

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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COMMUNITY FOURTH DAY REFLECTIONS

My name is Ra'eesa Barnette-England. I live in Columbia, SC, and worship at Bible Way Church. I went on EOM Walk #56 and sat at the Table of Elizabeth.

In the last week, what about your piety, study or action has been meaningful for you?

For years I've wanted to read the whole Bible in a year. Last week I downloaded it on my phone. I reached out to my cousin and asked her to join me. It's been a little challenging but that's been good for me. I'm discovering new scriptures that I've never read before. Isn't that great?

At what moment during this week did you feel you were responding to God's call to be a disciple?

The lady at my job, when I first started working there, we hit it off. I do massage therapy. I was at work, and they assign us rooms. I went to my room and a bowl was left there. I'm not a complainer. I just clean it and went to the break room. My manager's talking to another therapist about people leaving things in rooms, so I just chimed in. She said, "Oh, I know who's in that room." She said the woman's name. I said, "Oh, I didn't know. It doesn't matter to me. I'm just going to clean up what's in the room." She said, "I'm going to have to say something to her." After that, this woman stopped talking to me. When I spoke, she never spoke. This happened more than once. It bothered me. Then it dawned on me that it probably got back to her. So, she thought that I was complaining about her, but I wasn't.



So last Thursday I was in the break room. She came back, and she was upset. And I said, "Are you okay?" She's telling me about her daughter that lives with her now with a newborn baby, and how their relationship is strained. So, I chimed in about how children were different. So, long story short, we had a great conversation. She shed some tears. I told her it's gonna be okay. She knows I'm a Christian, but I know how people are at work, so I didn't reference Him. I gave her some suggestions and it was coming from my spiritual side and my experience. My spiritual take on how to do things differently. It's a process. I never said I'd pray for her but, see, I pray for my co-workers anyway as part of my morning prayer. The next day, I said, "How'd it go?" She said, "That's good advice. It's better. I feel good." I said, "You know, one day at a time." She said, "You're right, thank you for talking with me." I would say that that was my discipleship moment. It was very good, I think, for her and for me. I didn't like the connection that we had. It turned around, and now it's good.

To All Members of the Emmaus of the Midlands Community:

Five Board members will be rolling off the Board at the end of October, thus there are five positions to be filled. Below you will find the names of six people nominated to serve on the Board of Directors. Please vote for **ONLY FIVE** people by placing a check mark on the line beside their name. Votes need to be emailed to me at jodieharper55@gmail.com; mailed to me at 820 Winter Flower Drive, Lexington, SC 29073; **or** given to me at the next Gathering on September 19, 2025 at Wightman Methodist. All votes need to be turned in to me by October 15, 2025. There is no need to sign your name. Those elected will be announced between October 15 through October 31, 2025. New Board members begin their term of 3 years on November 1, 2025.

_____ Ed Burch
_____ Delores Fish
_____ Becky Goudelock
_____ Matt Goudelock
_____ Jodie Harper
_____ Tina Lipscomb

De Colores!

Jodie Harper, Emmaus of the Midlands Secretary

You are Invited to our Next Emmaus Gathering!

Friday, September 19, 2025

Wightman Methodist Church,

302 N. Main St., Prosperity, SC 29127

Sponsorship Training - 6:30 pm

Fellowship Meal - 7:00 pm

Bring your favorite dish to share and join us for a time of fellowship and good food, followed by prayer, singing, Fourth Day Reflectionn, communion and worship.



CAROLYN'S CORNER by Carolyn McLean, Community Lay Director/Board Chair

It is with deep sadness that the Board of Directors of Emmaus of the Midlands voted to postpone the Men's and Women's Fall Walks due to a lack of pilgrims. The dates for the Spring Walks are as follows:

Men's Walk – March 12-15, 2026
Women's Walk – March 19-22, 2026
Location – Camp Agape, Batesburg, SC

There are many reasons why so few pilgrims signed up, and we as a Board, have had many discussions as to what is happening. Is it because we didn't have enough sponsors? Is it because of the split in the Methodist Church, as well as other denominations? Is it because the timing was wrong? Is it because of what is going on in our nation (assassinations, school shootings, political rhetoric, violence)? Is it because we have stopped caring? Has Emmaus lost its appeal as a way to grow Christian disciples? Have our priorities changed? Do we not still desire to help new pilgrims live a life full of grace? Are we too busy? Is it because the enemy is alive and well and is in the business of dividing God's people? Maybe all of the above, some of the above, or none of the above.

