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THE MIDLANDS MESSENGER

Emmaus of The Midlands

May 2005

“IN GOD’S TIME”

by: Laxton Hinson

I believe those three words sum up everything we do in Emmaus. The new Emmaus year officially started on the first of May 1 and we have a dedicated group of Board members who have eagerly accepted the role of servant for the Midlands Community. We proudly acknowledge the outstanding jobs done by Nelda Canada, our Community Lay Director for last year, and the other Board members who have “retired”: Bill Aiken (Treasurer); Betty Huggins (Kitchen Coordinator); Dick Pool (Weekend Agape); and David Trask (Candlelight). They certainly have served God and our community well.

The only goal of our Emmaus Community, and your elected Board members, is to promote and conduct Emmaus Walks. Everything we do is to that end. The resulting benefits of conducting our Walks are building leaders for our churches and providing training for our members so they may continue to promote and conduct Emmaus Walks. And, it is all “in God’s time”. So please don’t be surprised when you are asked to serve on one of the many committees headed by your Board of Directors. And, if you are not asked immediately, tell one of the Directors that you want to volunteer to assist in any way you can.

The Emmaus of the Midlands Community needs you. You can serve as a sponsor for someone who wants to go on a “Walk”. You can join an Emmaus Reunion Group at your church or start a Group if you don’t have one to join. You can volunteer for active duty on one of a number of committees that are necessary to guarantee a successful Walk. But do it in God’s time. Don’t wait until you “feel like it’s time”. Step forward now. The secret is this: God is at work all the time and He invites you to serve Him.

DeColores



Prayers

Charlie and Carolyn McLean, Mrs. Riles (Debbie Nix’s Mother) , Keith Cunnup, Paul Robinson, Gary Heinly, Roger Moore (Laxton Hinson’s brother -in-law), upcoming Epiphany, for Joe, Tonya, Anthony, Missy and Kris Kneece, for moving UMC Ministers

Praises

Nelda Canada’s daughter and son-in-law’s recent marriage, a great Kairos weekend, for Chapin UMC who will print, fold, and mail our Emmaus Messenger

Visit our web site at
www.midlandsemmaus.com



Emmaus Education Corner

South-East Celebration

By: Doris Crocker

Friday April 8th, Nelda Canada, Carson Chitty, John Chitty, Doris Crocker and Sandra Hayes headed for Alpharetta, Georgia to attend the South-East Regional Celebration of Emmaus and Chrysalis communities. We had great times of worship, wonderful food, enlightening workshops and the opportunity to meet and fellowship with people from many southern states as well as Illinois and Ohio. (We also got to know each other better.)

The celebration provided us with opportunities to learn more about the way Emmaus and Chrysalis Communities are meant to operate and also the reasons for the guidelines provided by Nashville. Meeting other people and hearing about their concerns, successes and problems was helpful, especially as we are planning to restart Chrysalis in this community. Experts are available and are more than willing to help us begin sharing God's love with our teenagers.

When we left on Sunday morning we were encouraged and inspired and aware that we are a part of something much bigger than the Midlands Emmaus of South Carolina. We are part of a massive movement of God around the world. Let's do our part to keep the flame of God's love burning brightly. Next time there is a celebration why not attend? You will be glad you did!

The United Methodist Annual Conference of South Carolina confers the Harry Denman Award for Evangelism on one clergy person and one lay person each year. This year, our own **Nelda Canada** is the recipient of the laity's award. Congratulations, Nelda. We also applaud your concern for the homeless and the tireless work you do for the Emmaus Community. Great will be your reward in heaven.

Special Prayer Request

By: Doris Crocker

Please pray for Gary Heinly, a member of the community and Chapin UMC, who is being stationed in Iraq. He leaves for Fort Benning on May 23rd.

Also pray for my sister Vera Proctor who is going to be having her 4th round of chemotherapy starting May 14th. This will be her third this year! And for my sister-in-law, Sheila West, who had 10 inches of her bowel removed on May 1st and is awaiting results from the biopsy. Vera and Sheila are both in England and neither have a vibrant faith.

Praise for the news on May 2nd that my grand baby expected in August is not going to have Downs Syndrome or need open heart surgery.

