 339-8636 - E-mail: [brcargile@comcast.net](mailto:brcargile@comcast.net)

### **No Name Reunion Group**

When: Every Tuesday, Noon- Where: Law Office of Espy, Nettles, Scogin, & McWilliams- 2728 8<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Tuscaloosa Contact: Mark Scogin- Phone: 349-7175- E-Mail: [scoginlaw@gmail.com](mailto:scoginlaw@gmail.com)

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## HOW TO SERVE ON A TEAM

Would you like to help bring the Emmaus experience to future pilgrims by serving on a team? If so, the first thing you should do is fill out an "Application to Serve". This is an information-gathering form that will be presented to you as you arrive at your first Cluster meeting (Follow-up). It gives you the opportunity to indicate the area in which you feel you would like to work. Complete the form and turn it in to the Cluster Lay Director.

Next, sign up to attend the annual Training Event held in August each year at Camp Sumatanga, and register for the workshops for your area of interest. Both your "Application to Serve" and the record of your attending training will be sent to the Team Selection Committee. This group meets with all Lay Directors to assist them in selecting a team. Most Lay Directors look to their own Cluster for the majority of their team members. However, there are many reasons why Lay Directors also look outside to fill positions, and they rely on the Team Selection Committee for assistance. If you've prepared yourself as described above, you may be tapped to work either way. In the Tuscaloosa Cluster, as well as many others, importance is placed on Cluster attendance and involvement in a reunion group when Lay directors are considering members for their teams. The key here is to be ready!

There is an orderly progression from working on back hall committees to being a Lay Director. You will want to grow through these steps, learning and gaining experience along the way. The first time you work on a team, you must be assigned to a back hall committee. These include Sponsors' Hour, Housing and Registration, Agape, Music, Refreshments, Meal Service, Speakers' Prayer Chapel, Worship, Candlelight, 72-Hour Prayer Vigil, Follow-up, Closing and Photographer. Ideally, the first time you work on any committee, you are helping a veteran who is chairing the group and showing you the ropes. The more different committees you work on, the greater your understanding will be of the whole structure and operation of the Walk.

After serving on a back hall committee, you are eligible to work in the Conference Room. This may be as a Table Leader or an Assistant Table Leader. The Table Leader has the most direct responsibility for the pilgrims during the Walk. The Assistant Table Leaders assist the Table Leaders in forming the small group at the table, and usually give one of the talks. Being a Table Leader or Assistant Table Leader is an essential step toward becoming a Lay Director.

Once you have served on a committee and in the Conference Room you are minimally qualified to serve as an Assistant Lay Director. These people actually administer the schedule, and coordinate with all committees to keep it on track. There may be 4 to 6 ALDs on a team, and often two of them will give a talk. They ring bells to keep the schedule, coordinate the speakers, the Prayer Chapel, and the Conference Room, assist the speakers with visual aids, coordinate with Meal Service and Refreshments, oversee announcements and jokes at mealtime, and tend to all the personal needs of the pilgrims. After serving as an ALD, you are minimally qualified to be a Lay Director. It is best to serve multiple times on the back hall and in the Conference Room before becoming a Lay Director. This person needs an understanding of how each area works, and how it contributes to the whole. Being a Lay Director requires a complete commitment to the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the selection of a team that will meet the needs of the pilgrims He has chosen for that Walk. Remember, being actively involved in the Cluster and attending Training Events are ways you can prepare yourself to be used by the Holy Spirit.

