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# THE MIDLANDS MESSENGER

*Emmaus of The Midlands*

*July 2005*

## “IN GOD’S TIME”

*By: Laxton Hinson*

There are so many things scheduled within the Emmaus of the Midlands Community over the next 3-4 months. Preparations have begun for the Men’s and Women’s Walks coming up in September and October. Plans are also being made for a very special August Gathering at Trinity UMC in West Columbia. As a Community, we will send forth both Walk Teams following a *Ceremony of Consecration* in which everyone who attends will participate. There will be more detailed information to follow but plan now to attend on August 26<sup>th</sup> and be a part of a spiritual blessing.

Speaking of Gatherings, by the time you get this newsletter we will have had a wonderful June Gathering at Salem UMC in Elgin. It’s always good to visit a Church that has never hosted a Community Gathering before. Our thanks go out to those who worked so hard to make this possible.

Finally, your Board has already started getting applications for the upcoming Men’s and Women’s Walks. The Walks seem so far away, but they will be here before you know it. Surely, each Church in our Community has one or more candidates in need of a sponsor. I often get asked the question, “How can I get involved in Emmaus?” The purpose of our Community is single focused. It is to promote and put on Walks. So, if you want to personally become involved in making sure we continue to have Walks like the one you went on, answer the call of our Lord to servanthood. What greater service could you undertake? Sponsor someone now. Remember, it is “in God’s time”, and God is at work all the time. All we have to do is answer the call and get involved. DeColores



### Prayers

Christine Johnson, Jerius Stork, Sterne and Sherry Bolte, Ann Stone, John Johnson, Vera Proctor, Salkehatchie in Sumter area, UM Ministers who are moving, Iva Simmons, Service men and women, Doris Crocker's grieving family, Kay Nooft, Ruth Hinson, Children and counselors at Asbury Hills, Jack and Jim Lawson, Celeste McIntosh, Wesley Crocker, Christine Nattrass, Team members and pilgrims for Walk #27, Joe Pond, Steve Moyd, Dr. Billy S. Carton, Greenhill Baptist Church, Jessie Mae Dixon, Bobby Dixon, Carolyn Benson, Albina Tucker, Strange family, Cathy Clary family, Bill Aiken, Youth groups on mission trips, Justin Skope and Mary Jane, Roy Mertz, Jimmy Murphy, Carole Frye, Arthur Elkins, Dennis Vandegrift and Lynn, Rev. George Howle and family, Bakers Creek Salkehatchie

### Praises

Successful Epiphany, slight improvement in Phyllis Plemmons, Betty & Alfred Huggins are the PROUD grandparents of a beautiful baby boy named Andrew Parker Tisdale, Alonzo Tucker graduated from Sacramento Theological Bible College, Columbia Extension, with a Masters degree in Biblical studies.

Visit our web site at  
[www.midlandsemmaus.com](http://www.midlandsemmaus.com)



## Emmaus Education Corner

### Sponsorship

*By: Doris Crocker*

Good sponsorship is the most important job any member of the community can do. The aim of sponsorship is to build up the body of the church and this is achieved by sponsoring active Christians and members of churches whose own renewal will bring new energy, commitment, and vision in the church, home, workplace, and community.

Upper Room suggests that people to be sponsored should include pastors and lay church leaders, dependable church members who are the quiet backbone of the church, less active members who need their awareness of grace rekindled, and Christians who hunger for something more.

Emmaus is not right for everyone. We have to be discerning and pray about who the Holy Spirit would like us to invite and sponsor.

Upper room says there are ten steps in sponsoring prospective pilgrims. These are:

- 1) Pray for the person's openness to God's call to discipleship.
- 2) Make an appointment to discuss with the person or couple the purpose of participation in Emmaus.
- 3) Extend an invitation to receive a wonderful gift that will result in a more vital relationship with Jesus Christ. **Explain the basic elements of the Walk, its purpose, and follow-up dimensions. No one should attend thinking they are going on a hike or are not going to be fed. It is not right to misrepresent such an important event in a person's life.**
- 4) Ask the person or couple to make a commitment by filling out the application form(s).
- 5) Continue to pray for your prospective pilgrim and prepare agape letters. Collect eight to twelve letters. **Do not ask the team to deliver anything other than letters to the pilgrim.**
- 6) Support the walk by taking part in the 72-Hour Prayer Vigil, and by being present at Send Off, Sponsor's Hour, Candlelight and Closing.

Support the pilgrim's family by house-sitting, baby-sitting, watering plants, picking up mail, feeding pets, etc.

