

# Lowcountry Emmaus

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

Volume 14 Number 12

December 2005

## TO THE COMMUNITY

I would like to thank Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Sumter for hosting the November gathering. I heard that Kristen Cole did a wonderful job with her 4th day. I am sorry I wasn't able to make the gathering due to a death in Dianne's family; the funeral was the same day in Conway. I would like to thank Babs for stepping in for me again.

As we are in this Thanksgiving and Christmas time of year, I feel thankful for so much. This community has meant so much to me through the years, and it is not just because of the good times we have at gatherings or the times we prepare for walks. I see Christ in each one of you and all his love and caring. I know each of us is Christ's hands, and what you do and say shows Christ in you. I want to thank the Emmaus board for its hard work. Even though we may not have had walks, the board has been working hard.

This Sunday after Thanksgiving I was standing in the church yard with friends and talking about different things. I realized these are people who have been in my life long before Emmaus and I thought what would be a great gift to give someone this time of year—an Emmaus experience. As we are thinking about what to give someone for Christmas think about your Emmaus ex-

perience and what it meant to you. I think back to my Emmaus walk, and I just want to thank my sponsor for that special moment.

If you have someone you want to sponsor and have the application, please call Joel Strickland and confirm it. Check with someone who may have been sponsored in the past but could not make the walk then. As we approach the deadline, remember that the 16th is only to confirm us having the walks, and once that is done we want to fill the walks. These walks are for the Pilgrims. Don't let us disappoint them. We continue to have gatherings and special moments together, but you as a Pilgrim only experienced the walk once. Just a reminder: that sponsorship is the most important job of the Emmaus walk.

I thank the community for being with all the prayer concerns of our community and the world. In a time when the world is in turmoil and so many are sick and dying, I know we have a great physician in Jesus Christ. May all our concerns be in his hands.

I hope to see everyone at Stallsville this month for a joyous time of year.

*De Colores,  
Dan Hare*

Need an application? You can download one on the web at  
<http://www.umcsc.net/communities/lowcountryemmaus/application.pdf>  
Don't forget to check the important dates on the back page.

### **FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR**

All my friends in the Lowcountry Emmaus Community,

I know it may be hard to believe, but here we are celebrating Advent once again. It seems that the commercialization of Christmas begins earlier and earlier, but those of us who are called by God to be his heralds need to be reminded of the true significance of waiting for the Christ. In an age where instant gratification is the byword of society, we need to remind the world that sometimes it is in the waiting that God is found. We have to ask ourselves once again, what does this word Emmanuel mean? God with us—how do we as God’s children see God with us everyday?

Last Sunday at church we sang the popular song “Open Our Eyes, Lord,” and as we sang I was thinking to myself, I wonder if we really do need to have our eyes opened to the myriad of ways in which God enters our world on a day by day and even moment to moment basis? It is so easy to see the evil around us and forget the promise of Advent and Christmas that God is with us.

I don’t know about you, but I find myself questioning God’s presence when I see war, injustice and the exploitation of those who have no means of fighting back. When jobs are being sent overseas just because of greed, leaving many here in our country out of work. When I see the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer and the middle class disintegrating. Where is God with us in these situations?

Then I am reminded that God came to earth in the form of a helpless baby. That God grew up in a poor carpenter’s house, that God learned through his own experience what it was like to be poor, to be ridiculed, to be alone, to be desperate. I am reminded by the prophet Isaiah that he was despised for our account. Yes, God is with us!

God is with us when we reach out in love to those who are needy. God is with us when a word of comfort is spoken to those who are

mourning. God is with us when we laugh with a friend or share someone’s life. God is with us as a young family celebrates the birth of a child. God is with us! May we have eyes to see and ears to hear and hands to share that amazing promise to those living in a dark world.

*De Colores,  
Steve Gaither*

### **THIS MONTH’S GATHERING**

Friday, December 16, 2005  
7:30 PM

Stallsville United Methodist Church  
255 Stallsville Road  
Summerville, SC 29485  
(843) 875-7050

### **DIRECTIONS TO STALLSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

From I-26 exit 199, take US 17-A south. About one-half mile (a couple of blocks) south of the interstate, turn left onto Berlin Myers Parkway. Follow the parkway until it ends. Turn left. You will be at the fork of Trolley Road and Bacons Bridge Road. Take the left fork (Trolley Road). The next light will be Stallsville Road. Turn right, and the church will be on your left.