**ALABAMA EMMAUS APPLICATION TO SERVE**  
**Information update and application to serve**

**PLEASE PRINT**

**10/14/12**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Male  Female  Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Walk # \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Cluster (Area you attend follow-up) \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Are you presently involved in a reunion group or other support group? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please list name of group \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES**

Have you previously worked on an Emmaus Walk, Cursillo, Kairos, Chrysalis, Ephany etc? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If Yes and at any other than the Alabama Emmaus Community, please state where and list positions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended an Alabama Emmaus Community training event? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If yes state when and where: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check areas on a Walk to Emmaus you would like to serve:

- |                                       |  |   |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music: Voice | <input type="checkbox"/> Music: guitar | <input type="checkbox"/> Music: guitar        | <input type="checkbox"/> Music: Other           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meal Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Agape         | <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments         | <input type="checkbox"/> Speakers Prayer Chapel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worship      | <input type="checkbox"/> Candlelight   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor's hour       | <input type="checkbox"/> Conference room        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing      | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> 72-hour prayer vigil | <input type="checkbox"/> Closing                |

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**CLUSTER OPPORTUNITIES**

Please check areas in your Cluster you would like to serve:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music: Voice                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Music: guitar                | <input type="checkbox"/> Music: Other            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide refreshments for Walks      | <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on a Cluster Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Furnish agape for Walks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pray during 72 72-hour prayer vigil | <input type="checkbox"/> Cluster Leader               |  |

Please list any Leadership Positions you have held or currently hold in the Cluster

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## **CLUSTER GROUPING TEAM SELECTION COMMITTEE (CGTSC)**

The Alabama Emmaus Community is comprised of 20 Clusters throughout the North Alabama region and these clusters are grouped into 8 cluster groupings. Tuscaloosa and West Alabama Clusters are grouped together to select and provide team members for Emmaus Walks. This committee, known as **CGTSC**, is responsible for assisting each chosen Lay Director with their team selection. In addition, the **CGTSC** selects representatives from each Cluster to serve on the Alabama Emmaus Community Board of Directors (Board Rep) for a two-year term.

To serve on the **CGTSC**, you must have the following qualifications:

1. Must have minimally served on an Alabama Emmaus Walk team to the level of ALD.
2. Be active and involved in the Cluster

The **CGTSC** is comprised of the following people:

1. The Spiritual Director for the Cluster that is leading that particular Walk.
2. Community Board Representatives for each Cluster. The senior Board Rep serves as the Chairman of the committee.
3. Two elected **CGTSC** members from each Cluster, elected by their Boards.

Each member of the **CGTSC** is nominated and elected by each Cluster Board of Directors and serves a two-year term. The **CGTSC** meets with the upcoming Lay Director and Spiritual Director of each Walk to select team members. Their job is to assist the Lay Director and Spiritual Director with creating a comprehensive list of people who can serve as laity and clergy for each Walk. This list must be compiled according to guidelines set forth by the Alabama Emmaus Community and Upper Room.

Your Cluster's **CGTSC** members serve quietly in the background, but have a tremendous responsibility in selecting team members for each Emmaus Walk. If you would like to know who is serving on the **CGTSC**, just ask the Cluster Lay Director. And if you meet the above qualifications and would like to serve on the **CGTSC**, please let the Cluster Lay Director know!

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**THINKING OF SPONSORING A PILGRIM?**

Will you.....

- Take off work and make trips to Camp Sumatanga to carry and pick up your Pilgrim for the Walk?
- Will you serve at least one meal and attend Candlelight during the weekend?
- Take time to request and collect letters so that your Pilgrim is not handed an empty bag on Sunday afternoon?
- Spend time prior to the Walk reassuring and answering all your Pilgrim's questions?
- Be there for your Pilgrim's family back at home, remembering that showing Agape to your Pilgrim includes acts of service to his or her family?
- Ensure that your Pilgrim takes part in Follow-Up Activities including Cluster and Reunion Group meetings?
- Pray about the potential Pilgrim and whether this is a good candidate for a Walk, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. Not everyone is a good candidate; if you have any doubts about a potential Pilgrim, ask a trusted Cluster member or a Pastor/Spiritual Advisor for their advice. Emmaus is usually not a place to find salvation although that occurs, but a place to strengthen the local body by equipping those already saved in their walk.

## SPONSORSHIP

Prayerfully consider if you, as a sponsor, can fulfill your responsibilities to the Pilgrim and his or her family. Sponsorship is a commitment of your prayers, time, energy, and resources. Sponsorship means having or developing a relationship with someone you want to experience Emmaus first hand.