- 7) Encourage the pilgrim in his or her fourth day involvement. Help the pilgrim find a group. Take them to Candlelight.
- 8) Help the pilgrim consider ways to act out new commitment and enthusiasm in their church and community.
- 9) Inform the pilgrim of ways to serve the Emmaus Community and future walks.
- 10) Help the pilgrim sponsor others.

Team members cannot attend Sponsors Hour, take part in the 72 Hour Prayer Vigil nor attend Candlelight in the manner intended. For this reason sponsors should not serve as team members on Walks with persons they are sponsoring. If persons choose to serve as team members, they should find others who will sponsor the particular persons they would otherwise sponsor.

Be aware that our next set of Walks will begin in September. If you are planning to sponsor someone, you should be in touch with them now so that they can put the dates on the calendar and you will have time to do all that you need to do in preparation.

### Gatherings

*By: Joan Gathers*

The heart of the Gatherings is seen in Luke 24:33-36. For the Emmaus community it is the monthly reunion of all its members. Just as the eleven gathered together, the monthly Gathering is for us a time to share our Resurrection stories of how God became real to us on the road with a friend or through a stranger, through scripture, in the breaking of the bread, in the sharing of our love.

This year our Gatherings are not going to follow the format as in years past. I am very excited about what we have planned: an anointing service for the Walk #27 team members in August. And Missions, Praise, and a Healing service for later. I hope everyone that reads this newsletter and hasn't attended a Gathering recently will come and get their spirit for the Emmaus Community rekindled. I am asking that you participate in the evening's service. This is a time to encourage one another, to

inspire one another to make changes in our lives, and to outreach to our brothers and sisters in other programs such as Kairos, Epiphany and Chrysalis.

Invite other people to experience a Christian community in action pursuing the call of "one Lord, one faith, one baptism", worshiping and showing God's love regardless of denomination, race or sex. Come join us as we show Agape love and praise the Lord.

### Chocolate Pound Cake

*By: Betty Huggins*

#### Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup Butter
- 8 tbs. (1/2 cup) Crisco
- 3 cups Sugar
- 4 tbs. Cocoa
- 5 Eggs
- 3 cups All Purpose Flour
- 1/2 tsp. Baking Powder
- 1/2 tsp Salt
- 1 cup Milk
- 1 tbs. Vanilla Flavoring

#### Directions:

1. Cream butter and Crisco
2. Stir cocoa into sugar,
3. Put in with butter and beat until creamy.
4. Add eggs one at a time, beating after each one until well blended.
5. Mix baking powder and salt in with the flour and sift into batter.
6. Add vanilla to the milk
7. Add slowly to the cake mixture.
8. Pour batter into greased and floured tube pan.
9. Bake at 300 degrees for 80 minutes.

## DOLLARS & CENTS

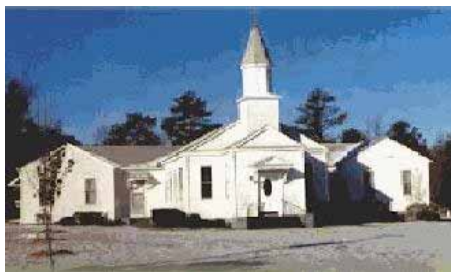
### Financial Record

June 2005

Beginning Balance:	\$7,778
Income: Gathering (May)	488
Total Income	\$488
Expenses: Upper Room Books	140
Newsletter	173
Postage	1,000
Total Expenses	\$1,313
Ending Balance: 6/13/05	\$6,953

## Gathering at Salem UMC

By: Tom Furse



Salem UMC—Elgin

The Gathering at Salem UMC in Elgin was a small (52 present) but exciting Gathering.

Rev. John Williams III, pastor of Salem UMC, welcomed everyone and opened with a prayer. Melanie Bishop was the pianist. Joan Gathers, our vice chairperson presided over the Gathering. There were five visitors present.

Laxton Hinson announced that the August Gathering would be a special service where all Walk Team members would be anointed. He encouraged all to attend. During the offering, Gary Hartman sang a song that he wrote for his son's wedding.

Karen Hartman gave the Fourth Day Talk entitled "God's Filling Stations". Karen worships at Salem UMC in Elgin, attended EOM Walk # 7 and sat at the table of Hannah. She used three Scriptures as her text (Jeremiah 29:11, Ephesians 5:18, and Philippians 4:13).

Karen said that her Walk to Emmaus started six years before her actual Walk date in the city of Indianapolis where they lived. It was there that she was approached by her pastor asked her to attend the 72 hour weekend experience. Since Gary her husband was in the Army and was waiting to be re-assigned to Belgium she had to put the idea on hold, but the seed had been planted.

After four years of traveling around Europe, they were assigned to Fort Jackson in Columbia. After joining Northeast UMC, a member of their praise team ask her to go on the Walk, and told Gary that Karen could not go if he did not go. So Gary went first. He came home a glowing and changed person.

