

Messenger

A monthly newsletter of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community

Volume 18, Issue 4, April 2018



Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting:

April 9, 7:00 pm @ Red Bank UMC, Lexington, SC

April Gathering: April 27 at St. John UMC, Sumter, SC, 7:00 pm potluck, 8:00 pm worship.

Board Meeting:

May 14, 7:00 pm @ Red Bank UMC, Lexington, SC

May Gathering: May 25 at Trinity UMC, Blythewood, SC, 7:00 pm potluck, 8:00 pm worship.

Board Meeting:

June 12, 7:00 pm @ Red Bank UMC, Lexington, SC

June Gathering: June 22 at Lexington UMC, Lexington, SC, 7:00 pm potluck, 8:00 pm worship.

Annual Picnic: May 19

At Trinity UMC

Blythewood

Grilled hamburgers & hotdogs

Bring picnic side dishes and lawn chairs

Come enjoy food and fellowship with your

Emmaus family

Spiritual Director's Message

Dear Friends,

We have traveled from the anticipation of Maundy Thursday, as Jesus prepared his disciples for his arrest and suffering; through the darkness of Good Friday, as our beloved Messiah is crucified and dies; to the silence of Holy Saturday, as the faithful clung to hope; arriving on Easter morning to the glorious news of Jesus' resurrection from the dead! What a celebration it was! What a word of hope it is!

How thankful we are that Easter has come!

From darkness and despair we have been delivered and given mercy and grace. God offers to us resurrected life, where sin is put to death and we can have life with the joy of salvation. We can put our faith, our confidence in the One who overcomes all evil and establishes His reign in the hearts of His people. Our destinies are determined by our response to this gift from God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord. May we be a people who embrace this gift, accept this salvation, and live in this hope as people of His eternal kingdom.

Blessings,

Linda

The Chairman's Corner

An Emmaus Walk – Behind the Scenes

Behind the scenes of The Walk to Emmaus are many people supporting the weekend with acts of prayer, sacrifice, and service. This behind-the-scene support is what makes the Walk so different from other retreats and programs. The pilgrims are buoyed up by the embrace of the body of Christ through the Emmaus Community, both locally and internationally. The gradual

realization of the extent of this undergirding of prayer and love is truly an experience of the prevenient grace of God. People who serve in these behind-the-scenes support roles during the weekend are the channels for that grace. They offer themselves to God in the spirit of anonymous servanthood to be living agape for the pilgrims.

People working behind the scenes respect and honor the cloistered environment for the Conference Room Team and the new pilgrims experiencing the Walk. The behind-the-scenes people intentionally keep their distance and provide low-key service. They serve for the sake of serving and do so without needing to know the details of the conference room.

Numerous people support the pilgrims from behind-the-scenes in specific arenas of service for which a few persons accept leadership responsibility. These responsibilities include the kitchen, agape, snack agape, the 72-hour Prayer Vigil, the Prayer Chapel, Prayer Chapel agape, Sponsor's Hour, entertainment at Saturday supper, Candlelight, transportation for out-of-town pilgrims, and set-up and breakdown of the facility before and after the weekend. Communities organize to accomplish these tasks in different ways.

The basic guideline for persons serving in any of these support roles is to serve humbly, selflessly, and invisibly, insofar as that is possible. These roles are exercises in anonymous servanthood. While the roles bring great personal satisfaction and are among the favorite avenues of service, they are not occasions for outward recognition by the team or by pilgrims. The reward for these acts of service comes in the giving, and the reward is great. The attitude of those serving behind the scenes of a walk is summed up in Jesus' words: "So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'" (Luke 17:10).

Meet Your Board Member

Hello, my name is Brian Austin, I worship at Friendship Baptist Church in Lugoff, SC. I went on Emmaus of the Midlands walk #39 and sat at the table of John. My Board responsibility is Music. I am responsible for making sure that there are people to do the music at all the Gatherings, Walks, and other special events.

I have been married to my wife Jean for almost 28 years. We have 2 children, Matthew, 21 and Ashleigh, 16. My family and I moved to South Carolina about 10 years ago. It was a scary leap of faith that has worked out very well for us. We found a church and thought we would be there for a while. It was soon apparent that was not the church for us. With our pastors blessings we switched to another church. That church was in the middle of celebrating its 200th anniversary. They needed help with the music and I was there to help. This is also the church that introduced us to this community. Although we no longer worship at that church, we still have a spiritual connection to the people who we worshiped with at that little church.

I have always loved music. Music is a powerful way to convey a message. There are times that I get more out of the worship music at church than I do out of the message. Music can speak to us in many ways. You could hear a song a hundred times, and then one day you hear a different message from the same words. This is just like reading the bible. You can hear a verse over and

over, then one day you hear it and it speaks to you in a different way. If you love music as much as I do and you are willing to serve as part of the music team, please let me know. We always need people who can play an instrument or who can sing. We would love to get you involved. Contact me at ny2sc07@yahoo.com

Yours in Christ

Brian Austin

Prayers, Concerns and Praises

- Please keep our Spiritual Director, Rev. Linda Dunn, in your prayers
- Please keep Carol Frye in your prayers
- Pray for upcoming Emmaus events: Walks, Gatherings, Board Meetings, etc.

Sponsorship training is held a few times per year about twenty minutes prior to a monthly Gathering. The next Sponsorship training session will be held before a future Gathering as the need arises. Pilgrim applications should be mailed to:

Mary Brown (Registrar)

320 Blanding St.

Batesburg, SC 29006

803-447-0179 (cell)

Mary1025@gmail.com

Just a reminder, if you have any information for upcoming newsletters please notify me at my contact info below. Also, if you know of a community member that is not receiving the newsletter, either electronically or via hard copy, let me know.

DeColores!

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