

Messenger

A monthly newsletter of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community

Volume 19, Issue 3, March 2019



Upcoming Events:

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.

Board Meeting:

June 10, 7:00 pm @ Red Bank UMC, Lexington, SC

June Gathering:

Friday, June 28 at To Be Determined, 7:00 pm potluck, 8:00 pm worship.

Spiritual Director's Message

Dear Friends,

We are entering the season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 6th, as we prepare for the celebration of Easter on April 21st. This time has long been associated with special reflection and the practice of fasting, such as "I'll give up chocolate for Lent." The purpose of the fast was to use that temptation as a prompt for spiritual reflection. "Instead of eating a piece of candy, I will spend that time in prayer." Or one might commit, "When I am tempted by chocolate, I will eat healthy instead." The purpose of the fast was to be mindful of one's spiritual state and improve one's relationship with God.

I found a worthy fast on Facebook, of all places. I hope you find it a blessing:

In the words of Pope Francis:

*Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and have trust in God.
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.*

May we observe a worthy fast and a meaningful Lent, that we may celebrate a joyful Easter.

DeColores,
Pastor Linda

The Chairman's Corner

We had a great turn out at the February Gathering held at Lexington UMC.

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 newly elected Board Members and also for the upcoming Team Selection meeting.

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.

Let's all pray for full Walks this year.

Community Member Spotlight

Herman B. Lightsey Jr.

South Carolina leader expands ministry in the state

For Herman, former president of UM Men in the South Carolina Annual Conference, making a difference has everything to do with the strength of the team. "A leader is nothing but the cover of the book," says Herman. "The real ministry is in the pages. It is in a team who understands the importance of disciplining men."

Herman attributes the beginnings of growth in men's ministry across the state to his 2013 invitation to Bishop Jonathan Holston to speak at their men's annual spiritual weekend. Both Herman and the bishop were new to their positions. Only 150 people attended the 2013 event, but the bishop challenged the men to dream God-sized dreams, and he joined UM Men leaders and several pastors to help them realize those dreams.

In 2014, 576 people attended the retreat and the numbers jumped again in 2015 and 2016. In 2017 and 2018, 1,200 people attended. The ministry team then added "Teaching Churches" as the next step to bring the training and message to the local churches.

Herman served as a 2012 and 2016 delegate to General Conference and he was a delegate to the 2019 special session in February. In 2016, he was also selected to a four-year term as a member of Wespeth Benefits and Investments, a firm that manages \$2.3 billion in assets on behalf of the UMC. As first vice president of the NACP and a certified men's ministry specialist, he is a member of the National Association of Conference Presidents.

Herman serves Ashland UMC in Columbia as a Sunday school teacher, Disciple facilitator, Bible study facilitator, and lay leader. He is on the Finance, Trustee, Stewardship, Administrative Board and Pastor/Staff Committee, and he is past president of Ashland UM Men.

In the Columbia District, he is a certified UM lay servant, a certified lay servant instructor, a member of the Connectional Ministries Committee, a Forward Focus facilitator, a member of the Midlands Emmaus Community (table of Mark) and past president of the Columbia District Men. He is a member of South Carolina Annual Conference, past chair of the Conference Pension and Health Benefits Board, member of the Bishop's Ministry

Advisory Team, a member of the Connectional Ministries Committee, a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry, and a certified Forward Focus facilitator.

Herman is a retired deputy director of the South Carolina State Accident Workers' Compensation Fund; a retired colonel, logistical officer, South Carolina Army National Guard; and a member of the South Carolina National Guard's Hall of Fame. He is a member of the Boyleston Masonic Lodge, Ballentine, and a Shriner with Jamil Temple in Columbia. Herman and wife Mary have two adult daughters, Jennifer Gibson (Marshall) and Amy Lightsey, and two grandchildren, Tyler and Riley Gibson.

Thank you Herman for your dedicated service. Herman attended Emmaus of the Midlands Walk #34 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. He has been moved to Lexington Extended Care on Old Cherokee Rd
- Pray for upcoming Emmaus events: Walks, Gatherings, Board Meetings, etc.
- Pray for all pastors and churches
- Pray for the family of Truman Lake

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

