



Messenger

Volume 15, Issue 3

March 2015

Coming Events

March 27 Gathering
Trinity UMC [map](#)
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

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From Your Chairman

We have several things to talk about today so let's get started!

At our Board Meeting last Monday night your Board of Directors voted to make a couple of changes involving our Spring Walks. The first was to change the starting time for the Community Candlelight service from 8:00 to 7:30. Hopefully this will help everyone get back home a little earlier Saturday night plus help shorten the pilgrim's long day a little. Also, we voted to try a change of songs for the pilgrims walk from opening ceremonies to the conference room. We are going to try "This is the Day" in place of "DeColores".

Let me emphasize again that these changes are only a trial and we will be counting on your input to decide whether they become permanent or not.

Also, our booth to be used at the SC Annual United Methodist Conference is almost complete and our plans are to display this booth at one of our upcoming Gatherings. If you would be interested in volunteering to spend some time manning this booth during this three day period, please contact Charles Adams.

The Spring Walks are getting close and Patty and Charles have been working countless to put their teams together. Now it is our turn as a community to start praying for these Walks and filling them with pilgrims. To my knowledge, this is the latest we have ever held the Spring Walks (Men's may 21-24th & Women's May 28-31st) but as we have mentioned before we had to change the dates. Originally, the Women's Walk would have been Palm Sunday weekend. Instead of looking at this as negative, let us look at it as a positive and that since the Men's Walk is Memorial Day weekend most of the pilgrims will have Monday off to recover.

Please remember our Gathering coming up Friday, March 27th at Trinity UMC in Sumter. This is the first time they have hosted a Gathering so let's all come and show our appreciation. We are especially looking forward to seeing all our members from the Sumter area. I was so proud of the turnout we had at Dalzell UMC in January. Let's do it again. Hope to see you there.

God Bless,

[Leonard May](#)

Messenger

DeColores!

My name is Steve Scoma and I sat at the Table of Peter on Emmaus Walk #3 and later had the privilege of being the Lay Director on Walk #27. Three years ago I became involved with a sister ministry of Emmaus known as Kairos.

Kairos is an ecumenical, worldwide ministry that brings the love of God and the light of Christ into prisons all across the US. Each Kairos weekend will assemble an army of volunteers to become the hands and feet of Christ to 42 local inmates in the Broad River Correctional Institution (BRCI) who come seeking a new way of life.

Like Emmaus, Kairos is a ministry run by laity and guided by our Lord Jesus Christ. He has used this movement to bring knowledge of His saving grace to tens of thousands of lost men and women who have been incarcerated. Since its beginnings in Florida in 1975, there are now more than 400 active Kairos programs across the US and 7 other countries. Our parent organization, Kairos International, no longer tries to keep track of all the incarcerated men, women, and teenage offenders that have attended a Kairos weekend. The current rate of introduction to the Christian community through Kairos now exceeds 20,000 per year. Kairos is active in 12 prisons in SC and 13 prisons in NC.

Kairos is designed to operate in maximum-security, long-term state and federal penitentiaries. The goal of Kairos is to establish a Christian community to bring hope to these most desperate and hopeless environments. This body of believers lives inside those walls and depends totally on Jesus to survive. They learn to support each other in the love of God, and to see Christ in each other. They do not depend on Kairos volunteers (although we meet with them monthly to encourage them), but have their own Bible studies and weekly "prayer and share" small groups.

It is not a goal of Kairos to hasten parole. We only hope to see the Spirit set these men and women free within their souls. However, statistics kept by the South Carolina Department of Corrections have shown a recidivism (return to prison) rate for parolees who have completed a four-day Kairos weekend of less than half that of others.

For so many inmates, a Kairos weekend is their first exposure to the love of Christ. The Weekend Team of about 60 Christians formed from a wide variety of denominations begin the weekend with 42 residents who are leaders of diverse groups that form inside the prison for protection. The selected residents are not from the "Christians in Action" service league, but are leaders of drug gangs, race gangs and hustlers.

The word "Kairos" is Greek for a specific moment in time. Chronos is Greek for a period of time like "we had a nice time." We pray that Christ will reveal Himself to each of these hardened criminals in His Kairos time as we tell them about love, forgiveness and truth.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Prayer...Our greatest need. We need your prayers for the success of the mission and specifically for the residents for the Weekend, for Warden Robert Stevenson, for Chaplain Rev. Mike Brown and for me, the weekend leader.

