

Messenger

A monthly newsletter of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community

Volume 24, Issue 8, August 16, 2024



Upcoming Events:

August Gathering
Friday, Aug. 23, 2024, 7 pm
St John's Church
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

Board Elections
September 1-October 15

ALL CLEANED UP!

Colossians 3:7-11 New International Version

7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

After my morning exercise my workout clothes are completely wet (and smelly)! You would not want to be within smelling distance of me then! I cannot imagine putting those stinky wet clothes back on after I shower. It is so good to get "all cleaned up" after my shower with fresh clothes. I feel like a new person, inside and out!

A shower washes me clean so I can be introduced to clean clothes. The scripture above tells us that when we became followers of Christ, we were washed spiritually clean. We were made pure and all of our unrighteousness was removed (because of what Jesus did for us on the cross). How can we return to putting on those old stinky spiritual clothes of our old self again? This is what the Apostle Paul is saying to us. Let us never forget we got "cleaned up" by Christ!

De Colores, Faye Stephens, Community Spiritual Director

CAROLYN'S CORNER

The Road of Life

At first, I saw God to be my observer, my judge, keeping track of things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was out there.....sort of like a president of a large company....I recognized his picture when I saw it, but I really didn't know him.

But later on when I met Christ, it seemed as though life was rather like a bike...but it was a tandem bike. And Christ was in the back helping me pedal. I don't know just when it was that He suggested we change places, but life has not been the same since I took the back seat to Jesus, My Lord. Christ makes life exciting.

When I had control, I thought I knew the way, but it was rather boring, yet predictable. It was the shortest distance between two points. But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long cuts, up mountains and through rocky places and at breakneck speeds. It was all I could do to hang on!

Even though it looked like madness, He would say, "Pedal!" I worried and was anxious and asked, "Where are you taking me?" He would laugh and didn't answer, and I started to learn to trust. I forgot my boring life and entered into the adventure. And when I'd say, "I'm scared," He'd lean back and touch my hand.

He took me to people with gifts that I needed....gifts of healing, acceptance, and joy. They gave me their gifts to take on my journey, my Lord's and mine. And we were off again. He would say, "Give the gifts away, they're extra baggage, too much weight."

So I did, to the people we met...and I found that in giving I received back, and still our burden was light. I have to admit I did not trust Him, at first, to be in control of my life.

I thought He'd wreck it, but He knows bike secrets. He knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners, jump to clear high rocks, fly to shorten scary passages. And I'm learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places. and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion, Jesus Christ.

And when I'm sure I just can't do anymore, He just smiles and says....."Pedal!!!"
--Anonymous

P.S. I read this many years ago and it touched my heart! I found it this week when I was looking for something else, and I remembered the impact it had on me then. I wanted to share it with you, and maybe you have read it before, but it's worth reading again. When I went on my Emmaus Walk, I thought I was in control, but during those three days, I finally let God trade places with me. I haven't been too sure lately that I could keep going, but Jesus Christ has just smiled at me and said "Pedal!"

De Colores, Carolyn McLean, Board Chair

BOARD ELECTIONS COMING UP

Elections for five 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 rest of the month of 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. Nominations will also be taken at the August Gathering at St. John's Church in Sumter. Terms are for three years (one vacancy on the board is a one-year term), 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!!



AUGUST GATHERING

The Community Gathering for the month of August will be hosted by St. John's Church, 136 Poinsett Drive, Sumter, SC 29150. It begins at 7 pm on Friday, August 23, with a potluck supper in the fellowship hall. Following the meal, we will introduce the board, have announcements, and spend about 15 minutes on sponsorship training. 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, see old friends, and get to know new friends as we fellowship together in our Fourth Days at a gathering!!



The July Gathering hosted by Northeast UMC was very well attended. Thanks to our hosts for providing their fellowship hall and sanctuary, for the beautiful music, for an inspirational Fourth Day Talk and Clergy Response. And thank you for your generous offering of the evening in the amount of \$1,693.00. Thanks be to God!!

