



# Messenger

Volume 15, Issue 2

February 2015

## Coming Events

February 27 Gathering  
Red Bank UMC  
Lexington, SC ([map](#))  
Meal @ 7, Worship @ 8

March 9 Board Meeting  
Windsor UMC @ 7  
Columbia, SC

March 27 Gathering  
Trinity UMC  
Sumter, SC  
Meal @ 7, Worship @ 8

April 13 Board Meeting  
Windsor UMC  
Columbia, SC

April 24 Gathering  
Mt Horeb UMC  
Lexington, SC  
Meal @ 7, Worship @ 8

May 11 Board Meeting  
Windsor UMC  
Columbia, SC

May—No Gathering-Walks

## From Your Chairman

I would like to make everyone aware of a new endeavor your Emmaus of the Midlands Community is supporting in order to reach out to Christians who may not know about Emmaus. We are having a booth built that we can use at different events such as UMM Men's Retreat and Annual South Carolina United Methodist Conference.

This booth will be set up in an area with other ministry organizations and will be staffed by Emmaus Community members during the breaks and other times between the talks and workshops. The booth will have the traditional Emmaus Logo on the banner. We will have Walk to Emmaus pamphlets to pass out to those interested. For those that are interested, we will get their information and a contact name so that we may make arrangements to give a presentation in their church.

Also, we will be reaching out to the other Emmaus Communities in the State to invite them to participate with us in this booth.

Please remember that Emmaus is open to all Christian denominations and even though the first two events are affiliated with the United Methodist Church we would welcome the use of this booth by other community members for other events that will promote Emmaus of the Midlands.

This booth may not be ready in time for the UMM Men's Retreat this weekend and if not we will still have a table set up for distribution of our materials. To everyone from our Community who may be going to the Men's Retreat in Myrtle Beach this weekend, please come by and say Hello. And by all means, if you have someone with you who has been thinking about going on the Walk, please bring them by.

You know the saying that if you are not growing, you are dying, and we certainly want to keep our Emmaus of the Midlands Community growing. Hopefully, this booth is a new tool that will keep our Community growing.

Hope to see all of you Friday night, February 27<sup>th</sup> at Red Bank UMC in Lexington.

God Bless,

Leonard May

# Messenger

February Gathering @ 7

Red Bank UMC

2909 Old Barnwell Rd

Lexington, SC

[Link to map](#)

From I-20 West of Lexington: Take exit 55A for SC-6 toward Pelion. Merge onto SC-6 East/S Lake Dr for approximately 1.7 mi. Turn left onto Tradd St and then right onto Old Barnwell Rd. Destination will be on the left.

From Aiken: Take exit 55B for SC-6 toward Pelion and follow directions above.

## Meet Your Board Member

Ron F. Mankin, Luggage Coordinator

Emmaus of the Midlands Walk #41

Table of Luke

Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church, Lexington, SC

Growing up in the country in Southern California was a real treat. No traffic and you didn't have to lock your doors when you went to town. Boy, how things have changed. I lived there until I joined the United States Air Force and then began to move around quite a lot. Spent three years in England and during that time was asked to take a short discharge and re-enlist so that I would have a full three years left when I got back to the States. My last three years were spent in Washington, DC and I was honored to be selected as a member of the USAF Presidential Honor Guard. I wouldn't trade a minute of it, as the tour there was life-changing.

This is my first term on the Board of Directors and I am responsible for coordinating all the luggage at both Walks. With a team of great Emmaus Brothers, we haven't lost anything, as of yet! I have also served on the Emmaus Team as a Table Leader during Walk #43. I mentioned earlier of a life-changing time. The biggest life-changing time in life happened 15 years ago when I was baptized and accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I thought everything was under control until I accepted an invitation to experience the Emmaus of the Midlands Walk #41. This Walk turned into a run towards my Lord Jesus Christ and the best understanding of what it means to be a follower of Him. My Fourth Day has been exceptional by being elected to the Board and being a servant to all those who experience the Walk of their life. My goal is to continue to be blessed by serving out my days as a servant of our Lord Jesus and the Midlands Walk to Emmaus. DeColores

The following page has the Fourth Day talk given by Ray Mills at last month's gathering. We decided to ask each of the speakers at the gatherings to allow us to print their talks so everyone could read them. These talks are very interesting and tell the story of Emmaus and how it effects the lives of so many. Hopefully this will become a monthly addition to the newsletter.