Your responsibilities include the following:

**Prayer:** Begin praying as you consider sponsoring a Pilgrim. Sign up to be part of the 72-Hour Prayer Vigil. Then pray during the entire weekend. There are several specific times during the Walk that Pilgrims should especially be bathed in prayer including: Thursday night, morning quiet times, and before falling asleep each night, during Communion each day (Friday morning, Saturday mid-day, and Sunday late afternoon), During Dying Moments (Saturday around 11:00 am., Candlelight (Saturday around 7:45 p.m.) and during Closing. Continue to pray that your Pilgrim will return to his or her home church with a renewed desire to serve. Don't forget to pray for the other pilgrims attending and for the team that will be ministering to your pilgrim as well!

**Listen and Answer:** Take the time and energy to talk with your pilgrim and answer any and all questions. Fear of the unknown can create a huge barrier for a pilgrim.

**Letters:** Remember Sunday afternoon when you received your letters on your Walk? Make every effort to contact immediate family, close friends, co-workers and church friends of your pilgrim for letters. It is important to request one letter from everyone - without making assumptions about who should and who should not write a letter!

**Transport and Serve:** Make every attempt to take your Pilgrim to the camp on Thursday night. Once there, explain that you are there as a servant. Take their luggage to their room, put linens on beds, and see that they are left at camp on Thursday night feeling as comfortable as possible. Your commitment also includes traveling to Candlelight, and keeping in contact with your pilgrim's family at home. This could include preparing a meal, babysitting, running errands or any other small technicality to make the household run more smoothly. Having an absent parent/spouse for the weekend can sometimes be an open door for Satan to walk right into! You should also make plans to be part of Closing and then transport your Pilgrim back home afterwards. If this is not possible, assure the Pilgrim, prior to the beginning of the walk that you have already secured a ride home for them and let them know who it is. Again, do everything you can to put your Pilgrim at ease.

**Follow-Up:** Fourth Day is important. Follow-up by calling not only your Pilgrim, but any others who were on the walk. TAKE (not invite, not encourage. TAKE) your pilgrim to the next Cluster Meeting and encourage their attendance in a Reunion Group. (Check with the Cluster Reunion Group Coordinator for a list of available Reunion Groups).

## SPONSORSHIP TIPS

1. Did you know that sponsoring a pilgrim is a partnership with the Holy Spirit? He chooses and woos the pilgrims, and then uses you to carry out the details. It is an awesome responsibility!
2. Pray about and for the sponsorship of the pilgrim(s) God has laid on your heart.
3. If your prospective pilgrim has a spouse, make every effort to present Emmaus to the couple together-and get both applications at the same time, if you can.
4. Explain the weekend and follow-up, answering all questions truthfully. It is almost impossible to ruin a Walk by being truthful. Conversely, many a walk has been ruined for a pilgrim by an untruthful sponsor.
5. No one can tell another person how their heart will respond to acts of agape and the presence of the Lord. Don't try!!!! This is where all the neat surprises are anyway. Let these happen.
6. Be diligent to collect letters for your pilgrim(s), being sensitive to those people in their lives who mean the most to them. Make sure the letters reach you on time and that you get them to the camp on time. (A sample request for Agape letters is attached that can be copied, added to, changed as needed).
7. Explain where the camp is, what the facility is like, what the pilgrim should wear, what to bring, provide times of departure and return, and give the camp telephone number for emergencies.
8. Assure your pilgrim's family of your support and help during the weekend, then do it! Support for his or her family is another form of agape for your pilgrim.
9. Take your pilgrim(s) to the camp, get them registered, help them find their room, make their bed, help them find and meet their roommate(s), and otherwise make them feel comfortable and at home on Thursday night. Assure them of the arrangements for returning home on Sunday evening after the close of the Walk.
10. Go to Candlelight.
11. Go to Closing.
12. Take your pilgrim to Follow-up.
13. Help your pilgrim find and join a reunion group.
14. Teach your pilgrim how to be a good sponsor, and help them with their first try at sponsorship. Whatever you do will be imitated and repeated!

