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Asst. Lay Director:

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Lowcountry Emmaus Community

Volume 30 Number 7 July 2021

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

**July Gathering on Friday,
July 16th @ 7 pm**

Hibben United Methodist Church

690 Coleman Blvd Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

Gathering Note: *This gathering will be outdoors if weather permits and in the social hall if it rains. More info below. (Bring your own chair if you would prefer).*

Directions:

FROM I-526: Go all the way to the east end of the expressway (becomes Chuck Dawley Blvd as it enters the town). Merge right on Coleman Blvd. Turn right at the first stop light (at OOPs) on Shem Dr., then take the first left (behind OOPs) on Vincent Dr. Hibben UMC is immediately on the left.

FROM Charleston: Go over the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge and bear right at the bottom onto Coleman Blvd. Pass over Shem Creek. Turn left at the 4th stop light after Shem Creek (at OPPs) on Shem Dr., then take the first left (behind OOPs) on Vincent Dr. Hibben UMC is immediately on the left.

From Gatherings: Ronnie Brewer

It has been over a year since the “Lowcountry Emmaus Community” has scheduled an “In Person Gathering” due to a multitude of reasons with COVID being the main reason. The “Emmaus Lowcountry Board” has continued to meet monthly via Zoom over this past year to discuss many issues, and the restarting of “Gatherings” has been on every monthly meeting agenda. On 15 June 2021, the “Board” met and decided it was time to move forward with “In Person Gatherings”. There was much discussion on how we could meet and what we should do and what we should not do. The following was discussed:

Gathering Date/ Location---The Board decided that the first two Gatherings (July and August 2021) should be held at an outside location. The month of July 2021 “Gathering” will take place on 16 July 2021 starting at 7 PM. Location will be at Hibben UMC in Mt. Pleasant using a tent which is already erected. If weather does not permit for an outside function, the church has agreed that we could use the social hall if needed and the church bathrooms will be available. The “Gathering” should not last any longer than one hour. The “August 2021 Gathering” will be held under the Tabernacle at the historical Cypress Campground in Ridgeville on 20 August 2021. Information on the “August Gathering” will be forthcoming.

Social Time---It was decided that this first “In Person Gathering” will not have any scheduled social time prior to the actual “Gathering”. This does not mean that we cannot visit before or after the “Gathering” but it will not be part of the first “Gathering” agenda. The “Board” will provide water for the community.

Social Distancing---Seating will be as if it were at a normal church service. Masks are optional for those that have been vaccinated and for those that have not been vaccinated, it is requested that masks be worn based on the honor system.

Gathering Agenda---Songs, Guest Introduction, Lay Director Report, Board Reports, Prayer/Prayer Concerns, 4th Day Speaker, 4th Day Spiritual Response, Communion (Self Contained Package) and Closing.

I look forward to this “new start” for our Emmaus family. See you on 16 July 2021, 7pm at Hibben UMC!! Any questions, please call 843 754 9257.

Decolores

Ronald L. Brewer

Board Member in charge of Gatherings

Lowcountry Walk #50, Table of John



From the Community Spiritual Director: David Lupo

Walk to Emmaus communities are called to live in a balance between the Three Days of the walk itself and the Fourth Day of living a life in grace. The purpose of Emmaus, according to the Upper Room Emmaus website, is “to inspire, challenge, and equip the local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities, and places of work.” That’s the “what” of the Fourth Day. A community whose members neglect the Fourth-Day work of returning home to do the work of Christ risks turning inward and becoming like the church members I once heard described as “so heavenly minded that they’re no earthly good.” On the other hand, a community whose members get so caught up in their individual work that they find no time to stay in touch as an Emmaus community may accomplish good work but will not be able to share the gift of grace that they once received by enabling new pilgrims to attend a Walk.

It is time for our Emmaus community to look toward offering to others the gift we have received as we prepare to hold Walks once again. To do that, we as a community will need to listen to what Christ is asking of each of us. A Walk is the work of a whole community. The team members whom the pilgrims meet in the conference room are only one part. Without a full Board of Directors and committees or helpers to see to all the behind-the-scenes responsibilities, a Walk can’t happen. And without sponsors who invite persons to be pilgrims, we will fail to deliver the gift to those it is intended to equip for Christ’s work in the world.

If you were a pilgrim on the last set of walks, you can begin to be involved by letting someone on the board know that you’d like to help behind the scenes on the next walks. If you’ve been around long enough to have helped with a walk behind the scenes or on a team, then pray about offering to serve as a board member. If you’ve been around a long time and done most of the jobs, pray about sharing your experience by offering to serve again.

And if you are able, please join with other members of the community as we resume having monthly Gatherings. I pray that as we come together the Holy Spirit will once more kindle in our hearts the fire of God’s love.

De Colores!

David Lupo

Hidden In Plain Sight

“Who am I, that the Lord of all the earth would care to know my name,
Would care to feel my hurt.....would choose to light the way,
For my ever wandering heart...” ~Mark Hall (Casting Crowns)

I knew where it was. For years, I had kept it in the same spot. It was always there, ready for me to grab on my way out the door on the third Friday of every month. It hung silently on the wall next to the light switch in my bedroom. It occurred to me a few weeks ago that I hadn't really looked at it in a while. So, I checked the wall, and yes, there it was, hidden in plain sight, my Emmaus cross. It was me who seemed to forget it was hanging there. For the last 15 months I had not needed it on the third Friday of the month. The pandemic had put an end to all Emmaus activities. And sadly, I had forgotten about my cross. For days and weeks and months I walked past that cross and never even thought about the meaning it had brought to my life. Right then, I took that cross off the hook and placed it in the palm of my hand. I read the words inscribed on it. I flipped it over and looked at the back. I felt the sharp edges of that cross on my bare skin as I grasped it tightly. Then I let the rainbow yarn slip between my fingers and dangle in the empty space below my hands. And I remembered....

I remembered back to December 1998 when I attended walk #141 in North Alabama and received my cross. It had been a long emotional weekend for me. It's like that for many of us. I was not alone in my struggle. The ladies who sat all around me were proof of that. When it was my turn, I walked up front, stood before my table leader and waited. Gently, she placed the cross around my neck, smoothed out the rainbow yarn holding the cross, adjusted my collar, looked me straight in the eye and said, “Christ is counting on you.” She hugged me then, and my tear-stained shirt and brand new Emmaus cross met her in a warm embrace. In an almost inaudible voice, she whispered in my ear, “Welcome home.” And I was awestruck at the sanctity of that moment. Could it be that Christ really was

counting on me? What could I do, wounded and broken as I am? How could I serve this mighty God who had called me to this special weekend? Who am I?

In the years since that amazing moment, I have discovered that there is much that I can do, if I am willing. Each day, I learn more. Each day is a new opportunity. Each day, I strive to be His hands and feet on this fragile earth.

Each day, Christ is counting on me.

Peggy Lawton

North Alabama Emmaus Walk #181

Table of Anna

Please continue keep the families of Sonny Hogg, Gary Fellers, Dan Hare, and Randy Woods in your prayers as they (and we) continue to grieve the loss of these wonderful Emmaus servants.

We will meet for a board meeting, July 13 @ 7pm via Zoom.