

Messenger

A monthly newsletter of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community



Volume 24, Issue 7, July 18, 2024

Upcoming Events:

July Gathering
Friday, July 26, 2024, 7 pm
Northeast UMC
Columbia, SC

August Board Meeting
August 12, 2024, 7 pm
Red Bank UMC

August Gathering
Friday, Aug. 23, 2024, 7 pm
St John's Methodist
Sumter, SC

Team Training Dates
August 30-31, 2024
Platt Springs UMC
September 13-14, 2024
Lexington UMC

September Board Meeting
September 9, 2024, 7 pm
Red Bank UMC

September Gathering
Friday, Sept. 27, 2024, 7pm
Macedonia Lutheran Church
Prosperity, SC

Emmaus of the Midlands Fall Walks
Men's Walk – Oct. 10-13
Women's Walk – Oct. 17-20

“AN UNLEASHED SPIRITUAL WITNESS”

Acts 1:1-8

New International Version

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with[b] the Holy Spirit.”

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

In the book of Acts, Luke continues the story he began in his Gospel, covering the 30 years after Jesus was taken up into heaven.

During Jesus' ministry on earth, the disciples were continually wondering about his kingdom. When would it



come? What would be their role? In the traditional view the Messiah would be a conqueror who would free Israel from Rome. But the kingdom Jesus spoke about was, first of all, a spiritual kingdom established in the hearts and lives of believers (Luke 17:21). God's presence and power dwell in believers in the person of the Holy Spirit.

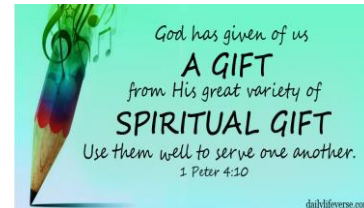
Jesus had instructed the disciples to witness to people of all nations about him (Matthew 28:19,20).

And just as he told the disciples this, he tells all of us this same thing today. God has important work for you and me to do for him, but we must do it by the power of the Holy Spirit. We often

like to get on with the job, even if it means running ahead of God. But waiting is sometimes part of God's plan. In verse 8 we learn that the gospel was to spread, geographically, from Jerusalem into Samaria and finally to the ends of the earth. All of us, by God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit have the opportunity to share the Gospel in some way on a daily basis.

What a privilege we have as believers in Christ Jesus! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, that is in us, we have received courage, boldness, confidence, insight, ability, and authority. All these gifts are used to fulfill the mission Jesus has for us. That path guides us as we journey through life on this earth. We do well to be reminded that in whatever role we have in carrying out God's plan, we will be contributing in some way to the ever-widening circle of God's loving message (The Gospel).

With that said, as we reach out to sponsor someone for an upcoming walk, that outreach is definitely contributing to that ever-widening circle of God's loving message.



De Colores, Faye

CAROLYN'S CORNER

It is so hard to believe that July is half-over, and even harder to believe this year is more than half-over! Tempus fugit (time flies)! It seems like yesterday we were finishing up the spring walks and the fall walks seemed a long time away. Even though it seems that time does fly, know that since March, the Emmaus Board, team selection committee, and lay directors have been busily planning for October walks. The good news is that David Trask, Lay Director, EOM Men's Walk #56, has filled all team slots. Melanie Prewitt, Lay Director, EOM Women's Walk #56, still needs a music team leader and two table leaders. Please help us pray that God will bless both of these walks with the team that God wants. Also keep both lay directors in your prayers as they prepare for the team training.

I must take the time to say how grateful I am for my fellow board members and for those serving on special committees. Much has been accomplished in just a few months, but we still have a ways to go to accomplish the tasks set before us. We have felt the power of the Holy Spirit in every meeting, and we give God the glory for all things!



We must now focus on the most important part of Emmaus. We need pilgrims! In order to have pilgrims, sponsors are needed. Each sponsor has the privilege of giving the gift of Emmaus to those whom God has brought to his/her mind. The aim of sponsorship is to build up the body of Christ. Prayerfully consider your Christian friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family members who may be

hungry for "something more" and who want to grow spiritually. Our goal is to have 24 men and 24 women to sign up for this amazing 72-hour experience. If you have never sponsored, we will have a sponsorship training at the August gathering. If you have sponsored before, you already know that you can download the application and the sponsorship form from the Emmaus website at midlandsemmaus.com. Both of these forms need to be completed and signed before turning in to the Registrar, or mailing them to the post office box. The address is listed on the application. Remember the words from your cross, "Christ is Counting on You."

