



Season's Greetings!! Merry Christmas!!! And Happy New Year!!!

Wow can you believe we are at the end of another year?! Where does the time fly? I trust and pray that this Newsletter finds you in perfect peace. As we all get ready for the busy Christmas season with shopping, cooking, cantata, pageants, and parties, etc., let us not forget the real reason for the season. Over 2000 years ago Emmanuel came to us. The child wrapped in swaddling cloths laid in a manger full of hay with his parents around him, animals, villagers, shepherds, and wise men. Were you there when Jesus was born? You see, everyday we can experience the awe and wonder of that first Christmas. How you may ask? When we make room in our hearts for the Christ child. I pray that this Christmas you make room in your heart for Christ. I pray that this Christmas you share the wonder and awe with those who don't know the baby in a manger.

As we bring the year to a close, I look forward to what God has in store for Suncoast Emmaus Community.

Thank you for casting your vote. We have 6 new board members that will join us in 2017. They are Lisa Edington, Phil Southwick, Trina Robinson, Sue Benson-Klinger, Tami Scarlett, and John Brower. Welcome!

I would like to thank the 2016 board members who are leaving: Rick Pecht, Kathy Pecht Traci Thompson, Cindy Thayer, Wilma Waltz, and Oscar Keuker. Thank you for you time and dedication to the Suncoast Emmaus Community.

We will kick off the new year with our annual fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner. Please come out and support your Emmaus Community.

I wish each of you a Joyous Christmas Season and a Blessed New Year!!!

Your sister in Christ,
Elisa

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Special points of interest

- 2016 Offering Collections
- 2016 Board of Directors
- Upcoming Gatherings
- 2016 Gathering Attendance



February S'mores Gathering

Coming soon on February is the "S'mores and Hotdog" Gathering held at Elwood Park Baptist Church on February 18th at 5 pm. The address is 3516 45 Street East in Bradenton, 34208.

Don't forget to bring a lawn chair with you and dress accordingly.

You will be cooking your

own hotdogs over a camp fire...oh, and don't forget the yummy additions to the meal....chili and chips and S'mores to top off the meal.

If you are planning to attend this evening of non-fat delight please RSVP Cindy Thayer at bizimom2@verizon.net by Wednesday, February 15th!

Don't forget to visit our website at <http://www.suncoastemmaus.com> or if you would like to send SunCoast Emmaus an email at: fourthdayfriends@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/suncoastemmaus

Upcoming 2017 Gatherings

January 21st Gathering -
Grace UMC 400 Field
Ave E, Venice 34285

"Spaghetti Dinner"

February 18th Gather-
ing—Elwood Park Bap-
tist Church at 3615 45 St
E, Bradenton 34208

S'mores & Hotdogs

@ 5 pm

March 18th will be held
at Christian Retreat Cen-
ter. Please come and sup-
port the ladies during the
Candlelight Service!

January Spaghetti Dinner Gathering

The January Spaghetti Dinner Gathering is right around the corner. *Remember* this is the biggest fund raiser of the year. So lets get out and support SunCoast Emmaus.

It will be held at Grace UMC at 400 Field Ave E in Venice, 34285 at 5 pm on January 21st. The cost of the dinner is \$10 per person at the door.

If you plan on attending this wonderfully prepared dinner please RSVP as soon as possible to Cindy Thayer at bizimom2@verizon.net so the crew know how much food to purchase. This dinner will consist of home-made spaghetti, salad, and dessert with a beverage.

Grace UMC is also requesting those who are attending to please stay and help clean-up and arrange the room for the Sunday Worship Service.

Please reserve your meal no later than Wednesday, January 18th!!

Educational Director....

Emmaus is an inner denominational Christian group. We all love and learn together. We take our friends to an Emmaus Week End Walk so they can experience all the good things that can happen. When we pick the friends up and take them home at the end of the walk, our life in Emmaus has grown, our friendship deepens. We need to go to the Gatherings each month so we can fellowship with others.

We also need to find a Reunion Group to become a part of with our friends. This Group should follow the small cream cards and the purple books we all receive at our Walk. We need to fellowship together as Christian friends. This is to strengthen our Walk with Christ. This is a time to pray and fellowship together. We can enjoy a Bible study time together, There are all kinds of guides available from Cokesbury to guide you through a Bible study. Also your local Christian book store. Music (Good CD's).

Please everyone with everything going on in our world today we need this special time to get away from the world! You will be surprised how great you all feel after shutting the world out for an hour. As we meet with our Emmaus Reunion Groups please pray for all members, as well as the Board Members, and Teams as they prepare for the upcoming walks. Remember where there are 3 or more gathered Jesus will be there also.

Blessings,
Gene Louise Fisher
Education

2016 Board of Directors

Community Lay Director

Elisa Niles
scemusicd@gmail.com

Asst. Community Lay Director

Brian Erickson
jinxapd@aol.com

Secretary

Warren Wasson
warrenwasson@aol.com

Treasurer

Pastor Bonnie Cary
pastorbonnie1@tampabay.rr.com

Music Coordinator

Traci Thompson
tracithmpsn@yahoo.com

Quartermaster

George Strawn
strawnworld@hotmail.com

Housing/Gatherings Team

Dave Greenwood
dag2005@att.net
Donna Greenwood
dag2005@att.net

Registrar

Kathy Pecht
katric01@hotmail.com

Education

Gene Louise Fisher
layservantgene@yahoo.com

Community Spiritual Director

Pastor Frank Sturgell
fsturgell@verizon.net

Team Selection

Lisa Edington
edington_plm@yahoo.com

Agape / Reunion Groups

Wilma Waltz (Co-Chair)
misty4ever@outlook.com
Marilyn Sturgell (Co-Chair)
marilynmcman@verizon.net