Laurel Irving, Lay Director for Epiphany Weekend #32, June 10 – 12, is asking for donations of money to help provide meals for the weekend. Twenty five incarcerated youth will attend the weekend which is similar to an Emmaus Walk. If you wish to help this ministry change the lives of young men and women who have been "thrown away" be society send donations to:

Epiphany Ministry, Inc.
P O Box 1903,
Irmo, SC 29063

Financial donations are tax deductible.

Friendship

by: unknown author

There's a miracle called Friendship
 That dwells in the heart
 You don't know how it happens
 Or when it gets started
 But you know the special lift
 It always brings
 And you realize that Friendship
 Is God's most precious gift!
 Friends are a very rare jewel,
 indeed.
 They make you smile and
 encourage you to succeed
 They lend an ear, they share a word
 of praise, and they always want to
 open their hearts to us.
 Show your friends how much you
 care....

The Emmaus Newsletter

By: Doris Crocker

I am a brand new member of the Board and have been given the responsibility for this newsletter! And all I can say is "HELP!"

I have managed to get Tom Furse to agree to be the editor and for that I give grateful thanks to God – both of them are wonderful! But – neither God, Tom, nor myself can make a newsletter unless we get news! We need to hear from you! Have you heard something you would like to pass on? Have you had a fourth day experience that others would benefit from hearing? Do you need prayer? Have you a reason to praise God? Is there something that you need that other members of the community can provide? What would you like to happen at gatherings? Is there a topic you would like to be the subject of a talk at a gathering? Do you have an opinion on something that is happening in the world?

People, I need your help! Please let me hear from you. My e-mail address is doriscrocker@bellsouth.net. My mailing address is 144, Firebridge Drive, Chapin SC, 29036. My telephone number is 803-932-0366.

If I sound desperate, it's because I am! Help me out, please.
 DeColores.



Financial Record		
May 9, 2005		
Beginning Balance:		\$13,236
Income:		
	Candlelight	160
	Community Store	84
	Kitchen	373
	Gathering (March)	797
	Gathering (April)	544
	Total Income	\$1,958
Expenses:		
	Camp Agape Training	500
	Camp Spring Walks	4,788
	Upper Room Books	657
	Newsletter	835
	Jordan House Power	112
	Camp Agape Cleanup	300
	Camp Agape Xmas	200
	Total Expenses	\$7,392
Ending Balance:		\$7,802

Gathering at Lewis Chapel

By: Tom Furse



Lewis Chapel UMC, Sumter

The April Emmaus Gathering was hosted by Lewis Chapel UMC in Sumter. The Rev Lee Phillips, their pastor, was unable to attend but the members of Lewis Chapel's congregation were gracious hosts. There were 85 people in attendance. We were welcomed by Pat Chandler. Laxton Hinson led the meeting and did a great job, as usual. There were seven Pilgrims who were attending their first Gathering and there was one guest.

While the crowd was small, it was a good Gathering and there was plenty to eat. No, Betty Huggins did not bring one of her famous 14 layer cakes. After eating and eating and eating, we all went outside and sang/danced our Weave song. We sure did get some strange looks from passersby.

Laxton announced new service positions for all Board members for 2005 (see the listing on the front cover for details). Laxton also reminded us that Walk # 27 is scheduled for September 22-25, 2005 (men) and October 6-9 (women) and Walk # 28 is scheduled for February 23-26, 2006 (men) and March 9-12, 2006 (women). It is not too early to get your applications in.

Sheila Elliott and Walt Proctor III were our music team. We sang "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms", one of my favorite hymns. Jerry Watson and Pat Chandler did a great job with the prayer concerns. Lib Proctor sang a solo that really enthralled the audience and Sheila Elliott sang a solo during the offering. Both were great.

Jeff Snow from Eastover, who attends church at McLeod UMC and

who attended Walk number 21 and sat at the table of Paul...Clap...Clap...Clap, gave the Fourth Day Talk. Jeff began with a prayer, and used John 5:1-17 (the story of healing the sick man at Bethesda) as his text for his talk. Jeff told us that he was raised in a small coal town in West Virginia. His parents taught him right from wrong at an early age but as he grew older, he drifted away from the church. He knew that he needed to change his life but things were too good. When he met his wife to be, Gail, she encouraged him to attend church again. Jeff attended a small, family oriented church in Eastover, his current church.

