

LowCountry Emmaus

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

Volume 16 Number 1

January 2007

FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR



To The Community

Hope everyone had a rewarding Christmas and will have a joyous New Year. I would like to thank Stallsville UMC for hosting our December gathering and Jim Roth for a great 4th day on how our lives become changed through Christ.

We all must keep in mind that we are new creations in Christ and that we are called to do his work and will. When we feel blessed by what God gives us we should pass it on to others. This is truly what the Christmas season is about sharing our blessings with those who God has put before us. I feel we as an Emmaus Community need to show what God is doing for us and reach out to those we would like to see go on a walk and sponsor them if they are interested. Remember we are not trying to save someone but revitalize those who could help strengthen God's church. Please be in PRAYER for those pilgrims as we do not know their needs or desire in their Christian walk.

Keep in mind that the walks are for the Pilgrims not for us. When we do not sponsor or reach out we are disappointing them. We are a large community and represent a good portion of the state so I know there are people waiting on our calls to provide them this wonderful gift in this season of gifts like the one our Heavenly Father gave us in his Son.

I enjoy our gatherings each month because it is a time to reunite with love ones in Christ who may not have seen for several months. The January gathering will be at St. George UMC and intend on having some special people there from KAIROS to give us information and present some testimonies, so I hope to see you there.

As we begin a new year it is time to be thinking about our nominees to serve on the LCE board so if you would be willing to serve or know someone who would be good for the please let any of the board members know so we can put their name in the hat to be considered.

Please keep our LAY Directors in prayer as they are calling for team selection. Prayerfully think about it if you are called.

In this time of miracles I received a call from an old Army buddy I hadn't seen in almost 30 yrs, so I encourage you all to reach out and call someone you haven't seen or heard from in a long time.

Contact Jim Roth as soon as possible if you have potential pilgrim so we can get an accurate count of pilgrims.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
DAN HARE

GATHERING INFORMATION

Your Board has continued to discuss ways we can encourage increased attendance at the monthly gatherings. For a number of years, we have rotated the gathering location among churches throughout the community. A number of communities follow this practice, while others have their gathering at the same location each month. Each of these plans has advantages and disadvantages, and it is not obvious which would be better for our community.

We have decided to make no change at the present time, but to continue to study the alternatives. We will also be contacting some other communities to learn about their experiences with a central gathering location. During the next few months, I hope that you will share your thoughts on this subject with me or with any other member of the Board. If you would like to help with the study process, please let me know that, too. Board members' email addresses and phone numbers are in each issue of the newsletter. For the present, we are in need of locations for our gatherings from February through August. If you and your reunion group would like to place your church on the list, please contact me.

De Colores,
David Lupo

Need an application? You can download one on the web at
<http://www.umcsc.net/communities/lowcountryemmaus/application.pdf>
don't forget to check the important dates on the back page.

THIS MONTH'S GATHERING

St. George United Methodist Church
120 N. Parler Ave. (U.S. Highway 15)
St. George, SC 29477
(843) 563-3213
7:30 PM on January 19, 2007

DIRECTIONS TO ST GEORGE UMC

From I-95: Take US 78 (St. George) exit. Go toward St. George. At Hwy 15 stoplight, turn right. Go beyond the 1st stoplight on Hwy 15 (N. Parler Ave.), and immediately on left is St. George UMC. Parking is between the church and Peebles department store.

From I-26: Take US 15 (St. George) exit. Go toward St. George. When you come into the town limits, you will go through 2 traffic lights. Immediately past the 2nd light on the left is St. George UMC. Parking is at Peebles between the Church and Peebles.

I am always amazed at the pilgrims' responses to the two questions at closings. Each is different yet also the same—love felt and experienced; closeness to Christ. Each walk can accommodate 36 pilgrims. I believe it is imperative that we do better in sponsoring full walks. The fall walks were great! However, 26 additional persons could have experienced that love and closeness to Christ. We need to think about our acquaintances and find those who are seeking a closer walk with Christ. We are blessed! God expects us to assist others to be blessed as well. The Walk to Emmaus is a great way to do that.

Rev. Bob Lee

SANTA AND AN ADVENTURE WITH

GRANDMA I remember my first Christmas adventure with Grandma. I was just a kid. I remember tearing across town on my bike to visit her on the day my big sister dropped the bomb. "There is no Santa Claus." She jeered. "Even dummies know that!" My Grandma was not the gushy kind, never had been. I knew she would be straight with me. I knew Grandma always told the truth, and I knew that the truth always went down a whole lot easier when swallowed with one of her world-famous cinnamon buns. I knew they were world-famous, because Grandma said so. It had to be true. Grandma was home, and the buns were still warm. Between bites, I told her everything. She was ready for me. "No Santa Claus!" she snorted. "Ridiculous! Don't

