

# LowCountry Emmaus

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

Volume 17 Number 11

November 2008

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS (Gatherings)

November 21                    St. James UMC  
December 19                 Stallsville UMC

### Directions to St. James UMC

St. James United Methodist Church is located at 512 St. James Avenue in Goose Creek, SC.

### From I-26 Eastbound (from Summerville):

Take exit 205B onto US-78 East. US-78 East turns into NAD Rd. Merge onto US-52 towards Goose Creek. Go 1.8 miles and turn slight left onto US-176 North/St. James Avenue. Church is 2.7 miles on St. James Avenue.

### From I-26 Westbound (from Charleston):

Take exit 209A onto US-52 West towards Moncks Corner. Go 4.1 miles on US-52 West and turn slight left onto US-176 North/St. James Avenue. Church is 2.7 miles on St. James Avenue.

*Gatherings are on the 3rd Friday of each month.*

*Board meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.*

## FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

I have been reading Brian McLaren's new book, *Finding Our Way Again*. As he explains in the first chapter, the "way" in the title is the Christian way of life. Too often, he observes, the church has done better at talking about God and about our beliefs than at incorporating people into a new way of living that will enable them to walk with God.

In the middle section of the book, "Practice," McLaren writes about the disciplines and practices that are part of our necessary "training" for the Christian life. Consider, he suggests, a great violinist who gives a series of concerts. The vast majority will be good, with the audiences pleased and the reviewers having no particular complaints. A few

## FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

The last Gathering was at Bethany UMC in Summerville. Lynn Dukes was the board member in charge. Kim Lyon, Helen Cash and I lead the music. Ed Hickey gave a great 4<sup>th</sup> day witness and Carroll Cash did a great job with the 4<sup>th</sup> day response. The potluck dinner was good, too. The next Gathering is at St. James UMC at Goose Creek. Hope to see you there. This Gathering was more spiritual to a weekend Walk than any I Gatherings I have previously experienced.

We had an extra event at the Gathering. The Emmaus presentation was given by Bob Lee, Linda Mack and Charlie Bellamy. Bob described the purpose of Emmaus. Linda gave a personal witness of her life following her Walk to Emmaus. Charlie summarized the benefit the Walk to Emmaus had with his church. If you know of any church you would like the presentation to be given, first pray about it, and then contact Norman Murdaugh or any other board member.

*(Continued on page 3)*



## 2009 WALKS

### 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 to the Registrar now for Pilgrims you would like to sponsor on upcoming Walks.*

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

**Treasurer's Report**

(as of October 31, 2008)

Beginning Balance – checking	\$1,735.67
Deposits - Gathering	+ 446.00
Disbursements	- 266.57
Newsletter	\$226.57
Babysitting	40.00
Ending Balance – checking	\$1,915.10
Savings Balance	\$2,558.86
Total on Hand	\$4,473.96

De Colores,  
Karen

**Condolences**

The Community extends its condolences to the family of Frieda Edgin (Stallsville UMC, Summerville). Frieda, a faithful member of the Community for many years, died on November 3rd after an extended illness. Please keep Billy and the family in your prayers!

**Half Way There!**

We are about half way where we need to be for the Spring Walks. Don't sit back and wait for "Someone" to sponsor "Somebody". If you do then "No one" will sponsor "Anyone" and guess what will happen. Nothing will happen! Do you remember what was said to you when you received your Emmaus Cross ? I do and I know you do too. "Christ is counting on you." He is still counting on you.

De Colores,  
Teresa  
Registrar

*(Continued from Lay Director, page 1)*

The board is about to vote on an IMS database. The database will be used for inputting pilgrim information during each walk. It will even prompt the registrar when to send out letters to the pilgrims and print out each letter for the specific pilgrim. It will automate team selection to a large degree by keeping track of servanthood. It can report on the talks people have given and on which team they served. This should be a great tool for the team selection committee. Reunion groups can be maintained too.

Another activity the board is undergoing is trying to make our community a non-profit organization. I like the idea but it seems we may have to enlist some help from outside of the community to complete this task. If any one in the community has undergone this task, please tell the board. We may need your advice.

We now have the Coordinators manual. When I first heard about the coordinator I was under the impression that it was one person that maintained a status of the different ‘behind the scenes’ activities during a weekend. They would be the ‘go to person’. After reviewing the manual it appears that each function during the walk should have a coordinator. The coordinator would be assigned by the board member in charge of the function and perform the task during the weekend. There will be more information about this once I clarify the coordinators role(s) with the Upper Room.

Continue to be in prayer for Terry Lupo and Ron Bycroft. Be in prayer for Beth Pregnall and Joel Strickland as ALD’s in training. Be in prayer for pilgrims. Be in prayer for sponsorship. Be in prayer for the future of the presentation.

De Colores,

Randy Woods

*(Continued from Spiritual Director, page 1)*

concerts, though, may be outstanding: “inspired” or “transcendent.” The violinist prepared no differently on those nights than on any other nights, but something out of the ordinary happened, something beyond human control. We might call it a gift.

However, McLaren goes on to note that, if the artist had not been a great violinist, but merely an average one, those special nights probably would not have happened. “The gift never stops being a gift, but the gift ‘happens’ to those who are practiced in ways it doesn’t typically happen to those who aren’t.” (p. 94)

The Christian way of life includes practices such as prayer, study, meditation, worship, and acts of mercy and justice. Like the musician’s hours of scales and exercises, these elements of Christian “practice” prepare us so that the gift of God’s grace can happen in our lives.

Take some time to review your reunion group service card. Is there an area—piety, study, or action—where you need more practice?

De Colores,

David Lupo

*(Finding Our Way Again was published in 2008 by Thomas Nelson in Nashville.)*

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### **Fourth Day Corner: Sponsorship\***

In the next couple of newsletters I will try to describe the sponsorship role of community members. Most of the Emmaus documents I read state that sponsorship is the most important role in having a successful community. I am going to list the responsibilities of the sponsor in this article and provide sponsorship information in future newsletters. Here is the list of fourteen responsibilities you should follow as a sponsor.

- The sponsor's first responsibility is to *spend concentrated time in prayer* in an effort to discern whom God wants you to sponsor.
- Once you have discerned God's will about whom to contact, your next responsibility is to *continue to spend time in prayer*.
- When you have discerned that the time is right, *make an appointment to meet the potential pilgrim*.
- *Give your prospect an application*.
- *Obtain the application* and see that all information is complete.
- Your next responsibility is to *begin preparations to request the personal agape letters* for your pilgrim.
- A few days before The Walk event, *contact your pilgrim* as a reminder about the up coming Walk.
- *Take your pilgrim to The Walk site and assist with check-in*.
- Your next responsibility is to *spend as much time as possible in prayer for your pilgrim*.
- During the 72 hour event, *you are to check on your pilgrim's family* to provide necessary assistance.
- As sponsor you *attend the Saturday night candlelight service*, brining the personal agape letters you have collected if you have not brought them already.
- The sponsor's responsibilities do not end with closing. You are to *take the new Emmaus pilgrim to the fourth day meeting and assist him or her in joining a reunion group*.
- As sponsor you are responsible for *getting the new member to gatherings and introducing the new member to others* in the Emmaus community.
- The final responsibility of the sponsor is to *teach the new Emmaus member how to be a good sponsor* by helping him or her understand the responsibilities of good sponsorship.

There is more discussion to each of the responsibilities which I shall cover later. There are also guidelines and general information sponsors should know as well as some pointers in what not to do as a sponsor.

(\*provided by Randy Woods)