# Messenger

Good Evening, my name is Ray Mills, I worship here at Dalzell United Methodist Church. I went on the Emmaus of the Midlands Walk #16 and sat at the table of John.

Giving this Fourth Day talk is WAY out of my comfort zone, but when Pastor Wanda asks one of us to do something, she has a way of making it hard to say NO.

I am retired from the Sumter Fire Department and have been married to Betty Jo for 44 years. She deserves some kind of medal. For many years I would attend church with Betty Jo on Christmas, Easter and once in a while on Sundays, unless I was working; or it was hunting season; or the fish were biting.

I always knew of God and Jesus, but I did not KNOW Jesus. Betty Jo wanted me to go on the Walk to Emmaus, but there was no way I was going. It was always during fishing or hunting season..... Betty Jo went on her walk and left me alone.

One Sunday during worship (The fish must not have been biting), Sterne Bolte was our Pastor, and his message that day seemed to be just for me. There was an Emmaus gathering, just like this one, the following week. Betty Jo and Sterne convinced me to go with them to that gathering.

The Fourth day talk at the gathering spoke again seemed to be directed just toward me. After the gathering I told Sterne that I wanted to accept Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior. Sterne Baptized me the following Sunday, and my life has not been the same since then.

There was an Emmaus Walk in about two weeks and I was able to attend. Let me tell you that Thursday night of the walk, I would have left if I would have had my truck. But by Sunday I was ready to stay longer.

Don't get me wrong, Betty Jo will tell you the Old Ray shows himself sometimes. But my life has changed so much since I accepted Christ and went on my Walk.

Through Emmaus, I met Rev. Tony Rowell, and God has allowed me to go on UMVIM mission trips to Monserett, Russia where our team stayed at an orphanage in Moscow. There we repaired a gym and spent time with the children. We went to South Africa with Rev. Mike Henderson and with Rev. Tony to Panama, Bolivia, and Colombia where after 5 trips we finished work on The Church on the Mountain, outside of Cali.

Besides hunting and fishing, my other favorite hobby is cooking. God has been able to use that talent (gift) a great deal right here close to home as I help feed Salkehatchie workers and other groups who come to Sumter on mission trips. I am active in the United Methodist Men and volunteer two mornings a week at Dorcas Closet, which gives free clothing to those in need.

I hope my health (and Betty Jo) will allow me to be able to go on many more mission trips. As Rev. Rowell once told me, "if you are alive, God can use you." Just say yes and follow where God leads you.

De Colores

**EMMAUS OF THE MIDLANDS**

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If you received a printed copy of this newsletter and have access to a computer, please consider reading our monthly newsletter online and help reduce the cost of printing and mailing. If you are willing to help in this way please send an email to Billy McCoy at : [bmccoy@ftc-i.net](mailto:bmccoy@ftc-i.net)

[www.midlandsemmaus.com](http://www.midlandsemmaus.com)

### **We want to hear from you!**

As you recall, at the end of your walk, you answered two questions (after the really hard questions of name, where you are from, what church you attend and the walk you attended).

1. What have these three days meant to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?

Sharing God's blessings is one of the calls we have as Christians. We need to share God's goodness in order to encourage, bless and lift each other up. The Emmaus Community is all about serving God in order to help others experience God's love. We would love to hear how you have changed, been blessed, were able to share God's love since your Walk. In other words, tell us about your 4<sup>th</sup> days. Help encourage your community and in doing so, you will likely be following the promises you made at the end of your weekend.

If you would like to share your story, write it (less than 500 words), send it to [lucieinsc@bellsouth.net](mailto:lucieinsc@bellsouth.net). Make sure you have added your name, church, where you live and walk number. We will publish as space allows. We are a community of believers from all over South Carolina and the world. Use this community to grow so you can learn to sow his love to our unchurched neighbors. See you at the Gatherings.