

Messenger

Volume 16
Issue 2



Coming Events

February 26 Gathering
First Christian Church
Columbia
Meal @ 7 Worship @ 8

Board Meeting
March 14 @ 7pm
Windsor UMC

March 18 Gathering
Dalzell UMC

Dalzell
Meal @7 Worship @ 8

Board Meeting
April 11 @ 7pm
Windsor UMC

April No Gathering Walks
Men's 7-10
Women's 14-17

Board Meeting
May 9 @ 7pm
Windsor UMC

A Message From Our Community Lay Leader

Sit a moment and reflect on the question. The question is not; Are you happy? Are you ok? Are you well? Are you stress free? It's, "Is it well with your soul?" Are you at peace with God? Are you at peace with yourself, or with your family, coworkers or neighbors?

If not, what do you need to change in your life? If you look at your key ring, do you own all that is represented there or does it own you? Questions like this bring me back to the first talk on the Emmaus weekend, Priorities. How are you doing with your checkbook? What does your calendar look like? When are you taking time to listen to God? And just BE with God? Are you able to stop or slow down all the DOING? Are you able to just BE you? Do you like being alone with you?

At this time of the year, it is a good time to ask yourself a few questions in the quiet of your prayer closet. In Mathew 21: 37-40, Jesus is asked what the greatest commandment is in the Law. He states: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all you mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Laws and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

If we work on nothing else this year, this would be a good place to rest, study and pray. I know I'm asking a lot of questions, but we must slow down enough to not only ask them, but to truly answer them. Sometimes I gloss over them because I might not want to hear the answer. Sometimes I want to be satisfied with my answer, and not God's answer. Am I REALLY loving Him with ALL my heart, with all my soul and with all of my mind? If I was, what would be different in my life? Each of us must answer it for ourselves. So my prayer for you, all of you, is to take time. Sit with your Lord and Savior. Love Him. Truly Love HIM. And then ask yourself, "Is it well with my soul?"

In the love of Christ.

Charles

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SPONSORING IS A PRIVILEGE!! by Carolyn McLean, Registrar

As I was adding the names of new pilgrims to the database this morning, I was reflecting on my own Walk to Emmaus. That occurred in September, 1991, at Foothills Emmaus Walk #3. I simply cannot believe it has been 24+ years since I had that extraordinary experience—one that changed my life forever. I was told then that I did not have to thank my sponsor, but, of course, I did. And since then I have continued to thank Rev. Dan Entwistle of First Christian Church, Columbia, who was my pastor for eight years, many times over by “paying it forward.” That is, I began to look around me and prayed that God would lay on my heart anybody I knew who would benefit from an encounter with God, face-to-face, in a loving atmosphere filled with God’s grace and people who wouldn’t quit hugging and showing God’s love in so many ways. God answered those prayers for me and as of today, I have sponsored more than 50 pilgrims. Not only were their lives changed, but I continued to receive more blessings than I could possibly imagine!

My plea to you today is simple—pray that God will lay on your heart those who would benefit from this most amazing journey – The Walk to Emmaus. Pray, then reflect quietly, and God **will** answer. And then it is up to you to act on those prayers. Present the Emmaus experience as God leads and He will prepare the hearts of those you invite.

I will pray also that each of you will “pay it forward!”

PILGRIMS UPDATES

The spring walks are not far off—April 7-10 for the men and April 14-17 for the women. At this time we have 8 men approved and 3 women approved. I have promises that more are on-the-way and we will keep you updated. Team Training is around the corner and we must have enough applications to go forward. I am believing that these walks will go on as scheduled. Will you help by sending in your applications and sponsors form as soon as possible? God bless you and your prospective pilgrims!!

NURSERY TO BE PROVIDED FOR FEBRUARY GATHERING

Please note that a nursery will be provided for the February 26 gathering at First Christian Church in Columbia. Please call Carolyn McLean at 803-414-6216 if you are planning to bring children under 6.

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While most church related functions take a "V'ah' come!" approach to participation, Emmaus relies on a method which is more consistent with the message of the Walk...Sponsorship. The personal character of sponsorship underlines the personal care and commitment of God to each Pilgrim. The fact that the Emmaus experience is passed on from person to person reflects the relational nature of God and the manner in which God reaches out to people through other people. Sponsorship is integral to some of the unique features and strengths of the Emmaus experience...a discerning approach to recruitment, personal agape and prayer for the pilgrims, sponsor's presence at Candle lighting, and Closings, and throughout the Fourth Day.

Emmaus Pilgrims want to share the gift of those three days they experienced with others. God's gift of grace continues to be passed on through the Emmaus Movement weekend after weekend. Sponsors help make Emmaus an act of "sacrificial love" from beginning to end...something more than the usual retreat or religious educational function. When sponsorship is taken for granted it is assumed everyone knows the how and why of Sponsorship. Again it is the most important job in any Emmaus community. It is far more than simply "signing people up." The importance of our community being educated on the importance of good and responsible sponsorship cannot be over emphasized. The quality of sponsorship influences the Pilgrim, the health of the Emmaus Movement, and the local churches. Good sponsorship is the foundation for a healthy, effective Emmaus Movement that is fulfilling its true purpose...the development of Christian leaders and the renewal of the church in ministry.

Sponsorship is like being a godparent. The responsibility of a Godparent isn't just to stand in with a person, but to see them grow in the spiritual life, to offer guidance throughout their entire life. Sponsorship is an act of love for God, for the pilgrim, for the Emmaus Community, and for the Church. It is an outward and demonstrative act of pure Agape love. It is an instrument of prevenient grace. It is far more than writing a letter and providing transportation.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

(Philippians 4:8)

,PO Box 25165

Columbia, SC 29224-5165



www.midlandsemmaus.com

An Important Message From The Newsletter Editor

Last week my computer crashed and I lost all of my Emmaus data. I did not have a backup for the mailing list. We had approximately ninety names on the list. We will have to rebuild the list. If you know anyone who received the newsletter through the mail please forward their names and addresses to me at: bmccoy@ftc-i.net. We will make this announcement at all Emmaus functions until we have the list rebuilt.

February 26 Gathering

First Christian Church

2062 N Beltline Blvd

[map](#)

[Columbia, SC](#)

Nursery Provided—please see note on page 2