

# Lowcountry Emmaus Community

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*And their eyes were opened, and they knew Him ~ Luke 24:31*

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## December Gathering on Saturday,

**December 16 @ 6 pm**

### Stallville UMC

255 Stallville Road Summerville, SC

**Directions:** From I-26 Exit 199, take US 17A South. About ½ mile, couple of blocks, south of the interstate, turn left onto Berlin G. Myers Parkway. Follow the Parkway until it ends. Turn left and you will be at the fork of Trolley Road and Bacons Bridge Road. The next light will be Stallville Road. Turn right and the church will be on your left. If you are coming from Summerville on US 78, you can go south on Berlin G. Myers 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 to Trolley Road.

**Please note:** The Saturday Gatherings begin at 6 pm with fellowship. Please bring a snack or finger food to share with the Community. As always, the church will provide drinks. Worship will follow at 7 pm.

## From the November Gathering

I would like to let you know about the gathering at Pinopolis this past month. If you were not there you missed a great Fourth day talk given by Del Collins. He spoke about how he witnessed God in his fourth days and each day. We had a good crowd at the gathering and we hope to see you all at Stallville in December.

DeColores,

Dan Hare

## From our Lay Director: Evyonne Thurman

Did you have a wonderful Thanksgiving? A nicely roasted turkey, or perhaps a fried one? With some stuffing, or oyster dressing? Some corn pie and homemade mashed potatoes

and giblet gravy? And for dessert, maybe some pumpkin or pecan pie...or carrot cake? Did you gather with family or friends? Did you count your blessings and decide there were too many to count? On the flip side, did you serve slices of turkey and stuffing at a soup kitchen to the homeless, to the forgotten, to the least? Did you smell the smoke on their clothes, or notice the mud on their shoes, or the holes in their clothes? Did you wonder where they live or how they get by day to day? Did you think about their blessings? Did you feel better when you left after serving or worse?

These are difficult questions. These are the questions that keep the Hands and Feet of Jesus Christ awake at night. Trying to figure out how we can help be servants to those in need....how we can spread the love of Jesus Christ to our brothers and sisters....trying to meet physical needs in order to reach their spiritual and emotional needs.

With Thanksgiving behind us, and Christmas in front of us, I would encourage you as the Emmaus Community to step out of your comfort zone, and be the Change Agent that we learned about in one of our talks, "Changing Our World" on our Walk. Remember, it starts with You. God can use your idea, or your servanthood for his glory, and in such a way that people benefit from it. What can you do during Advent for someone in need that will continue throughout the year, either for them, or for you? Will it be serving in a soup kitchen? Or visiting elderly or shut-ins? Or tutoring poor kids at an after school care center? Or counseling/mentoring troubled teens? There's a lot of need out there....and it's not hard to find if you look.

In closing, with all the hustle and bustle of Christmas, remember the reason for the season...a little baby boy born in a manger born to a young mother named Mary. Take the time to really read the Christmas Story. Quietly ponder the significance of the event, and what it meant then and throughout time, and what it means for us today. You'll be glad you did! Merry Christmas,

et

PS. Get those Walk applications in. Deadline for applications will be mid January! Please accept my apologies for missing the last 2 Gatherings (and the December one at Stallsville) due to prior commitments. Many, many thanks to Cliff and Lynn for filling in for me.



### **From our Newsletter Chair: Betsy Fanning**

At our last Board meeting I was tasked with sending out a survey to the community regarding Gatherings. After the last set of Walks, we changed the Gathering night from the 3rd Friday of the month to the 3rd Saturday of the month. The time was also changed. Saturday Gatherings begin with food and fellowship at 6 with the Gathering beginning at 7. Friday Gatherings begin with worship at 7 followed by food and

fellowship. We'd like to know which you prefer. Please reply to this email and answer the following questions:

1. Do you prefer the Gatherings as they are now? (3rd Saturday, begin with food and fellowship at 6 followed by worship at 7)
2. Do you prefer the Gatherings as before? (3rd Friday, beginning with worship at 7 followed by food and fellowship)
3. What do you like most about the Gatherings?
4. What do you least like about the Gatherings?
5. What would you change about the Gatherings?



Thank you for your input! We value your opinions!!

DeColores!

