



# Messenger

Volume 15, Issue 9

September 2015

## Coming Events

September 25 Gathering  
Lexington UMC, Lexington  
Meal @ 7, Worship @ 8

October 12 Board Meeting  
Windsor UMC, Columbia

October 15-18  
No Men's Walk  
No Gathering

October 22-25  
Women's Walk  
No Gathering

## Chairman's Report.

From the very moment I dropped off my luggage on Men's Walk # 30 I have been dedicated to the purpose and community of Emmaus of the Midlands. Since that day I have served on numerous Walks with many of you. We have served and prayed together, all to the honor and glory of our God. It is in that spirit that I have accepted this position because I know that we have a strong and spirit-filled board at the helm. In addition, I also have seen the spirit of God that indwells this Community. Sure, we have issues and concerns but through the power of the Holy Spirit we are '**more than conquerors.**' I look forward to your support and encouragement as we continue our personal Walks to Emmaus. May the risen Christ join us and walk with us and set our hearts on fire. We have no time to rest, as Christ told his disciples, "**Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for the harvest.**" (John 4:35.)

As I continue on this journey, I must confess that I do have a serious concern. My concern is for the Men's Walk in October. For a while we have had a challenging time getting men for the Walks. The last Walk had only 13 men. One of the strengths of Emmaus is in the bonding of Pilgrims at their individual tables. I served as Lay Director on that Walk and I can say that the team was outstanding in fostering the Emmaus ideals. However, I think we can all agree that we need to have more men on the Walks. With only four Pilgrims, the Board of Directors had no choice but to delay Men's Walk # 46 until April 2016.

It is difficult to understand how we got into this situation. My fear is that we are buying into several untruths. The first is that there are no men in the fields who would benefit from an Emmaus experience. To accept that as the truth would be to accept the belief that there are no men who have strayed from their commitment to God. We would have to accept that there are no men whose fire for Christ has been doused by life's circumstances. Do we really believe that there are no men who are searching for other men in whom they can share the love of Christ? Maybe we believe the men are out there but that we cannot find them or we are just not able to convince them to come to a weekend. In the true spirit of Emmaus, I believe that God wants us to be his hands and feet and find them. He never asks us to force Him on anyone. He simply wants us to ask. He is more than capable of doing the rest. If we accept the untruths then we are accepting lies straight from the pits of hell. I am convinced the enemy is behind such thoughts. However, I remember Paul's encouragement in his letter to the Philippine Christians that '**We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.**'(4:13) To deny this truth is to deny the power of the Holy Spirit. Remember that Christ did not leave us as orphans. He sent the Holy

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Spirit to empower us. We have the power of the Holy Spirit, we simply need to open our eyes and look. The fields have never been more ripe for the harvest.

Therefore, I challenge each Emmaus member to go into the fields, armed with the power of the Holy Spirit, and seek out men and women, but especially men to go on the Walk. You will probably not have to look any further than your own sphere of influence i.e. your family, your job, and your friends. Recently, through circumstances any of us would have called as common but truthfully moved by the Holy Spirit, a young man came back into my life after several years. He told me of his desire return to the church community. When I told him about the Walk he expressed that Emmaus could be the catalyst for which he'd been searching. **“Honor Christ and let him be the Lord of your life. Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope.”(I Peter 3:15)**

I have every confidence that the Spirit of God is more than able to show us the way. Count on Christ to empower you with the Holy Spirit. Remember, Christ is counting on you!

## DE COLORES!

Charles M. Adams  
Community Lay Director

Hello! My name is Dorothy Longshore. I went on Emmaus of the Midlands Walk #33 and sat at the table of Mary. I live in Prosperity and worship at Macedonia Lutheran Church.

Thank you so very much for electing me to the Board of Directors. My board responsibility is table agape.

Do you like to make small treats or surprises to show God's love to others?

Do you enjoy sorting mail? Placing surprises in unexpected places...like the dining hall...the bunk houses?

Do you get excited just expressing God's love to others? Then I have the place for you to serve! Come join me at the lake house....anytime...Friday morning through Sunday morning of a walk weekend! Looking forward to seeing you at the lake house!!!

September Gathering  
309 E Main St  
Lexington UMC  
Lexington, SC [map](#)  
Gathering @ 7 Meal @ 8

There will be a Serve Safe Food Handling Class at 6:15pm. Cherie Bower's email was incorrect in our last update. Please email Cherie Bowers at ([cche5520@windstream.net](mailto:cche5520@windstream.net)) if you plan to attend so materials for the correct number of books are available.

Child care is available. Please contact Lynn Silvey ([milsilvey@windstream.net](mailto:milsilvey@windstream.net)) and let her know the number of children and their ages.

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Cherie and I are honored tonight to present two communion chalices in memory of our very dear friend Alfred Huggins. When Alfred's wife Betty was the lay director, Alfred showed up to help us in the kitchen. We had so much fun with him and his delightful wit. He worked hard that weekend in the kitchen and shared with us how much Emmaus meant in his life. For Cherie and I this time we shared with him began a special friendship and love for Alfred.

These two chalices match our communion set we use for Gatherings and the one we use for camp. This matching chalice will be used with our gluten free wafers.

To Betty and her family we say thanks for bringing Alfred into our lives. All of you are very special to us and we love you.

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