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# THE MIDLANDS MESSENGER

*Emmaus of The Midlands*

*August 2005*

## It's About Time

*By: Michael Bingham*

Remember removing your watch when you attended your Walk? Remember how good it felt to give up, even temporarily, our slavery to our watches?

I just returned from a short-term mission trip to Mexico sponsored by our church through UMVIM. Imagine an entire culture that is not enslaved by time. That is one of the most amazing blessings I received while in Mexico. Those of us who rush hither and yon in the United States could learn much from our neighbors to the south.

I encourage you to take a moment, several moments, in the coming days to slow down and enjoy the goodness of God's creation, His blessings, and His presence.

Take time to be still, and know that God is good (all the time). Take time to give up time. Take time, and be blessed.

DeColores.

Wesley Memorial has 8 pews that are in great condition that they wish to donate to someone who might have a need for them. If you know of someone who could use them please contact Michael Bingham at 787-4540.



### Prayers

Sterne & Sherry Bolte, Betty Booth, Rochelle James, Vickie Samuels & Family, Emily Killens, Barry Anderson, Shadenna Anderson, Mary Jane, Justin & Jason Shope, the Michel Family, Roy Mertz, Bill Hynson, Miriam Koon, Leo Dryer, Wheneey Stockman, Sarah Bond, Len Harris, Carroll & Kelsey Jones Family, Lindsey Jones, Christine Johnson, Pete Amick, Gladys Crews Don Jett Family, Gary Hartman Family, Ed & Kevin Hoffman, Becky Stowe, Phyllis Plemons, Kay Scott, Maggie Coiner, Jessica Gadsden, Curtis Gadsden, Beth & Susan, Linda Abbott, Pauline Palmer, Steve Dozier, Mary Rabon, Victims in London bombing, Troops in Iraq & around the world, Columbia Salkehatchie

### Praises

Erin Chandler has just returned safely from Peru, the Robinson Family is back in their home after a fire

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[www.midlandsemmaus.com](http://www.midlandsemmaus.com)



## Emmaus Education Corner

### Snack Agape

*By: Gail Snow*

The Emmaus community is such an exciting thing to be a part of. Jeff and I went on Walk #21 in September a few years ago and our lives haven't been the same since! We've met so many wonderful Christian friends and all of you have become such an important part of our lives.

When Jeff came back from his Walk, I thought; wow, he sure has changed! This is a good thing! I really didn't think it would impact me that much because I was the one that had been involved in church all along. Well I soon realized that being involved in the church and allowing God to be involved in my life are two different things. We have such peace when we allow God to take the reins and guide us to the place He wants us to be. It is His direction that keeps us safe, happy and fulfilled. We've enjoyed being involved in the community by serving wherever needed. When we work alongside other Christians with Gods guidance, it is not work at all, but a true blessing!

My latest 'duty' is serving on the board of directors. Again, I am surrounded with wonderful Christian brothers and sisters. I've just had this "job" a couple of months, but I'm really looking forward to the time ahead. I want to serve Christ by serving this community and I ask for your prayers and any support you can offer. My job is snack agape.

When you send your pilgrims on the walk this fall, we all want them to feel welcome, loved and special. Find out what your pilgrims favorite snack and soft drink is and make or buy it to send along on the walk so we can serve it to them. Please make enough to share with all the pilgrims. Just drop it off in the back of the kitchen at send-off on Thursday night. I'm sure you remember how much these special treats meant to you on your walk. Also, please make sure your pilgrim has everything they need, such as towels, sheets, sleeping bag or blanket, pillow, shampoo, earplugs, etc. We want them to be able to concentrate on Christ and not to have

to worry about what they forgot to bring. It is rewarding to see someone you care about progress through the weekend. The fun and reward are ours, but the glory is Gods!

### Good for the Soul

*by: Kim Kane*

Sometimes in our lives there are moments that are pure magic. For me, this was one of them.

Last week I took my children to a restaurant. My six-year-old son asked if he could say grace. As we bowed our heads he said, "God is good. God is great. Thank you for the food and I would even thank you more if mom gets us ice-cream for dessert. And Liberty and Justice for all! Amen!"

