



Northwest Georgia Walk to Emmaus

February 2009

### **A Word from Linda:**

“Draw near to God and God will draw near to you.” James 4:8

My senior year in college I lived with 6 other women off a Terrace that had one common phone. The minute it rang someone would answer and shout out the name of the callee to let her know the call was for her. One day the phone rang for Eve, a freshman from Hawaii, who expected no calls for her as she was now residing in Maryland, thousands of miles away from home. So I called her name, “Eve, it’s for you!” “Oh, God!” she said as she responded to the shock. “No,” I said, “I don’t think so.”

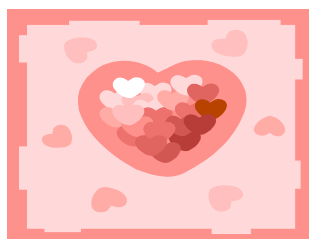
We hear a lot of “Oh God” comments these days: homeowners reacting to the work of an interior decorator on their home—“Oh, God! It’s so beautiful!” Millionaire lottery winners: “Oh God! I can’t believe that I won a million dollars...” Forms for the Doctor’s office: “Oh God! Do I have to give you this same information again?” Mistakes that are made: “Oh God! How can I have been so stupid? What was I thinking?” Do people even know what they are saying? If they are praising God or thanking God or asking God for help it makes sense, but they don’t even know that God is present with them as they invoke God’s name. They are expressing a truth, but are not witnesses to the very truth that they are evidencing.

I am thankful that we as Emmaus people are into “God” moments and not “Oh God” moments. (Thank you, Tommy, for this reminder.) We come to our weekend hoping for God’s presence to be there and to welcome us. We feel surrounded by his Spirit, we see God in the actions and presence of others around us. We leave affirmed that God is, God was, God always will be, and that that God actually loves us! For most of us, if not all of us, there is at least one moment in that Emmaus experience when we draw near to God and find that God has indeed drawn near to us, and always wanted to be near to us.

Perhaps the reason that other Christians are not witnesses for Christ is that they are “Oh God!” people rather than “Oh! ..... GOD!!!” people.

Perhaps the greatest gift you can give another for Valentine’s day is to sponsor them for an Emmaus walk that they might realize God’s love for them in their own God moments later this year. I pray that this year we all have many “God” moments. In Christ,

Linda



Greetings in the name of our Father, Son & The Holy Spirit,

I'm Ed Beacham. I attended NWGWTE #11 and sat at the table of Matthew. Like St. Matthew, I am a reformed sinner, saved by grace.

It is my humbling honor & privilege to serve the Lord, this Emmaus Community, and the Emmaus Board as Community Lay Director.

It has been a while since my weekend but I am sure that just like your weekend, it was an experience that changed my life. Immediately prior to Men's Walk #11, Hurricane Opal hit Georgia. The metro area was hit hard with substantial damage to homes and loss of power throughout the Metro Atlanta area. Paulding County was hit particularly hard with most of the area being without electrical service.

I thought that my sponsor had to be mistaken when they called saying the Walk to Emmaus Weekend was still going to occur. I humored my wife, readied myself, and waited for my sponsors to arrive. During the trip to Dallas GA., I observed that most traffic lights were either out or flashing. Most homes & businesses were without lights. When we arrived at "The Kings Retreat", not only was nothing out of place and no damage had occurred, but they had lights and power.

Obviously, God had calmed the storm at this place and immediately calmed His child. The Creator of the Universe had my undivided attention. For the next seventy-two hours, "He walked with me and He talked with me and told me I am His own." Like I said, He changed my life. Every Walk to Emmaus Weekend is different and yet the same. God meets all of His children in a way they need to be reached.

Hopefully, God hasn't needed drastic means like a hurricane to get your attention, and if you need my help or attention it won't require the same resources used by God. If you have questions or if I may be of service, please feel free to let me know how I and your Emmaus Board may serve you, our community, on our fourth days together.

Your brother in Christ,

Ed Beacham  
Community Lay Director/servant

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ANNOUNCING\*\*\*\*\*ANNOUNCING\*\*\*\*\*ANNOUNCING\*\*\*\*\*

The NWGWTE Board is pleased to announce our Lay Directors for the Fall Walks.

Men's #46- Guppy Gladstone                      October 22-25,2009

Women's #47 - Marsi Arcaro                      October 20-November 1, 2009

**MEET YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

**Donald Stevens**, NWGWTE #37 sat at the table of Paul and I attend Bowdon United Methodist. By day I am a Police Officer, Investigator, Training Officer, Explorers Post Commander, and the list just keeps going on. However, I am very proud to be your new Literature & supplies Board Member and thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as God sees fit. I ask each of you to keep me, as well as all the Board Members in your prayers that I will always let God be first in my life and that I will always serve Him faithfully.

