

FOURTH DAY

Newsletter

Great River Emmaus

Thoughts from our Lay Director Jack Hull

Greetings in this month of Thanksgiving. We are a blessed people. We are a blessed community. God has continued to be faithful in allowing us to hold two wonderful Summer/Fall Walks and prepare for four more in 2023.

But to make these walks successful, we need all of you. Please pray for where God is leading you to serve. On teams, on committees, on the board, hosting Gatherings, serving meals, in the background. Just serve! And, grow as leaders in our local churches and communities. If we are counting on Christ, and He is counting on us, it's time to get counting!

We hope you will consider a gift to our Great River community as we end this year. We ask you to pray daily. We encourage you to volunteer as a leader in your local church family. We hope you are in or will be starting a reunion group. Most of all, Love God and love each other.

Blessings in the name of Jesus Christ

Upcoming Walks:

Green Pastures, Meredosia IL

Prep Weekend: February 10-12

Men's Walk #31: March 2-5

Women's Walk #32: March 16-19

LaMoine Christian Camp, Tennessee IL

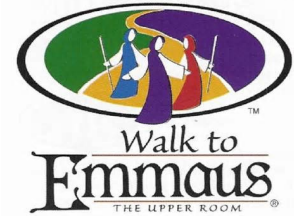
Prep Weekend: August 11-13

Men's Walk #33: August 24-27

Women's Walk #34: September 7-10

The intent is to hold Walks #35 & 36 (Winter/Spring) at Quincy University February/March 2024.

Trying different walk locations gives our community a variety of options -- and also gives different geographical areas of Great River Emmaus an opportunity to shine.



FALL 2022 Inside

this issue:

Walk 29 & 30 Reports	2-3
Walk 29 & 30 Picture	4-5
Board Nominees & Ballot	6-7
Ways to Support	8

"You Gentiles, be full of joy. Be Joyful together with God's People."
Deuteronomy 32:43

On the Road to Emmaus

13And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about three-score furlongs. 14And they talked together of all these things which had happened. 15And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. 16But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. Luke 24:13-16

WALK #29 Submitted by Lay Director Rick Bridges

Walk 29 started off with 13 pilgrims excited to see and hear what Jesus brought them to LaMoine Christian Retreat for. The Team of Walk 29 was excited to get the weekend started as we went to the conference room. Friday morning we were all up early and table assignments were made.

It was unreal to be in the conference room early Friday morning after the first talk to learn our first song of the weekend with our talented musician leading us. I have never seen nor heard pilgrims and team sing like that on a Friday morning. I told David Schutz, this is special. We continued with talks and singing Friday and the pilgrims were involved.

Saturday started off early for me. I went out to the covered patio to think and to pray and heard the sweetest music ever. One of the pilgrims brought his harmonica and was playing Amazing Grace. The talks brought out the best in the pilgrims and the team as everyone was eager for more. I had one ATL tell me that neither he nor the table leader ever touched a poster at his table as the pilgrims took over. It was amazing to watch.

Even though we were out in the country setting, some were worried that maybe there wouldn't be many there for candle light. I was confident that God was in control and He would make sure the Pilgrims would see Jesus at candle light. When I came into the Chapel and heard the voices and saw the crowd, I knew prayers had been answered. We witnessed pilgrims give themselves to Jesus and hearts set on fire in others. Truly an awesome moment.

Sunday came too quickly as we finished the talks and prepared for closing. Each of the pilgrims spoke of their experience to the Emmaus Community. Again, answered prayers.

I was humbled to be considered and asked to be the Lay Director of Walk 29. There was much work and many hours invested to make this weekend happen, but it was not all on me. I was surrounded by a Team of dedicated men of God. Each one of them was eager to do whatever was asked of them. We lost 2 original team members due to illness, but 2 men stepped up a week before the walk and filled in. More answered prayers.

We, as a community, have the most dedicated people working behind the scenes; and they are tireless workers. It takes a Community to make each Walk happen. Much of the credit goes to them that kept me straight. I pray for our community to step up and stand in the gap and be a part of the weekends as there is always a place for someone to help out.

