

The 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:

New Membership Celebration

Saturday, March 29,
11am
Shiloh UMC, Saluda

April Board Meeting

Monday, April 14, 2025
Brookland UMC
7 pm

April Gathering

Rehoboth Methodist
Friday, April 25, 2025
7:00 pm

Training Event for All

Saturday, April 26 2025
10:00am-12:30 pm
Brookland UMC

MIKE'S MOMENT

Welcome new Pilgrims! During this season of Lent let us reflect on God's love for each of us.

What a blessing the past two weekends have been as we have gathered together and celebrated new pilgrims into our family. Thank you to the Emmaus community for coming together for the Special Moments. Philippians 4: 13 says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." I encourage you to remember your 4th day. Continue to pray for our new family.

De Colores!
Rev. Mike Evans, Community Spiritual Director



WELCOME

Men Walk #56

Zachary Dietz
Aaron Gray
Stephen Howard
Caden Jones
JJ Jones
Omar Lopez
Tim Madden
Ben Rushton
Ira Sansolo
Bob Smith
John Thompson
Eddie Williams

Women's Walk #56

Alassa Banett-England
Chastity Cherubin
Amber Forrest
Edith Hallman
Julia Mae Lark
Linda Martin
Diane Oliver
Joyce Rushton
Pam Smith
Amy Vincent

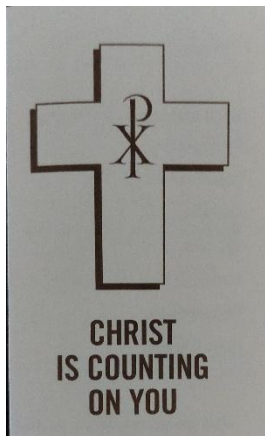
What Are Reunion Groups?

As I write this, the Men's Walk #56 ended yesterday and the Women's Walk #56 begins in three days, and I find myself reflecting back on my weekend. I went not knowing what to expect but needing to meet Jesus. And meet Jesus I did. Like many of you, I left my Walk changed, I was different from the person who began that walk three days earlier.

Afterwards, I knew I couldn't be the person I was before the Walk, but I didn't yet know how to be the person that I became. I kept thinking, "What now?". Luckily for me, I had a spouse who LOVES to talk about Jesus and believes in the power of the Spirit to move the people of Emmaus. I also had a sponsor who was grounded in her love of God, His for her, and complete trust in God to show people his love for them during a Walk. Between the two of them, I found myself in some form of Reunion Group every week. These conversations led me into a Fourth Day Walk that continues to inspire, equip and challenge me.

It seems important to define here what I mean by a Reunion Group. A Reunion Group is a small group that meets every week or so to support and provide accountability to one another in living out the Christian ideal of a grace-filled life. Reunion Groups gather to share our Christ-led piety, study and action activities; discuss our closest moment with the Lord; describe our call to discipleship-both successes and failure; and consider our plans for further discipleship.

Now, Reunion Groups also socialize, eat together, laugh and cry together, volunteer together, and make lots of agape together. These are important parts of our Fourth Day experience, but they are not the primary goal of a Reunion Group. The primary goal of a Reunion Group is to provide a safe and loving space with like-minded Christians to offer support and accountability for Christians in our promise to walk with the Lord. More simply said, the primary goal of a Reunion Group is to grow us into mature disciples of Christ.



I gather with my Reunion Groups because I know that discipleship is HARD. It requires strength and support, so I freely give and receive both with my brothers and sisters in Christ. If you are one of the newest members of our Emmaus community and want support in your discipleship journey, or want to give it to others, may I suggest starting or joining a Reunion Group? If you are one of the older members of our Emmaus community and want support for your discipleship journey, or want to give it to others, may I suggest starting or joining a Reunion

Group? This journey REQUIRES nourishment. Please offer that to yourself. And, if you need help in starting or joining a Reunion Group, please email me at lkiraly2015@gmail.com. I would be delighted to support you.

Blessings, Linda Kiraly, Gatherings/Reunion Groups Chair

And I Am Counting on Christ

UPCOMING NEW MEMBER CELEBRATION

Beginning this year, we will be holding a New Member Celebration after the Walk. This event will be held Saturday, March 29th, beginning at 11 am for the newest members of our community, as well as their sponsors. They will be joined by the rest of our Emmaus community at 12 noon. A potluck lunch will be served followed by a communion service. We are excited to offer this opportunity to connect our newest community member with those of us who have loved Emmaus for so long!

Shiloh United Methodist Church
253 Shiloh Rd
Saluda, SC 29138

We look forward to seeing you there!

CAROLYN'S CORNER by Carolyn McLean, Community Lay Director

I grew up in the church and have been a part of a Christian family all my life. Our children loved being involved in the church in many ways, as well as my husband and me. Together we sang in the choir, taught Sunday school classes, did VBS, went on mission trips, chaired many committees, worked with the youth, **AND** I was the church secretary for 34 ½ years. But one day I woke up and realized that something was missing in my life. I could not put my finger on it, but I instinctively began to understand that somewhere along the way, **I had lost my joy**. You could say my life was busy with 5 boys to raise (a husband too), my job, activities with the church, Scouts, Band, ROTC, and Little League Baseball, **and** because the one talent that I have is being a good listener, everyone seemed to want to tell me all their problems!

I shared my dilemma with my pastor one day. He told me, “Carolyn you need to take care of yourself!” Well, duh, I knew that, but I didn’t have time to take care of me, I had too many others to care for. And then my pastor said, “Carolyn, you need the experience of the Walk to Emmaus.” I had never heard of this Emmaus thing, but I began to investigate this three-day journey with Christ. So, I thought ok, I could use three days away with no children, husband, or job to worry about. Maybe I just need to rest!