Serve on a Team (only men can go inside of BRCI). If you are over the age of 18 yrs. old and interested in serving with me on Kairos Weekend #38 (October 22-25), contact me for more information. I need to have my team formed by July and would love to have some from the EOM community join me.

Bake cookies. Homemade cookies, filled with prayer and love, become tangible examples of the love of God poured out by His family. At BRCI, 8,000 dozen cookies are needed for a Kairos weekend!! At the end of each day, Kairos team members distribute a bag of homemade cookies containing a verse of scripture to each person at BRCI (inmates, guards, staff and administrators).

Attend the Closing. Come to the Closing Ceremony held in the chapel inside of BRCI on the afternoon of **Sunday, October 25**, and be a witness to the glorious work of the Holy Spirit. You must submit an application in advance and be approved to attend the Closing. Let me know if you're interested in attending and I will send you everything you'll need to know about how this process works.

Thanks.

Steve Scoma
(803) 240-8797 ScoDad@juno.com



Messenger

February Fourth Day Talk

My name is Cindy Harmon. I live in Lexington and attend Red Bank UMC. I went of Emmaus of the Midlands Walk #30 and sat at the table of Miriam.

I grew up going to church and have always loved the Lord. I was baptized as a child and then again as an adult. I was baptized on September 9th. Just weeks after my baptism, one of my answered prayers happened on October 1st. I met my husband, Jay. That night, I said "Thank you Jesus" right after meeting him because I knew he was the one. Jay just didn't know it yet.

The day before, I was never going to get married! One year and three days later, we were married. We have been happily married twenty-three years and have two beautiful daughters, age 22 and 19. They are two more answered prayers. I truly believe if you seek your happiness in the Lord, he will give you your heart's desire. That's what happened to me.

When our children were very young, we only attended church sometimes. We began bringing our children to Red Bank on Wednesday nights for Sonshine Kids. We wanted them to learn about the Lord. We were just very selfish for not attending church. Then one day my daughter asked us why we didn't go to church on Sunday when all her friends' parents did. So this made me visit. The next Sunday, we were ALL here. The sermon that day was "You Need to Come Back Home Because He Is Waiting for You!" Jay and I were both in tears. After that, this became our church.

In 2001, my daughter Jamie, who was eight years old at the time, had kidney failure. The medical options were not good...medications for life or a kidney transplant. We were so scared. After placing her on my church's prayer chain, the kidney failure disappeared. Yes, it disappeared! Her doctor called and told me that he didn't understand because she no longer had kidney failure. He had never seen anything like this. I was able to tell him that I did understand. Prayers were answered.

Not long after that, in 2002, Jay had a staph infection and it almost killed him. After having emergency surgery, he was slowly healed. Again prayers were answered.

A few years later, I went to Emmaus. Rev. Tommy Wilkes and his wife Meg came to our home unexpected on a Saturday morning. We thought something was wrong, but all was good. They came in and began talking to us about Emmaus. I thought they only wanted Jay to go. After all, I was in a disciple class and was very involved in church. However, they told me that I was going too. I was very hesitant. I didn't think I needed Emmaus. What is Emmaus anyway? No one would tell me. They would just smile like I have never seen before.

You had to Come and See...You can't explain the Emmaus Walk. You have to experience it!

That is why no one can talk about it. They only get excited that you are going. One lady twirled round and round in circles when we told her we were going.

Jay went to Emmaus two weeks before me. He returned home and could hardly talk, for days. He glowed and wouldn't tell me anything. He was touched by the Holy Spirit. I have never seen him so peaceful. When Rev. Tommy and Meg picked me up for the Emmaus Walk, I didn't know where I was going or what to expect. My daughter, Krista was standing on the front porch crying because I was leaving. I was nervous and not happy at all leaving my family. I had never been away from my family for this long, and I definitely didn't want to go walking with a flashlight. I did enjoy the wonderful dinner, and being surprised with some of my church family there.

Messenger

After arriving at Emmaus, my first joy came when everyone was singing DeColores with candle lights everywhere as we walked to begin our journey. I was in awe. Being with the group for the first time, we were asked to choose a new best friend. I chose my new best friend because she was standing against the wall crying. She looked like I felt. She has left her baby for the first time.

Then the excitement began...