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby I heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice-cream! Why I never!"

Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked me, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?"

As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table. He winked at my son and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer."

"Really?" my son asked.

"Cross my heart." Then in theatrical whisper he added, indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing, "Too bad she never asks God for ice-cream. A little ice-cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally I bought my kids ice-cream at the end of the meal. My son stared at his for a moment and then did something I will remember the rest of my life. He picked up his sundae and without a word walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "Here, this is for you. Ice-cream is good for the soul sometimes, and my soul is good already."

Of all my children he is by far my most . . . trying. The quickest to anger, the first one to break something, and the last one to do as he's told.

None of it matters though, 'cause like he said, his soul is good already!

### Chocolate Sheet Cake

#### Ingredients:

$\frac{3}{4}$	cup	Cocoa powder
$\frac{1}{4}$	cup	all purpose flour
$\frac{1}{4}$	tsp	Salt
8	ounces	Semisweet chocolate
12	Tbsp	Butter
4	large	Eggs
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	cups	Granulated sugar
1	tsp	Vanilla extract
1	cup	Buttermilk
$\frac{1}{2}$	tsp	Baking soda

#### Directions:

1. Adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 325 degrees.
2. Coat bottom and sides of 9 by 13-inch baking pan with 1 tsp butter.
3. Sift together cocoa, flour, and salt in medium bowl; set aside.
4. Heat chocolate and butter in microwave-safe bowl covered with plastic wrap 2 minutes at 50 percent power; stir until smooth.
5. Whisk together eggs, sugar, and vanilla in medium bowl.
6. Whisk chocolate into egg mixture until combined.
7. Combine buttermilk and baking soda; whisk into chocolate mixture, then whisk in dry ingredients until batter is smooth and glossy.
8. Pour batter into prepared pan; bake until firm in center when lightly pressed and toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, about 40 minutes.
9. Cool on wire rack until room temperature, at least 1 hour; serve, or ice with frosting, if desired

### Congratulations

Gary and Karen Hartman's son, Robert Hartman was married to Don and Janese Starner's daughter, Dr. Laura Kinard, on Saturday, June 18th, at Cayce UMC. The Rev. Barrett Alewine, from NEUMC, performed the ceremony.

Gary wrote and sang "Love Is . . ." for the special occasion. He used 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 as the text. Lisa Hartman, Robert's sister, played the flute. Jeremy Buzzard was the featured singer for Michael W. Smith's song "I Will Be Here."

May God pour His blessings upon Robert and Laura as they start their new life together.

## Gathering at Wesley Memorial

By: Tom Furse



Wesley Memorial UMC—Columbia

The July Gathering was held at Wesley Memorial UMC in Columbia on July 22, 2005. This is our Spiritual Director, Rev Michael Bingham's, home church. There were 78 people in attendance which included 7 visitors.

In accord with our new format we ate before the chapel services began. There was plenty of food and good conversation during our meal.

The music team of Karen Hartman, Lee Hemphill, Bernie Gathers, Barbara Laird and Gary Hartman led us in some of our favorite songs. Rev Bingham opened with a prayer.

Tony Rowell played his guitar and Mary Rowell, his wife, accompanied him as they sang "Fly Like an Eagle" during the offering collection. The entire audience participated in a song and dance led by the music team. The song was "Pharaoh, Pharaoh".

Kevin Booth, who went on Walk 20, talked about his experience with Epiphany and what it has meant to him. Kevin related several true stories about youth that he has encountered and the effect that the Epiphany has had on them.. Kevin said that there were 27,000 DJJ cases last year and he hopes that Epiphany will help reduce the repeat offender rate.

Tony and Mary shared some of their experiences on UVMIM trips. They have been to many countries including Russia, Panama and Montserrat. They challenged those at the Gathering to go on a mission trip.

Michael Bingham, in response, talked about his UVMIM experience. He told us of how a simple communion set that his group gave to a needy church was the answer to 30 years of praying by the church.

After communion the Gathering was dismissed by Rev Bingham.

