

# FOOTHILLS FLAME

## God's Alarm Clock: A Devotional

I hate alarm clocks. I am glad I have an alarm clock by my bed. Don't these two statements seem to contradict each other? I know that it seems that the best sleep comes right before I am reminded that a new day has started. I am jolted back from a rest and a time of warmth and comfort. It is time to begin to unfold the body, open the eyes, find the cat food and feed the cats and grope for the coffee. Oh I love that first cup of coffee! And I hope I have not got the cat food and coffee mixed-up. I also know that when the alarm goes off it is a reminder of a new day of being a part of the world that God has allowed me to be connected. I am arising because God has watched over me and He brings a sense of His protection and grace. It is now time to proceed and meet the challenges and opportunities of this day God has given to me. These are two different responses to the same alarm.

November is a time that our nation calls for us to be in thanksgiving. I will admit that many of the trappings that

have become associated with this day are not related to giving thanks, but the day still is given the title "thanksgiving." Some would say that we should be in thanksgiving every day. You know "**This is the day** the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24) And we are to give thanks to God every day, but do we?

And that is just the point. We are in constant need of reminders to make sure we are in obedience to God's direction. John Wesley reminds us to make sure we regularly attend to the "**means of grace.**" These are visible reminders of the channels of God's grace. In other words, they are **God's alarm clock.** We know that we are to worship and give praise to God, but it is in the regular time of worship that we make sure we do. We know that we are to confess and seek God daily, but it is the time of prayer that we make sure we do. We know that we are to seek His healing but it is in the regular effort of asking forgiveness that we do.

Thus, there are needs at times in our lives we need to be reminded of the many things and ways we are called to give **thanksgiving** to our Lord. As this month moves toward "Thanksgiving Day," let us begin to be intentional in developing that list, making contact with people we are thankful, making sure we don't miss opportunities God has given us and to share our giving thanks to others.

It is not always necessary to be reminded to give thanks but just in case, this month gives us a reminder to do so. It is not always necessary to have my alarm clock set, because many times I will wake just before it is set to alarm. But everyone once in a while, I need for it to remind me the day has begun and it is now time for me to arise.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

*Mike Pinson, Pastor*

## Banner Project

One of the many special things that are a part of every walk weekend are the beautiful banners that are hung in the conference room and chapel. You may not know it, but the banners used by GFWTE have several different origins. As we began our community, other communities blessed us by donating some of their banners

to us. As our community has flourished, several members of GFWTE have made gorgeous new banners as well.

We have now completed our 16<sup>th</sup> Walk and our banners are in need of cleaning, ironing, repair and replacement. Judy Harrison and Pat Edwards have graciously agreed to head up a

project to address our banner needs and are looking for volunteers to assist them. Please help us continue to have beautiful banners for our walks by contacting Judy Harrison at [Judy.Harrison@charter.net](mailto:Judy.Harrison@charter.net) and volunteering to help in whatever way you can.

Gregg Frank

### Important Dates:

- **November 13th**  
**Gathering at**  
**Gainesville First UMC**  
**7:30pm**
- **December 6th**  
**Team Selection Walk #17**
- **December 11th**  
**Gathering at**  
**Gainesville First UMC**  
**7:30 pm**
- **March 18th-21st**  
**Men's Walk #17**
- **March 25th-28th**  
**Women's Walk #17**

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**Pilgrims Walk #16**

**Men**

Jon Baysden  
 Alan Black  
 Pete Black  
 Perry Boykin  
 Tommy Burgess  
 Ron Cocklin  
 Ron Crispens  
 Mark Dobbs  
 James Fields  
 Harold Fisher  
 Rob Gabis  
 Gene Gomes  
 Gary Greenwald  
 Kyle Harris  
 Emmett Holley  
 Jim Hull  
 Rod Hunsberger  
 Jim Hunt  
 Art Jimenez  
 Ron Lewis  
 Jim Martin  
 Brad McManus  
 L.D. Migneault  
 John Phelps  
 Chris Pope  
 Josh Schaefer  
 Michael Waters

