

# Messenger

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## Coming Events

### Events

August 25 Gathering

Dalzell UMC

Meal @ 7 Worship @ 8

Sept 11 Board Meeting

Lexington UMC

September 22 Gathering

Lexington UMC

Meal @ 7 Worship @ 8

October Walks

Men 16-19

Women 23-26

Nov. 13 Board Meeting

Lexington UMC

Dec. 6 Gathering

Wightman UMC

## Why Serve on An Emmaus Team?

by Bobby Bowers - Lay Director

If someone asked you why you go to serve on an Emmaus Walk weekend at the camp what would your answer be? What inspires Emmaus members to come back and serve as a volunteer on Walk weekends? Cherie and I thought about this and came to the conclusion that our answer would be that we felt so blessed by the experience of serving on the Walk. We have served in the conference room which we enjoyed, but most of the time you will find us behind the scenes in the kitchen preparing meals for the pilgrims.

Our first reason to volunteer and the most important one is to glorify God. Peter 4:10 says, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others". When we return to camp and serve others it always seems to strengthen our relationship with the Lord. In the kitchen, we see so many of our Emmaus friends volunteering to cook, clean, set tables, serve food, and most of all enjoy fellowship time with others. We all pray together for the Walk weekend, for the team members, and the pilgrims. On Sunday, the group of volunteers share devotional time and share communion together. Volunteers are in the snack room and the mail room. They are always working and then coming over to help serve meals to the pilgrims. In the conference room, the team leads the discussion and takes care of all the pilgrim needs. Cherie and I both feel that it is an honor to be asked to serve in the conference room. There are so many ways to glorify God and serve others on an Emmaus Walk. Pilgrims so often mention at closing comments about all the love they receive from the volunteers, never realizing how much they bless all of us that volunteer.

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# Messenger

Serving on a team or volunteering behind the scenes is a wonderful way to give back to our community. The Emmaus Walk has given so much to us to strengthen our relationship with the Lord, how could we not give back to our Emmaus community. The joy Cherie and I feel as members of the Emmaus of the Midlands leads us to want to always do something as a volunteer to give others the chance to experience a closer relationship with the Lord through the Emmaus Walk weekend.

Volunteering on the Walk weekends has helped bring Cherie and I even closer. We are both active in the community and sharing our experiences there has become one of the focal points of our lives. We are always working on some aspect of the Walk and feel that keeps us focused on serving the Lord with all that we do.

Sharing this time with friends is so much fun. It is like a family reunion. We cannot wait to get to camp and see who will pass through volunteering on the Walk and seeing the faces of our Emmaus group's new pilgrims. Cherie and I work our hardest to make the Walk the very best it can be for the pilgrims and the volunteers. It is a great way to bond with other Emmaus members. We leave the weekend tired but feeling fulfilled with the blessing that can only come from being the hand and feet of Jesus.

I hope this is a small glimpse of what opportunities you can share in and blessing you can receive from being a team member or a volunteer behind the scenes. Ask yourself if you would like to come and serve on the Walk this October? The Walks this October are October 19 -22 for the men and October 26-29 for the women. All of us would love to see you there!

## **Important dates:**

Emmaus Board meeting is August 14 at Lexington United Methodist Church - Everyone is welcome!

August 25 - Gathering is at Dalzell UMC in Sumter

September 22 - The Gathering will be at Lexington UMC and will be a celebration of 25 years for our community. This October will be Walk # 50.

Volunteer signup sheets are available at all gatherings!

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**Gathering August 25**

**Dalzell UMC**

**3330 Black River Rd**

**Dalzell, SC** [map](#)

The value of Emmaus in the lives of the pilgrims is enormous. Everyone that has been on a walk knows what it meant to them and what it can mean to others. The response from pilgrims through the years has always been that this was a life-changing experience. There are many people in our churches that would benefit by being a part of one of our walks.

At our last Gathering Pastor Larry Brown commented that 35% of his church had participated in a Midlands Walk. If the rest of us would work only a fraction as hard as Larry, we would have to have more than two walks a year. Think about what a difference it could make in the lives of so many people. Please pray that someone near and dear to you will answer the call when you ask them.

Team Training for Men's and Women's Walks #50 is scheduled for September 9 and 16, and Lay Directors Chris Goodman and Judi Rose have been busily putting the teams together to lead these walks. There is a tremendous amount of prayer and work that goes into selecting a team, preparing manuals, sending out letters, assigning talks, and preparing for team training. However, without pilgrims all this work is in vain. At this moment, we have only 6 men and 9 women whose applications have been approved. The Emmaus board urges the entire community to prayerfully consider those people in your church, at your work place, or in your circle of friends that would benefit from this amazing three-day experience with God. We **must** have the applications in no later than **August 28** or team training and the walks to go forward. If we do not have at least 18 men and 18 women, the walks will be cancelled. Please, please do not hesitate to present the invitation to a prospective pilgrim thinking that the walks will be cancelled. If just 12 more men and 9 more women say yes, then the board will not have to make the difficult decision to cancel. Many people have been praying, and we ask that you add your prayers also that this community will go forward in sharing the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for your support!!

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