

Messenger

A monthly newsletter of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community



Emmaus of the Midlands
PO Box 85
Lexington, SC 29071

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Upcoming Events:

January Board Meeting

January 13, 2025, 7 pm
Brookland UMC

Community Training

Saturday, January 18, 2025
10 am – 12 pm

January Gathering

Friday, January 24, 2025
Brookland UMC, 7 pm

Annual Meeting of the Corporation

Friday, January 24, 2025
Brookland UMC, 8 pm

February Board Meeting

February 10, 2025

February Gathering

February 28, 2025, 7 pm
Edgefield Methodist Church

PREPARING FOR THE HARVEST: A FOURTH DAY REFLECTION

Do you like to garden? We love it! We recently took a week off and spent three of those vacation days preparing a garden. We shopped for the right set of plants. Ones that would thrive in the area prepared for them. We dug out overgrown and invasive perennials and sifted out the buckets of gravel we found in the dirt underneath. We removed roots and enriched the soil before we planted our carefully selected bulbs and new perennials.



Since coming to Emmaus, I often think that we are all gardeners. We spend time preparing the soil for the Walks, getting rid of the pests and barriers to God's work. We carefully, prayerfully, select the Pilgrims for the Walks, and pray they will answer the call. To paraphrase Paul in 2 Cor 3:6, we plant, we water, and God provides the harvest. It is so exciting to see our little plants start to sprout as the Walks progress, isn't it? We work hard for this moment, and it is important to give God the glory for the life he works in these little ones. We give thanks and praise that the Walk is a success, and breathe a sigh of relief.

All gardeners know, however, that there is much work to be done between the planting and the harvest. Lowes has rows of shelves dedicated to pest and weed control, plant food, tools and more. We, too, are called to care for our newest Community members after they complete a Walk. Someone needs to protect them from the pitfalls of the enemy, provide a Word of hope and joy in these difficult times (and there are always difficult times), and support their continued growth into the disciples we pray that God creates out of these Walks.



I want to encourage you today to reach out to a newer Community member and ask them how their Fourth Day is going. Ask them if you can pray with them. Ask them what they need from you on their Fourth Day Walk. Ask if you can bring them to the next Gathering, or help them find a reunion group. Most importantly, be prepared to follow through with their answer. Somewhere around July, I get tired of the mosquitoes, the weeds, and the heat. I wish I could fully automate my plant care. I know that I know, though, that there is nothing my plants need more from me than my attention. Some of them are growing strong and beautiful without me. Some, though, need me to help rid them of the pests, find more light or water, and offer them some extra food if they are weak and hungry. I committed to their care when I agreed to plant them. I know that, if I don't follow through, they won't make it to the harvest.

Will you agree to make that call today? Linda Kiraly, Gathering and Reunion Groups Chair

CAROLYN'S CORNER

During a monster of an ice storm in the late 1970's in the Columbia area, nearly everyone lost power. It took weeks to get the blown transformers repaired and the downed power lines up again. I can remember living through those days with no heat, no hot water, no way to cook a meal or refrigerate anything. And, of course, there were no lights! With a family of 6 at that time it was tough-going, but we found ways to compensate. Extra layers of clothing helped to keep us warm. We learned to cook over an open fire and kept the milk and lunch meat outside to keep them from spoiling.



By being creative we didn't do too badly through the twelve days we were without power. But the one thing that affected us more than anything else was the lack of light. There were no streetlights, no lights inside the house except for candles, and when those were extinguished, the darkness engulfed us. During the day even the sun seemed to be hiding behind the clouds. In spite of all the darkness, though, we knew we had hope. We knew eventually that the electricity and lights would be restored, and the icy roads and downed trees would be cleared.



As I think of the Advent Season and the waiting for the Christ Child so many years ago, I remember God's promise of hope for his people who were living in darkness. God sent his son to be the light of the world, and as we read in Isaiah 60:19, "the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory." Thankfully, we don't have to live in darkness because Christ came, and Christ will come again. Hallelujah!!

