

# Messenger

Volume 17  
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## Coming Events

## Events

October Walks

Men 19-22

Women 26-29

Nov. 13 Board Meeting

Lexington UMC

Dec. 6 Gathering

Wightman UMC

## Emmaus Walk Weekend

### Exemplifying God's Loving Grace

" This is love: not that we loved God, but that he so loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another"(1 John 4:10-11). If we want to be like Jesus, if we want to have a meaningful life, then we need to serve others. One-way service to others is exemplified is by being active participants in the Emmaus community, a community of believers.

Our Emmaus Walk is not perfect, just like no person is perfect, but it helps us and others on our journey with Jesus. It helps us keep our lives in focus. God so freely gives us his grace and love. The Emmaus Walk is a place for us to share God's grace and love with the pilgrims and with each other as we volunteer. The Walk weekend gives us opportunities to exercise patience and to give unconditional love to everyone involved in the Walk weekend. Let us always remember this Walk weekend is about sharing God's grace and not about ourselves or our needs. Our job is to create a loving environment for the pilgrims. Jesus taught his disciples through words, by his example and by giving them work to do. We learn more and are changed more, by getting involved. Let us be the example of God's grace and love freely given.

Jesus calls on each of us to use our skills, our different strengths. There will be many opportunities in the October Walks for each of us to serve. The kitchen is open each day from 6:00 a.m. until at least 6 p.m., set up and take down occur about 9 a.m. the Wednesday before the men's Walk and about 9 a.m. the Monday following the Women's Walk, you can sign up for the Prayer Vigil, donate food for the Snack room, write letters to the pilgrims, come to the opening and closings, and take part in Candlelight service .

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Our conference room team has been training for weeks. Where can you serve in this Walk weekend? You do not need to sign up in advance, just come and serve. No experience is needed, volunteers are there to let you know how you can help. There are rooms available if you would like to stay overnight (contact Therry May whose email is on the Emmaus of the Midlands web page). We all learn as we work together. The Emmaus Walk is a great place to learn to be like Jesus by serving other people. Hope you can come and serve!

Dates for the Emmaus of the Midlands Walk #50:

Men's Walk - October 19-22

Women's Walk - October 26-29

**Dear Emmaus Community,**

**We NEED YOU! God has sent us pilgrims, now we need to respond in love so they may meet Christ on the road to Emmaus. Many of our faithful kitchen volunteers are experiencing serious health issues and will not be able to serve in the kitchen on either walk. Your help will be appreciated and you will be blessed. You will have the opportunity to make new friends. You will have the opportunity to sleep on bunk beds and be silly with the rest of us if you wish. Or you can stay in a private room or just come for a few hours. We have a lot of fun. We're tired at the end of the weekend, but we look forward to the next walk. We pray, eat, laugh, eat, work, eat, hug, pray, eat, sleep, eat, and occasionally cry. It isn't dull. Come join us.**

**DeColores!**

**Ginny Braddock**

**Walk # 37 Table of Miriam**

**Fourth Day Talk at the August Gathering**

My name is Stanley Cheek. My church is right here at Dalzell United Methodist. I attended The Emmaus Walk #49 in March of this year. I sat at the Table of Mark.

I have continued with my fourth day since my return home. I have continued to place my faith and trust in God which in the past was never very strong. My faith, trust and love for God has continued to grow through my study of the Bible through my devotional, my talk and prayers with him, the United Methodist Men's Group here at Dalzell, and the weekly sermons.

I was born with a touch of cerebral palsy in my right leg. I then began to run high fevers. The doctors were at a loss of what to do for me. So they packed me in ice and transported me by ambulance to Charleston. These high fevers destroyed some of the cells in the front of my brain. These high fevers and destroyed brain cells resulted in me having focal motor seizures.

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As a young boy on top of the seizures I was forced to wear a brace on my right leg. I wasn't able to run as fast as the other kids nor could I play like my friends. This left me feeling bitter and angry about my situation. I couldn't understand why I was different than everyone else. After several years the seizures stopped and I no longer was forced to wear the brace. Yet, I still felt different and harbored the anger, bitterness and resentment of having to wear it in the first place.

In 1982 the seizures returned. After several severe accidents including one which was head on where I spent several days in the hospital, one that resulted in a broken left hip and one where I broke both my hands and my left ankle. In November of 2000 I gave up driving altogether. I lost my job and had to fight disability for two years before going to court and being awarded disability. The bitterness, anger and resentment returned with a vengeance. I was angry at God that this was happening to me and didn't know why or where to turn.

I was so angry that I stopped going to church. I just couldn't see the point in it with my situation.

In 2014 I was still harboring the anger and bitterness. Sharon's friend, Helen, asked us to come visit her church, Dalzell United Methodist Church. Sharon, and I began to attend regularly and eventually transferred our membership from our church in town to Dalzell. I finally felt at home and that I had been accepted for who I am. I began to let my anger, resentment and bitterness go.

I never dreamed that I would be able to attend Walk to Emmaus due to my medical condition. So imagine my surprise when Charlie and Paula Rupp said that they would sponsor both Sharon and me for the Walk. I was excited yet nervous about attending. I was able to attend, was readily accepted by my group, and had an eye opening experience. I began to realize that through God's grace that I was created for a purpose. God had a purpose for my life and through his grace I have come to the realization that I am wonderfully made. I am no longer upset about my physical condition and am willing to talk about it which in the past I never would have done as I was ashamed of it.

Recently Mark, our preacher, used a lesson from Vacation Bible School as part of his sermon. It was titled "Purposely Created by God". The sermon was from Genesis Chapter 1 verse 26 through Chapter 2 verse 24. This reaffirmed to me that God made me the way I am for a reason--I am made in his image and I am loved by him. Our Sunday School class was studying Tim Tebow's book, Shaken. I read the book from cover to cover which also gave me the same insight. I am made in his image! Recently, as I was leaving a restaurant after supper a little boy asked me why I walked with those sticks. It didn't bother me to tell him and I explained to him that these sticks helped me to walk and get around. In the past I would have been hurt and embarrassed by this question but I was comfortable telling him. Because I once again realized that God created me in his image and as the old saying goes God don't make no junk!

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