My name is **Calvin Waddell**. My wife Susan and I serve Our Lord everywhere we go. We worship Our Lord with others at Wesley Chapel UMC in Villa Rica, come visit when you can. I attended NWGWTE #10, where I sat at the table of John. As your Communities Follow-Up Chairperson I just wanted to say De Colores to everyone, too let you know I am here if you need me. I know you are working hard to get the applications for the upcoming Walks turned in

My name is **Evelyn Waters** and I have stepped up to do Gods' will for me. I will be doing the registrations for the up coming walks. I look forward to serving with my Emmaus Brothers and Sisters for the next several years (ooo that sounds so long). If anyone needs anything, don't hesitate to call me anytime. As like our Daddy in heaven: I have an open door policy too. I thank Him for training me and preparing me for this job and I pray I don't let Him down.

**Rev. Tommy Holder**

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! I am a native of Gilbert, Louisiana where I graduated high school in 1979. I met my wife Vicki while attending Louisiana Tech University. We were married on May 8, 1982. I enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1982 and honorably served over 20 years as a personnel manager and educator before retiring as a Master Sergeant in 2002. We moved to Newnan, Georgia in November 2002. I am currently a regional staff development and training coordinator for the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice. During an intense time of searching and preparation from 1999 to 2004, I accepted God's call to ministry. I am currently enrolled in the United Methodist Course of Study and am serving in my 4<sup>th</sup> year at Whitesburg UMC. Vicki and I have two adult children, Alicia Harrison and Ryan Holder, and two precious grandchildren, Mackenzie and Ethan Harrison. I am honored to be able to serve the Lord and you on the Emmaus Board as a clergy representative while working with Debbie Beck in training.



Board Members for 2009

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|--|---|
| Chair: Ed Beacham  | Set -Up/Tear Down – Billy Halbrooks     |
| Vice-Chair– Steve Standridge                                   | Send Off/Candlelight – Steve Standridge |
| Secretary – Sharon Gladstone                                   | Communications – Sharon Gladstone       |
| Treasurer – Jan Lempke-Springmeir                              | Kitchen – Karen McEntyre                |
| Registrar – Evelyn Waters                                      | Follow-Up – Calvin Waddell              |
| Gatherings – Donna Grenier                                     | Agape/Training – Debbie Beck            |
| Literature/Supplies – Donald Stevens                           | Team Selection – Gary Henkel            |
| Clergy – Linda Hessel, Julie Fuller, Tommy Holder, Frank Boone |   |

**PLEASE GO TO OUR WEB SITE TO GET THE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THESE YOUR SERVANTS [WWW.NWGWTE.NET](http://WWW.NWGWTE.NET)**

## GATHERINGS 2009

When is your church going to host a gathering?

Please contact Donna Grenier as soon as possible, as assignments are 1st come, 1st served.

Graze (Covered Dish) – 6:00PM

Praise & Worship - 7:00PM

February 21st - Southern Hills direction to Southern Hills on their web site [www.sohilcc.com](http://www.sohilcc.com) or [www.nwgwte.net](http://www.nwgwte.net)

March 21st - McEachern UMC

April 18th - Bright Star UMC

May No gathering in May because of walks

June 6 - Villa Rica 1st UMC - This will also be Gathering and Follow-Up together)

**Note change of date** The follow up will begin at 5:00PM, then covered dish at 6:00PM and Praise & Worship at 7:00PM

June 20th - There will be NO gathering on this date.

July 18th - Hiram UMC

August 15th - Old Camp UMC

September 10th open

October 17th open

November 7th open (this will also be a Gathering/Follow-Up combo)

December - no meeting due to Holidays

Contact Donna Grenier with any questions about Gatherings

Donna Grenier, 770-505-7481 [gardongre@att.net](mailto:gardongre@att.net)

### Spring Walks

Men's - April 30 – May 3, 2009.

Women's – May 14-17, 2009

The dates of the team meeting(s) are March 14& 28 and April 11 & 25 at Acworth UMC, 4340 Collins Circle

With the Lord's wisdom and guidance, we are in the midst of our team formation process. We are still making phone calls, e-mails, etc. If you have not had a chance to sign up for the team, there is still plenty of room, so be sure and contact us by phone or e-mail. We wouldn't want to leave anyone out that would like to serve on a team!

Please be in prayer about sponsorship. Of course we would both love to have a full conference room with the maximum amount of pilgrims! The applications can be printed directly from the website:

[www.nwgwte.net](http://www.nwgwte.net).

Leigh Halbrooks - [sporth22@bellsouth.net](mailto:sporth22@bellsouth.net) – 770-639-6816

Nathan Lippert – [stdbear@bellsouth.net](mailto:stdbear@bellsouth.net) – 404-558-3598