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Lowcountry Emmaus Community

Volume 29 Number 2 February 2020

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

Pilgrim Count (confirmed):

10 Men

14 Women

January Gathering on **Friday,**

February 21st @ 6 pm

St. George UMC

120 N Parler Ave. St. George, SC 29477

Directions: From I-26: 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.

From I-95: take exit 77 towards St. George/Branchville; turn onto US 78 E; turn right onto N. Parler Ave. church is on he left.

Please note: The **Friday** 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 our Community Lay Director: Dan Hare

To the Lowcountry Emmaus Community

I am writing this month to let you know the Board has voted to have the walks in March, so it is up to you to fill the walks with Pilgrims. We can't use excuses that we may not have walks at this time. I am calling on this community to step up to the plate and fill these walks. We have team members committed to the walks and some Pilgrims too, so let's make sure they get the most out of these walks by having full walks. I am called to reach out and share the Emmaus experiences with all I can, **what are you called to do?** We have been in prayer along time for these walks, now it is time to do something about it. I read a letter that Mike Henderson wrote to his community at Seaside Emmaus at the last gathering and it points out as we pray we must then get off our knees and do something about it. I am attaching his letter to this newsletter and everyone hears the words and acts on it. We are still accepting applications until March 1st.

We had a struggle at the Board meeting as what to do about the walks and realized we are getting into apathy, not just in Emmaus but what is going on in the United Methodist Church, God told us there would be struggles, but we must persevere to do the callings of God. We can't give up because things don't go our way, we must go forward with God's call to make Disciples and spread his WORD through the Gospel. I don't like being negative about what is going on, but we need to face the facts and do something about it. I may be rotating off the board next year, but I plan on staying active in whatever capacity God calls me to.

I hope to attach a song to this newsletter where each of you can reflect on your Emmaus walk. If it does not come through the song is "Emmaus" by Steve Green. I am sure you can google it.

May God Bless each and every one,

DECOLORES

Dan Hare

Lowcountry Emmaus Lay Director



Board Member Spotlight:

Meet: Sue Runnerstrom



Sue Runnerstrom is our Board member of the month for February. Sue attended Lowcountry Emmaus Walk #38 in 1999 and sat at the table of Theresa. She attends St. Andrew's Parish UMC in Charleston. Sue's family includes her husband Jim and a blended family of 7 children, 9 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. Sue works at a quilt shop in Summerville (People, Places and Quilts) mainly as a teacher, but she also works for them as a salesperson. She is currently the Secretary/Treasurer of our Board. Sue has previously served on the Lowcountry Emmaus Board in the Send-off/Candlelight position (2 years) and also as our Registration person (3 years). She continues to be involved with Emmaus because she loves the members of the Emmaus community. Sue's favorite Emmaus moment was when she and Jim learned that a pilgrim they had sponsored was contacted by his brother whom he had been estranged from for years. Requesting the letters from family initiated this. According to Sue, "It was a very special God moment." The biggest impact Emmaus has had on Sue's spiritual life has been watching the Emmaus Community grow and this has made her realize how much we, as Christians, need community. In closing, Sue says she is happiest when she stays close to her fellow Christians. Be sure to say a special hello to Sue at our next Gathering in St. George on February 21.

From the Registrar: Karen Ayers



Time is getting short but we are still taking applications for the walks in March up until March 1. That gives you a month, (4 weeks, 28 days!) to encourage someone you know to receive the gift of The Walk to Emmaus. We have plenty of room available! If you have someone you've been talking to about Emmaus, if you've sponsored someone who wasn't able to complete the walk, or someone who was scheduled to go when the walks were postponed, please contact them and let them know of this opportunity to grow in their spiritual lives. Make announcements during worship, Sunday school, small group meetings and let our community be known. The teams are working hard to be ready and the board is making sure that other preparations are completed.

I do ask you to please send any applications directly to me rather than the PO Box on the forms so they can be processed more quickly: Karen Ayers, Registrar, Lowcountry Emmaus, 110 Bryant St, St George SC 29477.

If you have any specific questions or needs, please contact me by phone or email listed on the front page of this newsletter.

DeColores! Karen

From Music/Entertainment: Dominica Harrell

Hello from Dominica!!! As the Board member in charge of music, it's my job to gather musicians and singers for Gatherings and Walks. If you have felt the Lord speak to you about music, to get involved in our ministry ...let me know! If you are available to help with the walk weekends...let me know! (Yep, there's a theme here) We need more folks to help with music. You don't have to lead or do it alone. My email address is dominicasmail@gmail.com and I would love to hear from you.

From Facilities: Ed Hickey

Your help is needed before Preview weekend. Set up will be February 20 at 9:00am and take down will be February 23 at noon. Please let me know if you are able to help. You can email me or call me using the information at the top of the newsletter.

From the Agape: Peggy Lawton

It's time to get busy making agape for the walks! We will need 65 pieces for each walk. If your reunion group has the ability and time to make more than one type of agape, please try to do so. The amount of agape gathered for the walks in the recent past has been becoming less and less. We need your help to make the walks special. You may bring your agape to the gathering in St. George this month or you may bring it to Send-off. And don't forget your agape letters!

PLEASE NOTE: If you signed up for the Prayer Vigil or Snack List at the gathering at St. Andrew's in January, please note that the date listed for the men's walk was wrong. The men will be "Walking" March 19-22. You will still be listed on the day and time you signed up for the prayer vigil, and for the snacks you signed up to bring, only the date will change. If you have any questions, I can be reached at lawtonp@comcast.net.

