

**BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS:**

**Lay Director:** Dan Hare  
Danhare52@homesc.com  
(843)729-5650

**Asst. Lay Director:**  
Tom Thurman  
Thomas.thurman9@gmail.com  
(843)-697-4429

**Spiritual Director:**  
David Lupo  
david@lupofamily.org  
(843)200-3758

**Asst. Spiritual Director:**  
Steve Gaither  
sdgaither@umcscorg  
803-542-1184

**Secretary/Treasurer:**  
Sue Runnerstrum  
jandsrunner@gmail.com  
843-870- 2254

**Music/Entertainment:**  
Dominica Harrell  
Dominicasmal@gmail.com  
(817)308-1987

**Kitchen:** David Beal  
jaxwildwingcafe@yahoo.com  
(843) 209-5242

**Fourth Day:** John Lyons  
lyon\_john\_j@yahoo.com  
(843)708-9837

**Luggage/Transportation:**  
Cliff Simpson  
cliff@thecabinetshopinc.com  
(843)830-6079

**Agape:** Peggy Lawton  
Lawtonp.@comcast.net  
(843)813-6160

**Facilities:** Ed Hickey  
hckybug91@sc.rr.com  
843-864- 6723

**Gatherings:**  
Ronnie Brewer  
[rlbrewer@homesc.com](mailto:rlbrewer@homesc.com)  
843-754-9257

**Newsletter:** Becky Stacey  
rebecca\_stacey1969@yahoo.c  
om (843) 697-0156

**Registrar:** Karen Ayers  
Klayers49@yahoo.com  
(843) 812-8644

**Records:** Helen Cash  
htc143@aol.com  
(843) 696-9853

**Literature/Supplies:**  
Marlene Harter  
mharter10@yahoo.com  
843-452-8175

**Send off/Candlelight:**

# Lowcountry Emmaus Community

Volume 30 Number 3 March 2021

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

**Please stay safe and continue practicing  
social distancing.**



**From the Community Lay Director: Dan Hare**

To the Lowcountry Emmaus Community

As we come into this New Year we always face new challenges and with that we are planning on a Virtual gathering in the near future. The Board will be looking at ways to do this and we have a plan in motion so be looking to the newsletter to see when this will occur. We will send out an e-blast when it will be also it will be recorded so if you miss it you can catch it later.

I don't know how many got to see the International Emmaus Gathering that was on Zoom this past Friday night (Feb 26<sup>th</sup>), but they will also be available on recording. We will receive information how to receive it. It was amazing to see people from all over the world.

As we are out there getting the vaccines, I hope the future is bright for all of you and the future of the walk to Emmaus. We are still accepting applications even though

we don't have projected date, but we want to be sure everyone is safe and these walks will be as good for our Pilgrims as it was for us.

Something came to mind yesterday that I experienced with the walk to Emmaus. I was thinking about my walk, and started remembering those words that is was not about my walk but our fourth days after. I remember after my walk I went back to MT. Top Emmaus where I took my walk for the first time taking some 7 ladies for a 7 hr. trip to drop them off by myself and return home, but knew I had to find a place to spend the night. This was my 1<sup>st</sup> time back so did not understand about the send-off service , I thought I brought them there and dropped them off and I could start my long journey home ( they Informed me differently). I knew it would be a long trip out of the mountains of North Carolina to even find a motel. I learned a new lesson that Brothers and Sisters in Christ are there for one another and a couple offered me a place to stay overnight and cooked me breakfast the next morning. This reminds me Jesus said go out and help one another, and this couple did not even know me but they opened their house to me because we are all God's children and I saw that not just as an Emmaus community but as Christians. This moment of kindness helps me believe that this walk to Emmaus serves as a tool for making Disciples in a world filled with hate and mistrust.

Think of all you have received from Spiritual growth and how you can spread that to others. Keep in mind it is never too early to receive applications and know we will let everyone know when the walks will be.

May God Bless and Keep you

DECOLORES

Dan Hare

Low Country Emmaus Lay Director



### **A Virtual Walk to Emmaus?**

The program we know as The Walk to Emmaus has grown over the years, and new adaptations have come into being from time to time. One of the first was Chrysalis, an event similar to the Walk to Emmaus but designed for high school students. Most of the talks had similar themes, although the presentation and illustrations were changed, and one Emmaus talk was replaced by a talk on marriage and single life. More recently, the Face to Face program was developed for adults aged 60 and older. It was designed to take place in a series of daytime meetings so that pilgrims would not have to spend nights away. Again, much of the content was the same, although one of the talks was replaced by a talk on loss and end-of-life concerns. A third new program, Journey to the Table, was designed to be offered to young adults.

In January, I had the opportunity to be part of a group helping to test another new program being developed by the International Walk to Emmaus office. As the COVID-19 pandemic stretched on, some 4th-day folks began to ask themselves whether it would be possible to have a “virtual” Walk to Emmaus weekend. A team was gathered (online) to work on the idea. As they worked, they realized that what they were designing was not a virtual Walk to Emmaus, but something related—like the other new programs that had grown out of Emmaus over the years. They didn’t have a name for it yet, but they reached the point at which they needed to try out some of what they had designed.

That’s when they sent out the request for volunteers that I responded to a few months ago. One group of volunteers would hear a talk and engage in table

discussion over Zoom. Others would experience other parts of the weekend. I was assigned to the group that experienced the cross ceremony and closing. Each person taking the role of a pilgrim had been asked to have his or her cross with him so that at the appropriate time the person with the role of lay director could address the pilgrims one by one and say, “Christ is counting on you,” and each pilgrim could put on the cross and respond, “And I am counting on Christ.” At the closing, the pilgrims were offered a chance to respond to the two questions they had been asked to consider. I was assigned the role of community spiritual director, so I was responsible for leading worship, including a love feast service, at the conclusion of the closing.

In the discussion time after we experienced our part of the weekend, we learned more about the design for the program. The team envisions it being spread over several weekends, probably with sessions on Friday evening and Saturday morning to early afternoon. Sponsorship will be very important: The sponsor might be responsible for bringing agape from the community by the pilgrim’s home before each session or for taking the pilgrim’s cross after sendoff, keeping it and praying for the pilgrim during the event, and bringing it to the pilgrim the day of the cross ceremony. And a sponsor might, for example, offer to bring a meal on Saturday so that the pilgrim isn’t distracted from the Saturday activities by worrying about family responsibilities.

This new program won’t replace the Walk to Emmaus. Like the other programs that have been added over the years, it offers a way to reach a different group of people. Many churches have found that streaming a service via Facebook or YouTube allows members who weren’t able to attend in person even before the pandemic to be more connected to the community of faith. In a similar way, the program that we participated in testing could offer to folks who can’t spend three days away from home—but who want to experience the walk with Christ that Emmaus offers—an opportunity to do that.

There's still a lot of work to be done by the international design team before the new program is ready for use. As the board receives news about progress in the development of the program, we will pass it along to the community.

De Colores,

David Lupo

We will meet for a board meeting, March 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm via Zoom.