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Lowcountry Emmaus Community

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And their eyes were opened, and they knew him. ~Luke 24:31

August Gathering on Saturday, August 19, @ 6:00 St. Mark UMC

413 Geddes Ave, Charleston, SC

Directions: FROM I-26 East: Take Exit 212B to merge onto I-526W towards Savannah. Go 7.3 miles and turn left on Hwy 17N (Savannah Hwy). Go 0.4 miles and turn right on Stinson Dr. Go 0.2 miles and turn left at Piper Dr. Continue onto Geddes Ave. St. Mark UMC will be on the right.

Please note: The Saturday Gatherings begin at 6:00pm with Fellowship. Please bring a snack or finger type food to share with the Community during this time. As always, the host church will provide drinks. Worship services will follow at 7:00pm.

Changes to Gatherings:

1. After Board Member introductions, there will be a brief Board Member Minute whereby a different Board Member each month will describe his role on the Board.
2. Prayer cards will be issued now for the Community to write their prayer concerns/praises on to be placed in the offering plate. Prayers will be lifted and these will be published in the Newsletter the following month so that we can continue to pray for these concerns and praises.

From the July Gathering:

 Lynn DeHay, BMIC

Although the attendance was small (65), those of you who were unable to attend this gathering missed a great time. We gathered in the Fellowship Hall at Pinopolis UMC for refreshments at 6 PM. As usual, the selection and amount was abundant and if you left from there hungry, it was your own fault. At 7, we proceeded to go to the Sanctuary for our Gathering meeting. Helen Cash and Karen Ayers joined Gerald & Charlene Duke and Ravonda Hardesty to lead us in praise through music throughout the evening. In the course of business, we were able to add an additional \$340 to our coffers. In addition to an update from our various Board members as to what's been happening in Lowcountry Emmaus, we heard a wonderful Fourth Day talk given by Carroll Cash. Although he's known to most of us through his years of service as Community Spiritual Director, being freed from that responsibility he was able to share with those present how much his Emmaus walk taught him and helped him with his walk in life even though he has been a seminary-trained, experienced minister for years.

Thanks to Rev. Jeff Roper and all the members and helpers from Pinopolis UMC who welcomed us so warmly.

From our Lay Director: Evyonne Thurman

I'm at this very moment sitting at the lake watching the day breaking across the water. There's a slight breeze coming off the water. It's warm, not hot and muggy yet. It's quiet and peaceful. A time for reflection, gratitude, and joy.

I have always been a Christian even though not always a good one. There was a period in my life when I lived in the pit of sin and despair. I lived there until I realized that I wasn't living. I started to dig myself out with the help of my husband, whom I'm sure God put in my path. It wasn't easy.

Then, about eight or nine years ago, my husband went on the Walk to Emmaus. And when he came home, I was immediately jealous, whatever he had, I wanted for myself. He was glowing! I was ready to go get mine!

So, I walked down the Road to Emmaus, and my eyes were opened and my heart burned with fire (Luke 24:31-32). A transformation occurred deep within my heart and soul on my Walk to Emmaus....Lowcountry Walk #65. I got mine alright. I got a lot more than I ever asked for!

I could physically feel the presence of the Holy Spirit, and I distinctly heard Jesus talking to me on my Walk. I don't think at the time that I realized what was happening to me. I was numb, overwhelmed, unable to process all that had happened. It was much later, weeks even, when it hit me that My Walk had been a life changing experience. I was changing... I'm still changing....

So, as I sit here watching the sun rise on a new day, I'm thinking about you, the Emmaus Community, your life changing stories, your Walks with the Lord, and what you have to offer the rest of us. Many of you have given 4th Day Talks, many of you haven't. I love to hear your experiences, to feel the thrill you felt, to re-live your Walk with you, to experience your 4th Day. Your stories inspire all of us and re-energize us!

If you haven't given a 4th Day Talk and would like to, please let me know. For those of you who have already given talks, an inspirational message about your Walk in the Newsletter would lift our spirits. And if you're just too nervous to get up in front of the Community to do your Talk, write it out, and we'll publish it in the Newsletter. We want to know what Emmaus means to you, what it's done for you. We want to hear your Emmaus story, and how you're changing.... De Colores et (cheerleader)

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER:

A big welcome to Dan Hare from Pinopolis UMC,
as he joins the Board of Directors as the Gathering Chairperson.
Danhare52@homesc.com; [843-729-5650](tel:843-729-5650)



*Christ and his Disciples
on the Road to Emmaus,*
by Jan Wildens

From our Asst. Spiritual Director: Kevin Stroop

I am all about memories. I have lived all over the world. Met hundreds of special people. I have had so many wonderful experiences that occupy my thoughts, and I praise God for each one of them.

