

**BOARD OF
DIRECTORS:**

Lay Director:

Helen Cash

htc143@aol.com

(843) 696-9853

Asst. Lay Director:

Needs filled

Spiritual Director:

David Lupo

david@lupofamily.org

(843)200-3758

Asst. Spiritual Director:

Steve Gaither

sdgaither@umcscorg

803-542-1184

Secretary/Treasurer:

Peggy Ridgeway

peggyridgeway@yahoo.com

843-609-6891

Music/Entertainment:

Dominica Harrell

Dominicasmal@gmail.com

(817)308-1987

Kitchen:

David Beal

jaxwildwingcafe@yahoo.com

(843) 209-5242

Fourth Day:

John Lyons

lyons_john_j@yahoo.com

(843)708-9837

Luggage/Transportation

NEEDS FILLED

Agape:

Debra Yadon

debra.yadon@gmail.com

(843)412-0869

Facilities:

NEEDS FILLED

Gatherings:

Peggy Lawton

lawtonp@comcast.net

(843)813-6160

Newsletter: Becky Stacey

rebecca_stacey1969@yahoo.com

(843) 697-0156

Registrar:

Needs Filled

Records:

David Wiley

wileynest@aol.com

843-767-8521

Literature/Supplies:

Lynn DeHay

lqdehay@homesc.com

843-753-2347

Send off/Candlelight:

Marlene Harter

mharter10@yahoo.com

843-452-8175

Member at Large:

Sue Runnerstrom

jandsrunner@gmail.com

843-870- 2254

Lowcountry Emmaus Community

Volume 32 Number 12 December 2023

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

December Gathering on **Friday,
December 15th @ 7 pm
Bethany UMC
118 West 3rd Avenue
Summerville, SC 29483**

**Social time will start at 6 PM with
finger foods and the "Gathering"
to follow at 7 PM**



CHRISTIAN HUMOR

What was Moses' wife, Zippora, known as
when she'd throw dinner parties?

"The hostess with the Moses."

From the Community Lay Director: Helen Cash

Hello Lowcountry Emmaus Family!

On November 17, St. Andrews Parish UMC welcomed the Lowcountry Emmaus Community with friendly fellowship and an abundance of great food. Thanks for hosting our gathering! David Wiley was the board member in charge, and the joyful music was provided by members of the St. Andrews Praise Band. Christine Freeman gave the 4th day talk, and Pastor Brent Dehlbom provided the clergy response.

Our 4th day speaker, Christine Freeman, Walk #68, Table of Mary, shared that she was the youngest of 6 children, raised Catholic, and attended parochial schools. She received her first holy communion at age seven. She always knew that she was a child of God. She also knew that she wanted to know Him more. Christine has been a faithful servant and solid worker in church, participating in many programs. She mentioned the faithful men and women who positively influenced her on her walk with God. She was invited to go on the Walk to Emmaus, and she attested she found a peace she had never known. It was on her Walk with others sharing similar experiences that she learned you can't hide from God. He finds you every time. She shared the many heartaches she has endured with deaths of family members including her brother, sister, Mom and Dad, and also her husband's cancer battle. She relied heavily on her faith and on Philippians 4:13 – "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." She persevered through the struggles with the blessed assurance that Christ is with her. She reminded us that He will not forsake us.

One of Christine's joys is her work as a newborn caregiver. I am thankful she shared something she practices with her newborns. She asks the newborns – have you seen Jesus? Without fail, their faces light up and they smile at her. We read in **Psalm 127:3** "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him." What a precious thought to ponder that these babies have been with Jesus. During this Christmastime, as we await the birth of our Savior, we are reminded - He is always with us.

Happy Birthday Jesus. Thank you for loving us. Merry Christmas Emmaus Family.

"The Gathering Game"

In an effort for the community to know the board members a little better, we played a game at the November gathering at St. Andrews Parish UMC.

Perhaps you remember, "What's My Line?"

See how many you can guess! Participants were Becky Stacey, Lynn DeHay, Peggy Ridgeway, Marlene Harter, Helen Cash, and David Wiley.

1. Played drums in a band at a small school and won many competitions over much bigger schools.
2. Was a SC state diving champion
3. Conducted time studies and can tell anybody how to do their job smarter and quicker.
4. Is too young to have 13 great grandchildren.
5. Was the Director of a clogging group.
6. Drove a race car on the Charlotte Motor Speedway



From Gatherings: Peggy Lawton

Our Lowcountry Gathering for the month of December will be on December 15th at Bethany UMC, 118 West 3rd Avenue, Summerville. Join us at 6pm for food and fellowship and 7pm for worship.

