

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**Lay Director :**

Von Thurman  
thurmanevy@gmail.com  
(843) 696-6828

**Spiritual Director:**

Michael Bingham  
revbingham@bellsouth.net  
803-727-6019

**Asst. Spiritual Director:**

Kevin Strop  
kpstrop@UMCSC.org  
843-564- 1259

**Asst. Lay Director:**

Cliff Simpson  
cliff@thecabinetshopinc.com  
843-830- 6079

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

Lynn De Hay  
lgdehay@homesc.com  
(843)753-2347

**Music/Entertainment:**

Becky Stacey  
rebecca\_stacey1969@yahoo.com

**Kitchen:** David Beal

jaxwildwingcafe@yahoo.com  
(843) 209-5242

**Fourth Day:**

DeeDee Rackleff  
grandeeof7@homesc.com  
(843) 323-2292

**Sendoff/Candlelight/Closing:**

Steve Waterhouse  
swater4579@aol.com  
(843) 437-0915

**Luggage/Transportation:**

Aaron Edwins  
edwinsaaron@gmail.com  
(843) 330-7527

**Agape:** David Lupo

david@lupofamily.org  
(843) 200-3758

**Facilities:** Ed Hickey

hckybug91@sc.rr.com  
843-864- 6723

**Gatherings:** Dan Hare

Danhare52@homesc.com  
(843-729-5650)

**Newsletter:** Betsy Fanning

betsy.a.fanning@gmail.com  
(843) 729-5371

**Literature & Supplies:**

Wilhemina Hearne  
meana311@yahoo.com  
(843) 729-9858

**Registrar:** Sue Runnerstrum

jandsrunner@gmail.com  
843-870- 2254

# Lowcountry Emmaus Community

Volume 27 Number 1 January 2018

*And their eyes were opened, and they knew Him ~ Luke 24:31*

**Pilgrim Count as of Jan. 1: Men: 5 Women: 13**

We must have 20 applications for each walk before our Board meeting **on January 9** in order to move forward. Additional applications will be accepted until **the Gathering on January 20th.**

**REVISED!**

**January Gathering on Saturday,  
January 20 @ 6 pm  
Saint George UMC**

120 North Parler St. George, SC 29477

**Directions:** From I26, take exit 187 towards Ridgeville/St. George; turn right onto SC 78 W; go approx. 16 miles to Parler Ave; take left; the church will be on the left.

**Please note:** The Saturday Gatherings begin at 6 pm with fellowship. Please bring a snack or finger food to share with the Community. As always, the church will provide drinks. Worship will follow at 7 pm.

## From the December Gathering

The December Gathering was held at Stallville UMC. Our 4<sup>th</sup> Day Speaker was Rudy Gwaltney from Bamberg. He gave an excellent talk on how GOD prepared him for ministry by getting him active in his own church, doing small things at first. He went on to tell us how he has accepted call for the ministry and is now serving a church in Aiken.

DeColores!

Aaron Edwins



### **New Board Member!**

We are delighted to announce that Rev. Michael Bingham of St Mark's UMC has accepted the position of **Community Spiritual Director** effective this month. Welcome Rev Bingham!

### **From our Registrar: Sue Runnerstrom**

We are rapidly approaching the deadline for making the decision on the spring Walks. We need twenty applications by the next Board meeting on January 9th. At this point we have only 5 men's applications and 13 women's applications. I will have a sponsorship training after the Gathering.

Please be in prayer for God to lead you to the Pilgrims He would have you sponsor for this tremendous gift - people whose presence will strengthen our community and their local church - people who will be blessed to be the hands and feet of God.

DeColores,  
Sue Runnerstrom



### **From our Lay Director: Evyonne Thurman**

Happy New Year!

I trust that everyone had a safe and joyous Christmas, celebrating the birth of our Savior, and family and friend celebrations. However, I know that for many, Christmas can be associated with loss, loneliness, and feelings of depression, not to mention hardship.

Quite often I hear stories of people helping people, being the hands and feet of Christ, and I must say that it touches my heart in ways that I cannot, or am not, able to express. And I'm not talking about the giving of money. Money is relatively an easy thing to do...unless you don't have it to give, like the widow in Mark 12:44, "they all gave out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything-all she had to live on".

Recently, we were told by one of our Emmaus members about stopping to inquire about a man that he had been seeing outside as he went back and forth to Summerville. He stopped and chatted with this gentleman and found out that this man and his family were barely existing – no food, no electricity, nothing. As it turns out, extending the hand of Jesus and prayer has helped this man and his family. And our Emmaus member's church is now involved. This is what Emmaus is all about.

Our immediate family is very large (26 in all), and every year after Christmas for the last 5 years we have "adopted" an elderly couple or widow/widower to assist. This year we selected a widow to help. We built a ramp, repaired and painted her deck, repaired her barn, raked leaves, trimmed low hanging trees, cut back weeds, etc. We spent the

entire day at her house, sharing devotion and prayer, time and fellowship, and food with her. We will follow up with her. The Walk to Emmaus planted this seed in our family.

And there's the Emmaus member who was overheard praying in the Piggly Wiggly parking lot with a woman who had asked him for 50 cents to buy chicken. He gave her the money, but told her he would like to pray for her first, and a crowd gathered to pray as well. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! Just call on Jesus! "And their eyes were opened" Luke 24:31. This is Emmaus.

