# 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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Renewing Christian Disciples

Strengthening Local Churches

## In Loving Memory of Two Dear Friends

There are times in the life of every Emmaus community when words seem inadequate. Our hearts are saddened by the passing of two cherished members of our family, Mary Frances Thompson and Thomas Earl Rowe. Though their gifts were different, both faithfully answered God's call to serve, and both left an imprint on the hearts of countless pilgrims and servants throughout the years.

**A Tribute to Mary Frances Thompson**

To speak of Mary Frances Thompson is to speak of faithful leadership, spiritual wisdom, and a servant's heart. She was more than a leader within Emmaus of the Midlands; she was one of its spiritual foundations. Through her service as Community Spiritual Director and on countless Emmaus teams, she offered encouragement, guidance, prayer, and the reassuring presence that so many of us came to cherish.

Mary Frances had a remarkable gift for helping people recognize God's presence in their lives. Whether she was leading, teaching, counseling, praying, or simply listening, she reflected Christ's love in a way that made others feel valued and supported. She helped shape the spiritual journeys of many within our community, and her influence extends far beyond the teams on which she served.

Those who knew her will remember her gentle spirit, her wisdom, her sense of humor, and the unwavering faith that guided every aspect of her life. She was the kind of person whose leadership came not from authority, but from faithfulness. Her presence brought calm during difficult moments, encouragement during times of uncertainty, and joy wherever she served.

**A Tribute to Thomas Earl Rowe**

For many of us, the memory of Thomas Earl Rowe will forever be connected with music, fellowship, laughter, and joyful worship. Thomas possessed a gift that went beyond musical talent. He had the ability to bring people together and to lift hearts toward God through song and friendship.

Whenever Thomas was involved, there was a sense of warmth, enthusiasm, and genuine fellowship. His willingness to serve, his encouraging spirit, and his love for others were as much a part of his ministry as the music he shared. Many pilgrims experienced moments of worship made more meaningful because Thomas offered his talents so generously and so joyfully.

He reminded us that ministry often happens not only through words but through the gifts God places in our hands and hearts. Thomas used those gifts faithfully. The songs may have ended, but the joy and inspiration he brought to so many lives will continue to echo throughout our community.

**Their Legacy Among Us**

The Emmaus journey is built upon ordinary people who willingly answer God's extraordinary call. Both Mary Frances and Thomas lived that calling. They encouraged pilgrims, strengthened teams, supported fellow servants, and helped create the loving Christian community that defines Emmaus.

While we mourn their absence, we also celebrate the gift of having known them. Their lives were testimonies to discipleship, servant leadership, and faithful perseverance. Because they walked among us, our community is stronger, our faith is deeper, and our memories are richer,

We extend our prayers and deepest sympathy to their families, friends, church families, and all whose lives were touched by their witness. We give thanks to God for their service, their friendship, and the countless ways they reflected Christ's love to everyone around them.

**A Closing Tribute**
Come, Holy Spirit, and rest gently upon the memories of Your servants, Mary Frances and Thomas.
Fill our hearts with gratitude for the lives they lived, the faith they shared, and the love they gave so freely.
Where they offered wisdom, help us remember.
Where they offered encouragement, help us continue their work.
Where they offered music, fellowship, prayer, and leadership, help us carry those gifts forward into the future.
May the light of Christ that shone so brightly through them continue to shine through all who were blessed to know them.
Grant comfort to those who grieve, peace to those whose hearts are broken, and hope to all who trust in Your promises.
And as we remember Mary Frances and Thomas, may we be inspired by their example to serve more faithfully, love more generously, and walk more closely with You every day.
Until we meet again in Your eternal presence, we give thanks for their lives, celebrate their witness, and entrust them to Your everlasting care.
De Colores. 🌈
"WELL, done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your Lord." Matthew 25:23.

From our Assistant Spiritual Director
As we begin to prepare the table for Thanksgiving meal, we must give thanks to God for the meal. The song that comes to mine is Blessed assurance because in Christ, he prepares our heart that we're able to prepare our tables for him. Colossians 4:2 comes to mind to be steadfast in prayer. "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."
I wanna wish all of y'all a happy Thanksgiving and a safe holiday
Mike Evans.

## New Board Members
Ed Burch, Ed Hinson, Larry McConnaughhay, and Mike Evans.
Welcome the new and returning members of the board.

## EOM Board meeting: Mon, Dec 14, 2026, 6:30pm at Lexington UMC

## Upcoming Gatherings:
**December Gathering**
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2026 (First Friday) **Time:** 7:00 PM
**Location:** Wightman Methodist Church
**Address:** 302 N Church Street, Prosperity, SC 29127

**January Gathering**

**Date:** Friday, January 22, 2027, 4th Friday **Time:** 7:00 PM
**Location:** Washington St UMC
**Address:** 1401 Washington St, Columbia, SC 29201

**February Gathering**
**Date:** Friday, February 26, 2027, **Time:** 7:00 PM
**Location:** Suber-Marshall Memorial United Methodist Church
**Address:** 3900 Live Oak St. Columbia, South Carolina, 29205-4665

**March - Walks and Easter - No Gathering**

## Community Members Database Updates

We Need to Update our community information. If you have moved or changed Email addresses we need to update your information in the Database, if you know of someone who has passed away then also please email so we can update that information. The board will be calling to update the rolls in the coming weeks. Thank You, De Colores.

### The Watch They Kept

**They heard the call to stand upon the line, To guard our freedoms in a troubled time, To leave the hearth and shoulder heavy gear, And hold the ramparts when the night was near.**

**They know what sacrifice and duty mean— The weary boots, the distant, silent scene, The miles away from family, home, and state, Where courage met the trials of our fate.**

**And now, as pilgrims on this earthly road, They still reach out to lift a brother's load. With servant hearts and hands that learned to bleed, They answer now a higher, holier creed.**

**For those who bore the flag and fought the fight, Who led us safely through the darkest night: We thank you, veterans, for the watch you kept, And pray God's peace upon your steps be blessed.**

## Upcoming Walks:
## Please pray about and look for sponsorship opportunities.

March 2027 is coming up very quickly.

**Spring**
**Men's Walk #58 – March 4-7, 2027**
**Women's Walk #58 – March 11-14, 2027**
**Fall**
**Men's Walk #59 – September 30 - October 4, 2027**
**Women's Walk #59 – October 7-11, 2027**

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# De Colores!