BOARD ELECTIONS COMING UP

Elections for five new members of the board will be held this year by making ballots available on the first day of September. Voting will take place from then until October 15, with elected members taking office November 1. Nominations shall be solicited and/or accepted during the months of July and August with a cut-off date of August 31. Needed are four lay persons and one clergy. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please submit your name to the chair, Carolyn McLean, or any of the other board members. Terms are for three years, and you must sign a Statement of Commitment form. Please prayerfully consider serving the community of Emmaus and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in this way. The benefits are out of this world!!



JULY GATHERING



Look familiar? This is what the food tables at each Emmaus Gathering look like!! We have some extraordinary cooks in our community, and we look forward to sharing in the meal before our worship service each month. This month's gathering will be held at Northeast UMC, 4000 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223, on Friday, July 26, at 7:00 pm. Following the meal, we will introduce the board, have announcements, and spend about 15 minutes on group reunions. Worship service will then be held in the sanctuary with a Fourth Day Speaker, Clergy Response prayer, music, and Holy Communion. We hope you will join us, and please feel free to bring a prospective pilgrim with you. This is our beloved Community, and what greater way to celebrate and get to know each other as we fellowship together in our Fourth Days at a gathering!!

PRAYER CONCERNS

These are the prayer concerns that I know about. I am sure that many others are in need. Please share with Wendy McLean at wendyjojo12@gmail.com or Carolyn McLean at chmclean55@yahoo.com.



- ✚ Wanda Altman-Shirah's husband Chris has had major surgery to replace the aortic valve in his heart. Please keep Wanda and Chris in your prayers as Chris recovers.
- ✚ The McLean Family. Charlie has been diagnosed with Stage 4 Metastatic Melanoma.
- ✚ Kim and Mike Hutchins in the death of their daughter Beverly Smith.
- ✚ Larry and Christen McConnaughay. Larry is scheduled for heart surgery in August.
- ✚ Paul and Mamie McKeever's grandson Tyler needs our prayers following the death of his wife Linda right after giving birth to Olivia Gace. They also have a son named Gabriel who has been left without a mother.
- ✚ Aubrie and Kenneth Bundrick and a special request for a mother and child.

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.
James 5:16 NIV

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBER

Good day to all. My name is Paul McKeever, I am a member at Red Bank UMC. I attended Emmaus of the Midlands Walk #38 and sat at the table of Mark. I currently hold the position of Music Director on the Board of Directors.



I am from Pennsylvania, and in 1964 I enlisted in the Air Force and was stationed at Charleston AFB, SC. I have four children by my first wife, a daughter and three sons. I am currently married to a very beautiful Christian woman, who has brought me closer to Jesus. I have worked in some type of bank or network security for over 45 years. I worked for the state of South Carolina for 28 years. I worked 8 years at DDSN, 13 years at SCETV, with my last position being responsible for the security of the entire state computer network at CIO. I retired at the age of 72 and am busier now than before I retired.

I serve on the Mission's Committee at Red Bank UMC, where we have such events as Asbury Arms Bingo, the Christmas Angel Tree, Project Prom, and Native American Baskets. I am very fortunate that the choir allows me to sit with them and warble a few notes. I serve on the SPRC Committee, and I also serve as Worship Leader on selected Sundays.

I enjoy being on the Emmaus Board and look forward to meeting the new pilgrims after each walk. I love seeing all pilgrims at the gatherings each month. Each walk renews my faith in what Jesus has in store for us. I have worked in the kitchen and others various positions for five walks. If anyone who has been on a walk and is interested in joining the music team on a walk, please call or email me and I will do my best to get you a spot. I invite anyone interested in joining the Board to please let Carolyn know. Without the Board there is no walk. Each year we replace 5 members and encourage new pilgrims to join and help keep the Walks going.

God bless each of you, and I look forward to seeing the new pilgrims on Walk #56.

De Colores, Paul McKeever

A WORD FROM THE NEWLETTER EDITOR

I am always looking for articles for the "Messenger" that is published monthly. This could be news from your church, your reunion group, a favorite recipe, a poem, a song you have written (just the lyrics), a drawing, a photo, a prayer request, an inspirational thought, a special moment from your Walk, a "short, funny, clean" joke, or a book review. Please send your article to me no later than the 15th of the month to be included in that month's newsletter.

Carolyn McLean

What's the most musical part of the turkey?



The drumsticks, of course!

Emmaus of the Midlands
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