The history of Bethany UMC, one of the oldest in Summerville, is closely tied to the history of the region. The first church building was a small

wooden building, and it was one of three churches in Summerville. The other two were the Episcopal and the Presbyterian. Early records show that in 1859 J. Willow Green and his wife, Mary Anna, together with their six children, joined by certificate. This is the only early family whose descendants remain members of Bethany.

In 1883, Bethany's first sanctuary was built, but the August 1886 earthquake damaged it and the parsonage. It took more than a year to raise the \$360 to repair the buildings. One of the strengths of Bethany in the 1890's was its Sunday School program. It hosted a Sunday School Library which allowed children to check out their books. Soon, the other churches began their own. Into the 1900's the church experienced growth, but it was not spared when the Great Depression gripped the United States in the 30's. But they held it together and in the 40's it started to grow again due to the influx of military establishments and civilian defense workers in the area. A new sanctuary was built in 1942 and seven years later the congregation had paid off the mortgage and dedication services were held in 1955.

Their outreach mission continued to grow over the years with the addition of a gym and Sunday School rooms. After Hurricane Hugo in 1989, Bethany members provide countless hours of service to Lowcountry families. As a result of this, they continued their relief efforts in the community. Outgrowths of this continue today at Dorchester Interfaith Outreach Ministries and the Palmetto House. They now have a Kids Care afterschool program and the Hands of Christ program providing school supplies to needy area students, along with countless other programs.

Bethany has been a part of the Summerville community for 166 years. They have grown to be an important part of the faith, social and community services for local missions and several global missions. They are rich in faith and dedication in their service to God and their church.

Come to our Christmas Gathering at Bethany! (Submitted by Peggy Ridgeway)

From the Secretary/Treasurer: Peggy Ridgeway



NOVEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT

November Beginning Checking Balance	\$ 7,901.99
Deposits	\$ 160.00
Disbursements	<u>\$ 158.00</u>
November Ending Balance	\$7,903.99
Savings Account	\$3,855.62
Scholarship available (pilgrim/team)	\$2,223.87

DeColores!

Peggy Ridgeway
Secretary/Treasurer

Please be in prayer and looking for pilgrims to go on our next walk, hopefully Fall 2024. Workers are very important. Team members are very important. But it's all about the pilgrims. It's all about bringing them on their walk with Jesus. It's all about their personal Walk to Emmaus, feeling the Spirit alive in their hearts. Remember how you felt. Give that gift to someone else. Remember: CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU.

December Christmas Gathering – December 15th – Bethany United Methodist Church – Summerville
CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU to come and bring a friend!

From Agape: Debra Yadon

A Chrysalis Boys Flight is being held in North Georgia from January 12th-15th, 2024. They are requesting general agape letters for their caterpillars. If you need more information, please reach out to Pamela Quantock at pamqcasa@gmail.com.



From Records: David Wiley

It has been a long journey from my Phoenix Walk to Emmaus 33 years ago to today's 4th day. Before the Walk, I had been on the periphery of my church. I attended services on Sundays but did not seriously participate in other congregational ministries. The Walk awakened something within me and moved me from only being served by the church, to wanting to serve our Lord and His people in any capacity available. What a ride these 33 years has been.

During this time, I have served in three United Methodist congregations, Lay Servant Ministries, KAIROS Prison Ministries, and of course Walk to Emmaus Ministries which led me from being to an outside observer of Christ's church to being in the middle of Christ's followers. Perhaps the greatest pleasure of all has been continuously attending weekly reunion groups over three Emmaus Communities. I still attend the weekly SonShine Reunion Group which holds me accountable to the faith and encourages me to grow in the faith.

December will be my last month serving on the Board and I wanted everyone to know there will soon be an opportunity for another community member to take over the Records Board Position. The chief function of the Records Board Position

is to keep our community records up to date using our Ministry Manager software program. Our computerized historical information is key to not only helping members keep in touch with each other, but also to help us understand which of our community members should be considered to serve on upcoming teams. I pray one of you who is comfortable using computers will feel a call to volunteer for this role. There is no need to worry about not having experience with this position. Our Board serves as a team and helps each other. No Board member ever serves in his position alone.