## Bricks of Life

About ten years ago, a young and very successful executive named Josh was traveling down a Chicago neighborhood street. He was going a bit too fast in his sleek, black, 12-cylinder Jaguar XKE, which was only two months old.

He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something.

As his car passed, no child darted out, but a brick sailed out and -- WHUMP! -- it smashed into the Jag's shiny black side door! SCREECH...!!!! Brakes slammed! Gears ground into reverse, and tires madly spun the Jaguar back to the spot from where the brick had been thrown. Josh jumped out of the car, grabbed the kid and pushed him up against a parked car. He shouted at the kid, "What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing?!!!" Building up a head of steam, he went on. "That's my new Jag, that brick you threw is gonna cost you a lot of money. Why did you throw it?"

"Please, mister, please...I'm sorry! I didn't know what else to do!" pleaded the youngster. "I threw the brick because no one else would stop!"

Tears were dripping down the boy's chin as he pointed around the parked car.

"It's my brother, mister," he said. "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up." Sobbing, the boy asked the executive, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the young executive tried desperately to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. Straining, he lifted the young man back into the wheelchair and took out his handkerchief and wiped the scrapes and cuts, checking to see that everything was going to be ok. He then watched the younger brother push him down the sidewalk toward their home.

It was a long walk back to the sleek, black, shining, 12 cylinder Jaguar XKE - - a long and slow walk.

Now, Josh never did fix the side door of his Jaguar. He kept the dent to remind him not to go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at him to get his attention.

Some bricks are softer than others. Feel for the bricks of life coming at you.

## Prayer for Servants

By: Doris Crocker

Agape. It's a word we hear a lot when we are on our Walk to Emmaus. It describes a commitment we experience when we are on our Walk to Emmaus. Where does it come from? It comes from God working through ordinary people like you and me. It comes from people who are willing to respond to God's call to offer unconditional love.

When we think of agape in connection with the walk to Emmaus, most of us think of gifts, snacks, food, and letters, but I want to concentrate on a gift which is vital to the success of the walk, the gift of prayer, especially for the speakers.

Every time a talk is given someone should be in the prayer chapel praying for the speaker. If you have ever given a talk, you know how important it is that you are covered in prayer all the time you stand before the pilgrims. Hearing someone lift you up to the Lord before you ever enter the conference room is so encouraging. Hearing the prayer, the speaker knows that they will enter that room in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. The promise of Jesus is that whenever two or three are met together in His name He will be with them and if they agree on anything on earth it will be done for them in heaven. This is why it is important to have someone in the prayer chapel.

Please consider coming to the camp and covering one of the speakers. You don't have to come at a specific time. If the Lord urges you to come and spend a half hour or an hour, then come. Maybe the person giving the talk at that time is really in need of you being there. God knows what He is doing. Trust Him. You don't have to know the person. You just have to know the Lord, and believe that He can call you and use you. I'd love to see you there when it's my turn to give a talk and I know the other speakers will be delighted too. But most of all, God will be happy to have you in His presence and to be using you as a channel of His grace.

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## Future Events

August 18-19, 2005	Walk # 27 Team Training
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

August 26, 2005 6:45 pm

at

### Trinity UMC

1132 Gunter Circle  
West Columbia, SC

**Directions from Columbia:** Cross over the Gervais Street Bridge towards West Columbia (US 378). Take an immediate right and stay on US 378 for about 1.6 miles. Turn right onto Central Drive (across from the "tent" looking building at Northside Baptist Church). Continue on Central Drive until you see Trinity UMC.

**Directions from Sumter:** Take US 378 (Sumter Highway) towards Columbia. Take I-77 South towards Charleston. Take I-26 towards Spartanburg. Exit onto US 378 towards West Columbia and go 1.5 miles. Turn left onto Central Drive (across from the "tent" looking building at Northside Baptist Church). Continue on Central Drive until you see Trinity UMC.

**Directions from Aiken:** Take I-20 towards Columbia. Exit onto US 378 towards West Columbia and go 3.8 miles. Turn left onto Central Drive (across from the "tent" looking building at Northside Baptist Church). Continue on Central Drive until you see Trinity UMC.