So when I'm asked, "What is Emmaus?" It's really not hard to answer at all. It's being the Hands and Feet of Christ in our World.

Please get your applications for Pilgrims in. **The deadline is looming.** We will be making a decision as to whether we will be having The Walks at the next Board Meeting on January 9, 2018.

The Men and Women Lay Directors have their Teams ready to go for Team Training. If there are not enough Pilgrims, the Walks will be CANCELLED.

DeColores, et

#### **From our Secretary/Treasurer: Lynn DeHay**



As Secretary/Treasurer of the Lowcountry Emmaus Community, I would like to report that we are ending the year in the black (yay!) and in addition to meeting our regular obligations, we were able to send a sizable contribution to the Emmaus Community and their churches in the Corpus Christi, TX area which suffered much damage during the floods this past fall. As we look forward to 2018, let's remember that our gifts are not only monetary, but also individual skills that God has given each of us to share with our churches, each other and the world as we continue to move forward in our efforts to be the hands and feet of Christ! Happy New Year, and may our continued prayer for peace throughout the world be realized! DeColores! Lynn DeHay

#### **From our Newsletter Chair: Betsy Fanning**

At our November Board meeting I was tasked with sending out a survey to the community regarding Gatherings. After the last set of Walks, we changed the Gathering night from the 3rd Friday of the month to the 3rd Saturday of the month. The time was also changed. Saturday Gatherings begin with food and fellowship at 6 with the Gathering beginning at 7. Friday Gatherings began with worship at 7 followed by food and fellowship. We'd like to know which you prefer. **Please reply to this email** and answer the following questions:

1. Do you prefer the Gatherings as they are now? (3rd Saturday, begin with food and fellowship at 6 followed by worship at 7)

2. Do you prefer the Gatherings as before? (3rd Friday, beginning with worship at 7 followed by food and fellowship) (some have suggested eating first)

3. What do you like most about the Gatherings?

4. What do you least like about the Gatherings?

5. What would you change about the Gatherings?



Thank you for your input! We value your opinions!!

DeColores!

Betsy

### **From our Assistant Spiritual Director: Kevin Stroop**

Luke 14:17-19 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup>At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' <sup>18</sup>"But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' <sup>19</sup>"Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

As 2018 Begins, I am searching for a new maxim or motto to encapsulate my purpose for the year. In attempting to do this – I began to take stock of 2017 – it's highs and lows. I usually lose lists like this in the recesses of my mind. However, 2017, has left me contemplating, the concept of "excuses".

If we add up the time we spend making excuses for things done and left undone – we would realize that it is a lot – **A LOT** – of wasted time. The parable from Luke 14:15-23 is all about excuses, regrets and missed opportunities. While there are certainly good and reasonable basis' for not accepting invitations, missing an appointment, overlooking a deadline, or mishandling personal relationships. The time spent on the opposite, the excuses, piles up and leave us all – feeling cold.

"Please excuse me," are acceptable words after stepping on someone's foot, but not so much when trying to dodge, evade, or sidestep responsibilities, the unknown, or the dreaded known. In my personal and spiritual life, it seems that my 2017 motto has been from the Steve Martin's comedy routine, "Well! Excuse Me!"

"Excuse me" from this committee, this meeting, this program, and this Service. "Excuse me" for not caring, not reaching out, not holding on, and not letting go. "Excuse me" for my intolerance, bias, anger, insincerity, insensitivity, defeatism, and dreadful behaviors.

“Excuse me” for my lack of love, joy, peace, fortitude, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

“Well, excuse me!”

The folks with all the excuses, according to the Parable, miss out on the blessing of the feast in the Kingdom of God. How can we excuse that away? How can we forfeit the opportunity to be with Christ in His heavenly kingdom, at His table, at his side...?

Note to Kevin – 2018 motto: “Come, for everything is now ready!”

Note to us all: *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* (Matthew 11:28)



**From our Facilities Chair: Ed Hickey**

If you or your reunion group want to assist with sprucing up the camp check out the following dates:

**Preview weekend:**

Spruce up will be morning of 2-16-18 @ 8am

Cleanup 2-18-18 @ noon.

**Spring walks:**

Set up (March 7, 2018),

Spruce up (March 11and/or12, 2018 )

Take down (March 19, 2018)

Contact Ed Hickey at [hckybug91@sc.rr.com](mailto:hckybug91@sc.rr.com) or call [843 864 6723](tel:8438646723).

DeColores and Peace!

Ed

## **From our Agape Chair: David Lupo**

### **Agape**

Prayer is at the heart of every Emmaus weekend, and we need your prayers: It's time to sign up for the weekend prayer vigils. Sign-up posters will be available at the Gathering fellowship times. There will also be a link on the community website that will allow you to sign up online.

Please continue working on table agape for the walks. We use several items per meal for six meals, so we need everyone's help. Agape items (65 pieces per walk) can be brought to the Gathering or to Sendoff.

And please pray for these walks coming up in other communities:

- Arizona Emmaus: Men January 25-28 and Women February 1-4
- Nebraska Emmaus: Men February 1-4 and Women February 8-11
- And especially Brush Country Emmaus Community in Pleasanton, Texas, which will have their Women's Walk #1 on February 8-11