De Colores

David Wiley

From Fourth Day: John Lyons

Hello everyone from your 4th Day Servant. I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday and are looking forwards to the upcoming Christmas Season. It wasn't too many years ago that I looked toward the Christmas Season without much passion or joy. After my wife died on September 28, 2003, I didn't look forward to holidays (religious or secular). They were merely an opportunity to drown my sorrows and feel sorry about the loss of my wife. Our youngest child, Danny, was 20 when Sandra passed, and all my children were pretty much living on their own. Getting together for holidays usually just reminded us that she was not with us. In the grief loss sessions, I attended it was suggested that families should celebrate holidays differently after the loss of a family member. So, we changed how and where we would get together for the holidays. Having new traditions did make holiday celebrations better but for me not much better. Later, in the summer of 2014, I move to Summerville to be closer to my oldest son, John, and his family as well as my daughter, Katie, and her husband, Ben. My son, John and his family were worshiping at Bethany United



Methodist Church, so I started meeting them at Bethany's Word and Table worship service every Sunday. In one of the Sunday bulletins in September or October there was an announcement for sign-ups for Bethany's Living Christmas Story. The Living Christmas Story is a pageant portraying Bethlehem at the time of the birth of Jesus. This pageant takes hundreds of people to pull off. Not knowing what it entailed I went to the sign-up board and someone standing there suggested I would be a good wise man. So, I signed up to be one of the wise men at Herod's court. As I walked away, I felt immediately like I had made a mistake. I almost went back the next day to erase my name from the sign-up sheet. Looking back, I am so glad I didn't back down. The pageant is done for 3 consecutive nights at the end of November or early December. I was a little nervous dressing up like one of the Magi and pretending we were presenting ourselves to Herod seeking permission to visit the newborn King of the Jews. I was hooked that very night. I have been helping with Bethany's Living Christmas story ever since. Before serving in the Living Christmas Story, I had very little interest in Christmas. Now I eagerly look forward to the Christmas holidays. This one activity has made me feel the spirit of Christmas as I never had before. I am so thankful to God that He led me to Bethany and their Living Christmas Story pageant because it restored joy back into my heart. In fact, being a Magi lead me to another way to bring joy to others during Christmas. You know at Christmas there is another fellow who spreads joy named Santa Claus. Word is he looks a lot like me and make appearances at Bethany as well as other places around Summerville. If you come to Bethany to experience the Living Christmas Story this year you won't find me at Herod's court anymore. I have moved to be one of the Magi at the Manger scene. When I do this, I often feel that I actually at the manger paying homage to Jesus the newborn King of Israel. This year our pageant is on November 30, December 1, and December 2 starting at 6pm each night. Come and see the miracle of our savior's birth.

DeColores!!



Election Time!

It is time for the Community to hold elections for the Lowcountry Emmaus Board. Some current board members have agreed to continue to serve. We are also happy to have some motivated volunteers who wish to serve on the board! Board members usually are elected in classes, but the pandemic scrambled that structure. To continue getting back on track, we will elect members to terms beginning on January 1, 2024, and ending on December 31 of 2024, 2025, or 2026. After the election, our plan is to assign the newer board members to the longer terms. This ballot is printed in this newsletter. It will also be handed out at the December gathering and sent out by e-blast.

PLEASE, if you would, vote for these people to be elected for a seat on the board. You can vote for ALL the names on the ballot. You can place your ballot in the ballot box at the gathering or return your ballot to the Lay Director Helen Cash or Secretary/Treasurer Peggy Ridgeway, or you can give it to anyone on the Board. It can also be mailed to Lowcountry Emmaus, P. O. Box 51528, Summerville, SC 29485.

We need to get these back by Dec 20 so we can count the ballots. We will announce the new Board members with a special e-blast email. Thank you very much for your help and cooperation with this!

_____ Cindy Curtis
_____ Denni Grunstra
_____ Lynda Gildea
_____ Dominica Harrell
_____ Helen Cash
_____ Lynn DeHay
_____ Becky Shedd
_____ John Lyons
_____ Peggy Ridgeway
_____ Peggy Lawton
_____ Marlene Harter
_____ David Beal
_____ Sue Runnerstrom
_____ Deb Yadon

We will meet for a board meeting, on Monday, December 11th @ 7pm via Zoom.