Jeff said that he lived two lives, one at church on Sunday and another at work during the week. Soon he heard about the Walk to Emmaus and attending a Gathering as a guest. He was amazed with the love that was shown at the Gathering and he agreed to attend Walk number 21. He said that it seemed that the Satan was at work until it was time for the Walk to begin as many things got in the way of the Walk.

When Thursday night of the Walk came and after he went to bed that night, he could not sleep as all the bad things that he had done scrolled before his eyes. On Friday, he listened to all the speeches very carefully, but it Saturday during "Dying Moments" that he knelt at the cross and gave all his sins to Jesus. When Sunday came, he was a different man than showed up on Thursday.

On his fourth day, he has no recollection of driving to work. He has been at peace in his life and all his worries are gone. He could not wait to tell others of his experience. People at work could not believe the change in him. He feels that he was given a second chance in life and plans to make the most of it. He has worked several Walks, is involved with Prison Ministry, became a Certified Lay Speaker, helps feed the homeless, and is deeply involved with his church. He serves God 24/7.

Pat Chandler gave the clergy response to Jeff's talk and as usual, Pat gave a wonderful sermon. He said that it is harder to be good than it is to be bad, but being good is much better. He said that we need to have patience and study the Bible to get strength to meet

the problems that will come in life. Pat told us that when we get off track we don't get back on by ourselves. We need friends and others to help us. Sometimes the Emmaus Walk can get us back on track as it did for Jeff.

Pat reminded us that the moment of your conversion is the beginning of your religious life.

Recipe of the Month

Editor: We are using this series to share those delicious recipes that we all enjoy at Gatherings and Send-off.



GRANDMA'S CHICKEN CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

- 1 - fryer or fryer parts (3 1/2 or 4 lbs.)
- 1 - 8 oz. package of **Wide** noodles
- 1 - can Cream of Chicken Soup
- 1 - can Cream of Mushroom Soup
(may use Cream of Onion, or Cream of Celery)
- 1 - Stick Butter
- 1 - 8 oz. cup sour cream
- 6 - Slices of bread

Directions:

1. Wash chicken and pull off all the skin and fat.
2. Put chicken in large pot, cover with water add salt to season, boil until tender.
3. Take the chicken out when done and save the broth.
4. Put the chicken noodles in the broth and cook until the noodles are tender.
5. When the noodles are tender, add to them; cream of chicken soup, cream of mushroom soup, and the sour cream.
6. Stir well.
7. Add de-boned chicken.
8. Put in 9" X 13" casserole dish.
9. Break the bread in small pieces and cover the casserole.
10. Melt butter and pour on the bread.
11. Bake at 400 degrees to toast the bread lightly.
12. Do not let the bread get too dark.

Emmaus of the Midlands
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If you received this newsletter and have an e-mail address, please consider using the Emmaus Web Site to read the monthly newsletter and help reduce the cost of printing and mailing. If you are willing to help in this way, e-mail me at: furset@bellsouth.net.

Future Events

June 24, 2005	Gathering—TBA
July 22, 2005	Gathering—TBA
August 18-19, 2005	Walk 27 Team Training
August 26, 2005	Gathering—TBA
September 22-25, 2005	Men's Walk # 27
September 24, 2005	Men's Walk # 27 Candlelight
October 6-9, 2005	Women's Walk # 27
October 8, 2005	Women's Walk # 27 Candlelight
October 28, 2005	Gathering—TBA
November	Gathering—TBA
December	Xmas Party—TBA
January 27, 2006	Gathering—TBA
February 23-26, 2006	Men's Walk # 28
February 25, 2006	Men's Walk # 28 Candlelight
March 9-12, 2006	Women's Walk # 28
March 1, 2006	Women's Walk # 28 Candlelight

Next Gathering

May 27, 2005 6:45 pm

at

Mill Creek UMC, Hopkins, SC

1041 Old Garners Ferry Road

Phone 776-2750

Directions from Sumter/Dalzell: Take US 76/378 towards Columbia. After passing Trotter Road and Benson Road turn left on to Old Garners Ferry Road.

Directions from Aiken/Saluda: Take I-20 (exit 76) to I-77. Take I-77 (exit 9) to US 76/378 (Garners Ferry Road) for about 3 miles. Turn right on to Old Garners Ferry Road. The church will be on your left side.