

# Messenger

*A monthly newsletter of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community*

**Emmaus of the Midlands**  
**PO Box 85**  
**Lexington, SC 29071**



**Volume 24, Issue 11, November 21, 2024**

## **Upcoming Events:**

**December Gathering**  
**Friday, December 6, 7 pm**  
**Red Bank UMC**  
**Lexington, SC**

**December Board Meeting**  
**December 9, 2024, 7 pm**  
**Brookland UMC**

**January Board Meeting**  
**January 13, 2025, 7 pm**  
**Brookland UMC**

**January Gathering**  
**Friday, January 24, 2025**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Location TBA**

## **INSPIRATION FROM OUR ASSISTANT SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR**

**Happy Hallothanksmas!** For many of us, Hallothanksmas is a fitting term for the time between October 31 (or even earlier) and December 25. Sometimes during these months, the days all seem to run together, and time seems to run out. During this busy and often stressful time of the year, it is especially important for us to remember the words of Psalm 46:10a: "Be still and know that I am God." An easy meditative exercise that may provide a brief respite from the busyness of the season is to say Psalm 46:10a, pause, take a deep breath, and then say the verse again omitting the last word. Continue repeating the verse, omitting the last word of the version you just said, until all you have left is "be". Reverse the practice adding a word each time until you are again saying the whole verse. With each repetition remember to pause and take a deep breath before saying the verse again. You might want to end your time of meditation by saying: "Be still and know that I am God. I am who you thank and who you celebrate. I am your reason for the season."

Hallothanksmas is a playful way of acknowledging three occasions that many Americans celebrate at the end of year. Depending on the source (and probably the year since some holiday/holy days are movable), there are twenty to thirty holidays/holy days celebrated between the beginning of November and the end of January. Not all of the holidays are Christian and some even may not be celebrated in the United States. Nonetheless they are reasons to celebrate, important, and often sacred to those who acknowledge them. God expects us to respect everyone, even those with whom we disagree (see Matthew 5:43-48). All people were created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). When we respect the beliefs and traditions of others (respect doesn't mean acceptance), when we listen to others talk about why certain days are special to them, we earn the right to share our beliefs with them. God, through the Holy Spirit, will take care of anything else that needs to be done. So, Happy Hallothanksmas, Merry Christmas, and Happy Holidays! May your words and actions honor the Christ Child this holy season.

I am Mary Frances Thompson. I attended Central Carolinas Walk #31 in 1992 and sat at the Table of Mary. I live in Greenwood, SC with my four fur-babies (three dogs and a cat). I attend First Baptist Church Greenwood (a Cooperative Baptist Church), where I serve as Ministry Assistant. Previously, I served as chaplain for the Greenwood Center for Juvenile Girls (a Department of Juvenile Justice facility). Since 1992 I have been active in Emmaus, Chrysalis, Kairos (an Emmaus-like program for incarcerated individuals), and Epiphany Ministries (an Emmaus-like program for at risk and incarcerated juveniles). I am honored to serve as the Assistant Spiritual Director of Emmaus of the Midlands.

***De Colores, Mary Frances***



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## CAROLYN'S CORNER



It is so hard to believe that November is here and Thanksgiving is just around the corner! Where did this year go?

Going through my head this morning were the words of that old familiar hymn, "Count Your Blessings." You know how the song goes, "Count your blessings, name them one by one, count your blessings, see what God has done."

And so, I asked myself quite sincerely, "Carolyn, have you counted your blessings lately?"

"Well," I answered myself. "I always thank God for my blessings when

I pray."

"Okay," I replied, "but that is so...well, so generic. But have you named them one by one?"

"Hmmm, to be honest, I guess not. I'd better fix this."

Dear God,

Thank you for the friend who prayed that I would have enough strength for today.

Thank you for the beautiful orchid another friend brought me last week.

Thank you for a son who teaches me every day about not giving up.

Thank you for the gift of music.

Thank you for my Emmaus Weekend that changed my life forever.

Thank you for my church and for the Body of Christ that encourages me and prays with me and for me and my family.

Thank you for a husband who doesn't mind unloading the dishwasher.

Thank you for the privilege of giving and receiving love.

Thank you for books to read.

Thank you for the honor and privilege of being a servant.

Thank you for surgery that fixes knees and shoulders.

Thank you for a good night's sleep.

Thank you for reminding me to "let go and let God."

Thank you for the peace that passes understanding.

Thank you for being my compass.

Thank you for my family.

Thank you for sending your Son to die for my sins.



Oh my, I could be here for a long time. I bet you could, too!

Gratefully, Carolyn McLean, Board Chair

## DECEMBER GATHERING

There is no gathering in November due to Thanksgiving; however, we celebrate our Savior's birth by holding the December gathering early in the month. This year our Christmas Gathering will be held on Friday, December 6, 2024, at 7 pm at Red Bank UMC, 2909 Old Barnwell Road, Lexington, SC 29073. We will enjoy a meal together in the fellowship hall followed by announcements. We will then move to the sanctuary for a time of worship with singing, a Fourth Day Talk, some special music, and communion. Please come with your favorite dish to share, bring a prospective pilgrim with you, and feel free to wear your ugly Christmas sweater.