I learned what true humility really is as the Lay Director. I pray that I have made our community stronger with the help of the Team and the Pilgrims who are going to serving future Walks. Thank you for trusting me.

WALK #29 Submitted by Board Representative Jack Hull

I was blessed to represent the Great River Emmaus Board on Walk 29 at LaMoine Christian Service Camp this fall. The team was lead by Lay Director Rick Bridges. Rick was open to being led by the Holy Spirit and asked lots of questions, working to follow the guidelines laid out by Upper Room and GRE. He was also extremely supportive of the womens Lay Director and encouraged the men to support both weekends.

With the new location, I saw background support from a strong, select group, working to make each step successful. The set up team was there early and effective in using the model the team worked so hard to prepare for this new facility set up. Yes, there were on the fly items that adjustments were needed for, but the team and community came together to support. The facilities and Matt, the Camp Director, were sufficient to make a successful weekend, both the prep and the actual weekend Walk. Each team member showed caring and, for the most part, followed the requested tasks. The leadership team was prepared to guide without taking over the individual service items. The Agape Chapel was one of the most moving I have experienced and the leadership blessed us. We, as always, needed more prayer warriors to fill times, but God provided. I heard minimal complaints and was moved by servant hearts. The 3 assistant LDs, the Spiritual Director and the majority of the

Continued ...

WALK #29 Submitted by Board Representative Jack Hull ... Continued ...

team members contributed in their assigned roles. We were short an Assistant Spiritual Director most of the weekend, but trends seems to be heading that way. We will work to add and train more as we can.

I loved what one team member told me. The weekend is a pass fail grade, not an A-F scoring. And the Walk passed with all God needed to touch hearts and build leaders.

We always need to improve on sponsorship, I always wish we could eliminate the last minute changes, etc., but they will always be a part of the Body of Christ. I feel deeply in the movement and know the community can feel gratitude to God and each other in the Walk's success.

Well done. Let's do it again. With open minds, open hearts and serving souls.

WALK #30 Submitted by Lay Director Candy Moore

Greetings! When thinking about Walk #30, Ephesians 3:20 & 21 come to mind. "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

We certainly had our struggles, but if you look beyond that, God's love prevailed and this team persevered! This team was fantastic – members stepping up at the last minute, some giving 2 talks, everyone doing what was needed.

I can't begin to thank the logistics team for ALL they did to make sure every single detail was taken care of.

Thank you for blessing me with the opportunity to serve as your lay director. I am deeply humbled.

WALK #30 Submitted by Board Representative Kathy Hull

The team and Pilgrims of Walk #30 had glorious weather in a beautiful setting at LaMoine Campgrounds. I am not sure I have ever been on a weekend that satan fought the whole way – as much as this one. We had team members replaced right up until the weekend due to illness – but those replacements were obviously hand picked to be a part of the team and Jesus did as He does and fulfilled His plan – in spite of us! There were several pilgrims who had to leave due to illness – but those who stayed were beyond blessed.

It was a spirit filled weekend with a lot of laughter mixed with tears (as usual!) The Great River Community showed up in force showing the ladies what the face of Jesus really looked like. We were blessed with an amazing background team as well as the camp staff who really helped to make the weekend work well. The gut bucket (per its usual) was odd but amazing, and just the right timing to help ease the tension of the weekend. It was a beautiful sight to behold when we came into the chapel in Saturday night for candlelight. This always makes me think that I have seen a little glimpse of what heaven looks like!

As the Board Rep, my job was made really easy by the great work of Candy and her assistants and the entire conference room team. The leadership team, the conference room team, the clergy team and the background folks just did what they do...and honestly all I had to do was be there! It was truly a pleasure.