Well, I signed up to go, and all I can say is, it changed my life forever!! I spent three days with 64 other Christian women. I made life-long friends. I listened to talks from clergy and lay people on God’s grace and God’s perfect love. Together we sang, laughed, ate, worshipped, had communion every day, laughed some more and even cried together. And did I say we ate – wow – that’s an understatement! But the thing that struck me the most and that has stayed with me all these years is something I thought I already knew. I grew up singing “Jesus Loves Me,” but in my heart, I don’t think I believed it. During Communion on Friday morning after a night of silence, I heard these words. “**Carolyn**, the Body of Christ broken for you.” Then “**Carolyn**, the Blood of Christ poured out for you.” And for the first time in my life I felt truly that **God loves me, Carolyn McLean!!!** I was completely blown away and it was all so personal. I was overwhelmed at all the ways that God showed his love to me through others who were there to serve him anonymously. My eyes were opened, my heart burned within me, and I found my joy. That was 1991, and I can say with absolute certainty that through all the ups and downs of the last 34 years, I have never lost that fire, that pure joy, and the passion for what God can do when we say, “Here I am, Lord!”



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD SECRETARY

Hello my friends,

I am so grateful for the time I've had as a board member for the Midlands Community. I hate doing this right before the walks, but it has been abundantly clear Dave's requirements when he gets home from rehab will prevent my participation in little, if anything, for a long time. I sadly am submitting my resignation as board secretary.

I will always be with the Community in my prayers. To all my fellow board members, I love each of them and have loved every minute of service as a board member for the Emmaus of the Midlands Community.

De Colores,
Teri Schell

PS: Dave Schell is now back at home with Teri, and she is so thankful for all the support and the prayers they have received from this community. But, Dave and Teri's lives have changed forever after his stroke, and Teri is giving her all to his recovery. Let us continue to keep them, as well as their family, in our prayers. Teri has been a faithful member of Emmaus for many years, serving in lots of areas anonymously, serving in the conference room, and an active member of the board serving as Secretary/Send-Off/Sponsor's Hour/Closing Ceremonies. THANK YOU!!!



WELCOME, NEW BOARD MEMBER



My name is Jodie Harper. I attended Lagniappe Country Walk to Emmaus #4 in south Louisiana, and sat at the table of Naomi. I attend Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church in Lexington. I was involved in my previous Emmaus community for 25 years serving in all roles in the conference room and all areas outside the conference room. I served on the board for 4 years (2 years as Community Lay Director). I love that Emmaus brings together all denominations, all races, and all ages. We are all one! And, I have had the privilege of seeing many lives changed by the Holy Spirit on Emmaus walks. I have 2 adult children. My son, Jonathan, lives in Saluda, with his wife Jessica, and their two boys, Noah (4) and Gabriel (2). My daughter, Jenee, lives in Grapevine, TX. I am humbled and honored to be asked to serve on the Board of Directors for The Emmaus of the Midlands community. I have been assigned the position of Secretary, and will also handle Send-Off, Sponsor's Hour, and Closing Services.

De Colores!

PRAYER VIGIL

I would like to thank each of you who signed up for the 72-hour Prayer Vigil. Both Men's and Women's Walks were not only completely filled up, but had extra people sign up to pray in spots already taken. To God be the Glory!!

Wendy McLean, Payer Vigil/Agape Seeds



LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The goal of the Leadership Training for 2025 is to help establish a shared Community Vision as presented in the Emmaus guidelines, and to develop the Spiritual Understanding that forms the Foundation of Emmaus. There will be a different training normally on the 3rd Saturday of each month at Brookland UMC from 10am-12:30pm. There will be no training in March due to the Walks and the third Saturday of April is the day before Easter. Please mark your calendar for our next event.

Saturday, April 26, beginning at 10 am.

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adamkiraly2326@gmail.com <https://www.midlandsemmaus.com/contact.htm>

All are invited!

2024-2025 Board of Directors

Board Chair/Newsletter	Carolyn McLean	chmclean55@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair/Candlelight	Aubrie Bundrick	blickle4dog5cat119@aol.com
Secretary/Send-Off/ Sponsor's Hour/Closing	Jodie Harper	jodieharper55@gmail.com
Treasurer/Literature/Materials	Levy Rogers	levyrogers@hotmail.com
Community Spiritual Director	Mike Evans	mevans@gmcofsc.org
Assistant Spiritual Director	Mary Frances Thompson	mfthompson@embarqmail.com
Gatherings/Reunion Groups	Linda Kiraly	lkiraly2015@gmail.com
Housing/Camp Manager	Terry Peterson	petersonterryw@gmail.com
Kitchen Chair	Christen McConnaughay	christenmcconnaughay@gmail.com
Kitchen Co-Chair	Kim Hutchins	kim.hutchins2@gmail.com
Mail Room/Table Agape	Greg Bowers	bowersmaintenance@gmail.com
Music/Entertainment	Paul McKeever	pmckeever2944@gmail.com
Prayer Vigil/Seed Agape	Wendy McLean	wendyjojo12@gmail.com
Publicity/Community Trainer	Adam Kiraly	adamkiraly2326@gmail.com
Registrar	Kim Corrigan	kacorrigan1@gmail.com
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Team Selection/Manuals	Tina Lipscomb	snugglesmama@gmail.com
Transportation/Luggage	Kenneth Bundrick	kbundrick1980@aol.com
Special Task Committees :		
Social Media Admin.	Aubrie Bundrick	blickle4dog5cat119@aol.com
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