

Messenger

A monthly newsletter of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community

Volume 23, Issue 11, December, 2023



Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting:

January 8, 2024, 7:00 pm

Team Training for Men's and Women's Walks #55:

January 13 & January 20, 2024

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Camp Agape, Batesburg

January Gathering:

January 26, 2024, 7:00 pm

Mill Creek UMC

1041 Old Garners Ferry Rd
Columbia, SC 29209

Spring Walks:

Men's Walk #55

March 7-10, 2024

Women's Walk #55

March 14-17, 2024

Spiritual Director's Message

As I think about Christmas day approaching fast, I am reminded of the 12 days of Christmas (Christmastide) from December 25 to January 5. Most of us are guilty of rushing from Christmas Day on toward celebrating the New Year. I offer to all of us to slow down a bit and contemplate not only throughout Christmastide but into the new year all the blessings we have in Jesus Christ our Savior.

I offer some scriptures that will help us through this season that sometimes finds us in the doldrums.

- Luke 2:10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause **great joy** for all people.
- Romans 15:13 May the God of Hope fill you **with all joy** and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I challenge all of us to not only have joy in the moments of Christmas celebration but to have joy in our everyday life as followers of Christ. We may not always be happy, but we can be joyful because Christ came to us from Heaven and lived among humanity as both a man and God, suffered on a cross for our sins, and was the first to rise from the dead.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life. Now we live in that hope and joy that believing in him we too will have everlasting life.

So, even though we all live in a broken, hurting world, have seasons of hurt, sadness, and grief, we have a Savior, Jesus Christ. That my friends **is** good news and should overflow our hearts with joy. And joy not only in the Christmas season, but all through the year.

Merry Christmas,
De Colores
Pastor Faye



The Chair's Corner

Merry Christmas!! I love singing Christmas carols! It takes me back to the first few Christmases of my childhood and the church we attended right across the street from our house. Oh, how I loved the Christmas plays about the birth of Jesus, the decorations, the parties with my Sunday school class, the anticipation of Santa coming, but most of all I remember singing “Silent Night!” It was my absolute favorite, and I would sing it to myself many times throughout the season. I decided today to Google “What is the most popular Christmas carol ever?” And guess what? “Silent Night” is basically the Happy Birthday of Christmas carols: It’s the most popular song in the world and has been translated into over 100 languages!!”

That being said, I find some of the lyrics of the other Christmas carols so meaningful to me now. For instance, Verse 3 of “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” speaks volumes to me.



*O ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow.
Look now for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.*

When I went on my Walk to Emmaus in 1991, I felt I was bent beneath life's crushing load. I had packed away so many hurts, feelings of insecurity, doubts, and shame and was wondering where my faith and my joy were. Those 72 hours changed my life forever, and I did indeed learn to rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

As we approach the March Walks to Emmaus, let us all remember that many of the people in our churches, in our families, and in our workplaces all experience life's crushing loads at times. Let each of us spend time in prayer asking God to lay someone on our heart who might need these life-changing three days. And then YOU go to that person and say, “Let me tell you about the most amazing three days you will ever have!”

Merry Christmas and De Colores, Carolyn McLean, Board Chair

Gatherings and Reunion Groups

Our next gathering will be held Friday, January 26, 2024, at Mill Creek United Methodist, 1041 Old Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209 at 7 pm. Please bring a covered-dish to share and a prospective pilgrim. This year the board has decided to add something to our gatherings. Please bring your Reunion Group Card with you, and our focus will be on starting new groups and reminding everyone of the importance of meeting regularly in small groups. Hope to see you there!

Seed Agape

A committee led by Paul McKeever will be redoing our Emmaus song books, hopefully before the next set of walks. Work began last year deleting and adding to our choruses, and we thank Donna Fulmer for all her hard work in typing and formatting. We are asking for Seed Agape donations to go towards the cost of printing the new books. If you feel led to donate, you may write a check to EOM or put cash in the Agape Seed envelopes found on each table at an Emmaus Gathering.

EMMAUS OF THE MIDLANDS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expiring</u>
Board Chair/Newsletter	Carolyn McLean	Oct. 31, 2022
Vice-Chair/Gatherings/Reunion Groups	Kenneth Bundrick	Oct. 31, 2025
Secretary/Send-Off/Sponsor's Hour/Closing	Teri Schell	Oct. 31, 2025
Treasurer/Literature/Materials	Kirk Atwood	Oct. 31, 2026
Community Spiritual Director	Faye Stephens	Oct. 31, 2024
Community Assistant Spiritual Director	Wanda Altman-Shirah	Oct. 31, 2025
Candlelight	Aubrie Bundrick	Oct. 31, 2026
Housing/Camp Set-Up/Take-Down	Leonard May	Oct. 31, 2024
Kitchen Co-Chair	Christen McConaughay	Oct. 31, 2026
Kitchen Co-Chair	Kim Hutchins	Oct. 31, 2026
Mail Room Agape/Table Agape	Terry Peterson	Oct. 31, 2025
Music/Entertainment	Paul McKeever	Oct. 31, 2026
Prayer Vigil/Seed Agape	Wendy McLean	Oct. 31, 2024
Public Relations/Community Training	Vacant	
Registrar	Kim Corrigan	Oct. 31, 2024
Snack Agape	Mel Sansolo	Oct. 31, 2024
Transportation/Luggage	Levy Rogers	Oct. 31, 2026
Website Co-Chair	Bob Martin	At Large
Website Co-Chair	Dave Cavazos	At Large

Please be much in prayer for the Board of Directors that God will lead and guide us in a true servant's role for The Emmaus of the Midlands Community, and that every decision will be made only for the glory of God!

Please also note that we are one member short of having a full board. If you are willing to serve in the capacity of Publicity and organizing Community Training, please contact Carolyn McLean at 803-414-6216.

Newsletter submitted by Carolyn McLean at chmclean55@yahoo.com cell: 803-414-6216

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through him who gives me strength."

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