**Women**

Belinda Agnew  
 Beth Baysden  
 Cecile Boykin  
 Kelly Burgess  
 Pat Cocklin  
 Livvy Cotton  
 Melanie Dobbs  
 Kim Fields  
 Kim Fisher  
 Kristin Gabis  
 Diane Gomes  
 Kim Hamby  
 Stephanie Harris  
 Ellen Holley  
 Chris Hull  
 Rubye Hunsberger  
 Carrie Anne Hunt  
 Sara Jimenez  
 Kara Lewis  
 Maddie Martin  
 Gail Maston  
 Susanne McManus  
 Traci Oxley  
 Sandee Schaefer  
 Angie Turner  
 Debbie Vazquez  
 Maria Waters

**Sponsorship: Great Job on Walk #16**

Men's and Women's Walk #16 were fantastic! Lives were touched and hearts were changed. Pilgrims became members of the community and felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. Way to go to ALL who helped make Walk #16 such a wonderful success!

A lot of work went into making Walk #16 so successful. The whole thing begins and ends with good sponsorship! Without thoughtful, prayerful and complete sponsorship, none of the good things can happen. Are you considering sponsoring someone for Walk #17? Would you like to see another friend experience the agape love that you experienced on your walk?

Just as the entire weekend is bathed in prayer, good sponsorship

must also be based upon and saturated with prayer. It is not enough to just want to share your experience with a friend. Have you asked God whether this is the right time, the right person, the right Walk? Until you have received an affirmative answer from the Lord, don't even consider sponsoring someone!

Once you have felt led to sponsor someone, then the real work starts. You need to sit down with the person and explain to them what the Walk is all about (as much as you can). You need to offer to be with their family during their weekend, and take care of anything that needs doing while they are away. You need to get a list of their friends and relatives from them so that you can gather the agape letters for them. You need

to clear your calendar for the weekend of their Walk in order to bring them to Send-Off (and stay for Sponsor's Hour), attend Candlelight on Saturday evening (we have special seats for the sponsors), and be at Closing to support them and take them home afterwards. And throughout this entire time, you need to be praying for them, on a regular basis.

At our next Gathering, November 13<sup>th</sup>, there will be a special presentation given as our Fourth Day Talk, concerning sponsorship. Make your plans to come and learn the details of sponsorship, so that Walk #17 can be as moving, inspiring and meaningful as Walk #16 (or whatever Walk you attended).

De Colores,  
 Charlie Green  
 Pastor

**Team Selection/Team Training**

Yes, it's that time again. Team selection will be December 6<sup>th</sup>, so get those team applications in early. We need 1/3 new, 1/3 medium and 1/3 experienced. The middle (medium) group is the one we have been having a time getting people to work. The training dates

are January 19, January 30, February 13, February 27 and March 8, 2010. The Walks are Men's March 18-21, 2010 and the Women's March 25-28, 2010. Training is sooooo important. Just because you have work 10, 20, walks, does not mean you can go to just

one training session and still work. The experienced workers need to set the example for the others, not only in training but also on the Walks.

**De Colores**

Dick Williamson  
 Team Selection Chairperson

**Gainesville First UMC Childcare Policy**

We were truly blessed to have so many new community members attend the 4th Day Follow Up Gathering Monday night at Gainesville First United Methodist Church.

The church childcare is provided at no charge to the community as a ministry of the congregation. The nursery care providers are well-trained and background checked to assure the safety of

all of our children. Our nursery follows certain standards such as these to assure that we are a certified safe sanctuary for childcare.

The safe sanctuary age for the nursery services is 10 years old and under. Any children 11 years or older are asked to use home childcare or to attend the Gathering with their parents or

guardians. We can always use more singers to praise God in our time together!

Thank you for helping to keep our childcare safe and secure. We look forward to seeing you at the next Gathering on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at

**De Colores**

## Giving the Gift of Sponsorship: Part 2

The October newsletter outlined the responsibilities of Sponsors **before** the Walk weekend and, since some of you may still be considering sponsoring someone for the upcoming Fall walks, here is a brief review of the “pre-walk” responsibilities.

