



VOLUME 20/NUMBER 12/DECEMBER 2011

Low Country Emmaus Community

*The virgin will conceive
and give birth to a son,
and they will call him
Immanuel (which means
God with us).*

Matthew 1:23

December Gathering

Friday, December 16th at 7:30 PM
Stallsville UMC
255 Stallsville Rd., Summerville

Directions:

From I-26, take Exit 199, US 17A-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 Rd. and Bacons Ridge Rd. Take the left fork onto Trolley Rd. The next light will be Stallsville Rd. Turn right, and the church will be on your left.

From
The Lay
Director

Thanks to St. George UMC for hosting our November Gathering. Lots of community members came out on Friday night to join in worship as part of the Lowcountry Emmaus Community. There were quite a few new faces; a couple who has relocated from New York to South Carolina, and some dear faces that have not been able to attend in a while.

The music was led by the Music Team of St. George along with Richard Toy and was big, big blessing as we sang "beautifully" according to the director. Our BMIC was George Wardlaw. The 4th Day Talk was given by Vincent Ferguson and he challenged us as a community to reach out and grow stronger. He said that collectively we gain strength together and become a testimony of God's Grace as we walk as a people of hope. The challenge for us, as a community, is to reach out and find those in our churches, work places and community and share the Weekend Walk to Emmaus. Rev. Otis Scott, pastor of St George Parish gave the Clergy Response. He shared with us that as we walk, we must walk in God's line and encourage others. After our walks and the mountaintop experience, we go back with the desire that was placed on our hearts to share the gift of the Walk to Emmaus with others – to do as Jesus instructed the disciples and instructs us now, "make disciples"

We are in the midst of the Advent Season waiting the day of celebration of Christ's birth and as we look for gifts, one that we might give would be the invitation to the Walk to Emmaus. I recently heard a message on Sunday from the book, *The Journey – Walking the Road to Bethlehem* and have started reading the book. There is a passage that says; "Grace is at the center of what God was doing in Christmas. Grace has power. When you show kindness, compassion, goodness or love to someone...the act of grace has the power to change hearts... Grace changes the one who receives it, but it also changes the one who gives it." What a wonderful time for us to share this gift of love and grace with others and invite them to participate in the upcoming Spring Walks.

Merry Christmas to you all and may your Advent Season and Christmas be filled with much love as we celebrate our Savior's birth.

DeColores,

Linda

Upcoming Gatherings

January 20th
Calvary UMC, Swansea

February 17th
Indian Field UMC, St. George

We currently have locations for Gatherings up through May 2012, and also for the month of August. If you would like to host a Gathering, or have questions about hosting one, please contact Ronnie Brewer at (843) 688-6161. It is never too early to sign up!!!

Thanks to the folks at St. George UMC for hosting our November Gathering. We had good attendance, good music, and a good worship service.

This month, we will be at Stallsville UMC. Their church—like all of our churches—will be beautiful for the Christmas Season. So plan on being there. See you there!!!

Ronnie Brewer
Gatherings

CAMP GATHERING OCTOBER 22, 2011



SPONSORS PLEASE HELP!

As of this writing, we have an insufficient number of pilgrims to meet the minimum number required for either the men's or women's spring walk. The cut-off date for "go" or "no go" decisions is January 10, 2012. Please call your potential pilgrims now and submit their applications right away. Our Walks were a blessing from God to us. We have an obligation to pass this blessing on to other. David Wiley, Registrar



From the Secretary/Treasurer

The New Year is fast approaching. There's something about a new year that makes me want to get my house in order. I have been busy cleaning out closets, cleaning out my office (you wouldn't believe that I found magazines from 2005), and cleaning out the kitchen pantry. I've been throwing things away, putting stuff in bags for charity, and giving things to family and friends. I'm on a MISSION. Carroll better watch out—his closets and the garage are next!

In the spirit of putting things in order, I turn to my tasks as your Emmaus Board Secretary/Treasurer. It's been an exciting challenge to learn all the duties, and I've enjoyed every minute of it. One of the things I'd really like to do is balance the checkbook. In the past, a donation on behalf of pilgrims' registration costs was made to our Emmaus Community. As a result of this donation, checks in the amount of \$30.00 were issued around May 2011 to the pilgrims from the last set of walks. Currently, 19 checks are outstanding.

With your kind consideration—and with the Board's approval—we will resolve that if the \$30 checks have not been cashed by the end of December 2011, they will be marked void in the checkbook and the monies will be considered donations to the Emmaus Community. And, I can balance the checkbook! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Decolores, Helen Cash

Facilities

Looking forward to our Spring 2012 Walks! One of the necessary tasks to accomplish a successful Walk is camp preparation to include set up and take down. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve our Lord and a great expression of Agape to the Pilgrims for our Spring 2012 Walks to Emmaus. A sign-up sheet will be available beginning with the December gathering.

I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas!

DeColores and Peace!

Ed Hickey, Facilities