Spiritual memories are just as precious; the sermon at my first church, my son's baptisms, prayers and services with soldiers throughout the world. I treasure these too.

As Barbara Streisand sings so poignantly: "misty water-colored memories of the way we were..."... leaves me reflecting on the way I used to be and the way I am now; a follower of Christ, a traveler along The WAY, an Emmaus pilgrim. For me, as it may be you, that is a memory with a life of its own.

Revelation 2 contains two passages that speak to our memories of Emmaus and whether or not they are realities. Verse 4: *"⁴ Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first."* And verse 19: *"¹⁹ I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first."*

Our Emmaus Walk has called each of us to act, to grow, and to serve. As you read this; you know what I am talking about. Revelation 2:4 asks the reader if their faith; their relationship, their lives - are a memory of what the Holy Spirit has done for them. *"You have forgotten the love you had a first."* Are you praying, reading scripture, serving in the kingdom, participating in the life of the Kingdom? Or is that just a memory- a forgotten time of joy and wonderment when you realized that God through Christ Jesus loved you? Even You...and you hungered to serve the One who had given, gives His all for you?

Revelation 2:19, *"you are now doing more than you did at first"*. Has your walk become even stronger than it was at first? Are all aspects of your Christian life and relationship with Christ moving forward? Are you finding strength and wonder in each step and being drawn closer – minute by minute – to Christ in thought , Word, and deed ? Christ's love and the Presence of the Holy Spirit are a reality, not a memory.

No matter how long ago your Walk and how faded the memory – It takes but a moment in prayer to rekindle the fire and passion of *"your First Love"* and begin to make new memories and *"do more..."*

De Colores!

Kevin Stroop



From our Agape Chair: David Lupo

Agape Letters

One of the ways we support other Emmaus communities' walks is by sending letters to let pilgrims know we are praying for them. This month we have sent letters to several communities in this country and around the world. Please pray for these walks—now and during the weekends:

- Central Ohio Emmaus Community Men's Walk August 10-13
- Birmingham Emmaus Community (Alabama) Men's Walk August 17-20
- Great Southern Emmaus Community (Western Australia) Men's Walk August 17-20 and Women's Walk August 24-27

De Colores,

David Lupo



From our Records Chair: Sue Runnerstrom

As Records Chair I will be working hard this year to bring all our servant records up to date. You have probably heard the words “progressive servanthood” as related to Emmaus. This means that the more you serve in any capacity within the community, the more you will progress with the goal being to serve as part of the Team for future Walks.

The community depends on the records in IMS (our database) to know of your service, so we are working to assure that our records are correct. Please log onto the IMS website (the link is on the LowCountry Emmaus web site), enter your User ID (if you don't have one you may use your email address) and password (you may click on “forgot password if this is your 1st entry and they will send you a temporary one), go to “YOU” and check your information. You may make corrections to your personal information yourself, but if there are errors or omissions in your servanthood, you will need to contact me with the corrections.

My goal is to have the most accurate information possible available to those selecting the next teams.

Thank you and DeColores,

Sue Runnerstrom, Records



From our Registrar: Leigh Peigler

Five Basics of Sponsorship

- 1. Prayer** – Pray for you to recognize who God wants you to sponsor. Pray for them to be open to respond to God’s call to discipleship.
- 2. Invite** – Invite them to attend the Walk. Present the Weekend as a gift. Don’t preach that they “need to go”.
- 3. Prepare** – Once this invitation has been accepted, help them with the application process, explain what they will need for the Walk weekend, and make plans for how to assist them with family or work obligations while they are attending the Walk.
- 4. Support** – Be committed to attend all community functions throughout the Pilgrim’s weekend, beginning Thursday afternoon until Sunday evening.
- 5. Encourage** – After the Walk has ended, help them join a Reunion Group, invite them participate in Emmaus activities (Gatherings, working on the Walks, serving on Board committees). Embolden them to strengthen their discipleship thru service in their church and community.

De Colores!

Leigh Peigler

It's Never Too Early to Submit an Application!

For a copy of the LCE Application, go to
[http://www.umcsc.net/communities/
lowcountryemmaus/application.pdf](http://www.umcsc.net/communities/lowcountryemmaus/application.pdf)

Questions?

Contact Leigh Peigler, Registrar,
lpeigler@gmail.com