believe it. That rumor has been going around for years and it makes me mad, plain mad. Now, put on your coat, and let's go" "Go where, Grandma?" I asked. I hadn't even finished my second world-famous cinnamon bun. Where" turned out to be Kerby's General Store; the one store in town that had a little bit of just about everything. As we walked through it's doors, Grandma handed me ten dollars. That was a bundle of money in those days. "Take this money," she said, "and buy something for someone who needs it. I'll wait for you in the car." Then she turned and walked out of Kerby's. I was only eight years old. I'd often gone shopping with my mother, but never had I shopped for anything all by myself. The store seemed big and crowded; full of people crambling to finish their Christmas shopping. For a few minutes I just stood there, confused, clutching that ten-dollar bill, wondering what to buy, and who on earth to buy it for. I thought of everybody I knew; my family, my friends, my neighbors, the kids at school, and the people who went to my church. I was just about thought out, when I suddenly thought of Bobby Decker. He was a kid with bad breath and messy hair, and he sat behind me in Mrs. Pollock's grad-two class. Bobby Decker didn't have a coat. I knew that because he never went out for recess during the winter. His mother always wrote a note, telling the teacher that he had a cough, but all we kids knew that Bobby didn't have a coat. I fingered the ten-dollar bill with growing excitement. I would buy Bobby a coat! I settled on a red corduroy one that had a hood. It looked real warm and he would like that. "Is this a Christmas present for someone?" the lady behind the counter asked kindly as I laid my ten dollars down. "yes," I replied shyly. "It'sfor Bobby." The nice lady smiled at me. I didn't get any change, but she put the coat in a bag and wished me a Merry Christmas. That evening, Grandma helped me wrap the coat (a little tag fell out of the coat and Grandma tucked it in her Bible) "To Bobby, from Santa Claus", I wrote on the tag. Grandma said that Santa always insisted on secrecy. Then she drove me over to Bobby's house explaining on the way that I was now and forever officially one of Santa's helpers. We parked down the street; then she and I crept noiselessly to hide in the bushes by the front walk. She gave me a nudge. "All right Santa Claus", she whispered, "get going." I took a deep breath; dashed for his door and threw the present down on the step; pounded on the door and flew back to the bushes with Grandma. Together we waited breathlessly in the darkness. Finally someone came to the door and there stood Bobby Decker. Fifty years haven't dimmed the thrill of that moment. That night I realized that those awful rumors about Santa were just ridiculous as Grandma had said. I still have the Bible and the tag tucked inside: "\$19.95"

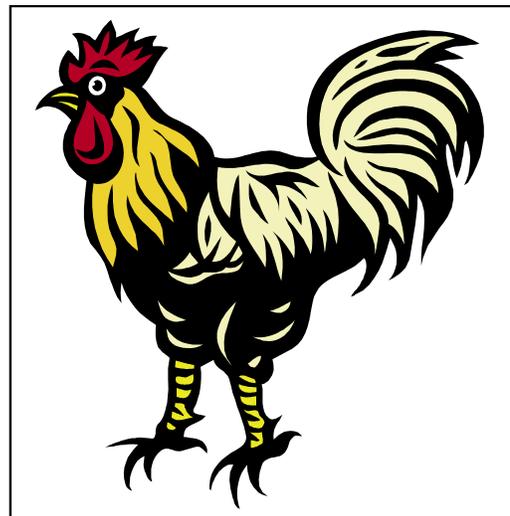
Board of Directors

Position	Name	Phone	E-mail address	Class
Lay Director	Dan Hare	843-899-6626	danhare52@homexpressway.net	2007
Spiritual Director	Robert Nix	843-552-4061	cokesburyumc@knology.net	2007
Vice Chair/Treasurer`	Karen Ayers	843-525-0882	gwayers@islc.net	2009
Secretary/Team Selection	Barbara Bilton	843-563-8444	biltonts@bellsouth.net	2009
Kitchen	Randy Woods	343-873-7061	randall.woods@att.net	2009
Literature/Letters/Supplies	Cindy Weatherford	843-563-2163		2008
Agape	Annie Edwards	843-568-1320	aedwards20@comcast.net	2007
Registrar	Jim Roth	843-846-0459	mandj@islc.net	2008
Gatherings	David Lupo	843-856-9246	david@lupofamily.org	2009
Luggage/Transportation	Lindsey Mack	803-796-0982	LMack50109@aol.com	2007
Fourth Day	Betty Vannoy	803-499-3635	mandbvannoy@yahoo.com	2007
Music/Entertainment	Jennie Goodman	843-766-9597		2008
Prayer Vigil/Refreshments	Bob Lee	843-688-5463	robertlee@homexpressway.net	2008
Newsletter	Joel Hand	803-245-2395	joelwhand@bellsouth.net	2008
Housing	Billy Gaines	843-766-2066	bilyngains@aol.com	2007
Sendoff/Candlelight/Clos'g	Perry Buchanan	843-525-6166	twostep2@charter.net	2009

Lowcountry Emmaus
 Treasurer's Report
 December 22, 2006

Beginning Balance	\$2041.79
Deposits (Nov, Dec gatherings)	\$1346.48
Disbursements	
(2newsletters, misc walk exp)	-856.10
Ending Balance (checking)	\$2532.17
Savings Balance	\$3025.31
Total on Hand	\$5386.32

DeColores, Karen Ayers



WE NEED PILGRIMS!!!
DON'T DELAY; SEND IN
THOSE APPLICATIONS

Low Country Emmaus – mailed from
Trinity United Methodist Church
PO BOX 335
Bamberg, SC 29003

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Bamberg SC 29003
PERMIT NO 33

Lowcountry Emmaus
Calendar of Events

January 19th – St George UMC
St. George, SC

**Times, Places and Dates for 2007 to be
announced**

Gatherings-3rd Friday, monthly
Board meets on 2nd Tues. monthly

2007 Walk Dates

Men: March 8-11, 2007

Women: March 22-25, 2007

March 8th Camp Set up – 2:30 PM

March 29th – Camp clean up -9 AM

4th Day, March 31st-Place & Time TBA

**Please begin NOW to submit applica-
tions for pilgrims you would like to
sponsor on these walks. DON'T WAIT**

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 25th of each month