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Lowcountry Emmaus Community

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

June Gathering on Friday,

June 18th @ 7 pm

Grace UMC

1601 Sam Rittenberg Blvd.

Charleston, SC 29407

Social time will start at 6 PM and the "Gathering" to follow at 7 PM

Grace UMC will provide ALL food and drinks for this gathering because of the remodeling of the kitchen.



Please consider serving on the Board. We cannot continue as a community without a Board and we cannot have walks! There are still positions on the board to fill.

From our Community Lay Director: Helen Cash

Hello Emmaus Family,

What is a special way to spend a Friday night once a month? Enjoying food and fellowship and worship in a beautiful church with our Emmaus family. Thanks to St. Marks UMC for hosting our May gathering. Ronnie Brewer was the board member in charge. Karen Ayers played the piano and led the music for us. Rhonda Cummings gave the heartwarming 4th day witness that blessed us all. David Lupo provided a caring response.

Our 4th day speaker, Rhonda Cummings, Walk #77, Table of Ruth, shared her stories of cancer survival. She gave it to God and God gave it to St. Mark UMC. She said her husband and her church and the Emmaus community are her family. She never met a stranger on her walk, and said at her lowest times, she was reminded that she needed a quart of oil, that she needed to fill up. She thanked us for letting her be a part of our Emmaus community. She implored us to support someone in need and let them experience what we all experienced through Emmaus. Thank you Rhonda.

Last week I spoke with Gwen Hamill who is our Communicator with the Upper Room in Nashville. She spoke about her role of staying in touch with Communities in her district. She has been very conscientious about calling each month checking on our Community. She advised that her Community has opened back up and walks are planned for the fall.

How I wish we could say the same. Our Board is working hard to keep our community going. We need help to fill some board positions. Please be in prayer that our community returns to the strong, vibrant body of Christ it can be.

Remember, Christ is counting on us.

Hope to see more Emmaus family at the next gathering on June 17 at St. Grace UMC, Charleston.

Decolores,



Helen

From Gatherings: Ronnie Brewer

Gatherings—June 2202 Newsletter

The Low Country Emmaus Community held its May 2022 Gathering at St. Mark UMC in Charleston on 20 May. A “Special Thanks” goes out to St. Mark UMC for hosting the Gathering. A good time was had by all in attendance for the social time with plenty of snacks being devoured along with catching up/visiting with fellow Pilgrims. The Gathering took place in the St. Mark Chapel with great music being provided by the “Community Music Praise Team”. Board updates followed up with a wonderful 4th Day talk and Holy Communion. We even “Passed the Peace” for the first time since the Pandemic. Slowly but surely, we are making our way to another walk!!

Our June Gathering will be on 17 June 2022 at Grace UMC located in Charleston. Social time will begin at 6:00 PM with the Gathering being held at 7:00 PM. Masks are optional with social distancing as needed if required. Grace UMC is stepping out and is going to provide all the drinks, finger foods and paper products for this next Gathering. This way you have to bring nothing to the Social Time/Gathering but yourself and an appetite for finger foods and a great Emmaus Gathering. SOUNDS GREAT TO ME!!

The Community is still in need of host churches for Gatherings. The July 2022 Gathering is scheduled for St. Andrews Parish UMC, the August Gathering at Aldersgate UMC in Hanahan and the September Gathering at Mt. Tabor UMC in Ridgeville. If you have any questions concerning hosting a Gathering, please call me at 843 754 9257.

Look forward to seeing you at Grace UMC on 17 June!!

Decolores

Ronald L. Brewer, Low Country Walk #50/Table of John

Board Member in charge of Gatherings



From Music: Dominica Harrell

Hiya, I pray the day has been kind to you. These days, I like to listen to music from my favorite years to bring me peace and comfort. One of them is 1972. Years ago, I bought a compilation cd and I felt a personal connection to the songs. When I asked my Mom, “what happened in 1972 that would make me know these songs so deeply?”. She surprised me with her answer, “That was the year we moved from Long Beach, California and moved to Goose Creek, South Carolina. You sang your way across the country”.

I joined the youth choir at church when I was 9. Ms. Terry played her acoustic guitar. It was Folk Mass music. Super folky and super groovy. I often catch myself singing, when I am doing some monotonous chore, I break into a song from that time...a habit that started when I was a kid. The more songs I learned at church, the easier it was to clean. I would scrub the bathroom clean while singing “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice!” ...and yes, I tried to do the rounds!

Music stays with us. I used praise music to calm a coworker. He used to get rowdy in group settings. I remembered that he grew up a PK, and I started to sing: “I love you Lord, and I lift my voice...to worship you...” He always joined me by the time I lifted my voice. He was connected to the music and it brought him comfort.