First, Pray for Guidance

Check the Dates

Present the Opportunity

Application and Fee (Pilgrim applications are available at [www.gfwte.com](http://www.gfwte.com))

Collection of Agape Letters

Provide Encouragement

So, what are the responsibilities of a sponsor **during** the Walk weekend? Once you enter into sponsorship, keeping your calendar clear for the weekend is **very im-**

**portant!** There are specific weekend responsibilities one commits to when sponsoring a pilgrim for an Emmaus walk. If you are working on the team during the weekend, you may need to enlist the help of an Emmaus friend with some of the items.

**Pick up your Pilgrim and take him/her to Woodlands Camp** on Thursday for registration check-in (between 6pm and 6:45pm). Help your pilgrim with check-in and introduce him/her to others. If you are on the team, ask an Emmaus friend to help.

**Attend Send-Off with your Pilgrim** after all pilgrims are checked in (7pm).

**Bring the collected “surprise” Agape Letters when you bring your Pilgrim** (put in the letter box in the Chapel narthex without

pilgrims seeing you, preferably after they have left the Chapel).

**Attend Sponsor’s Hour after Send-Off.** This is a very special service during which you will be able to pray for your pilgrim and place his/her Emmaus cross on the large cross.

**Be in prayer for your Pilgrim throughout the weekend** Check on your pilgrim’s family. Offer to baby-sit, pick up mail, water plants, feed pets, or whatever. If you are on the team, ask an Emmaus friend to do these for you.

**Attend Candlelight on Saturday night with Emmaus friends who also know your Pilgrim.** Community Worship Service is at 8pm. Candlelight is at 9pm. Your presence will be an important surprise for your pilgrim. Bring that last agape letter!



**Attend the Closing Service on Sunday** (4pm) and, afterwards, help your pilgrim get his/her things into the car for the return home. You may want to stop for a meal, carry his/her luggage, and give him/her a hug before leaving.

Next month’s newsletter will include reminders of Sponsor responsibilities **after** the Walk.

To be continued...

## New Board Of Directors

It is my pleasure to announce the five new Board of Directors that will be serving our Georgia Foot-hills Community for the next three years; Judy Harrison, Ginger Workman, Tom Frier, Bruce Townsend and Ed Dickens. We look forward to having these new members join our current directors to continue to make sure that

our community serves God, stays firm to the Emmaus guidelines and assure the continued success of our community.

I want to give a great big Thank you to the members that are ending three years of awesome service to our community, Sandy Horton, Natalie Jackson, Dick William-

son and Paul Youngblood. These people have given of their time and talent to serve God and our community. Thank you for all your work!

**De Colores**

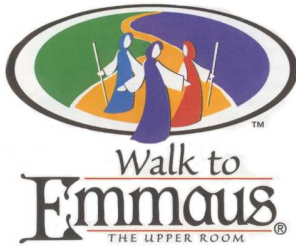
Carolyne Peeden

Community Lay Director

## The Walk to Emmaus

### For the Development of Christian Leaders

GFWTE  
P.O. Box 6229  
Gainesville, GA 30504



To:

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

[WWW.GFWTE.ORG](http://WWW.GFWTE.ORG)

## Gatherings

The Follow-up gathering last month was a blast. The house was packed, and we had to bring in additional seats. Many of our newest members talked about life after their walk. It was a great time to also reminisce one's own walk. The age old question was answered—did my Husband do this silly song with dance?

Our November gathering will be at its normal time on Friday, November 13 at 7:30 PM. We will meet at Gainesville First United Methodist. As usual, child care will be provided.

This meeting will be devoted to successful Sponsorship. Charlie Green and Steve Pierce will give a mini seminar to enable us to beef up the sponsor's role and to promote an even greater experience for the Pilgrims. We all feel qualified; however, it never hurts to get a refresher. We will still have our normal evening with worship, singing, and Pastoral care. Of course, we will have good food and fellowship afterward.

As a side note, one of the things that make a great Gathering is a variety of 4<sup>th</sup> day speakers. We all have a story to tell and an experience

to share. I, along with the rest of the Community really want to hear your story. We depend upon your volunteering for the upcoming events. We have really had a shortage of Women speakers. Please step out of your box and share. We have many openings over the next few months, and I need help filling those slots. Please let me know your availability. I look forward to seeing you in November.

**De Colores**

Ron Baysden