EMMAUS MUSIC BOOKS



As you know, we began using new music books last spring during Walks #55. We have quite a few of the old music books that are just sitting around gathering dust. If you have a desire to have one of these, they will be made available at the next gathering for a donation. Look for them on a table in the fellowship hall along with a basket for your donation. Take as many as you want!

Paul McKeever, Music Chair

A WORD FROM THE NEWLETTER EDITOR

I am always looking for articles for the "Messenger" that is published monthly. This could be an announcement, news from your church or 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

NEW POST OFFICE BOX

Please make a note that we have closed the old post office box in Prosperity. You may now contact us through our new address at Emmaus of the Midlands, PO Box 85, Lexington, SC 29071. You may mail pilgrim's applications to that address.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **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 since Covid is rampant again, **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 September 7 and October 5 at 9 am at a place to be determined. 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. If you have already been through training, you do not need to be trained again.
- ❖ **Snack Agape:** Melissa Sansolo, Snack Agape Chair, is soliciting snacks for our fall walks. Please keep in mind that individual serving size snacks are needed, such as packages of peanut butter crackers, cheese crackers, chips, pretzels, mini-muffins, etc. Also needed are cases of bottled water (16.9 oz. size). Homemade goodies are the best, and the pilgrims really go for brownies, fudge, cookies, sliced pound cake, lemon bars, and peanut brittle. Veggie trays with dip are good, but no whole fruit. Your help with these items is just one more way you can serve in Emmaus!
- ❖ **Table Agape** is also an important part of each walk. Reunion Groups, please begin working on your Table Agape items now. You may bring them on the night of Send-Off and leave at the Registration Table.

GREAT NEWS!

David Trask and Melanie Prewitt, Lay Directors for our upcoming Walks #56 now have full teams and are preparing for Team Training.

Team Training #1: August 30-31 – Platt Springs UMC, 3215 Platt Springs Road, West Columbia SC 29170. Training begins at 6:00 pm Friday and runs through Saturday at 5:00 pm. Breakfast and lunch will be served on Saturday.

Team Training #2: September 13-14 – Lexington UMC, 309 E. Main Street, Lexington, SC 29072. Training begins at 6:00 pm Friday and runs through Saturday at 5:00 pm. Breakfast and lunch will be served on Saturday.

If you are on the team and you live close enough to these churches, you may go home to sleep, but must be back by 7:30 Saturday morning. If you need to spend the night, please bring a sleeping bag or cot. Come Friday evening having already eaten your evening meal.

PILGRIMS NEEDED!

In order to have a walk, we must have pilgrims! Please pray first and ask God to lay someone on your heart. Then act!! Speak to the person, explain the Emmaus Weekend, and have an application in hand for them to fill out. If you have not sponsored before, please be at the gathering at St. John's Church in Sumter on Friday, August 23, at 7 pm. There will be a sponsorship training there.

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBER

My name is Aubrie Bundrick and I attended Emmaus Walk of the Midlands #52 and sat the Table of Rachel. My board responsibility is Candlelight. I am responsible for putting together the beautiful service for the Pilgrims on their Walk to Emmaus. I attend Branchville & Bethel United Methodist Churches in Orangeburg. I have been married to my soulmate, Kenneth Bundrick, for 11 years. We have no children, but we have 6 dogs and 8 cats. I foster and volunteer at the Newberry County Animal Shelter. I worked in retail for 20 years before I went on disability due to my health. I was then able to live out my true passion for saving animals.



FROM THE HEART



In the Bible the use of music occurs in different contexts. Here are two examples. In Exodus 15 we read about the Song of Moses, celebrating the great deliverance of the Hebrews out of Egypt as Miriam and others danced with tambourines. There was great joy, thankfulness, awe and celebration from their hearts and their music expressed this after coming through so much difficulty, stress and anxiety.

In Acts 16, after having their backs beaten raw, Paul and Silas sat in the stocks in a dark cell, and they sang to the Lord. They weren't celebrating something the Lord had done, but celebrating the Lord – and then something occurred.

Most all of us can think of something the Lord has done for us, and we can celebrate that in our music. Most of us are also going through one thing or another, and we can celebrate the Lord as we wait to see Him work.

De Colores, Adam Kiraly

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

...Galatians 5:22-23

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

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