Our upcoming spring walks will soon be here, and my heart tells me there are many who are living in darkness right now. There are many Christians who are being attacked by spiritual warfare, many are carrying burdens but don't remember how to "let go and let God." Many have forgotten how to trust in a loving God. I believe we all know at least one person who is experiencing a drought in his or her life. Please pray that God will lay some soul on your heart who could benefit from a 72-experience with the Holy Spirit and other Christians. Tell him or her about Emmaus, pray with that person, offer to be a sponsor. Let them know that the light of Christ can refill, refuel, replenish, and rejuvenate, and that they will leave the weekend with their hearts burning with a desire to share this new joy with their friends and their church. Will you help someone today?

John 1:5 "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Praying that your Christmas will be blessed,
Carolyn McLean, Board Chair

Mark your Calendar!!

Walk Dates for Walks #56

Men's Walk – March 13-16, 2025

Women's Walk – March 20-23, 2025

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION AND JANUARY GATHERING

Mark your calendar for the Annual Meeting of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community which will be held at the January 24th Gathering at Brookland UMC. We will begin our gathering with our potluck meal at 7 pm followed by the annual meeting. The Community Lay Director/Chairperson and the Treasurer will prepare and present an annual activity report. Please bring a covered dish to share in the fellowship meal, followed by the business meeting. We will then participate in the worship service of the evening with music, prayer, Fourth Day Speaker, Clergy Response and Communion.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The Board of Directors for the Emmaus of the Midlands is searching for a person to serve as a Special Task Committee Chair of the Community. This is a one-year appointment, and you may attend the board meetings (it's not required), but you will not have a vote. The position is Logistics and is truly a servant's position. This entails overseeing the necessary jobs of restocking paper towels, toilet paper, cleaning toilets, sinks, and showers, sweeping up dorm rooms, and running errands each day of the men's and women's walk. 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, I'll be waiting on your call!

VOLUNTEER



MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBER



My name is Teri Schell, I am a bi-vocational, part-time local pastor serving a 2 point charge in Pageland, SC. I am blessed to be appointed to the Zion and Zoar Charge. I attended Emmaus of the Midlands Walk 38, where I sat with several wonderful women at the table of Miriam. My husband and I have been married for 25 years and have 3 adult sons, 1 adult daughter, 1 son in law, 1 daughter in law, 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Unfortunately, none of them live near us. We have lived in SC for 22 years and own a business selling furniture, lighting and other products for 9 manufacturers in the Carolinas and southern Virginia. We work with interior designers and management groups in the hospitality, multi-family and senior living industry.

I felt God speaking to me and calling me to ministry on my Walk during Candlelight. I ignored the call as long as I could. It was with the support of my family and my friends in the Emmaus Community that I finally answered God's call to ministry. I currently serve as the Board Secretary after a season as the Prayer Vigil Coordinator.

Emmaus has meant so much to me. The friends I have made through this Community have been instrumental in my growth as a Christian and as a pastor. I love our Community and the people in it and highly recommend finding a reunion group and serving in the kitchen or answering the call to serve in the Conference Room during a weekend. That is where relationships blossom. I look forward to working with and serving our Lord Jesus Christ with you! De Colores!

COMMUNITY TRAINING

Anyone in the Midlands Emmaus Community who is interested in serving on a walk, or just wants to know more about Emmaus, is invited to a training session to be held by our Training Coordinator on the Board of Directors, Adam Kiraly. This session is planned for Saturday, January 18, at Brookland UMC on Meeting St, West Columbia from 10am until 12pm. There are many educational opportunities that will be available during this year, and even if you have been in the community a long time, there is still much to learn. Make your plans now to be there.

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 any member of our Community, may go. It would be great to have a busload attend!! Let me know if you are interested. Carolyn McLean)

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please join us in prayer for:

- Charlie McLean, Stage 4 Metastatic Melanoma
- Kim and Mike Hutchins in the loss of their daughter Beverly earlier this year
- Tatyana Bromberg who is undergoing treatment for cancer.

There are many in our community who need our prayers. Please email or text the Prayer Vigil Chairperson, Wendy McLean, wendyjojo12@gmail.com, 803-665-6200, to be added to our prayer concerns.



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

