

LowCountry Emmaus

And their eyes were opened, and they knew him. Luke 24:31

Volume 17 Number 9

September 2008

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Gatherings)

September 19	Cokesbury UMC
October 17	Bethany UMC
November 21	St. James UMC

Directions to Cokesbury UMC

Cokesbury UMC is located at 4990 Dorchester Road in North Charleston, SC.

From Downtown Charleston

Take I-26 North and exit on Dorchester Rd (642). Continue north on Dorchester. Church is on right, directly across from Glass Pro.

From Mt. Pleasant

Take I-526 East and exit on Dorchester Rd. Turn right on Dorchester (642). Church is about 1 ½ blocks on right.

From Summerville

South on Dorchester Road (642). Church is on left after crossing Montague Ave. across from Glass Pro. OR take I-26 East to I-526 (to Savannah). Exit right on Dorchester. Church is about 1 ½ blocks on right.

***Gatherings are on the 3rd
Friday of each month.
Board meetings are on the 2nd
Tuesday of each month.***

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

The sign on the desk read, "If it weren't for the last minute, a lot of things wouldn't get done." There's some truth to that: Think how many term papers have been finished, how many book reports done, how many Christmas presents bought or wrapped, how many tax returns signed and filed—at the last minute.

But that sign doesn't tell the other side of the story: The "B" paper that could have been an "A" if there had been time to proofread it once more; the gift we settle for giving because what we really intended to give is sold out, and there's no time to order it by mail; the friend we meant to visit while we were in town, who could have gone grocery shopping at another time, had we called ahead of time to make plans.

The next set of walks will be in April, after Easter. It's easy to be lulled into

FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

Thanks to St. Andrews Parish UMC for hosting the August Gathering. Gerald Murray was the Board Member in Charge. He recruited Tim Bennett to lead the music. The 4th day witness was given by Joe Campbell and David Lupo provided the response.



The September Gathering is at Cokesbury UMC. Mr. Tom Howard is planning to attend the Gathering. He is the South Carolina Certified Emmaus Trainer and will be providing training for the entire community (not just the board members!) on Saturday, September 20th at Cokesbury UMC. The training begins at 9:00 am and should conclude around 1:30 pm. See the agenda in the newsletter. Hope to see you all at both events!

The October Gathering will be at Bethany UMC in Summerville. We are not having the fall walks so we are going to have the pot luck dinner any way. Please invite prospective pilgrims to join us. We are going to have the Emmaus presentation during the Gathering.

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2008 –2009 WALKS

Fall 2008 (Cancelled)

Spring 2009 (Confirmed Dates)
Men's Walk—April 16-19
Women's Walk—April 30-May 3

Fall 2009 (Tentative Dates)
Men's Walk—September 24-27
Women's Walk—October 8-11

***Don't wait! Please submit
applications now for Pilgrims you
would like to sponsor on
upcoming Walks.***

(Continued on page 3)

Position	Name	Phone	E-mail address	Class
Lay Director	Randy Woods	843-873-7061	randallwoods3@bellsouth.net	2009
Spiritual Director	David Lupo	843-856-9246	david@lupofamily.org	2009
Vice Chair/Treasurer	Karen Ayers	843-525-0882	gwayers@islc.net	2009
Secretary/Team Selection	Diane Edwins	843-688-5461	lauralfarms@hotmail.com	2011
Kitchen	Cliff Simpson	843-875-5342	csimpson3@sc.rr.com	2010
Literature/Letters/Supplies	Barbara Bilton	843-563-8444	biltonts@bellsouth.net	2009
Agape	Gerald Murray	843-737-4550	gcmurray2@comcast.net	2011
Registrar	Teresa Strickland	843-871-1406	jstdhs@yahoo.com	2010
Gatherings	Robert Nix	843-870-2724	nix2724@bellsouth.net	2008
Luggage/Transportation	Norman Murdaugh	843-871-6392	stumpbump@aol.com	2010
Fourth Day	Perry Buchanan	843-525-6166	twostep2@charter.net	2009
Music/Entertainment	Francis Harter	843-308-9160	fharterjr@yahoo.com	2011
Prayer Vigil/Refreshments	Carroll Cash	843-873-1037	cashbilly143@aol.com	2008
Newsletter	Dudley Patrick	843-881-0857	jdpatrick@bellsouth.net	2011
Housing	Billy Gaines	843-766-2066	bilyngains@aol.com	2010
Sendoff/Candlelight/Closing	Lynn Dukes	843-270-5004	ldukes@sc.rr.com	2011

Low Country Emmaus Participation

The "Low Country Emmaus Participation" committee had our first meeting on August 19th. Our goal is to have a presentation ready for our October get together which will include personal testimony as well as a testimony of how the walks have improved a churches spirituality.

We are also open to any comments or suggestions that the community may have in regards to participation. Please be in prayer for this committee. Pray for Godly wisdom and the ability to use that wisdom. Also we will be looking for volunteers to help us take the Emmaus message to various churches and functions. Pray for God to open those doors and for volunteers to help bring the Emmaus message to them.

And last but not least please pray for our community. The Emmaus experience has meant more to most of us than any other spiritual experience we have ever encountered. Most of us have seen the positive effects it has had on our churches too. So pray and pray some more.

