

Messenger

A monthly newsletter of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community

Volume 24, Issue 2, February 15, 2024



Upcoming Events:

February Gathering
February 23, 2024, 7:00 pm
Edgefield UMC

Camp Agape Set-Up
March 6, 2024, 9:00 am

EOM Men's Walk #55
March 7-10, 2024
Camp Agape

EOM Women's Walk #55
March 14-17, 2024
Camp Agape

Kitchen Training
February 17, 2024, 9:00 am
February 24, 2024, 9:00 am

April Gathering
April 26, 2024, 7:00 pm
Lexington UMC

WHAT? GO DEEPER?

I remember years ago participating in my first long term Bible study. Over the course of 34 weeks, the study covered the entire Bible (Old and New Testaments) following the biblical story from Creation to the New Jerusalem.

Looking back now, I realize that what I was doing was going “deeper” into God’s word gaining a greater understanding of who Jesus is, going deeper in my spiritual walk with HIM, and following a path he had, and has, for me.

Sometimes I say, “I wish I knew then what I know now.” Yet, that Bible study set a foundation for a particular journey God had set forth for me. That included me saying yes to going on the Midlands Walk to Emmaus.

In a few weeks (March 7-10 for the men and March 14 through 17 for the women) our Midlands Emmaus Community will host WALK #55. The Walk to Emmaus develops Christian disciples and leaders by inspiring, challenging, and equipping active adult church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, workplaces and communities. It also includes the benefits to those who are seeking to renew a relationship with God and grow deeper in their spiritual walk.

In the NT we hear from Jesus talking to Simon Peter:
Luke 5:4 New American Bible (Revised Edition)

4 After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.”

Jesus uses the full nets as a metaphor for the disciple’s (including us) life purpose of spreading His message about the kingdom of God. I challenge each of us to share our personal experiences from our own walk with someone Jesus has put on our hearts. As we do, then the Holy Spirit begins HIS work. When that person says yes to go on the Walk, they will embark to “go deeper” with Jesus!



De Colores
Faye

CAROLYN'S CORNER

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart (where?) down in my heart.
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart.
Down in my heart to stay!



As I shared with my Reunion Group recently, I have been feeling JOY just bubbling up!! My heart is full, and sometimes overflowing, with feelings that I have not experienced in quite a while. At our house, we have had more than our share of sorrow and grief lately, unexpected repair bills have come due, misunderstandings have occurred, Covid has been an unwelcomed guest, and my knees, hips, and shoulders never stop hurting (boo arthritis!). But the tears I have shed have all been tears of complete joy! I can't explain it, but it's real. The song above goes on to say, "I have the peace that passeth understanding down in my heart." And I do!!!

At the first Emmaus board meeting of the year, I shared an experience that occurred at the Nazarene Camp when I was a teen attending youth camp there for a week. Each morning when we awoke, we were told to yell at the top of our lungs, "BOY, AM I ENTHUSED!!!" Those voices echoed each morning as they bounced from cabin to cabin. And you know what? Enthusiasm is catching!!! We were all very enthused!

And now, I feel the enthusiasm of the Emmaus Community. We have had two sets of walks since Covid and new pilgrims are coming forth saying, "I want to help!" "What can I do to serve?" "Put me to work!" Some of our community members who have not participated in a long time are back and eager to serve. Churches are volunteering to host gatherings, donations are coming in, and we are all set for Emmaus of the Midlands Men's and Women's Walks #55. We are still accepting applications and will for the next couple of weeks. At last count we had 14 women and 15 men, but we need more. We are shooting for 20 pilgrims for each walk, but sponsors have to step up and share the enthusiasm of this amazing three-day experience. Let us all pray to have that joy down in our heart and the peace that passeth understanding that we can share with others. All together now – "BOY, AM I ENTHUSED!!!"

You are all invited to the February Emmaus Community Gathering which will be held at Edgefield Methodist Church, 309 Norris Street, Edgefield, SC 29824 on Friday, February 23, 2024, at 7 pm. Bring a covered-dish to share and a prospective pilgrim with you. Please bring your Reunion Group Card, but if you cannot find yours, we will have extra cards available. After the meal and announcements, we will break into small groups of 3-4 people for 15 minutes to discuss one question on the card. This goes along with our attempt to re-focus this year on Reunion Groups. The Fourth Day Speaker will be Greg Whitlow and the Clergy Response will be given by Rev. Mike Evans. Rev. Faye Stephens will preside at the Communion Table and music will be provided by Adam Kiraly, Gary and Beverly Heinly, and Carolyn McLean. Hope to see you there!!