Community Activities Coordinator

Oscar Keuker
okeuker@aol.com

Communications/Fundraising

Cindy Thayer
bizimom2@verizon.net

2015 Total Offering
Collection

Total : \$3579.25

2016 Offering Collection

January \$1500	Grace UMC
February \$236	Elwood Park
March \$263	Grace UMC
April \$506	Palmetto UMC
May \$194.10	Ellenton UMC
June \$261	Englewood UMC
July \$258.25	Pine Level Church
August \$232	Trinity UMC
Sept \$1351	Englewood UMC
Oct \$252	Trinity UMC
Nov \$367	Grace UMC
Dec	No Gathering
<u>Total for 2016</u>	\$5,420.35

Our offering collection is up **51.44 %** from this time one year ago.

New Emmaus Board Members

I would like to take this time to present our newly elected Board members beginning in January of 2017. They are:

Lisa Edington
Sue Bensen-Klinger
Tami Scarlett
Phil Southwick
Trina Robinson

The positions they will be filling are: Music Director, Community Activities Coordinator, Registrar, Agape Co-Chair, and Communications. These positions will be filled in the January Board Meeting.

Team Selection Committee Chair

Hello Community!

I'm humbled to be serving once again on your board and overseeing the Team Selection committee. To that end, I am looking for some individuals from different parts of the community to serve on committee. This group will meet twice a year, once for the spring walks and once for the fall walks, to assist in the process of identifying individuals to be considered for the upcoming walk. We will meet in different parts of our area, depending on where the incoming Lay Directors are from. If you are interested in serving on this committee for the next 3 years, please contact me directly at 941-726-4792 or sceteamsselection@gmail.com.

Additionally, I need to update our database to include musical information. If God has blessed you with musical talent and you are willing to play your instrument(s) as part of the music team for our walk weekends, I'd like to hear from you. We're looking for servants who play piano, guitar, drums, brass, woodwinds, etc. to come forward and enhance our walks with beautiful music. If you're led to share your spiritual gifts, please contact me at 941-726-4792 or by email at sceteamsselection@gmail.com.

Blessings to all for 2017,
Lisa Edington
Team Selection Chair

From the Emmaus Treasurer

Suncoast Emmaus Community,

First of all, thank you to all who have already responded to our pledge campaign. Now that our fall walks have been completed it is time to look forward to the budget for next year. Just want you to know where our money goes. Do you believe the fees paid by the pilgrims cover all the walk expenses? Do you know that each team member pays to train and work the walk? Each walk we sponsor costs about \$2000 above and beyond the fees paid by the participants.

WHAT?? Yes...Meeting rooms are \$150/day each; Golf cart rental \$100, Team Training facilities \$125; Printing of the Walk Booklets \$100; Snacks & drinks for breaks and Sat. night party \$300...just to name a few of the costs involved.

continued below...

Gathering attendance in
2015:

Total: 533

Gathering attendance in
2016:

Total: 730

Our Gathering attendance
is up **37%** from this time
one year ago.

THANK YOU!!

*SunCoast Emmaus Board of Director Meeting
3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm
Grace UMC—400 Field Ave E, Venice 34235*

cont. From the Treasurer

About now you may be thinking, “Wow, I didn’t know all that!” Notice that this does not include any table or bed agape given so generously by our reunion groups and community members.

Ever thought about the rest of the expense of running our community? Really very little as organizations go since all our Board Members serve voluntarily. However, we have meeting room and supplies expense (those paper plates and plastic table service) for our gatherings, liability insurance, website and licensing fees. We also donate to “The Gift” program to support development of new communities throughout the world.

Do you remember how blessed you were on you walk? Are you still talking to Jesus about that wonderful week-end? Wouldn’t you like to share that blessing with someone else? Here’s how: Include Suncoast Emmaus in your budget and send in your support; come join us at the gatherings and enjoy the fellowship you felt on your walk; listen to God’s urging to sponsor a pilgrim or volunteer to serve.

Your Treasurer,
Rev. Bonnie L Cary

2015 Gathering Attendance

Total attendance = 533

2016 Gathering Attendance

January	125
February	46
March	33
April	81
May	35
June	65
July	40
August	63
Sept	53
Oct	60
Nov	129
Dec	—
Total	730

2017 Spring Walk Schedule

Men #83

March 9-12

Women's #84

March 16-19

The Walks in 2017 will be held at Christian Retreat at 1200 Glory Way Blvd off of Upper Manatee River Rd in Bradenton, 34212.



SPRING WALK SCHEDULE

Men's Walk 83—March 9—12

Women's Walk 84—March 16—19

Christian Retreat at 1200 Glory Way Blvd off of Upper Manatee River Rd in Bradenton, 34212.

Our Spring 2017 Team Lay Director for the Men's Walk is *David Edington* and for the Women's Walk is *Amy Mele*. Please begin prayer support for the Spring Lay Directors and the scheduled events below:

Team Meetings will be held at Palmetto UMC

January 19—Thursday Training

January 28—Saturday Training (9am)

February 11—Saturday Training (9am)

February 25—Saturday Training (9am)

March 2—Saturday Training (9am)

Any Reunion Groups interested in providing lunches please contact Lisa Edington at edington_plm@yahoo.com or 941-726-4792.