

Messenger

A monthly newsletter of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community

Volume 19, Issue 2, February 2019



Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting:

February 11, 7:00 pm @
Red Bank UMC, Lexington,
SC

February Gathering:

Friday, February 22 at
Lexington UMC, 7:00 pm
potluck, 8:00 pm worship.

Board Meeting:

March 11, 7:00 pm @ Red
Bank UMC, Lexington, SC

March Gathering:

Friday, March 22 at Red
Bank UMC, 7:00 pm
potluck, 8:00 pm worship.

Board Meeting:

April 8, 7:00 pm @ Red
Bank UMC, Lexington, SC

April Gathering:

Friday, April 26 at Bethel
UMC – Oswego community
of Sumter, 7:00 pm potluck,
8:00 pm worship.

Board Meeting:

May 13, 7:00 pm @ Red
Bank UMC, Lexington, SC

May Gathering:

Friday, May 24 at To Be
Determined, 7:00 pm
potluck, 8:00 pm worship.

Spiritual Director's Message

Dear Friends,

Here we are in February - the month of love and Valentines. There are many legends associated with this holiday and the Christian saint for whom it is named.

One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor's daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today.

Whatever the truth behind the legends, the holiday is rooted in the memory of one who expressed love for others. We have an opportunity each month and on our annual weekends to express love for others in the Emmaus community. At our monthly gatherings, we share in an agape covered dish meal and join together to worship the One who loves us with a perfect, eternal love. On our annual weekends, we share through service to those who have come desiring to know His love in a deeper, fuller way.

The Board is already making plans for the October weekends. Who do you know that would be blessed by those four days? Reach out, offer them this opportunity, share the love of Christ with your neighbor. Let's work toward a full set of walks this fall. What a wonderful gift that would be!

DeColores,
Pastor Linda

The Chairman's Corner

We had a great turn out at the January Gathering held at Boiling Springs UMC. A big thank you for those that stayed afterward and helped clean up.

Upcoming Walks

Upcoming EMMAUS walk dates

October 17-20, 2019 Men

October 24-27, 2019 Women

February 20-23, 2020 Men

February 27-March 1, 2020 Women

Thanks to all who worked the past walks.

Please pray for the Board Members who are rotating off the Board and those that have been elected to the Board.

Please hold a gathering at your church in 2019. Please contact Sid at (803) 206-1022 or at sidhawkins@aol.com.

May God lead you all.

We hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a great New Year!

Let's all pray for full Walks this year.

Community Member Spotlight

L.W. Smith III

Vietnam veteran leads Strength for Service

As a child, LW joined with his four brothers and sisters as active members of Rehoboth UMC in Columbia. However, when LW was a teenager, his father died, and he drifted away from the church. He graduated from high school in June 1969. That same month *Life* magazine displayed photos of the 242 Americans killed in Vietnam during the previous week. LW was drafted to serve in that war-torn country, and that experience sparked his passion to help others in military service. Upon his return to Columbia, LW enrolled in Midlands Technical College, where he met his wife, Jan. The couple married in 1978. "Following the birth of our daughter, Jessica, in 1980, we experienced rocky times as a young couple," says LW. "By the grace of God, UM Men were very instrumental in bringing me back into the church and showing me the grace and love of God. "I will forever be grateful to the men who held me accountable to God and to my life choices. Seeing their witness and love for Christ encouraged me to seek the joy they shared." LW and Jan celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in 2018.

LW has held leadership positions at local, district, conference, jurisdictional and national levels for 35 years, but he finds the most rewarding experiences when he is personally involved in ministry. "I specifically remember volunteering at a young age to lead a Salkehatchie group in our local church," says LW. "Towards the middle of the week, I realized it was not about hammer and nails, nor replacing a roof, as much as it is being a willing servant to show the love of God to those we serve." "When asked to cook for more than 100 people, or build a wheel chair ramp for someone in need, I know God is working through me to be in service to others."

LW has worked in commercial property management for the past 42 years. “I am very fortunate to have flexible working hours where I can carve out time to make hospital visits, teach Sunday school, and be a mentor of young men at our local church,” says LW.

“Serving as a board member of the General Commission of UM Men allowed me to be part of a worldwide ministry to help first responders and military personnel,” says LW. “I am humbled to see how God orchestrated the plan, provided vision, guided us through establishment of a 501(c)3, and allowed me to serve as president of Strength for Service.” The ministry has provided copies of *Strength for Service* books to more than 1.5 million military personnel and first responders. “God continues to bless me richly with a devoted wife, daughter, son-in-law and two grandsons who light up my life and hold me accountable,” concludes the indefatigable leader. *From “UMMEN – The Magazine of United Methodist Men, Winter 2019*

Thank you LW for your dedicated service. LW attended Emmaus of the Midlands Walk #6 and sat at the table of Mark.

If you know of an Emmaus Community member that deserves a “Spotlight”, send the information to Terri at the address below.

Prayers, Concerns and Praises

- Pray for Rev. Linda Dunn
- Pray for Laxton Hinson
- Pray for Mr. Walt Crozier
- Pray for upcoming Emmaus events: Walks, Gatherings, Board Meetings, Elections, etc.
- Pray for all pastors and churches
- Pray for the UMC special General Conference 2019 to be held in February

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. Please submit Pilgrim applications as soon as you can. Pilgrim applications should be mailed to:

Mary Brown (Registrar)
320 Blanding St.
Batesburg, SC 29006
803-447-0179 (cell) maryb1025@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!
Terri Goodman
terrigoodman59@gmail.com
P.O. Box 851
Jackson, SC 29831
(803) 471-2305 (Home) (803) 215-7744 (Cell)

Emmaus of the Midlands
PO Box 25165
Columbia, SC 29224-5165

