



# Messenger

Volume 15, Issue 11

November 2015

## Coming Events

November No Gathering

December Gathering  
December 12 Saturday  
Wightman UMC

Board Meeting  
January 11 @ 7pm  
Windsor UMC

January Gathering  
Dalzell UMC  
Dalzell SC  
Meal @ 7 Worship @ 8

Board Meeting  
February 8 @ 7pm  
Windsor UMC

February Gathering  
First Christian Church  
Columbia, SC  
Meal @ 7 Worship @ 8

Board Meeting  
March 14 @ 7pm  
Windsor UMC

Hello Emmaus Family,

### Another opportunity to express our thankfulness to an wonderful God!!

For Christians, cultivating a spirit of thankfulness is more than a good idea; it's a direct command from God. In the Old Testament, God laid down specific guidelines for the Israelites to bring thank offerings. In the New Testament, believers are instructed to be thankful in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18\*). When we're struggling with trials and difficulties, this sounds like a strange command, especially since we live in a culture that encourages us to act on the basis of how we feel. But God knows that when we focus on our blessings, it's easier to keep our problems and concerns in the right perspective. Cultivating a spirit of thankfulness honors God and strengthens our faith. It also strengthens our relationships with other people. We can't be in a right relationship with God or with anyone without a spirit of thankfulness. No matter what problems we're struggling with, we should always be thankful. Psalm 107:1 O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endures forever. May your Thanksgiving celebration be a glorious tribute to our Lord for all He has done in our lives.

I stand amazed every time the Emmaus Walks are in progress. From the send-off to the candlelight and then the closing. Lives are forever being transformed. "*Did not your hearts burn within you on the road to Emmaus,*" my prayer is that you continue to be on fire and forever be changed. Over the last several months we've talked about two groups of people to think about inviting on the walk. First, we talked about your pastor and other church staff. Remember, it is more difficult for clergy and church staff to take time off during the walk. As a sponsor you may need to help them ensure that Sunday services are covered and the congregation understands that this is an important weekend for them. Also, as with all pilgrims, we should approach clergy and church staff as deserving this 72 hour time with Jesus Christ. When we say someone needs to attend a walk, it can come across, unintentionally, as a criticism. The second group of people is those who you know but may not be members of your church. I think several people have taken this to heart. I've heard folks say that they have asked co-workers, barbers, and UPS drivers so far. Maybe these examples can inspire us to go beyond our normal range of vision and expand our view to folks who very much deserve this awesome weekend but just are not part of your church.

However, let keep in mind the overarching purpose of The Walk: "it is an experience of **Christian** spiritual renewal and formation." The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with the prayerful discernment and invitation from a sponsor. After the acceptance of the invitation and completion of an application. The Emmaus leader prayerfully consider each applicant. However, if the application is incomplete and not fully representative of the applicant's status it could lead to embarrassing results. Can a non-Christian benefit from the Emmaus experience? Certainly. But we have to remember the goal of Emmaus: "The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip the **local church members** for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work. Emmaus lifts up a way for our grace-filled lives to be lived and shared with others. My appreciation goes out to all of you who earnestly desire for all to come to a better relationship with our Lord. I'm pretty certain that we have not yet reached every deserving person in the Midlands area – wouldn't it be great to have a waiting list?

God provides for us in unexpected ways.

Prayer Dear God, thank you for your amazing love and for your promise to hear our prayers. Amen.

Singing His praises,  
Charles

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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)

**First Christian Church will have a Nativity Festival on Friday, December 4 from 3-7 pm; Saturday December 5 from 11 am—5 pm; and Sunday December 6 from 10 am—12:30 pm in-Bennett Hall.**

**Also, First Christian will have a weekday Service of Prayer and Meditation at noon on Wednesdays December 2-23 in the sanctuary. There will be a maximum of 15-20 minutes to allow those on their lunch hour to participate.**

### **December Gathering**

**Please take note that the Gathering is on a Saturday night and begins at 6 pm with the dinner. This day and time is different from our normal ones. We look forward to seeing everyone at Wightman in Prosperity on the 12th.**

[map](#)