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# THE MIDLANDS MESSENGER

*Emmaus of The Midlands*

February 2006

## Message from Our Chairman

*By: Laxton Hinson*

Greetings To Each of You. May God's blessings be upon you and give you peace.

As Christians we are most certainly fortunate to be involved in "The Walk To Emmaus" organization. We are more fortunate to be able to have gone on "our" Walk, participate in other Walks, work with other like-minded Christians on the Walks, and get the opportunity to learn about and get to know those Pilgrims who have completed a Walk. It is the "New" Pilgrims that sustain us. For without the applicants we get for our Walks, we would have no Walks. That would be disastrous.

There is something we can do as an individual Christian and as the collective member of a group of Christians. We can personally invite another Christian to go on the Walk. We can join with others at our Church who have gone on the Walk and let everyone know there is a Walk going on that is designed for them to attend. It builds Church leaders. It promotes harmony and trust among the different members of the Church.

Every day I pray that God would work within our membership and "stir us up" so we could be bold enough to just ask. I keep asking Him to assist us. But I've always been told that "God helps those who help themselves." So this is what He has directed me to do. To personally plea for those potential Pilgrims; that we give them the opportunity we were given to take a Closer Walk with Him.

Now, please take a look at your latest newsletter. You can get an application and Sponsor's Sheet over the Emmaus web site. Work with your applicant in completing the application. You complete the "Sponsor's Sheet. Then look up Jan Smith's phone number and e-mail address (also in the newsletter) and get the information you need on the application and submit to the address she has listed.

We need Pilgrims for our Walks and they need Emmaus.

## A Banner That Flies Across the Sky

*By: John Chitty*

As some of you may know a group from Emmaus of the Midlands attended the 2005 Regional Gathering in Alpharetta, GA. It was truly an amazing time of praise, worship, and learning. The one disappointing thing about the weekend came when the communities in attendance were introduced. As the groups were announced a member of each community proudly marched into the sanctuary carrying their banner and placed it in the front of the sanctuary where it stayed for the weekend. The banners ranged from simple to quite elaborate, but each displayed the uniqueness of the community and its affection for Jesus Christ. Sadly Emmaus of the Midlands was not represented in this parade into the sanctuary. We returned with a goal to change this. We would like to call on the community at this time for volunteers with talents in quilting, sewing, embroidery, or anything else you feel may help in the creation of this banner. Anyone interested in assisting with this project please contact John Chitty at 803-422-1605 or email [jchitty@iso.com](mailto:jchitty@iso.com). We would also like to create a database of the talents of our community. If you have a special talent you feel may benefit the community call or email John. Thank you and may God continue to bless you in all that you do in his name

## Prayers

Joann Brown, Jonathan Nooft, Epiphany stars, Shaun, Willis Jowers, Kay Scott, Gloria Clark, Ben McClendon, Grand-daughter in Iraq, members of Green Hill Baptist church, Laverne Greenway, Odessa Carter, Marty and Teresa and their soon to be born baby, troops over seas, vision of local churches, trouble in the Near East, Government and decisions, coal miners and families, Maggie Liborio and husband, Sharon Harmon, Nancy Poulin, Sherry and Steve Bolte, Margaret Boyne, Joyce Sims, Dora Way, Addie Mae Jones, Tiffany Jones, Team members and pilgrims on walks 28

## Praises

Family member who have returned safely from Iraq



## Emmaus Education Corner

### Spring Walks

*By: Doris Crocker*

The spring walks are upon us and I would like to remind you that we need you to be willing to do your part to make these walks the best yet. There are a lot of opportunities for you to show the love of Jesus to the people that are being sponsored to be present and you don't have to be a sponsor to help.

#### Here's what you can do right now!

1) Sponsor someone. Forms for application and for the sponsor's covenant are on-line at [www.midlandemmaus.com](http://www.midlandemmaus.com). Time is running out, but it is not too late. You may be giving someone a life changing gift.

2) Remember how impressed you were when you heard that people were praying for you every hour of the day and night while you were at the campground? You can contact Nub Shofner (773-7060 or [nubetty@earthlink.net](mailto:nubetty@earthlink.net)) to sign up for the prayer vigil.

3) I'm sure you looked forward to meal times, not only because you were going to be fed, but also because you were interested in seeing what little gifts were going to be on the table for you. Or maybe you got a gift on your pillow at night. These things don't appear like magic. They take time and effort to produce them, so get together with a group of people from your church who have also been to Emmaus, or get your Fourth Day group, to join you in making some table or seed agape. You will enjoy the fellowship and feel good that you contributed.

4) Contact Laurel Irving (786-5533 or [irving@myexcel.com](mailto:irving@myexcel.com)) to offer to help get the camp ready for the walks and to clean up afterwards. He has to get all of the materials (banners, paper, table names, pens, etc) out of storage at the camp and make sure it is in place for the walks to begin. After the walks they have to be put back.

5) Contact Pam Rankin (983-2382 or [davidpamrankin@aol.com](mailto:davidpamrankin@aol.com)) and offer to help in the kitchen.

Accommodation is available in the cottages on the campground. You don't have to stay for the whole weekend, but a call would make you aware of when help is most needed and appreciated.

#### Here's what you can do on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February and the 9<sup>th</sup> March.

