

Low Country Emmaus Community

VOLUME 20/NUMBER 01 JANUARY 2012

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Gatherings

JANUARY GATHERING

Friday, January 20th

7:30 pm

Calvary UMC
1130 Calvary Church Rd.
Swansea
(Directions at right)

February 17th

Indian Field UMC, St. George

April 20th

Bethany UMC, Summerville

2012 WALKS

Men's Walk

March 15th—18th

Women's Walk

March 22nd—25th



Directions to the January Gathering

Calvary UMC

1130 Calvary Church Road, Swansea, SC 29160

Phone: (803) 568-4610

We hope that you plan to attend the January gathering. The church is very easy to locate and it is a lovely drive!

Directions from Charleston: Take I-26 West toward Columbia. Take Exit #136—SC Hwy. #6 toward Swansea. Stay on Hwy.#6 toward Swansea for 9.9 miles, Turn left onto Calvary Church Road. The church will be on the right.

From Sumter: Take US-378W/US-76W. Take US-601 Exit toward St. Matthews. Turn left onto US-601 for 24.8 miles. Turn right onto Hwy. #6 in St. Matthews toward Swansea. Continue on Hwy #6 toward Swansea for 16.9 miles. Turn left onto Calvary Church Road. The church will be on your right.

From Bamberg: Take Hwy. #321N to Swansea. Turn right onto Hwy. #6 toward St. Matthews. Follow Hwy. #6 for 4.2 miles. Turn right onto Calvary Church Road. The church will be on your right.

There is a lighted Calvary UMC sign at Hwy. #6 and Calvary Church Road.

BULLETINS from the BOARD

RECORDS . . . RECORDS . . .

Low Country Emmaus Privacy Policy for Integrated Management System (IMS) Database

Low Country Emmaus collects information from community members when you when you register on our site or sign up for Emmaus activities.

When registering on our site, as appropriate, you may be asked to enter your name, e-mail address, and personal information such as date of birth (optional), church, phone numbers, street address, and reunion group. This information is used exclusively for Low Country Emmaus to track your participation while teaming, or for volunteer service for weekend pilgrim walks and gatherings. When registering on our site you will be asked for a User ID and Password which protects you from others looking at your information.

Your information will not be sold, exchanged, transferred or given to any other outside group without your consent. Your information will be used for: sending newsletters, requesting help for planned activities, team selection, and board elections. All e-mails sent through the IMS are Blind E-mails which means that your e-mail address cannot be seen by other recipients.

Personal information relating to dietary and medical needs for weekends will only be given (as needed) to the Board Representative, Assistant Lay Director, and Kitchen Coordinator.

This policy was approved by all current Board Members.

If you need help updating your information, call me at (843) 695-0913.

DeColores-

Dave Cunha, Records

SPONSORS

By the time you read this, we are confident that the Spring Walks will be moving forward. But it is not too late to submit Pilgrim applications! If you are in prayer with or about Pilgrims regarding the walks and need more information, do not hesitate to contact me. You can also call or e-mail me to let me know that an application is on the way.

De Colores,

David Wiley, Registrar

FACILITIES

We are all looking forward to the 2012 Walks! One of the necessary tasks to accomplish a successful Walk is camp preparation to include set up and take down. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve our Lord and a great expression of Agape to the Pilgrims for our Spring Walks to Emmaus. A sign-up sheet will be available at the January Gathering.

De Colores and Peace!

Ed Hickey, Facilities

Are any of you asking the same question as I am: "Where did the year go?" It seems as if we just started a year and now before we even turn around, it is gone and another new year is here. Sometimes some of us think about making new resolutions for the New Year and we may even make them. But for many of us, those resolutions don't last very long. In a recent devotion I read "No one can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending" (Unknown). I really began to think about that statement. The conclusion was that we don't start over; but we begin again right where we are, making things better in our lives and in the lives of others. It is not about saying "I will do this and I won't do that" and then dropping the idea or falling short. It is more about asking the Lord to help us each day, to fall deeper and deeper in love with Him and serve Him, becoming equipped as Christians for life's journey.

As we in Lowcountry Emmaus start 2012, I pray that the Community will be greatly blessed and that we will begin again right where we are; not only to make our Community better, but also to share it with others in their journey. As we all pray, we are called and sent to go forth as Christ's disciples into the world. We all have been given talents and gifts, and we are all different, but we are all the Body of Christ – His hands and his feet. It takes all of us together working for His Kingdom.

As the New Year begins and we prepare for the Spring Walks, I would ask you to pray for the person you might give the gift of the Walk to Emmaus – giving them the special time to soak in God's love, fall deeper in love with Him and be strengthened in His love each step of the journey as they go forth to serve Him.

It has been a wonderful year in Lowcountry Emmaus and my prayer is that each of you have a very wonderful 2012 that it is filled with many blessings.

DeColores,

Linda

One of the distinctive elements of the Walk to Emmaus is that it is a journey made in community. It is true that there are prayer and worship times when each pilgrim is encouraged to reflect on his or her personal relationship with God, but a much greater part of the time is spent together in tables in the conference room, at meal times, or in informal conversation during the breaks. The shared experience is an essential part of what makes the Walk to Emmaus the special experience that it is.

That is why we ask pilgrims to leave pagers and cell phones at home, or at least turned off, during the entire three days. Even a quick e-mail or voice-mail check during a break pulls a pilgrim away from the table and conference-room community. That's a loss not only to that pilgrim, but to everyone else at the table. The Walk is a cloistered (shut off from the world) experience because the pilgrims need to be able to focus on their shared walk with Christ and to encourage each other along the way.

When you, as a sponsor, talk with a potential pilgrim about the Walk to Emmaus, be sure to explain why it's important to leave the outside world behind for the three days. Offer to help with family responsibilities that the pilgrim may have. Let the pilgrim know that in an emergency you will be able to get in touch with someone at the camp. (But make sure it really is an emergency.)

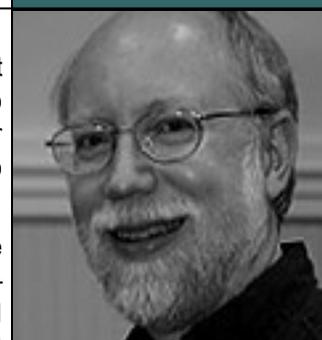
Sometimes a potential pilgrim will have a legitimate reason why he or she must be in touch with family or work during the walk weekend. In that case, the experience of Emmaus is that the best response is to offer to sponsor the person at a later date. If other responsibilities mean that a person cannot devote himself or herself fully to the weekend, it is not the right time for that person to attend. Don't try to rush the Holy Spirit.

De Colores,

David Lupo



**from
the
Lay
Director**



**from
the
Spiritual
Director**

2011-2012 Board of Low Country Emmaus

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Thanks to Stallville UMC for hosting the December Gathering. The church was beautifully decorated for the Christmas season, and the praise team from Stallville did a wonderful job in leading us in the singing of Christmas carols. Larry Mercer did a heartfelt 4th Day Talk that left us all encouraged, as he shared his journey and how God's plan is carried out through 4th Days. Larry shared how He equips us and uses us in very special ways. It is always so good to see so many attend the Gatherings to worship together in the Lowcountry Emmaus Community and find the encouragement and strength for each step of our journey. We hope to see you in January at Calvary UMC in Swansea for another wonderful Gathering.



FROM THE LUGGAGE AND TRANSPORTATION GURU

I need a volunteer to handle the luggage and transportation portion of the upcoming Men's Walk. Please contact me at (843) 437-0915 and I will train you regarding the duties of a L/T person.

Steve Waterhouse