## REQUEST FOR AGAPE LETTERS

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

On (Date) (Pilgrim's Name) will begin an Emmaus Walk. This is a three day spiritual weekend at Camp Sumatanga near Gallant Alabama. During this weekend there are many wonderful surprises. One of those surprises is receiving notes, cards and letters from family and friends.

It would be wonderful for (Pilgrim's Name) if one of those letters came from you. Only (Pilgrim's Name) will see the letter. You can write only a line or two, or pages and pages, or even pick up a card that expresses the thoughts you want to convey. The letters can be funny, serious, reminiscent – or all of the above. It's a great time to encourage and to tell (Pilgrim's Name) how you feel about them.

When you have completed your letter, seal it in an envelope and put (Pilgrim's Name) on the outside. If you are mailing the envelope to me, please put it in another envelope for mailing. If you are bringing it to me, the second envelope will not be necessary.

Please have your letter to me by (date should be about a week before pilgrim's walk). Your note and thoughtfulness will mean more than you can even know! And remember, it's a surprise!

Thanks SO much!

(Your name.)

Consider including a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

# Alabama Walk To Emmaus Application

(Held At Camp Sumatanga, Gallant, AL)



P.O. BOX 1216  
TALLADEGA, AL 35161  
(256) 315-2346 Office  
(256) 315-2347 FAX  
Office@AlaEmmaus.org

The Walk to Emmaus is a 3-day retreat sponsored by the Upper Room, a division of the United Methodist Church. The purpose of the walk is to renew local church congregations by offering a "short course in Christianity" and provides a model for Christian accountability groups. It is intended for established Christians who want a refresher in the basic tenets of our faith and an opportunity for spiritual development through the sharing of God's grace.

**Section 1: To be completed by Candidate (Please print or type a response to all questions or application will be returned.)**

Name:	Name For Name Tag:		
Address:	Gender (Male/Female):		
City:	State:	Zip:	
Home Phone:	Email Address:		
Church You Attend (Include Denomination):			
Age:	Occupation/Employer:	Work Phone:	
Religious/Community Organizations You Are Involved In:			
Spouse's Name:	Has spouse attended or now scheduled for a walk? Yes__ No __ If Yes, Walk No.:_____		
Can You Attend On Short Notice? Yes No (Date Would Be Earlier Than Originally Scheduled.)			
Describe Any Special Diet Or Medication Schedule:			
Describe Any Health Or Physical Problems That May Affect Your Participation:			
Briefly State Why You Applied To Attend The Walk To Emmaus:			
<b>Signature of Candidate:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
A pre-registration Deposit of \$30.00 must be included with the application. This will be applied toward your contributions of \$160.00. The remaining \$130.00 is to be paid when an assigned Walk is accepted. Make check payable to: Alabama Emmaus Community. Fees are subject to change. <b>DEPOSIT IS NOT REFUNDABLE OR TRANSFERABLE</b>			
<b>Section 2: To be completed by Sponsor (Please print or type a response to all questions or application will be returned.)</b>			

Name:	Email Address:		
Address	City	State	Zip
Home Phone	Work Phone	Church You Attend (Include Denomination):	
Are You Aware Of Any Health Condition Or Situation That Would Not Allow Your Pilgrim To Complete The Walk?			
Your Walk Weekend: Location & Walk Number?			
Number of Pilgrims Sponsored Last Year?			
How Long Have You Known Pilgrim?			
Are You Familiar With The Responsibilities Of A Sponsor? Are You Prepared To Fulfill These Responsibilities?			
Have You Explained To Your Pilgrim: The Emmaus Weekend? (This should be done before application is mailed.)		Follow up?	Reunion Group?
<b>Signature of Sponsor:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b><u>Please enclose a self-addressed stamped postcard for confirmation that the Emmaus Office received this application.</u></b>	
<b>OFFICE USE ONLY: Date Received:</b>	<b>Assigned To Walk Number:</b>	<b>Deposit:</b>	