If you are coming into Summerville on US 78, you can go south on Berlin Myers Parkway and follow the rest of the directions above.

If you are coming up SC 165, that is Bacons Bridge Road. Stallsville Road turns off to the right just before you reach the junction with Trolley Road.

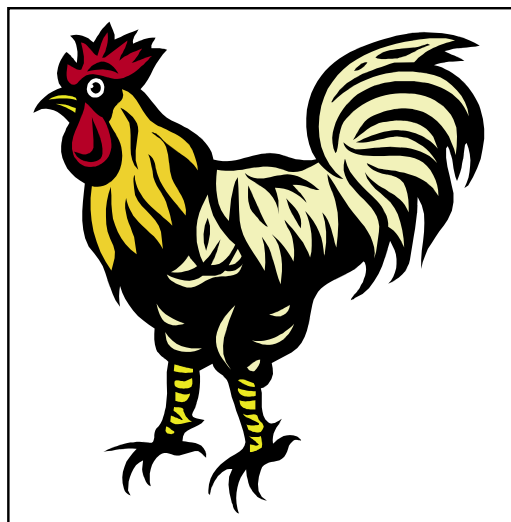
**Board of Directors**

Position	Name	Phone	E-mail address	Class
Lay Director	Dan Hare	843-899-6626	adhareww@homexpressway.net	2007
Spiritual Director	Steve Gaither	843-744-9962	alders@dycon.com	2006
Assistant Spiritual Director	Anthony Hodge	843-824-1419	ahodge3@umcsc.org	2006
Vice-Chair/Treasurer	Babs Patrick	843-881-0857	babspatrick@bellsouth.net	2007
Secretary/Team Selection	Kerry Dwyer	843-871-8781	kdwyer@sc.rr.com	2006
Kitchen	Hal Ellman	843-871-6871	Badslicer@comcast.net	2006
Literature/Letters/Supplies	Emily Ghassemzadeh	843-849-6507	emily.ghassemzadeh@tenethealth.com	2006
Agape	Lisa Hawkins	843-577-7719	Chaswesfdn@bellsouth.net	2006
Registrar	Joel Strickland	843-871-1406	jstdhs@yahoo.com	2006
Gatherings	Michael Arant	843-889-6511	jmarant@umcsc.org	2007
Newsletter	Terry Lupo	843-856-9246	terry@lupofamily.org	2007
Fourth Day	Betty Vannoy	803-499-3635	mandbvannoy@yahoo.com	2007
Music/Entertainment	Jennie Goodman	843-766-9597		2008
Prayer Vigil/Refreshments	Ray Metts	843-873-5667	rmetts@peoplepc.com	2008
Luggage/Transportation	Joel Hand	803-245-2395	joelwhand@bellsouth.net	2008
Housing	Jim Roth	843-846-0459	mandj@islc.net	2008
Sendoff/Candlelight/Closing	Cindy Weatherford	843-563-2163		2008

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Beginning Balance	\$3,442.61
Deposits	416.00
Disbursements	149.54
Ending Balance	\$3,709.07
Savings	\$2,993.36

*De Colores,  
Babs Patrick*



***Needed: Pilgrims!***

- ✓ The lay directors have been selected.
- ✓ The team selection committee is making preparations.
- ✓ The camp has been reserved.

But—have you done your part?

If the spring walks are to go forward, the registrar must have 20 reservations in hand by December 16 (the night of the Gathering).

Those pilgrims who have already signed up are counting on you! That friend you have been meaning to talk to about Emmaus is counting on you, too! Please don't put off inviting someone to experience Emmaus. If you have questions or need an application, contact Joel Strickland at (843) 871-1406. You can also get applications at our web site (see the front page).

*Lowcountry Emmaus – mailed from*  
Hibben United Methodist Church  
690 Coleman Blvd  
Mount Pleasant SC 29464

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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**Lowcountry Emmaus**  
**Calendar of Events**

**Dec. 13**    **Board Meeting (7:00 PM)**  
**Dec. 16**    **Gathering (7:30 PM)**  
                 **Stallville United Methodist**  
                 **Church**

**Future Walk Dates**

**Men: March 16-19, 2006**

**Women: March 30 – April 2, 2006**

*20 applications for each walk must be  
received by December 16, 2005*

**Men: October 12-15, 2006**

**Women: October 26-29, 2006**

*20 applications for each walk must be  
received by July 12, 2006*

Remember: All dates are tentative until we have  
enough pilgrims registered for that weekend.

**Deadline for newsletter is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month**