After two weeks Karen finally started her Walk. On her Walk Karen learned that she was indifferent towards her husband. She also came to realize

that she was meeting everyone else's expectations and was not being true to who she was and who God wanted her to be. At closing she did not share her experience with the audience. She says that her Walk was not terribly earth shattering, but she was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Karen say that it was not until she was working on an Epiphany weekend several years later that she came face to face with the darkness that was still in her soul. By examining the bitterness and anger from her scarred and wounded soul she found out that she hated all men. The hatred nearly ended her 25 year marriage with Gary. Karen served in the kitchen with a broken foot.

By listening to the forgiveness series of talks at Epiphany, she nailed her brother's and her mother's names on the cross. Then she learned true forgiveness. She learned that it is not only for the forgiven but also for the forgiver. She was able to put early childhood molestation and incest behind her.

Karen says that today she truly feels loved by our Heavenly Father.

Rev. Doris Crocker gave the clergy response. Doris said that God is an awesome God but we must go to the filling station to get filled up, just as Karen had done. She said that God will make the way but we must be willing to walk the way. We must put into practice what God has already told us. Doris reminded us that life is too busy when we live up to other's expectations and that it is in giving that we receive. We must be willing to take the first step. We must give God the opportunity to heal.

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## Finding Forgiveness

by: Jerry Harpt

Forty-three years seems like a long time to remember the name of a mere acquaintance. I have duly forgotten the name of an old lady who was a customer on my paper route when I was a twelve-year-old boy in Marinette, Wisconsin back in 1954. Yet it seems like just yesterday that she taught me a lesson in forgiveness that I can only hope to pass on to someone else someday.

On a mindless Saturday afternoon, a friend and I were throwing rocks onto the roof of the old lady's house from a secluded spot in her backyard. The object of our play was to observe how the rocks changed to missiles as they

rolled to the roof's edge and shot out into the yard like comets falling from the sky.

I found myself a perfectly smooth rock and sent it for a ride. The stone was too smooth, however, so it slipped from my hand as I let it go and headed straight for a small window on the old lady's back porch. At the sound of fractured glass, we took off from the old lady's yard faster than any of our missiles flew off her roof.

I was too scared about getting caught that first night to be concerned about the old lady with the broken porch window. However, a few days later, when I was sure that I hadn't been discovered, I started to feel guilty for her misfortune. She still greeted me with a smile each day when I gave her the paper, but I was no longer able to act comfortable in her presence.

I made up my mind that I would save my paper delivery money, and in three weeks I had the seven dollars that I calculated would cover the cost of her window. I put the money in an envelope with a note explaining that I was sorry for breaking her window and hoped that the seven dollars would cover the cost for repairing it.

I waited until it was dark, snuck up to the old lady's house, and put the envelope of retribution through the letter slot in her door. My soul felt redeemed and I couldn't wait for the freedom of, once again, looking straight into the old lady's eyes.

The next day, I handed the old lady her paper and was able to return the warm smile that I was receiving from her. She thanked me for the paper and said, "Here, I have something for you." It was a bag of cookies. I thanked her and proceeded to eat the cookies as I continued my route.

After several cookies, I felt an envelope and pulled it out of the bag. When I opened the envelope, I was stunned. Inside was the seven dollars and a short note that said, "I'm proud of you."

**THOUGHT:** Hard as it may be, God expects us to forgive those who have wronged us, and to seek restitution and forgiveness from those we have wronged.

**VERSE:** For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

(Matthew 6:14-15)

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## Future Events

August 18-19, 2005	Walk # 27 Team Training
August 26, 2005	Gathering—Trinity UMC
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—Rehoboth UMC
November	Gathering—Dalzell UMC
December	Xmas Party—TBA
January 27, 2006	Gathering—Green Hill Baptist
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 11, 2006	Women's Walk # 28 Candlelight
March 24, 2006	Gathering—TBA

## Next Gathering

July 22, 2005 6:45 pm  
at

### Wesley Memorial UMC

2501 Haywood Street  
Columbia, SC 29205

**Directions From Aiken:** Take I-20 to I-26 Take exit towards Columbia This will be I-126. Proceed to Dead end which will be Bull Street Turn right on Bull street and proceed to Gervais (US16) Turn left. Turn right on Harden Street and proceed through Devine Street. Heyward Street will be on you right (about 1 mile) Turn Left on Heyward Street.

**Directions From Sumter:** Take US 378 to Columbia until you reach Hardin Street. Turn left on Hardin and proceed through Devine Street. Heyward Street will be on you right (about 1 mile) Turn Left on Heyward Street.