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Lowcountry Emmaus Community

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

April Gathering on Friday,

April 20 @ 6 pm

Bethany UMC Summerville

118 W. 3rd Street South Summerville, SC 29483

Directions: FROM I-26: Take Exit 199 onto US-17A South. After you pass the center of town, turn right on West 3rd South Street. Bethany UMC will be on your left. FROM South via SC 165: Turn right when you reach US-17A. Then turn left onto West 3rd South Street. Bethany UMC will be on your 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 the March Gathering

The March Gathering at Indian Field UMC was the first gathering held on Friday night in a long time. We had a pretty good crowd, but it could have been bigger. We still had the snacks before the gathering. The home made desserts were great! This is a great time to get to know new community members and to see people that you haven't seen in a while. Hopefully, this will also allow people to make it to the the gathering that can't get there by 6:00, but still want to come to the service at 7:00. At the gathering Von talked about the meeting we had with the Midland Emmaus community. Both communities decided to plan to have their own walks but will work together to help each other. If one community does not have enough pilgrims to fill a walk, we could send our pilgrims to them or they would send their pilgrims to us (unless the sponsor or the pilgrim wishes to stay in their own community). The most important thing is that we have walks! Our Fourth Day speaker was Tom Thurmond. He did a great job telling his story about his fourth day walk with Christ, especially feeding the hungry in our community by opening a kitchen with Brownsville Church! His words were such a great inspiration, he truly "Walks the Walk"!

We'll see you next time at Bethany UMC in Summerville!

DeColores!

Cliff Simpson

From our Gathering Chair: Dan Hare

This is to remind everyone that our Gatherings have been moved back to Friday nights. We will have our fellowship and light refreshments at 6:00 and worship follows. This month will be at Indian Fields UMC, hope to see everyone. We are still looking for churches to host gatherings in the coming year so please contact me if your church is willing to host. Next month's gathering in April is at Bethany in Summerville, and Bamberg in May. All the following months are available so please contact me. **Please remember Friday Nights at 6:00.**

Decolores,

Dan Hare



From our Lay Director: Evyonne Thurman

Traveling

Through Lent on our journey to Easter, we travel the Road to Jerusalem with Jesus...through the wilderness and the temptations (Matthew 4:1-11); with a blind man and his transformation (John 9); through Jericho and with the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37); through Bethany and with Mary and sacrificial love (John 12:1-11); and finally on Palm Sunday, we arrived at our destination to a triumphant crowd celebrating Jesus, riding on a lowly donkey to palm branches waving and shouts of hosanna (Luke 19:28-40). We see Jesus's face set on what God wants.....

- Monday...Jesus goes to church...Jesus is busy....sees a fig tree, relates it to the people of Israel, saying it's the fruit you bear: drives the money changers out of the temple.
- Tuesday...Jesus hangs out around the Temple healing and preaching about God.
- Wednesday...day of silence as people prepare for family reunions, Passover.
- Thursday...The Passover Meal...The Last Supper. Jesus breaks tradition and washes the Disciples feet. Judas gave Jesus up.
- Friday....Jesus dies. The Temple curtain is torn in half.
- Sunday... The Tomb is Empty. Jesus is not there. **Christ our Lord is Risen!**

And then we travel the Road to Emmaus with Jesus, as scripture tells us in Luke 24:30-32:



When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

The entire scriptural reference is Luke 24:13-35. The Resurrection story illustrates what happens for pilgrims on The Walk to Emmaus: Faith is re-explained, grace is re-experienced, Christian community is realized, and the body of Christ is renewed through the revitalization of church members’ commitment to Christ. We become stronger leaders for our churches.

We’ve just experienced the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus through Lent and Easter. The Walk to Emmaus allows Christians that time to experience the “peace that passes all understanding”. It’s a time when we know that we can surrender, and it will be ok...we will come out much stronger in our faith knowing whose we are and who’s in control. It’s a time of humility and grace, of love, of forgiveness. The Walk to Emmaus defies all explanation, and it seems that words can never truly explain it. It is a gift beyond all measure for those who would like to experience the Holy Spirit’s presence, God’s grace, and the love of Jesus on a deeper level.

Unfortunately, Walks do not happen with us sitting in the pews waiting on someone else to ask people. We can pray all day long about Pilgrims, but God does expect us to get up and to take some action. My question to you? What are you doing to make Walks happen? Do you need help? How can the Board help you?

Our Community has started a dialogue with Midlands Emmaus about combining Walks due to insufficient numbers of pilgrims to hold Walks. Both communities have the same opportunities and the same challenges. To that end, we feel that we can learn from one another and strengthen both of our communities, but communication is key to doing that. We will continue to develop this relationship.