GREAT RIVER EMMAUS MEN'S WALK #29

August 25-28, 2022

ROW #1: Brad Clair, Kipp Proefrock, Rex Beard, Craig Dennison, Mike Alberts, Rick Bridges, Jack Hull, Craig Barnard, David Schutz, **Patrick Macha**, Kelvin Celestine

ROW #2: Sonnie Meredith, Dennis Mayer, **Jim McCain**, **Keith Huebbe**, **Joe Sullivan**, **Charlie Rice**, Parker Kirkpatrick, **Greg Bergschneider**, Kent Vonderheide, Chad Hoesman, **Lowell Bottorff**

ROW #3: Frank Schmidt, Jim Clayton, Chris Patterson, Tom East, Dana Berry, Charlie Janus, Dan Ersery, Brent Clair, Jason Howard, **Corey Holder**

ROW #4: **Ayobami Timothy**, **Ronnie Upchurch**, **JD Darden**, **Huck Hendrickson**, **Charlie Upchurch**, Gary Evans

Pilgrims are denoted in **BOLD** print.



GREAT RIVER EMMAUS WOMEN'S WALK #30
February 15-18, 2018

ROW #1: Mary Jean Sheets, Claudia McCain, Kathy Hull,
Candy Moore (aka Moore Candy☺), Mike Wilson, Linda Wilson,
Chris Vonderheide, Diane Johnson

ROW #2: **Marge Kugler**, Ruthanne Danielson, Judy Mayer, Ginny Bettin,
Dana Reid, **April Kurfman**, **Taylor Sanders**, Barb Kenady

ROW #3: Becky Henderson, **Kari Havens**, **Pollie Adams**, Cari Frink,
Ginny Ersery, Desiree Dennison, **Susan Abbott**

ROW #4: Geemin Glaue, **Amy Conover**, **Megan Kaneer**, Tori Nichols,
Kirsten Hildahl-Dewey

Pilgrims are denoted in **BOLD** print.

Nomination Form for 2022 Board

Please choose **four** of the **six** Laity and give to Jack Hull by November 20, 2022. Nomination Information continues on the next page. Send by email to jackcyhull@yahoo.com or mail to Jack Hull, 413 East Morrison St., Pittsfield IL 62363

Cheryl Alberts - I have been involved with Emmaus since September 2004, when I went on walk #177Q. I have served on 8 conference teams as ATL, TL, ALD, Tech, and Board Advisor. I have prayed in the Agape Chapel, volunteered in the Work Room, passed out Agape, typed up forms, written many Agape letters, and made numerous Agape gifts. I have been selected to be next Lay Director for Walk #32, which God seems to think I can do. I previously served on the board from 2016-2019, which gave me a greater understanding of the workings of the community of Great River Emmaus. I feel I could continue to use that knowledge to help our community grow stronger, lead more people to Christ through humble Agape love, from behind the scenes.

Jim Dewey - I grew up going to church, but mostly, I just went through the motions - until I made a Cursillo. That rocked my world. Now, after giving several talks and working behind the scenes, I want to take a larger role in "rocking the world" for new pilgrims. The feeling I got after my Cursillo is still felt any time I take part in a walk.

Lisa Herman - My name is Lisa Herman, known to many as "Mrs. Carl" from Colchester IL. My first walk, #213, was July 10-13, 2008, at the Springfield Villa Maria, through CIE. I have attended and served on many walks through Great River Emmaus and can see and feel God's calling to keep the community thriving. Many of the friends I have made and wish to continue as long as the good Lord allows my body to do so. Thank you for your consideration.

Diane Johnson - I have served on teams, giving four different talks, and have volunteered in the kitchen. I have also sponsored pilgrims. When I was at the last ladies walk, I felt God pulling me to do more for Him with Emmaus. I was very moved by the team and the pilgrims. I would really love to help others see Jesus as I do. I would like an opportunity to be part of this board. Thank you.

Tobias (Tobey) Malin - My father-in-law, Kipp Proefrock, has gotten my wife and me involved with GRE. We have both been so moved by our experience as pilgrims, we want to help in any way we can. I want to help keep the GRE community active and moving forward. I love Jesus and am willing to serve in any role needed during the walks and throughout the year.

