

LowCountry Emmaus

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

Visit your website: <http://www.umcsc.net/communities/lowcountryemmaus>

Volume 16 Number 12

December 2007

FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR



Thanks to all that came to the November gathering. Thanks to Bethany UMC for being the host church. Susan Runnerstrom of St. Andrews Parrish UMC shared a wonderful fourth day witness bringing the spirit of how God's love is working in her life. There are some very nice hill tops and valleys in this world. Bob Lee gave a good 4th day response. Also thanks to St. Andrews Choir Group for leading the music.

The ABCs of Natural Church Development quality characteristics continued: *empowering leadership, gift-based ministry, passionate spirituality, effective structures, inspiring worship services, holistic small groups, need-oriented evangelism, and loving relationships*; Quality Characteristic 4: effective structures. This is the most controversial characteristic of the eight. The author goes on to say the most important criterion for forms and structures is if they fulfill their purpose and that structures are never an end to themselves but always a means to an end. Tradition is important to a congregation but some traditions can hurt church growth. The lack of tradition can also hurt growth. A tradition I have often thought we (Christians) do not utilize as much as we should is the use of anointing oil. I think the most important action to take when deciding to modify or change a tradition would be to pray for guidance. He will give the answer.

The next set of walks coming up is walk #64 & 65. The weekend lay directors are Charlie Peigler and Emily Ghassemzadeh. Please be in prayer as they begin assembling their teams. Be in prayer for the team selection committee. Be in prayer for the sponsors and the pilgrims. We are blessed when we share God's love with more people.

The walks open hearts and let in God's love. Share the gift God has given to us, the Walk to Emmaus. Please start sponsorship for new pilgrims now. Let's share God's love with as many as we can. The weekends are designed for

thirty six pilgrims. We have some registrations but we have a way to go to get 36 men and 36 women.

I hope you all had a blessed Thanksgiving. Pam and I went to Western Kentucky over the Thanksgiving holiday (an autumn get away). The first day we were at her mother's house we were showered with de colores. God's hand had been at work again. Pam's mother's yard was lit with God's colors; she has very many large trees in her yard. Her front yard was carpeted with yellow, red and orange mixed with some brown. Some green would show through occasionally. It seemed that God had put them there just for me. From the doorway window I peacefully watched more leaves fall from the trees and streak across the yard. They landed gently on the carpet of leaves already covering the yard. I decided to go out into the leaves to see what I could see. I had to get a closer look.

The bright yellow leaves from the maple trees were nearest the house, then as I walked out further the oak and hickory leaves became prevalent. Most of these leaves were orange and brown. There were some Red Bud trees that had dropped their red leaves. The colors were blended together perfectly. When I stopped walking I looked down and identified many different types of leaves. The colors were made up of leaves from Oaks, Hickory's, Maple's, Red Bud's and Walnut's. There were even some Apple tree leaves, and Elm leaves. It took all of these leaves to make the portrait I was seeing. It made the song Weave come to mind. The leaves were diverse and were also unified. It took all the various leaves to make God's portrait. Our Emmaus community is diverse yet we are unified in the gift we share openly, God's love. Continue to share this gift with others so they may also be a part of His portrait

DeColores Randy Woods

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR



Autumn colored leaves, tangy scent of wood smoke, happy faces around the dining room table. The linking of hands in Prayer...THATS THANKSGIVING.

"It would be nice," we sometimes say, if everyday could be like this."

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.

Sadly as our secular society evolves, Thanksgiving Day is increasingly being eclipsed by the earlier onset of the Christmas shopping season.

I suspect there is a lawsuit in our future that will challenge the celebration of Thanksgiving as "too religious" and as a racist event that is more American than can be allowed.

In 1939, during the depression, President Franklin Roosevelt made an unpopular decision. Wouldn't it be nice, he reasoned, To move the holiday from the last Thursday in November to the next-to-last. This, he moped, would boost Christmas sales in a failing economy.

But Americans at that time were interested in tradition and this made many unhappy. They took pen in hand in protest to write letters. The president held firm...but so did the public. "We will celebrate two Thanksgivings", they declared, but Congress intervened in 1971 and passed an act assigning the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving.

While I am thankful for this special day, I don't think we need to have more than one Thanksgiving. But I do believe we would be a happier people if more of our days were filled with a spiritual attitude of Thanksgiving. This spiritual attitude can and would multiply the blessings-both for the giver and the receiver. This is something to remember every day, all year.

Happy Thanksgiving and De Colores, Robert

THIS MONTH'S GATHERING

To be held at Stallville UMC in Summerville. The gathering will begin at 7:30 PM, with light refreshments to follow.....and lots of fellowship.

DIRECTIONS TO STALLVILLE UMC

Stallville United Methodist Church
255 Stallville Road Summerville, SC 29485 (843) 875-7050
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 Meyers Parkway. Follow the parkway until it ends. Turn left, and you will be at the fork of Trolley Road and Bacons Bridge Road. Take the left fork (Trolley Road). The next light will be Stallville 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 Meyers Parkway and follow the rest of the directions above.

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

GATHERINGS

Thanks to those who have offered locations for Gatherings during the first few quarter of 2008. We still need locations for April and beyond. Because the April Gathering will be the post-walk dinner, it will require a fellowship hall large enough to seat everyone for the meal

E Mail Prayer List

Did you know that the community has an email prayer list?