On my first morning, which was the silent morning (remember-no talking) I rushed to the shower not knowing how much time to expect for anything. I turned on the water and jumped in, but something went terribly wrong. I got scalded with hot water. So much for silence! I screamed and went running out of the shower. My new nickname became "Naked Shower Lady." On my walk we were in a much older facility, so everyone rushed to the showers because some had to wait on others with the unknown time frame. After that, everything got better and better. Little did I know that Emmaus would change my life forever bringing me so much closer to my Lord Jesus Christ? I had never known how much God loves me and about all His amazing grace.

Candlelight to me was like seeing a glimpse of heaven. Thinking about always warms my heart and gives me joy and still reminds me of my emotions that night. I felt like I was completely emptied out and filled back up with God's peace. I was in God's presence for seventy-two hours, wrapped in His love and grace surrounded by His people. It was amazing. My Fourth Day is to never forget how the awesome Holy Spirit fills my heart with joy.

However, the past couple of years, I've had difficult times. I was unemployed nine months, and Jay was unemployed seven months. Notice I said "Was." Halleluia! It was tough. We were so sad and scared. There were times when I felt I was losing my hope and faith. I had difficulty praying and began praying less and less. I was so discouraged, but Jesus tells us in Romans 5, I love you in your darkest. Now I know I should have focused on what was left instead of what was lost. I should have given it to the Lord instead of trying to handle it myself.

My church family always showed us love and was there for us and kept us strong. We were going through tough times, not stuck in them. Waiting was part of the plan of what God wanted us to be. God knows what He is doing. If I had not lost my job, I would never have been given the career opportunity I have now. Jay is also employed and loves his work. We have been blessed.

I am so thankful for God's blessings and His grace. Life isn't always beautiful, but God's promises are. My god who made all creation and holds a billion stars is always with me through everything. When I was asked to be a Fourth Day speaker I felt God has chosen the least of these. I remember that I Need to Come Back Home Because He Is Waiting for Me.

God's love keeps us together!

DeColores

Messenger

Kitchen Training

If you were not able to be at the gathering in Feb. at Red Bank UMC you were truly missed. We announced that night that we will be having Kitchen Training at the gathering in April, which is going to be held at Mt Horeb UMC in Lexington. The training will start at 6:30, ½ hour before the gathering. If you went to the first training that was held at the campground you do not need to come to this one unless you want a refresher. The books will be available at the gathering in March and will be five dollars each. We would appreciate it, if you are coming to the training to get a book and review it prior to that night. We look forward to seeing each of you and to all the wonderful help we will have! Remember if you do not have a desire to cook we can still use your help in the serving area. After experiencing the new kitchen on the last set of walks it became very clear to us that we need more people to help in that area than in the past. So please consider coming and helping us out.

DeColores,
[Delores Fish](#) , Kitchen Coordinator

Labyrinth Walk

I thought the labyrinth walk may be of interest to some of the Emmaus folks. It is a spiritual practice that dates back to the early pilgrimages. For me it is a very special way to connect with God. We are having the labyrinth open this Friday, March 13 and again during Holy Week for walking and praying. It is a great spiritual tool as we examine ourselves during Lent. We did a video and posted on you-tube: <http://youtu.be/XUVf-GyNSxU> if you want to learn more. Labyrinth Walk March 30—April 2: Labyrinth available for walking and praying, 9 am-4:30 pm Wednesday, April 1—evening walk time: The Labyrinth is available 9 am—7:30 pm Special family walk time for children and their families: 6:30--7:30 pm Watch our video about the Labyrinth at LUMC here: <http://youtu.be/XUVf-GyNSxU>
 You can put me down as the contact person if anyone has any questions.

Lynn Silvey
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 803-609-2750 (cell)
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Labyrinth Walk
 Lexington United Methodist Church
 309 East Main Street, Lexington, SC 29072

*Friday – March 13 Open from 10am until 4:30pm

*Holy Week -Monday, March 30 thru Friday, April 3

Monday thru Friday 9a-4:30pm. On Wednesday evening the labyrinth will be open until 7:30pm for families and children to walk.

EMMAUS OF THE MIDLANDS

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Columbia, SC 29224-5165



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

www.midlandsemmaus.com

March 27 Gathering
Trinity UMC
226 W Liberty St
Sumter, SC [map](#)

Directions from West Columbia, Lexington, Aiken and Newberry:

Follow I-20 E to exit 98/Sumter-Camden. Follow US-521 S/Sumter Hwy 23 mi. Slight left onto Broad St 2.9 mi. Broad will become Washington St for 0.4 mi. Turn right and destination on left.

Columbia and East:

Follow US-76/378 E toward Sumter approximately 30 mi. US-76/378 will become Broad St. Follow the directions above.