I share this with you because you know some songs. You probably know more songs than you realize. Music has lifted your bad day and lifted your good day, even higher!

What is your favorite praise song you wish we sang? What is the song that brings you comfort?

Music is an amazing part of the Walk to Emmaus experience. We need folks to sing at Gatherings, as well as on Walks. THIS could be what you’ve been waiting for...we need you! Who cares if you can’t sing like (someone you admire) ...your

joyful singing is what we want! Pray on it and get back to me...and let me know about the praise song. Dominicasmail@gmail.com



Dominica



From the Registrar – Karen Ayers

GET INVOLVED: SPONSOR A PILGRIM (adapted from Tammy Childress, Central Mississippi Emmaus)

Just like the three legs of the stool that we hear about during the Walk to Emmaus, we need three things to come together for a successful walk experience: team members, pilgrims and SPONSORS. Without a team, there would be no walk. Without pilgrims, there would be no need for a team. But it is YOU, the sponsor, who brings the pilgrim to the camp for the team to work by and through the leading of the Holy Spirit. When team, pilgrims and sponsors converge at the camp, the Holy Spirit takes over.

My plea this year is for us to pray for our sponsors just as diligently as we pray for the team and the pilgrims. Being a sponsor is a loving sacrifice of both time and money. Do you remember your own sponsor? Someone lovingly did it for YOU! And beautiful fruit has been produced by this amazing ministry of Lowcountry Emmaus.

If you have not sponsored a pilgrim in a while, please take time to pray that God puts the very person in your path that HE would choose for the next walk. Today more than ever we must lift up our leaders in the church who are hungry for a deeper relationship with Him.

I thank God for each member of this community and the ways in which you have blessed me and so many others. Every one of you has unique and special gifts, and when the Holy Spirit fills the camp, the fruit of the Spirit is overflowing. I look forward to praying for you this year, along with YOUR pilgrim!

DeColores,

Karen Ayers, Registrar



From Agape: Peggy Lawton

The following excerpt from the book Unconditional Love by John Powell is a perfect description of the Agape Love we, as Emmaus people, share with others on a walk, at our Gatherings, and beyond!

“Giving the gift of myself in love leaves me with a deep and lasting satisfaction of having done something good with my life. I live with the sweet memory of having contributed a gift of love to the lives of others. Likewise, I am left with a sense of having used well the gifts which God has invested in me. Love takes time, demands a history of giving and receiving, laughing and crying, living and dying. It never promises instant gratification, only ultimate fulfillment. Love means believing in someone, something. It supposes a willingness to struggle, to work, to suffer, and to join in the rejoicing.

It is, of course, the paradox of the Gospels: satisfaction and fulfillment are the by products of dedicated love. They belong to those who can reach beyond themselves, to those whom giving is more important than receiving.”

Peggy Lawton: Board member for Agape

Chosen Vessel

The Master was searching for a vessel to use,
Before Him were many, which one would He choose?

“Take me,” cried the gold one, “I’m shiny and bright,
I’m of great value and I do things just right.
My beauty and lustre will outshine all the rest,
And for someone like you, Master, gold would be best.”

The Master passed on with no word at all,
And looked at a silver um, narrow and tall.

“I’ll serve you, dear Master, I’ll pour out your wine,
I’ll be on your table whenever you dine.
My lines are so graceful, my carvings so true
And silver will always complement you.”

Unheeding the Master passed onto the brass,
Wide-mouthed and shallow and polished like glass,
“Here, here” cried the vessel, “I know I will do,
Place me on your table for all men to view.”

“Look at me” cried the goblet of crystal so clear,
“My transparency shows my contents so dear.

Through fragile am I, I will serve you with pride,
And I'm sure I'll be happy in your house to abide."

The Master came next to a vessel of wood,
Polished and carved, it solidly stood.
"You may use me, dear Master" the wooden bowl said,
"But I'd rather you used me for fruit, not for bread."

Then the Master looked down and saw a vessel of clay,
Empty and broken it helplessly lay.
No hope had the vessel that the Master might choose
To cleanse and make whole, to fill and to use.

"Ah! This is the vessel I've been hoping to find.
I'll mend it and use it and make it all mine.
I need not the vessel with pride in itself,
Nor one that is narrow to sit on a shelf,
Nor one that is big-mouthed and shallow and loud,
Nor the one that displays its contents so proud,
Nor the one that thinks he can do all things right,
But this plain, earthly vessel - - filled with power and might!"

Then gently He lifted the vessel of clay,
Mended and cleansed it and filled it that day,

Spoke to it kindly - - "There's work you must do,
Just pour out to others as I pour into you."

~ Author unknown

We will meet for a board meeting, June 14th @ 7pm via Zoom.