Please help us understand. The Emmaus of the Midlands Board of Directors is charged with putting on walks for our community, but we need your help. We have prayed, we have fasted, we have put teams together, we have provided training, we have cried, and we have sought God's will in all this. Would you consider helping us by sharing your thoughts? You may email, text, or call any member of the board to offer encouragement, words of wisdom, ways to reach new churches and pilgrims, or let us know you are praying for this community.



There is one thing we want you to know—**WE ARE NOT GIVING UP!** We believe wholeheartedly that God wants us to go forward with the spring walks. We are receiving applications and sponsor's covenants from now until January 29, 2026, when we must have at least 15 men and 15 women signed up. If we meet that number, we will schedule team training and continue to receive applications. Our goal is to have 20 or more for each walk.

Terry Booth will continue her work as Lay Director for the Women's Walk. Ken Medlin has been elected as Lay Director for the Men's Walk.

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations for ever and ever! Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRAYER VIGIL COORDINATOR

If you signed up for the 72-hour prayer vigil for the Men's/Women's Walks #57 for September and October, 2025, we ask that you honor that commitment to pray even though these walks have been postponed. Please pray for our team leaders, for pilgrims, for sponsors, for our community, and for our nation. James 5:16 says, “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

God bless you, Wendy McLean

WORDS OF WISDOM

It was just a piece of cake being offered by a young lady around 8 years old. She helped her mom make it and she offered some to our group. We were there looking over their house as a potential summer project. The home was not in good shape, about 800 square feet, with 8 people living there.

The cake was made from a box cake mix and had multi-colored sprinkles on top of the icing. She had sliced it and placed it on a paper plate with a spoon. She went from person to person offering it and everyone kept turning it down. It was obvious that some of the volunteers were afraid to eat it and others wanted the little girl to have it.



Finally, she asked me, and I accepted it. The young girl watched as I ate the cake. With each bite, I told her how good it was and that she did a good job making it. As we talked, her smile got bigger and bigger. It was obvious she was glad someone tried her cake, and it appeared to make her day. As soon as we got back in the car, one of the volunteers began to scold me for accepting and eating the cake. The volunteer gave me many reasons why I shouldn't have eaten or accepted the cake, however, none involved stepping out in faith, building trust, or helping encourage the little girl in learning hospitality, gratitude or giving back.

1 Thessalonians 5:11-12 "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you."

Sometimes meeting people where they are, showing love and stepping out in faith is a piece of cake, or at least, involves accepting one that is offered to you.

By Jeff Jones, Emmaus of the Midlands Men's Walk #33, Table of Paul, Lay Director Men's Walk #53

SIX THINGS TO DO AS WE AWAIT THE SPRING WALKS

PRAY

MAKE TABLE AGAPE

ATTEND A SPONSORSHIP TRAINING

FORM A REUNION/FOURTH DAY GROUP

ATTEND A GATHERING

TELL SOMEONE ABOUT EMMAUS

God can do what we can't, but let's not take for granted the part we can play in His plan. We have the privilege to be His hands, reaching out to those we are called to help. We can be His voice, speaking life into those who need it most. We can be led by His Spirit, showing love to those who feel hopeless. Remember, you can do the ministry He has called you to! (Anonymous)

2024-2025 Board of Directors

Board Chair/Newsletter	Carolyn McLean	chmclean55@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair/Candlelight	Aubrie Bundrick	blickle4dog5cat119@aol.com
Secretary	Jodie Harper	jodieharper55@gmail.co,
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