In Christ's Love,

Norman Murdaugh

Reunion Groups

The Reunion Group itself is one of the chief values of the Emmaus movement and is one of the greatest treasures the Walk to Emmaus contains. By becoming a part of a reunion group, we open ourselves to God before other people. We ask them to support us, encourage us, and hold us accountable for the promises we make about the way we want to live in relationship to Jesus Christ.

Periodically, we need to validate that our list of reunion groups is current. Please take a few minutes and send Perry Buchanan the Name of the Reunion Group, Primary Personal Contact, and Primary Contact Address and Phone Number.

We would also like for each Reunion Group to make sure that all new Pilgrims in their area are included in a group.

De Colores,

Perry Buchanan

(Editor - The most current list of reunion groups that we have is included as an insert in this month's newsletter. As you can see, we are missing some information for ones that we know about and it is likely that some of the information for others is outdated. Worse yet, we are sure that there are other reunion groups in our Community for which we have no information at all! Please help Perry update our RG list!)

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More Prayer needed---- The Emmaus presentation committee is almost ready to begin presenting. It is by God's will that this be successful as well as a lot of prayer and effort. Something the committee would like more of is a different type of support. Many people have called in support of the task. Please, keep calling. The kind of support the committee wants more of is having a sincere community focusing on God's love. They want to know that their efforts will be backed by a community that lives by what they were taught during the weekends.

The greatest way we show this is at Gatherings. Each Gathering has its own flavor. Some are more spiritual than others. Some times the music sets the mood. Other times the 4th day talk sets it. And sometimes the 4th day response sets it or a combination of them. Following the Gathering is when we should get to know people in the community we do not already know. That is why we have fellowship following the Gathering.

Most important is keeping the Gathering spiritual. It starts with the prayer to the Holy Spirit. How many of us are just reciting the prayer rather than asking the Holy Spirit to come into the Gathering, to fill our hearts? The Gathering is for us all to come together and rejoice in the Lord. The music should be to praise the Lord. The 4th day talk should praise the Lord. The 4th day response should praise the Lord. We are not doing this for self gratification but for the Lord. This is the support the presentation committee wants.

What is lacking in the community to keep the Holy Spirit alive in our community? Is it poor sponsorship? Is it the lack of reunion group commitment? Are we missing our mark as Christians? Maybe some have different priorities and do not feel the community warrants their support. I pray we will focus on God's love more at Gatherings and with sponsorship and reunion groups. Call some of your former reunion group members to go to a Gathering with you. Sponsors, are you still trying to get your pilgrims into reunion groups? Perry says he gets little response from direct correspondence with the pilgrims. If you have any suggestions please share them with any of the board members and they will bring it before the board.

Continue to be in prayer for Terry Lupo and Ron Bycroft. They have to wait until the spring and begin the process over again. Be in prayer for Beth Pregnall and Joel Strickland as LD's in training. Be in prayer for the pilgrims. Be in prayer for sponsorship. Be in prayer for the presentation.

De Colores,

Randy Woods

VISIT THE LOWCOUNTRY EMMAUS WEBSITE:

[HTTP://WWW.UMCSC.NET/COMMUNITIES/LOWCOUNTRYEMMAUS](http://www.umcsc.net/communities/lowcountryemmaus)

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thinking, "There's plenty of time to talk with folks and get applications." But people go off to football games some of the weekends in the fall. Then, before you know it, everyone's busy getting ready for Christmas. And it's not long until the "last minute" is here again.

The last minute is not the best time for sponsorship. We may succeed sometimes, like students who finish their papers at 5:00 AM. But both we and they could have done better.

Why not resolve to talk with someone this month about the spring walks? The October 17 meal and Gathering is an ideal time to invite someone who may be considering the Walk—but don't wait until the 16th to make the invitation. Start now, and when the last minute comes, you'll be able to relax—because your work will already be done.

De Colores,

David Lupo

Low Country Emmaus – mailed from
Hibben United Methodist Church
690 Coleman Blvd
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

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Low Country Emmaus Training
Saturday, September 20, 2008
Cokesbury UMC

9:00-9:15 am	Welcome, Prayer to the Holy Spirit, Scripture
9:15-9:30	Spirit of the Walk
9:30-9:40	Cloistered and Anonymous Servanthood
9:40-10:10	Core Elements (sendoff, dying moments, candlelight, and closing)
10:10-10:20	Letter of Agreement
10:20-10:45	Lay Director and community Checklists
10:45-11:10	Board of Directors
11:10-11:30	Support Coordinator
30 Minute Break	
12:00-12:20 pm	Team Selection
12:20-12:40	Team Formation
12:40-1:10	Upper Room Three Day Schedule
1:10-1:20	Emmaus Partnership with the Church
1:20-1:30	Closing and Wrap Up

EVERYONE IS INVITED

to attend the annual Low Country Emmaus training event to be held on Saturday, September 20, 2008 at Cokesbury UMC. It starts at 9:00 am and is over around 1:30 pm. Bring a light lunch or snack and something to drink. Our regional training representative Tom Howard will be providing the training. He will also be attending the Friday Gathering at Cokesbury. It would be great to see you all at the Gathering too. Please make room on your schedules to attend both events.

By His will and through His love shall we continue to spread the news of His Son.

Randy Woods
 Community Lay Director