Anyone can sign up by sending an email to

lowcountryemmausprayer-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

or by signing up through

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lowcountryemmausprayer/>

When you are signed up, you can submit prayer requests,

which will be sent to everyone who subscribes to the list. You will also receive a copy of any prayer requests submitted by other members of the list. **De colores, David Lupo**

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 are current. Please take a few minutes and send Perry Buchanan the Name of the Reunion Group, Primary Personal Contact Name 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

FROM THE KITCHEN

I would like to say THANK YOU to everyone that helped in the kitchen, everyone that supported the kitchen and everyone that prayed for the kitchen. It was a GREAT EXPERIENCE, and I can't wait till the next time. I look forward to working with the new pilgrims, so make sure that you sign up. What I like about working in the kitchen is the fellowship and the fun we have, most of all, seeing the look on the pilgrim's faces each day. From Friday's "What am I doing here?" to Sunday's "I don't want to go home". So let's all do our jobs as disciples and fill the next walks, and remember to learn what it takes to be a good sponsor.

Thank you again: **DeColores, Cliff Simpson**

From Luggage and transportation:

Everything went well on the past walks thanks to all the great help. Thanks to everyone who helped with the luggage. Thanks to Dan Hare who provided a golf cart and trailer as well as being present to haul the luggage with his truck. Also a special thanks to Sapp Wages, Dudley Patrick and Arch Yeager for be willing to provide and drive the busses for this walk, and another thank you goes to Steve Bilton for providing a van to keep our ladies from getting their hair wet. Which bring up another matter and that is we need help in the bus department. If your church has a bus that you could volunteer for walks please get in touch with Norman Murdaugh (843-871-6392) and get on the will call list. Our list is old and needs updating.

We did manage to lose one bible on the men's walk. It belongs to Allen Weis and it is bound in a leather cover with the "Footprints In The Sand" poem on the front cover. The name Hazel Lund can be found on the inside. This is an old family bible that has a lot of sentimental value. If you have it or no of its wear about please contact either **Allen Weis or Norman Murdaugh.**

Thanks to all who helped in setting up, cleaning up, tearing down, and putting away during and after the Men's and Women's Fall Walks.

HOUSING – BILLY GAINES

Board of Directors

Position	Name	Phone	E-mail address	Class
Lay Director	Randy Woods	843-873-7061	randall.woods@att.net	2009
Spiritual Director	Robert Nix	843-970-2724	nix2724@bellsouth.net	2008
Vice Chair/Treasurer`	Karen Ayers	843-525-0882	gwayers@islc.net	2009
Secretary/Team Selection	Barbara Bilton	843-563-8444	biltonts@bellsouth.net	2009
Kitchen	Cliff Simpson	843 875-5342	Csimpson3@sc.rr.com	2010
Literature/Letters/Supplies	Cindy Weatherford	843-563-2163		2008
Agape	Annie Edwards	843-568-1320	aedwards20@knology.net	2010
Registrar	Jim Roth	843-846-0459	jaxon05@earthlink.net	2008
Gatherings	David Lupo	843-856-9246	david@lupofamily.org	2009
Luggage/Transportation	Norman Murdaugh	843-871-6392	stumpbump@aol.com .	2010
Fourth Day	Perry Buchanan	843-525-6166	twostep2@charter.net	2009
Music/Entertainment	Jennie Goodman	843-766-9597		2008
Prayer Vigil/Refreshments	Carroll Cash	843-873-1037	cashbilly143@aol.com	2008
Newsletter	Joel Hand	803-245-2395	joelwhand@bellsouth.net	2008
Housing	Billy Gaines	843-766-2066	bilyngains@aol.com	2010
Sendoff/Candlelight/Clos'g	Teresa Strickland	843-871-1406	jstdhs@yahoo.com	2010

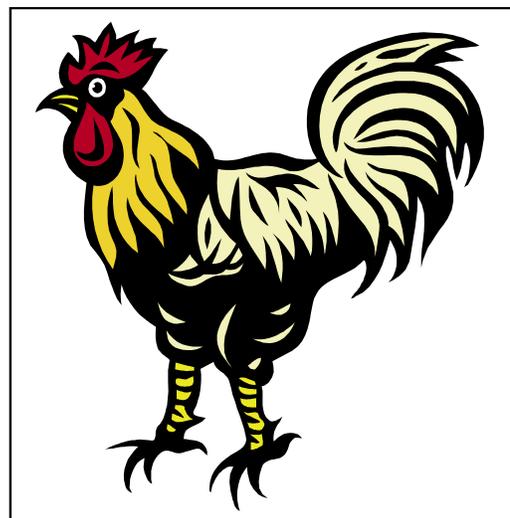
Low Country Emmaus Treasurer's Report

November 24, 2007

Beginning Balance - checking	\$1701.56
Deposits	+1793.20
Fees	1330.00
Gathering	463.20
Disbursements	-1782.79
Babysitting	80.00
Newsletter	238.66
Walk exp	724.13
Upper Room	440.00
Jericho & Providence UMC	300.00
Ending Balance - checking	\$1711.97
Savings Balance	+4041.12
Total on Hand	\$5753.09

If anyone would like more detail, please send request to gwayers@islc.net.

De Colores, Karen



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Lowcountry Emmaus
Calendar of Events

Dec. 21-Stallsville UMC Summerville

Gatherings-3rd Friday, monthly

Board meets on 2nd Tues. monthly

2008 WALKS

SPRING 2008

Men's walk

March 27-30

Women's walk

April 10-13

FALL 2008

Men's walk

Sept. 25-28

Women's walk

Oct 9-12

Please begin NOW to submit applications for pilgrims you would like to sponsor on these walks. DON'T WAIT

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the **25th** of each month