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**The August Gathering is August 16 at 7:30 pm at First United Methodist Church 244 W. Main St Laurens, SC for an evening of fellowship and worship. Bring your favorite snacks to share.**

**August 2019 Edition**



**Welcome to August, a very busy month. It's time to finish up those relaxing vacations and, in my world of education, get ready for a new year. School begins in a couple of weeks for most students, but teachers and administrators are already hard at work. It's very easy to get caught up in preparations and just get BUSY! At Bible study with my daughter last night, one of the questions from Forgotten God dealt with those times when we feel distanced from God and the reasons why. My immediate answer was Obstacles to Grace which we so often construct ourselves. Francis Chan, the author, says the two main reasons are comfort and noise: when we are so comfortable in our lives we "don't need" (my quotes) to lean on God and when our lives are so filled with the noise of distractions (tv, phones, computers, books, busy-ness) that we just don't take/make time to be with God. I know I'm guilty of both at times.**

**That's just one of the reasons I love our Emmaus community. It helps to ground me, slow me down, bring me back to the Source of all life. I am looking forward to seeing all of you in a couple of weeks at our August 16 Gathering at First UMC in Laurens. Bring a friend and join us for an evening of worship, fellowship, and of course food. See y'all there!**

**De Colores,  
Sandy Shaffer  
Worship Chair**



**Foothills Emmaus Community**

**July Gathering**  
July 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm  
New Beginnings UMC  
210 Rainbow Lake Road  
Boiling Springs, SC 29316

**August Gathering:**  
August 16 at 7:30  
First UMC  
244 West Main Street  
Laurens, SC 29360

**September Gathering**  
September 20 at 7:30  
Buncombe Street Trinity Campus  
2703 Augusta Street  
Greenville, SC 29605

**Save the Dates for Walk 56:**  
Men's Walk: October 3-6  
Women's Walk: October 10-13  
October Gathering: October 18

Stay in Touch With Us! <https://foothillsemmaus.org/>  
Check us out on Facebook!

**Are you getting these? If you aren't receiving postcards about the Gatherings, please update your mailing address. You can email Mandi Cox [g torino17@gmail.com](mailto:g torino17@gmail.com) with this information. Thank you!**



**August and September will be gone in a flash and it will be time for our Fall Walks. Please be in prayer for our community, our pilgrims, the**

teams, and how you can be a part of these 2 special weekends. Opportunities to volunteer your time include prayer vigil, housing set up and break down, working in the kitchen. If you are a part of a reunion group, now is the time to make some agape. Mark your calendars now to attend send offs, candlelight, and closings. Not only is this a great opportunity to show God's love to our pilgrims and teams, it's also an opportunity to renew your connection to our community and your faith. At every Gathering we have signs posted that say Blessed to be a Blessing. Being a part of the walk weekends is a great way to remember this. -Mandi Cox

## Reunion Groups

Remember the Fourth Day Talk on your walk that Sunday afternoon? We all received our Reunion Group card and were encouraged to be accountable and participate in a reunion group. Are you currently participating in one? Would you like to? Would you like to start a new one?

Contact Janet Sandifer at 864.979.6713 or email [sandiferjanet@gmail.com](mailto:sandiferjanet@gmail.com) for more information.



*Who will you Sponsor?*

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

It's hard to believe, but the Fall walks are right around the corner. Soon the weather will cool off, the leaves will start falling and the sky will become overcast.

And the Walks will be right around the corner

While we all have issues to deal with in our life, we must stop and remember how blessed we truly are. We were never promised a "trouble free" life, but it sure becomes easier when we put our faith on the God of this universe

John 1:16 "For we have all received from His fullness one gracious gift after another."

**Consider passing on to a friend, neighbor, family member or church member the “gift” of The Walk to Emmaus!**

**Be intentional, pray for the pilgrim - daily. Set a date to sit down and talk to that individual or couple that you have been praying for and explain the Walk to them.**

**If you have any questions about sponsoring, reach out to your sponsor for guidance or call any board member listed on the Emmaus website, we will be glad to help.**

**Remember we have a fund for those who need financial relief, we don't want money to be an obstacle to God's Grace.**

**Let's do our best to get the applications in to the registrar soon!**

**Michael Galloway**

**Walk #32**

**Literature Chair**

We missed seeing you all in July because we were out of the country. Now that we are back, we will resume planning for the Fall Walk.

I got to preach Sunday from Romans 5:1-5. As I prepared for this message, I found that there are people in Korea who write their sins on a kite. On New Year's Eve they fly their sins away on the kite. I am sure glad we don't have to depend on flying a kite for our salvation.

I thought about the great Spirit of Hope that exist within the Emmaus community. A hope that comes from knowing Jesus as our personal savior. It is a gift from God paid for by the blood of Jesus, poured out into our hearts by a living God. In Emmaus we have the opportunity and obligation to share that spirit of hope with others. We do that in many ways by being active in the Emmaus community and our local churches.

While we were traveling, I did a lot of people watching in airports, large cities, and everywhere we went. It wasn't hard to tell the Christians from the non-Christians. Easier for some who dressed in traditional non-Christian clothing, but not so easy for those who looked like us. When given the opportunity to speak with them it soon became clear where they stood on political and religious issues. It was our choice to treat them all with respect and do our best to show them Jesus. At times that was not easy, but the Spirit of Hope that lives within us gave us strength to persevere.

May we all, as brothers and sisters in Christ, persevere in our efforts for Jesus

until He returns.

Phil Stout



Men's Fall Walk #56 October 3-6, 2019  
Women's Fall Walk #56 October 10-13, 2019

**Fall 2019 Walk Dates**



**Upcoming Events**

Gathering dates and locations for the rest of the year are:

July 19 New Beginnings UMC, Boiling Springs  
August 16 First UMC, Laurens  
September 20 Trinity Campus of Buncombe Street UMC  
October 18 Mauldin UMC  
November 15 Hopewell UMC  
December 14 UMC of the Covenant **Note: Saturday 6:30 covered dish dinner followed by worship**

Please remember that just like your walk, we will have plenty of Agape snacks. So don't forget to bring some snacks to the gatherings to share with the community



Find us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/48270156719/>



**BLESSED — TO BE A — BLESSING**

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