Chris Vonderheide - I have been married 32 years to Kent, and we have 2 daughters, Brooke (and her husband Tyler) and Kelsey. I have worked for Blue Cross/Blue Shield for 31 years. My faith has grown since my first walk (#4 in 2014) I've volunteered behind the scenes for many walks, as well as serving as ATL, Table Leader (3 times) and Assistant Lay Director.

Nomination Form for 2022 Board

Please vote in favor of **one Clergy** and give to Jack Hull by November 20.

Send by email to jackcyhull@yahoo.com or mail to 413 East Morrison St., Pittsfield IL 62363



Tom Lemons - I was asked to apply by a current GRE Board member. My first walk was in St Louis in 1994. God touched my heard for the first time, and in a strong and powerful way. My heart is still burning. The walk also caused me to feel amazed at God's grace that had been showering down on me for my entire life. My response was to want to serve in any way God called me. I served as committee chairs and lay leader in my local church and became a certified lay speaker and did pulpit supply (filled in for pastors) a few times a year. In 2010 God called me to be a pastor. I am currently a Licensed Local Pastor in the United Methodist Church serving at Hydesburg United Methodist Church in rural Hannibal. I will complete my pastor training (Course of Study - 20 Seminary modules) next year.

GREAT RIVER EMMAUS 2022 BALLOT

GREAT RIVER EMMAUS BOARD LAITY (vote for 4)

There are currently six open positions. The 4 with most votes will serve a 3-year term. Two individuals will serve a 2-year term.

	Cheryl Alberts
	Jim Dewey
	Lisa Herman
	Diane Johnson
	Tobias (Tobey) Malin
	Chris Vonderheide

GREAT RIVER EMMAUS BOARD CLERGY (confirm support)

	Tom Lemons
--	-------------------

Please choose four of the six Laity and one Clergy and give to Jack Hull by November 20, 2022. Send by email to jackcyhull@yahoo.com or mail to 413 East Morrison St, Pittsfield IL 62363.

SUPPORT YOUR GREAT RIVER EMMAUS (GRE) COMMUNITY

This time of year we receive many appeals for donations. Prior to year end many organizations ask for money, reminding people their contributions are tax deductible.

Whether or not you itemize your taxes -- Christ needs your support to continue the work within your Emmaus Community. It's common knowledge costs are rising. Your board is doing everything possible to keep the fees as affordable as possible. Many team members and pilgrims need a scholarship to help offset the costs of participating. We don't want to turn away a pilgrim or a team member who needs this weekend with Christ and fellow believers!

In addition, it is important GRE invests in technology to meet the needs of our community and future pilgrims. Your board is looking at mechanisms to allow electronic submission of pilgrim, sponsor, and board applications. In addition, technology such as Zoom and online giving comes at an expense. Mail service isn't always dependable, and does not provide the turn-around time needed to receive applications and respond back to pilgrims/sponsors in time to prepare for walks.

Your financial contributions are important to the Great River Emmaus community and our future pilgrims.

Please prayerfully consider a contribution to Great River Emmaus.

GREAT RIVER EMMAUS
P.O. Box 5215
Quincy IL 62305

Want to physically do something now?

- Pray for our community and Emmaus communities around the world!
- Mail your donation to GRE!
- Pray for guidance and start inviting pilgrims to upcoming walks!
- Bedding needs to be washed - approximately 70 sheets and pillowcases need to be laundered in scent-free detergent - dried - and folded. If you can offer this agape before the upcoming walks, please contact Judy Hays 217-242-0122
- Start making agape! 50 pieces are needed for each walk. Search Pintrest or Google Agape items for ideas.
- Ask your Reunion Group -- and anyone you know in the GRE community -- whether they received this newsletter. If they did NOT, their email is not up to date in our records. Ask them to update their profile in Ministry Manager. They can receive this newsletter by emailing greatriveremmaus@gmail.com
- We no longer mail the newsletter because so many addresses are out of date and postage costs are so high. We depend on email and Facebook to keep our community up to date. Help us by encouraging those not receiving GRE communications to reach out and update their information.