We learned that both communities want to have the Fall Walks, and we left combining Fall Walks on the table for now. We decided that each Community would continue to recruit pilgrims for Fall Walks of their own, and we would revisit this at a later date when we see how the pilgrims are shaping up. And, if it looks like we have more pilgrims, and a Walk is looking more likely to happen for us than them, then they will look at sending their pilgrims to us, and vice versa. Before either of us cancels a Walk, we will be in contact. They also would like to have 20 Pilgrims to have a Walk, but will go with 18.

We agreed to give our pilgrims the opportunity to attend the other's Walk if we have to cancel. Once the Walk is completed, the Pilgrim will return to their respective Community for their 4th Day. As a Community, we should be looking at this as an opportunity for growth, and relationship building.

We have scheduled our Fall Walks to coincide with Midlands Walks, so there should not be a conflict with people trying to get another day off at the last minute in case either set of Walks need to be cancelled. The Men's Walk will be **October 18-21, 2018**, and the Women's Walk will be **October 25-28, 2018**.

In closing, talk to people about Emmaus Walks. Live your life in such a way that people want what you have....the joy, the happiness, the peace that comes from God. Think about those people you talked to years ago who may not have been ready then, but may well be ready now. Plant some seeds now for the future. God will harvest them...in his time....But you have to work them now! et

Decolores and hugs, et (cheerleader)



From our Facilities Chair: Ed Hickey

The Emmaus Camp work day is scheduled for Saturday April 14, 2018 starting at 8:30 am. Not sure what projects will be but I'm sure they will be doable.

Please note this date on your calendar and plan to attend. Also talk it up with fellow Walk to Emmaus family members so that we may have a good turnout!

As a reminder the camp work day is our contribution to camp upkeep and in return we receive free space use for our storage container!

DeColores and Peace!

Ed



From our Agape Chair: David Lupo

AGAPE OPPORTUNITIES

The following communities have requested and have been sent agape letters from our community. (Most of these communities sent us letters before we rescheduled our walks; we'll save those letters for the fall.) Please pray for these weekends, which come from a variety of traditions within the Fourth-Day community.

- April 5-8
 - Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of South Carolina Cursillo
 - Alabama Emmaus Community Men

- April 19-22
 - Alabama Emmaus Community Women
 - Maryland Episcopal Cursillo
 - Donaldson Men's Kairos (Alabama)
 - Emmaus of the Rockies (Colorado) Men
 - Faithwalk Arklatex Men

- April 26-29
 - Emmaus of the Rockies (Colorado) Women
 - Faithwalk Arklatex Women

- May 3-6
 - Cursillo Community of Eastern Oregon
 - Central Carolinas Emmaus Community Men

De Colores,
David Lupo

From our Assistant Lay Director: Cliff Simpson

The Community holds elections every year to fill the seats of the board members that will be rotating off the board. The following community members have agreed to be on the ballot:

_____Dominica Harrell, Walk #75. Attends Bethany UMC. Lives in Summerville.

_____Jenny Miller, Walk #79. Attends Wesley Memorial UMC. Lives in West Ashley.

_____Jimmy Golden, Midlands Walk #48. Attends Wesley Memorial UMC. Lives in Megget.

_____Dan Hare, Mountain Top Walk #36. Attends Pinopolis UMC. Lives in Pinopolis.

_____Karen Ayers, Walk #57. Attends St. George UMC. Lives in St. George.

_____Helen Cash, Walk #59, Attends St. Andrews UMC. Lives in Summerville.

_____Tom Thurman, Walk #64, Attends Bethany UMC. Lives in Summerville.

This will be sent to everyone via e-blast and printed in the newsletter. PLEASE, if you would vote for 5 people to be elected for a seat on the board and return it to anyone on the Nominations Committee (listed below), or you can give it to anyone that is on the Board. It can also be mailed to me at my address (listed below). We need to get these back before our April 10th Board Meeting so that we can count the ballots and announce the new Board members at the April 20th Gathering. Thank you very much for your help and cooperation with this!

These are the four people on the Nomination Committee

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

Dan Hare – 843-729-5650 danhare52@homesc.com

DeeDee Rackleff – 843-323-2292 grandeeof7@homesc.com

Kevin Stroop – 843-564-1259 kpstroop@MUSC.org

My address is:

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Ladson, SC 29456
God Bless, De Colores!



Cliff Simpson, Walk # 20, Table of Mathew