## **PREPARING YOUR PILGRIM FOR THE EMMAUS WALK**

1. Sleeping Quarters have single bunk beds. You will need to take your own sheets, a blanket or quilt, and your own pillow. Some people take sleeping bags instead of traditional bed linens. Choose what is most comfortable for you. You will usually have one or two roommates.
2. You will need to take all your own toiletries. There are two "Community" bathrooms on each hall. You will need to take your own towels and wash cloths. There is a lavatory and mirror in each room, so you can brush your teeth and wash your face there if you choose.
3. Dress casually and comfortably, even on Sunday. This includes jeans, sweats, sneakers, and shorts, depending on the weather.
4. There will be a book table available and you will have an opportunity to purchase Camp Sumatanga shirts during the weekend. These are the only reasons you might need to have money with you.
5. If you forget any of the personal items mentioned above, simply let one of the people in charge know (they will be pointed out to you). They will do their best to provide what you need.
6. Smoking is not allowed in the buildings at the Camp. However, if you smoke, there are designated areas.
7. If your family needs to reach you, it is best to have them call your sponsor. He or she will best know how to get to you quickly. However, you can leave these numbers with your family: (256) 538-9860 or (256) 538-9828.
8. Your transportation to the Camp and back home again will be provided by your sponsor. You will be notified by your sponsor of your time of departure for the camp and an approximate time of return home.

## WHAT IS A WALK TO EMMAUS?

### A Spiritual Retreat

The Gospel of Luke recounts a story of two disciples who encountered Christ after the Resurrection. The two had seen Christ crucified, they had heard some others say that Jesus was risen, but they didn't understand any of it. They were walking back to Emmaus to give up their calling as disciples and go back to their old way of life.

Along the way, a stranger joined them and they began telling him how depressed, confused and lonely they felt. Jesus, the man they had thought was the Messiah, was now dead. The Stranger began to explain the promises of Scripture and that night, as He blessed the broken bread, the disciples' eyes were opened and they realized that this Stranger was Jesus, alive and in their midst.

If you have ever had the feeling that Christ might be right beside you, and yet you didn't recognize him, or if you would like to know Christ better, then you might want to consider the spiritual renewal of a Walk to Emmaus. This event is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It is held at a retreat center and will involve three concentrated and very enjoyable days. Discussions will center on fifteen presentations led by laity and clergy and around the theme of God's grace, and how that grace comes alive in the Christian community and expresses itself in the world.

Emmaus is not like some land sales deal or a pseudo-therapeutic encounter session. The program is presented with great integrity and authenticity. It is informative and intensely practical. You will leave with information and insights that can help you all of your life. Emmaus is also spiritual, offering the opportunity to participate in daily worship and celebration of Holy Communion.

Surprising to some, Emmaus **is fun!** You laugh and eat until your sides ache. You share fellowship and foolishness in a wonderfully meaningful way, but most of all you receive more love than you ever expected. This pure, unconditional love comes not only from Jesus, but from people who have organized your walk and from dozens of people whom you will never meet.

Most important: Emmaus works. Jesus is alive and walks with us every day, and we can see Him if we learn to open our eyes. The participants are helped to focus on God as known in Jesus Christ and inspired, challenged and equipped for Christian action wherever they are. These seventy-two hours can be the beginning of a life-long walk filled with the strength, joy and peace for which we all yearn.

Before making any decision about Emmaus, speak with someone who has attended a Walk and learn what dimension it has added to his or her life. At the very least, pray about the possibility of going. It just may be one of the best decisions you ever make.