Betsy

### **From our Asst. Spiritual Director: Kevin Stroop**

#### **Luke 11:9-13**

<sup>9</sup>“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>11</sup>“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? <sup>12</sup>Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Kathy McGovern\* in her devotional, **“So That’s How Prayer Works”** writes: “I feel uneasy with today’s famous passage on prayer. Many of us have asked God to heal someone and then wept at a loved one’s deathbed. Each of us has knocked, only to hear the door lock. We all know good and holy people who have sought and never found. And yet, St. Luke insists that none of these things will happen to the prayerful person.”

From personal experience, sitting at the bed of the dying, counseling the abused, and consoling the grieving; I understand what Ms. McGovern is saying. “Sometimes prayers go unanswered.” Where is comfort in that statement? Safety? Hope?

It is an uneasy feeling talking about prayers, actions, and searches that do not lead to desired outcomes. How long does our prayer list grow until we see an answer, desired or not? How realistic is our request? How deep is our faith to trust God for the situation for which we pray. Is our attitude one of belief or merely words in asking?

I bring this to our attention because never in our lives has prayer been so necessary, situations so dire, and God's intervention longed for. I sit in prayer groups, congregations and communities whose lists of prayer requests are long, exacting, extremely personal, and globally specific. These prayer requests indicate the desire for God to act in a mighty way – to bring peace, healing, and wholeness to a person, a people, and a world.

Willingness to believe and an attitude of trust. Hence the necessity to be reminded about a father, any father who loves his child. Would this father give his child a snake, a scorpion, or anything else that could forever harm his child – whom he loves? Then there is our Father, who lives in heaven, who loves us without measure- who gives us the gift of Jesus Christ. The best gift - the gift of love. Who is evermore ready to give than we are to receive. God is willing – we must believe! God is faithful – we must trust!

As the Peanuts Gang goes out on Halloween, they receive generous gifts of candy and treats. All receive except, for our beloved Charlie Brown, who exclaims, "I got a rock!"

When I pray – I go to the "Rock", the cornerstone which the builders rejected. I go to the Christ, who intercedes for us through wordless groans. Even though I continue to be the evil parent constantly beating on doors, endlessly asking, ceaselessly seeking – I trust in God's will, I expect something to happen, and I am ready for the blessing that only he is able to give.

DeColores!

Kevin Stroop



### **From our Agape Chair: David Lupo**

#### **Agape**

With walks scheduled for early spring, it's time to start working on table agape--those little gifts that you found by your plate at mealtime. Even if you can't meet to make things until January, you may want to keep an eye out for ideas and supplies. Who knows what you might run across in the after-Christmas sales? Here are a few reminders:

- No individual names on table agape. Instead, please *do* include the name of your reunion group or your church and the name of your town on the items to let pilgrims know that people over a wide area are praying for them.
- Plan for a full walk. That means 65 pieces for each weekend. If your item might break, please include a few extras.
- If you don't know what to make, try searching Pinterest for "Walk to Emmaus agape."
- Be sure to pray for the team and pilgrims while you are making the agape. Table agape isn't just "religious stuff." It represents the love and prayer of the Emmaus community.
- Don't wait until the last minute. You can bring table agape to David Lupo at any Gathering as well as at Send-off.

Another form of agape is participation in the weekend prayer vigil. There will be a sign-up list at the January Gathering.

There's no list of walks in other communities this month because hardly any community schedules a walk this close to Christmas.

#### **From our Gathering Chair: Dan Hare**

If your church is interested in hosting a gathering please contact me by email or phone. We have a commitment for January but we need February. March we don't have a gathering because of the walks. Bethany will be after the walks. I will be waiting to hear from you.

Decolores,

Dan Hare



#### **From our Registrar: Sue Runnerstrom**

As we enter the Christmas season we are also rapidly approaching the deadline for deciding if the Spring Walks will take place. We need to have 20 men's and 20 women's applications in hand before the January Gathering to make the final decision on the Walks. Please be in Prayer for our Walks and for God's direction in choosing the Pilgrims to fill these Walks.

I will offer sponsorship training at each Gathering after the meeting. It takes only a few minutes to learn how you can be God's disciple and change someone's life forever. Please PRAY and then PRAY some more.

DeColores, Sue Runnerstrom