**Mark your Calendar!!**

**New Walk Dates for Walks #56**

**Men's Walk – March 13-16, 2025**

**Women's Walk – March 20-23, 2025**

**Board of Directors**  
**Emmaus of the Midlands**  
**November 1, 2024-October 31, 2025**

<b><u>Position &amp; Email</u></b>	<b><u>Name &amp; Phone</u></b>	<b><u>Term Expiration</u></b>
Board Chair/Newsletter chmclean55@yahoo.com	Carolyn McLean (803) 414-6216	Oct. 31, 2025
Vice-Chair/Candlelight blickle4dog5cat119@aol.com	Aubrie Bundrick (803) 543-7925	Oct. 31, 2026
Secretary/Send-Off/Sponsors' Hour/Closing terioschell@gmail.com	Teri Schell (803) 309-6119	Oct. 31, 2025
Treasurer/Literature/Materials levyrogers@hotmail.com	Levy Rogers (803) 518-1886	Oct. 31, 2026
Community Spiritual Director mevans@gmcofsc.org	Mike Evans (864) 378-3797	Oct. 31, 2026
Assistant Community Spiritual Director mfthompson@embarqmail.com	Mary Frances Thompson (864) 344-4334	Oct. 31, 2026
Gatherings/Reunion Groups lkiraly2015@gmail.com	Linda Kiraly (803) 727-6997	Oct. 31, 2027
Housing/Camp Set-up/Take-Down petersonterryw@gmail.com	Terry Peterson (706) 424-3820	Oct. 31, 2025
Kitchen Co-Chair kim.hutchins2@gmail.com	Kim Hutchins (803) 231-8407	Oct. 31, 2026
Kitchen Co-Chair christenmcconnaughay@gmail.com	Christen McConnaughay (803) 603-0317	Oct. 31, 2026
Mail Room/Table Agape bowersmaintenance@gmail.com	Greg Bowers (803) 530-4817	Oct. 31, 2027

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Music/Entertainment pmckeever2944@gmail.com	Paul McKeever (803) 350-1940	Oct. 31, 2026
Prayer Vigil/Seed Agape wendyjojo12@gmail.com	Wendy McLean (803) 665-6200	Oct. 31, 2027
Public Relations/Community Training/Website Asst. adamkiraly2326@gmail.com	Adam Kiraly (803) 262-6858	Oct. 31, 20
Registrar kacorrigan1@gmail.com	Kim Corrigan (513) 293-9907	Oct. 31, 2027
Snack Agape masansolo06@gmail.com	Melissa Sansolo (803) 838-3334	Oct. 31, 2027
Team Selection/Manuals snugglesmama@gmail.com	Tina Lipscomb (803) 917-2165	Oct. 31, 2026
Transportation/Luggage kbundrick1980@aol.com	Kenneth Bundrick (803) 924-8678	Oct. 31, 2025

### **Special Task Committees**

Logistics	Volunteer?
Social Media	Aubrie Bundrick Adam Kiraly Linda Kiraly Wendy McLean Melissa Sansolo
Website webmaster@dcanddc.com	Dave Cavazos (336) 509-0443

**We are indeed a blessed Community with a Board of Directors who serves with humility and gratitude for the opportunity to do so. We give God the glory for everything that has been accomplished during this past year, and our thanks to those board members whose terms have expired. Congratulations to our newest board members, and we ask for your continued prayers for the coming year. Our prayer is always “Not I, but Christ!”**



### **MEET OUR BOARD MEMBER**

Hello I am Terry Peterson. I attended Emmaus of the Midlands Walk 41 and sat at the table of Paul. My former board position was Table Agape and Mailroom; however, this year I have been assigned Housing/Camp Set-Up/Take Down on the Board of Directors. I attend Brookland United Methodist Church in West Columbia, where I serve as a lay leader and sing in the choir. I have also served on two walks, one as a Table Leader and one as an Assistant Table Leader. I am also serving on the upcoming spring walk and I am so excited to be a part of this community.

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## **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

The Board of Directors for the Emmaus of the Midlands is searching for a person who could serve as a Special Task Committee member of the Community. This is a one-year appointment, and you may attend the board meetings (it's not required), but you would not have a vote. The position is Logistics and is truly a servant's position. We need someone to chair this committee to oversee the necessary job of restocking paper towels, toilet paper, cleaning the toilets, sinks, and showers, sweeping up dorm rooms, and running errands each day of the men's and women's walk. You may form a committee of up to six members who could possibly each take one day to perform these duties. If interested in serving the Lord in this capacity, please contact Carolyn McLean at 803-414-6216, either by phone or text. Please pray about this, and if God leads you, then I'll be waiting on your call!



## **AUGUST 29-31, 2025 REGIONAL EMMAUS GATHERING AND CELEBRATION**

Next year's Regional Gathering and Celebration will be held in the Nashville, TN area. This event will have special activities for members of Chrystalis Communities. Also, it will be a great opportunity for Emmaus Ministries community leaders and members to meet The Upper Room Emmaus Ministries staff, deepen their understanding of our overall mission and its implications for their ministry, network and share best practices, and receive further training in specific aspects of the work of Emmaus Ministries. Stay tuned for more details on future eNews.

Blessings,

*Donna Highley*, Emmaus Ministries, Communicator, District 15

(I would love to go next year! Anyone on the board or a member of our Community may go. It would be great to have a busload attend!! Let me know if you are interested. Carolyn McLean)

## **EMMAUS OF THE MIDLANDS ANNUAL MEETING**

- E. In accordance with [Article II](#), Section 2A and 2B, the annual meeting of the corporation shall be held at the regular meeting during the month of January or after completion of the annual audit. The annual meeting will meet requirements of the South Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act and federal 501(c)3 requirements as follows:
- i. The Community Members shall be invited to the annual meeting with a 30-day notice presented via email.
  - ii. The Community Lay Director/Chairperson will prepare and present an annual activity report.
  - iii. The Treasurer will prepare and present an annual financial report, including results of the annual audit.
  - iv. The Board and Members may set activity and financial goals for the next year.

**Mark Your Calendar for January 24, 2025, 7 pm (Location to be Determined)**

Newsletter submitted by Carolyn McLean at [chmclean55@yahoo.com](mailto:chmclean55@yahoo.com) 803-414-6216