## GOLDEN RULES FOR VISITING EMMAUS FUNCTIONS AT CAMP

1. Wear NAME TAG to all Emmaus Community events.
2. DO NOT wear Emmaus Cross to camp for Opening or Candlelight Ceremonies.
3. DO wear Emmaus Cross to camp for Closing Ceremony.
4. DO NOT wear a watch if you are serving a meal.
5. Always call Food Service Chairperson before going to serve a meal.
6. NO personal agape until after Closing Ceremony.
7. NO cameras or video recorders at any of the Walk Ceremonies.
8. NO children at any of the Emmaus Community events at Camp.
9. Only Emmaus Community members are permitted at Candlelight and Closing Ceremonies.
10. DO NOT park on either side of the conference room building for Candlelight Ceremony.
11. Opening Ceremony begins at 7:00p.m. (if you are taking a pilgrim, you need to be there between 6:00 and 6:30p.m.).
12. Candlelight Ceremony begins at 7:45 p.m.
13. Closing Ceremony begins at 4:45p.m.

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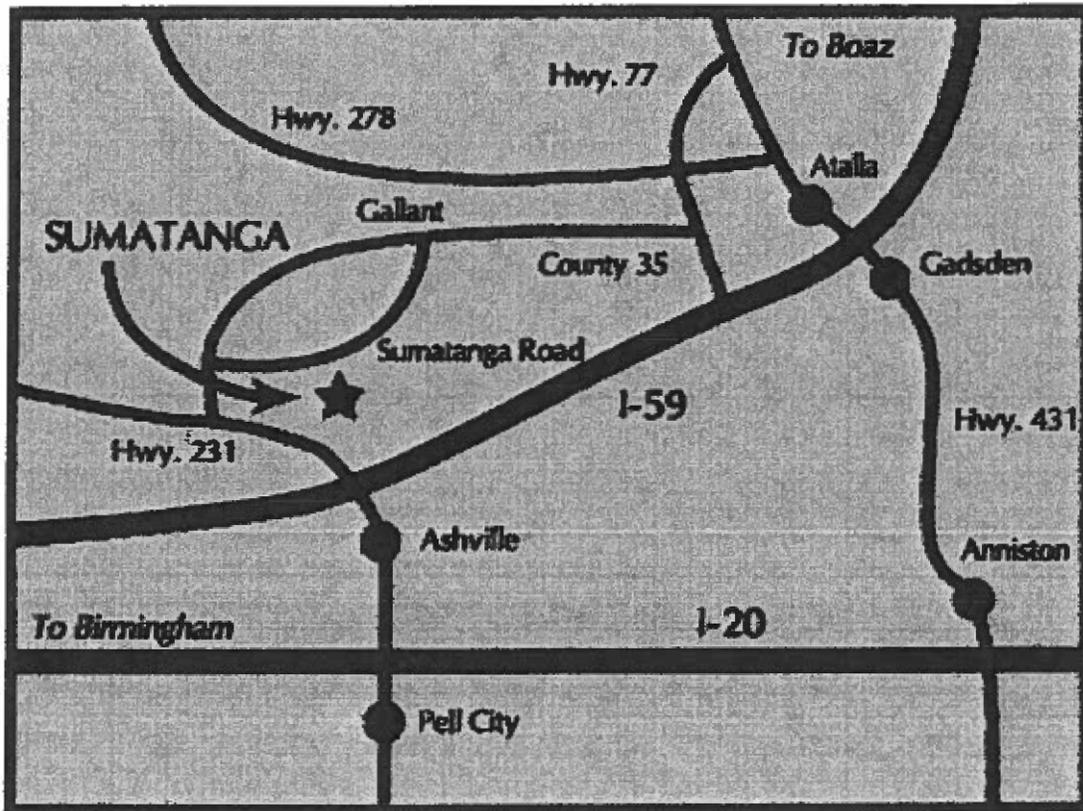
## PRAYING THE PRAYER VIGIL

