



www.emmausofthemidlands.com

September

Next Gathering
First Christian Church
2062 N Beltline
Columbia, SC
803-787-9777
Pot-luck dinner 7:00
Service 8:00



Upcoming Events

Sept 27	Gathering @ First Christian Church (Columbia)
Oct 14	Board Meeting - Windsor UMC
Oct 17-20	Men's Walk #42
Oct 24-27	Women's Walk #42
Oct	No Gathering
Nov	No Gathering
Dec 7	Christmas Gathering @ Wightman UMC Prosperity <u>6:00 pm</u>

Directions from Sumter: Take US 76 towards Columbia (25 miles). Turn right on Cross Hill Rd (US 76 Connector) for .4 miles and continue on N Beltline for 1.4 miles. Church is located on the right.

Directions from Aiken: Take I-20 towards Columbia (46 miles). Take exit #64A onto I-26 East and go 0.9 miles. Take exit #108B/Downtown/Columbia onto I-126E and go 3.6 miles. Continue on Elmwood Av (US-21N) - go 0.5 miles. Turn right on Assembly—go 0.5 miles. Turn left on SC-12 and go 2.9 miles. Turn right on N Beltline and go 0.4 miles. Arrive at church on the left. 2062 N Beltline.

Directions from Prosperity: Take I-26 towards Columbia (26 miles) Take exit #108B Downtown/Columbia onto I-126E and go 3.6 miles. Continue on Elmwood Av and go 0.5 miles. Turn right on Assembly St and go 0.5 miles. Turn left on SC-12 and go 2.9 miles. Turn right on N Beltline and go 0.4 miles. Arrive at church on left. 2062 N Beltline.

MESSENGER

EMMAUS NEWSLETTER

From the Chairman

Team Training has just been completed this weekend at Lexington UMC for the upcoming Fall Walks for men and women. At this time we have 16 men and 30 women signed up for the walks. Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to get the pilgrims committed for these Walks. It is wonderful we have 30 women approved but we can still take 6 more so let's make sure it is a full Walk of 36. With the men we still need more pilgrims so we can at least have six tables with at least 3 pilgrims each.

In case you haven't heard, Emmaus International has changed the procedure for the Table Team Members. They will no longer be silent partners but will be recognized as Team Members on Thursday night in the conference room and on Friday morning as Table Leaders and Assistant Table Leaders when tables are assigned. All pilgrims will still rotate seating positions but Table Leaders and Assistant Table Leaders will remain in the same seating arrangement throughout the Walk. The rotation of each pilgrim gives them a chance to sit next to a team member allowing them a chance to get to know that person. Hopefully if they have questions they may feel more comfortable asking their team member. The change was also made to keep any feelings of deception from arising.

Please mark your calendars for October 17th-20th for the Men's Walk and October 24th-27th for the Women's Walk. Even if you do not have a pilgrim on the Walk, please come out and support our pilgrims and teams through attending Send-Off, Candlelight, and Closing. We would love to have you volunteer for one or more of the many tasks needed to put these Walks on.

Hope to see you at the September Gathering on Friday, September 27th at 7:00 PM at First Christian Church in Columbia.

Remember to go to Emmaus of the Midlands website for all your details and sign-ups.

DeColores!

God bless,

Leonard May

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Sid Hawkins Treasurer
EMMAUS of The Midlands Walk #35
Table of Mark
Red Bank UMC, Lexington

I was in the Air Force/ANG for 37 years and 6 months. Six years was in supply and rest of the time I was in Vehicle Maintenance and Operations. I was on the Ninth Air Force IG Inspection team. In Nov. 2000, I retired as Chief Master Sergeant of Transportation/Operations.

After my military service I devoted all my time and service to God and my church. I have served as a Trustee for two terms and was Chairman for three years, also served as Chairman of the Road Task Force for three years. I am on the Church council, Finance Board, and a member of the Men's Club. My walk afforded me to become a real disciple of God and show others how the walk could and will be a great calling to serve God and his mission.

De Colores

MESSENGER

WHERE IS YOUR REUNION GROUP?

The focus of the “Perseverance” talk during the Walk to Emmaus weekend is the importance of finding a reunion group in order to support pilgrims during their fourth days.

As Paul asked the Corinthians, “*if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?*” (1 Cor 14:8) The same reasoning pertains to reunion groups. We stress their importance, yet never tell the pilgrims how to find one. Not only are pilgrims missing out on the opportunity of fellowship and support but a reunion group may be missing potential contributors to the body.

In the near future Emmaus of the Midlands would like to make available to community members a source for sharing this information. If you are a member of a reunion or accountability group, please help us collect this data by providing the group’s name, meeting location, contact information (name, phone number, etc), and sponsoring church. As an example I am a member of:

Name of Group	Sponsor	Location	Contact Information
The Basin & Towel Reunion Group	St. John’s UMC	Batesburg, SC	Charles Adams (803)622-0597

This information will also be a valuable resource for those who may not be near a current group may want to start a new group.

Please contact me by phone, or at charlesma@sc.rr.com **Is The Church Growing?**

MESSENGER

Is The Church Growing?

Churches like to talk about church growth, new members and more children with great excitement and hope for the future! These are wonderful goals but this requires people outside of the church to respond to what is already going on in the church. We are looking for signs of hope and a future. "We want things to be different;" we hear and say.

These observations and others have brought me to some conclusions. First, while it is a wonderful goal to make disciples (Matthew 28:16-20) and have more children in the church (Matthew 19:14); this usually does not happen unless the adults and leadership are actively growing in their relationship with God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We have settled (I believe) for existing, stagnant or even just "a once upon a time faith." (My Disclaimer: This may not be true for you personally, but it is true for too many in the Body of Christ.) Our relationship with God through Jesus is the anchor of our faith, it holds us in the midst of the storms that come in our faith journey. It keeps us from being tossed to and fro in the midst of the storms. (Ephesians 4:14) We as Christians should be striving to grow in grace. We should be learning daily at the feet of Jesus as we read the Word of God and then live it out.

Another observation I have made is that growing churches plan and then execute what has been laid out. Talking is only a starting point but talking alone will only lead to frustrated people. If we make no plans and decisions, we are actually planning to fail. Planning and execution of a plan requires clergy and laity not having just a few meetings, and we are done. Rather we need to lead a continuing lifestyle that places Jesus Christ at the center which then calls others who see His light shining through us.

My final observation is that before a church or Body of Christ will grow it must decide to place Jesus and others as priorities. Ask yourselves, "How much time have you spent with God today? Have you read the Bible? Have you asked God what He wants you to do?"

It is not enough to know the Word of God. We are called to live it out . **If the Bible is going to be The Living Word, it will be in the Followers of Jesus!** Our prayer life, devotional time, fellowship, outreach, and just loving others should be natural in the life of Christians.

Do we want to be a Growing Church? ABSOLUTELY!!! Usually God has us planting or watering; and in time, God provides the growth. Paul writes: "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow." WE plant (plan) and water (execute) and God grows His Kingdom one person at a time.

EOM Spiritual Director

Pastor J. Wayne Smith Jr