Also, sponsors please remember to label the back of the letter for pilgrims with whether it is husband/wife, children etc. so that they will get those letters when they open them on their weekend and they don't end up in the second set of letters if they have too many for the time allotted. Thanks Becky

Your agape prayers are requested for the following communities who will be having walks this month:

February 6 - 9, 2020

Iowa Emmaus Men's Walk #144 Grimes, Iowa

Greater Findley Area Women's Emmaus Walk #109 Findley, OH

February 13 - 16, 2020

Channel Islands Men's Walk #62 Thousand Island, CA

Iowa Emmaus Women's Walk # 145 Grimes, Iowa

Great River Emmaus Men's Walk #26 Quincy, Illinois

Coastal Carolina Emmaus Women's Walk # 11 Wilmington, NC

Blue Ridge Emmaus Women's Walk #89 Asheville, NC

February 20 - 23, 2020

Alabama Emmaus Women's Walk # 492 Cropwell, AL

Channel Islands Women's Walk #62 Thousand Island, CA

Terraced Hill Emmaus Men's Walk #55 Prescott, Iowa

Nebraska Emmaus Men's Walk #136 Kearney, Nebraska

Wilmington Area Emmaus Men's Walk #70 Wilmington, OH

Greater Dayton Emmaus Women's Walk #107 Dayton, OH

New-Ark Area Emmaus Men's Walk #107 Chickasha, OK

Puget Sound Emmaus Men's Walk # 244 Seattl, WA

Letter from Mike Henderson to his community:

Last month we had a very difficult kind of gathering. We met at Brown Swamp UMC, sat in a circle around the altar, and for an hour did nothing but pray. I know that seems like a long time to pray as a group, but the time seemed to go by quickly. I guess you can never spend too much time with the Lord, especially as a group. We focused on praise and thanksgiving, on confession, and on asking God to guide us and lead us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible is filled with incidences where the people spent lots of time in prayer. Joshua 7 tells of such a time (when Israel had not done what God called them to do and they had to repent). In Acts 1 and 2 we see the disciples of Jesus praying until the Holy Spirit fell on them and empowered them. Most commentators think they prayed continuously for 10 days! And look what happened! Pentecost!

In every situation in the bible where they spent that kind of time in prayer, at the end God does something to make them “get up off their knees.” As a matter of fact, in Joshua, he commands them to do that. In Acts the Spirit compels them to leave the room where they were and go out and tell the good news of Jesus to the people in the streets.

I believe that while we are called as a community to continue praying, God is also calling us to get up off our knees. It’s time to begin action in combination with our prayers. It’s time for us to “make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ.” It’s time for us to invite people to join in the Walk to Emmaus. It’s time for us to volunteer to be on some of those behind-the-scenes committees. A friend once told me never to do something until I have prayed. Then he said, “But once you have prayed, for God’s sake, do something!”

It’s time to get up off our knees.

DeColores, Michael Henderson

Granny's Bible

Grandmothers just sort of sprinkle stardust over the lives of their grandchildren. – Alex Haley

When I was growing up, I was lucky enough to have my grandparents living in an apartment above our home. Granny Coleman made the best fudge I ever tasted and she loved to do the crossword puzzle in the daily paper. But the first thought that comes to mind when I think of her is her sitting in her favorite chair reading her Bible as I climbed the stairs and scrambled through the door to visit her. She was the only one in my family that I ever saw read the Bible. I recall to this day how she would prop her legs up on her stool, balance her Bible in her lap, her glasses slipping down from her nose, as she prepared herself to study. She would underline various scripture verses and make notes in the margin as she listened to the preacher on Sunday morning television. Even as a young child I remember wondering how this little book called a Bible could hold her attention for such a long time.

When my grandfather passed and granny grew older, she became unable to climb the stairs to her apartment, so my dad put her in a home for the elderly. I was married by this time and living out of town. But each time I returned to visit her I saw her Bible sitting on the table next to her TV guide. When granny died some years later, I went with my dad and several siblings to clean out her apartment. I remember daddy saying, "ya'll take whatever you want and what's left we'll give to charity." There was no question in my mind....I wanted her Bible! I didn't care about her jewelry or the china or even the antique furniture. I wanted that Bible. At the time, I wasn't even sure why, I just knew how much she loved it and I guess I hoped I would grow to love it as much as she did.

It's a small Bible, about the size of a 5 X 7 picture frame, but it's filled with so very, very much. Even though the spine is mostly torn off, the back and front covers somehow remain intact and I believe God's amazing grace holds it together. In her own handwriting, she had scribbled some verses on the inside front cover and many more verses were underlined

throughout the pages. I am guessing those verses helped her through some difficult times. “Ye have not, because ye ask not.” (James 4:2) “Many are called but few are chosen.” (Matthew 22:14) My personal favorite are the words to an old song she must have loved. “Tho’ I forget Him and wander away, still He doth love me whenever I stray, back to His dear, loving arms do I flee, when I remember that Jesus loves even me”. I had never heard the song before, so I set about to research it to get some information. I discovered the words came from a song called, “Jesus Loves Even Me” written by Philip Bliss in 1870.

Granny’s very handwriting is precious to me now, as that and her Bible, are all I have left of her. Those two things and the memory of her reading her Bible to me as I sat at her knees are memories that I will carry with me forever.

Granny’s Bible now sits on a table in my living room. It’s been there since I removed it from her apartment many years ago. I have my own Bible now, but often I pick hers up and ramble through the pages penciled with thoughts from long ago.

I believe God calls us to pass on these treasures in our lives from one generation to the next. They are the very fabric around which we build our lives as we grow to love the same God that our ancestors loved.

Peggy Lawton

North Alabama Emmaus Walk #181

Table of Anna



The next board meeting will be held February 11th, 2020 at The Cabinet Shop 9475 US-78, Ladson, SC 29456 at 7:00pm