- Begin by asking God to clear your mind of all outside distractions. Place all of your thoughts and your spirit with the people and the event you have come to Him to bless.
- Be silent for a few moments and begin to feel His presence with you. Pray as if you are talking to your best friend. YOU ARE! Ask Him to bless with His Spirit the buildings, grounds and all things used to bring those present to an awareness of Him.
- Pray for the Lay Director, if not by name, by duty. He or she must walk in the Holy Spirit for anything that they may be called upon to solve.
- Pray for the Assistant Lay Directors in much the same way.
- Pray for the Spiritual Director that he or she may truly be an instrument of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for the Assistant Spiritual Directors in much the same way.
- Pray for the Board Representative that he or she may have the courage to keep the purity of the event and to not let personalities keep them from doing what they promised God they would do.
- Pray for the speakers. Pray that they remember Whom they represent, that they lay down self and glorify God.
- Pray for the talks, the message each is to give, for the giver and for each person who hears, that they may hear according to their need. Pray for: Priority; Prevenient Grace; Priesthood of All Believers; Justifying Grace; Life in Piety; Growth Through Study; Means of Grace; Christian Action; Obstacles to Grace; Discipleship; Changing Our World; Sanctifying Grace; Body of Christ; Perseverance; and Fourth Day.
- Pray for the Musicians, that their music may bring God's message, and soothe troubled souls.
- Pray for the pilgrims:
  - The ones who cannot leave their thoughts behind,
  - The ones uneasy in the setting,
  - The ones who cannot sleep,
  - The ones forced to come,
  - The ones looking for magic, not miracles,
  - The ones who are open and receiving,
  - For all the conditions known to God.
- Pray for the cooks and all who minister in unrecognized ways.
- Pray for the fun and fellowship that will warm hearts and keep the focus on God.
- Pray for the team assistants that they do not tire. Pray for their renewed strength.

- Pray for all of the agape gifts, for the hands that made them, and the blessing they bring.
- Pray for the special times such as: chapel, agape feasts, closing, etc.
- And lastly, give it all to our Lord and Friend, Who sees and knows, asking for His blessing and presence with everyone connected - not only those mentioned, but families, and the change for the church and community.
- End by praising and thanking God for the opportunity He has given you to talk to Him on behalf of His children.

❖ AMEN

*Adapted from "Praying the Prayer Vigil" by John McKinney (Walk #2)*

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO CAMP SUMATANGA****Directions to Camp Sumatanga from Tuscaloosa, Alabama:**

Take I-59 North / I-20 East to Birmingham  
Take I-59 North from Birmingham to Exit 166 (Ashville, Oneonta Exit)  
Turn North (left) on Highway 231. Travel 3.5 miles.  
Turn right on County Road 35. Travel 3.4 miles.  
Turn right on County Road 44 (Sumatanga Road). Travel 1.7 miles.  
Turn left into the Sumatanga Retreat Center.

## WHERE IS EMMAUS?

Emmaus is where old women come to dance,  
Where young men see visions and old men dream dreams,  
Where children of God bring their balloons.

Emmaus is where lepers come to be touched,  
Where the blind see and the deaf hear,  
Where the lame run and the dying live.

Emmaus is where the daisies bloom out of barren land,  
Where children lead and wise men follow,  
Where mountains are moved and walls come tumbling down.

Emmaus is where loaves of bread are stacked in the sanctuary to feed the hungry,  
Where coats are taken off and put on the backs of the naked,  
Where shackles are discarded and kings and shepherds sit down to life together.

Emmaus is where barefoot children run giggling in procession,  
Where the minister is ministered unto,  
Where the anthem is the laughter of the congregation and offering plates are full of people.

Emmaus is where people go when they skin their knees or their hearts,  
Where frogs become princes and Cinderella dances beyond midnight,  
Where judges don't judge and each child of God is beautiful and precious.

Emmaus is where the sea divides for the exiles,  
Where the ark floats and the calf lies down with the lion,  
Where people can disagree and hold hands at the same time.

Emmaus is where night is day,  
Where trumpets and drums and tambourines declare God's goodness,  
Where lost lambs are found.

Emmaus is where people write "thank-you" notes to God,  
Where work is a holiday,  
Where seeds are scattered and miracles are grown.

Emmaus is where home is, Where heaven is,  
Where a picnic is communion and people break bread together on their knees.

Emmaus is where we live responsively to His coming.  
Even on Monday morning the world will hear an abundance of Alleluias,  
And every day is a festival of faith.

*Adapted from "Where is The Church?" by Ann Weems*