"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23 NIV



LET US PRAY FOR OUR TEAM MEMBERS OF WALKS #55

Men's Team

Pat Longshore
David Trask
Kirk Atwood
John Weathers
Shuler Burton
Leonard May
Paul McKeever
Matt Goudelock
Gary Hooker
Greg Bowers
Larry McConnaughay
Willie McLeod
Ned Wallace
Thomas Rowe
Kenneth Bundrick
Dave Christiansen
Brian Austin
David Bowers
Kevin Booth
Matt Snelgrove
Mike Evans
Tony Rivers
Phil Reynolds
Donnie Bates
Gary Heinly
Dave Cavazos
Adam Kiraly

Women's Team

Mary Lynn Medlin
Melanie Prewitt
Cheryl Mendiola
Tina Lipscomb
Blakely Cahoon
Wanda Altman-Shirah
Wendy McLean
Kim Salley
Tina Hooker
Tatyana Bromberg
Lynn Silvey
Rebecca Branham
Debbie Summers
Philissa Edge
Jessica Jones
Heather Evans
Dorothy Longshore
Pat Christiansen
Faye Stephens
Shay Long
Mary Frances Thompson
Debra Armstrong
Teri Schell
Sheri McClendon
Allison Thompson
Kellye Rembert
Lynn Grimsley
Terry Booth

NEWS FROM THE BOARD MEETING ON FEBRUARY 12, 2024

- ✚ Linda Kiraly presented a report to the board regarding the status of obtaining a 501(c)(3). The board has been trying for years to do this but has continuously run into problems. Linda has suggested we need to seek legal counsel in order to proceed. For those who don't know, a 501(c)(3) is an IRS designation for an incorporated organization whose primary purpose is charitable in nature. The board voted unanimously to proceed.
- ✚ The new Emmaus Music Books have been sent to the printer and are expected to be ready for the Walks. Thanks to Paul McKeever, Music Chair, former Music Chair, Brian Austin, and the committee who worked to put the book together. And thanks to the community for your Seed Agape offering to pay for the books. A total of \$263 was contributed, which covers the cost of printing and binding.

- ✚ Kitchen Training: Our Kitchen Coordinator Co-Chairs, Christen McConnaughay and Kim Hutchins, have an important announcement to make in reference to volunteering in the kitchen during the walks. In the interest of safety concerns, especially during this current flu/Covid/RSV season, **everyone** working inside the kitchen where the food is prepared must go through a training session. All volunteers are appreciated and needed, but it is very important to know all the safety regulations when handling food. Christen is ServSafe certified, and she and Kim will be able to hold two training sessions before the walks. The dates are February 17 and February 24 at 9 am at Christen's restaurant, The Spud Stop, at 327 E Columbia Ave, Leesville right across the street from Shealy's BBQ. The sessions should last only about one hour and you must attend at least one. If you cannot make these sessions, you can still volunteer to work in the dining room area, but not in preparing food. You may contact Christen at 803-603-0317, or Kim at 803-231-8407 to sign up.
- ✚ Volunteers are needed to help set up the camp on Wednesday, March 6, beginning at 9 am. Many hands make light work, so please show up to help in any way you can.
- ✚ The 72-Hour Prayer Vigil is up and running on the website. Go to midlandsemmaus.com and navigate to the Prayer Vigil site. Many slots remain empty and Wendy McLean, Prayer Vigil Chair, asks you to please sign up for both the Men's and Women's Walks for 30-minute time slots. Sign-up sheets will also be available at the next gathering.
- ✚ Lots of snacks (sweet, salty, healthy) are needed for the Snack Agape Table. Your donations will be appreciated by Mel Sansolo, Chair of Snack Agape, but most certainly by the pilgrims.
- ✚ Table Agape is also an important part of each walk. Reunion Groups, please bring your Table Agape items on the night of Send-Off and leave at the Registration Table. Agape Chair, Terry Peterson, will have a box available in which to place your items.
- ✚ Levy Rogers, Luggage and Transportation, will need help in transporting the luggage to the dorm rooms during Registration, and then back to the area by the dining hall before Closing. Several people with strong backs are needed.

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBER



Hi! My name is Wendy McLean. I live in West Columbia, SC, and I worship at Red Bank UMC. I attended Emmaus of the Midlands Women's Walk #53 and I sat at the Table of Rachel. I have been married for 4 years to Alex McLean (who attended Emmaus of the Midlands Men's Walk #17), and we have a beautiful 14-year-old daughter named Zoe, who is in the 9th grade at Airport High School. I currently work as a nurse's aide for Newbridge Home Health Care. I am privileged to serve as teacher of first and second graders who attend Sunshine Kids at Red Bank Methodist, and I also serve on the prayer team for our Amplified Worship Service. Last year my daughter and I went on our first mission trip to Wisconsin with other youth from our church. Being a part of the Midlands Emmaus Community, as well as Epiphany, has been a Godsend—no pun intended. I am blessed to be able to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of Emmaus as Prayer Vigil/Agape Seed Chair. My prayer is to learn all I can and grow in my faith so that I can better serve God and others.

Emmaus of the Midlands
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