1) You can be present for the send-off. This will take place about 7 pm. Think how exciting it would be to have enough people present to stretch from the dining hall to the conference room. Can you see that ribbon of light and hear those voices singing? What a wonderful beginning for the pilgrims. How thrilled they would be and how they would feel supported and loved.

2) Come at 6:15 pm and help to get the luggage from the pilgrims and be part of putting it in the rooms for them. The more people we have helping with this the better it is, and helping others will strengthen your ties and commitment to the other members of Emmaus.

3) Bring a snack for those who come to the camp straight from work.

4) Bring snack agape so those pilgrims will go home stuffed just as you were.

#### Here's what you can do any day of the walk.

1) Be in prayer even if you didn't sign up on the prayer vigil. God can hear more than one person praying for what's taking place.

2) Come to the camp and support a speaker. Every time someone gives a message another person is praying for them in the prayer room. You will not be able to see any of the pilgrims, but the speakers will feel especially blessed by your presence and your prayers. The speaker doesn't have to be your special friend. They are already a brother or sister in Christ and would love to know that you are supporting them before the Lord.

#### Here's what to do on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February and March 11<sup>th</sup>

Come to Trinity United Methodist Church to worship God and be a part of Candlelight. It's an awesome experience to stand and see the community gathered and reminding the pilgrims and each other that Jesus is the Light of the World. It would be even better if there wasn't a single empty seat in that place. We send out 840+ newsletters every month, some addressed to more than one person, and

we also send some by e-mail. We would really need a bigger church for Candlelight if everyone came. We only have four Candlelight services each year. Can we not give God those four evenings out of the year to be at Trinity? Directions to the church are included in this newsletter.

#### Here's what to do on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February and March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Come to the camp about 4:45pm and be a part of send-off. It's amazing to hear how God has influenced people over the three days and inspired us to keep the community strong and vibrant.

### Skating for Jesus

*By: Michael Bingham*

The great hockey player Wayne Gretzky explained that good hockey players skate toward the puck, but great players skate to where the puck is going to be, not where it is. He then added, "only a fool skates to where it used to be." Sadly, in many of our churches Christians are skating to where the puck used to be. Many, perhaps most, of our churches are well prepared for ministry...if next year is 1957.

What about you? Are you skating to where the puck used to be, toward the puck, or to where the puck will be? Are you prepared for ministry in 1956...or 2006? More importantly, are you prepared for ministry in 2007 and beyond? Deuteronomy 29:29 says, "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever. . . ." The content of the Gospel is ours. God has delivered the Good News into our hearts, but how we tell others about the Gospel is up to us—under the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. So are you prepared to bear witness to Christ in a changing world. Skate to where the puck will be...for Jesus.

### Attention Reunion Groups

*By: Carol Frye*

We will need red silk roses for the Women's Walks. I understand that a reunion group furnished them for previous walks. We used the last of the roses for the last women's walk and are in need of someone stepping forward and offering to purchase them for the walks in the future. If your group would be willing to undertake this project, please contact Carol Frye at (803) 796-9459 or by e-mail at [cfrye2002@yahoo.com](mailto:cfrye2002@yahoo.com). I hope that some reunion group will be willing to furnish these roses for the ladies walks.

## The Story of the Wemmicks

by Max Lucado

The Wemmicks were small wooden people. Each of the wooden people was carved by a woodworker named Eli. His workshop sat on a hill overlooking their village.

Every Wemmick was different. Some had big noses, others had large eyes. Some were tall and others were short. Some wore hats, others wore coats. But all were made by the same carver and all lived in the village.

And all day, every day, the Wemmicks did the same thing: They gave each other stickers. Each Wemmick had a box of golden star stickers and a box of gray dot stickers. Up and down the streets all over the city, people could be seen sticking stars or dots on one another.

The pretty ones, those with smooth wood and fine paint, always got stars. But if the wood was rough or the paint chipped, the Wemmicks gave dots.

The talented ones got stars, too. Some could lift big sticks high above their heads or jump over tall boxes. Still others knew big words or could sing very pretty songs. Everyone gave them stars.

Some Wemmicks had stars all over them! Every time they got a star it made them feel so good that they did something else and got another star.

Others, though, could do little. They got dots.

Punchinello was one of these. He tried to jump high like the others, but he always fell. And when he fell, the others would gather around and give him dots.

Sometimes when he fell, it would scar his wood, so the people would give him more dots.

He would try to explain why he fell and say something silly, and the Wemmicks would give him more dots.

After a while he had so many dots that he didn't want to go outside. He was afraid he would do something dumb such as forget his hat or step in the water, and then people would give him another dot. In fact, he had so many gray dots that some people would come up and give him one without reason.

"He deserves lots of dots," the wooden people would agree with one another. "He's not a good wooden person."

After a while Punchinello believed them. "I'm not a good Wemmick," he would say.

The few times he went outside, he hung around other Wemmicks who had a lot of dots. He felt better around them.

One day he met a Wemmick who was unlike any he'd ever met. She had no dots or stars. She was just wooden. Her name was Lulia.

It wasn't that people didn't try to give her stickers; it's just that the stickers didn't stick. Some admired Lulia for having no dots, so they would run up and give her a star. But it would fall off. Some would look down on her for having no stars, so they would give her a dot. But it wouldn't stay either.

"That's the way I want to be," thought Punchinello. "I don't want anyone's marks." So he asked the stickerless Wemmick how she did it.

"It's easy," Lulia replied. "Every day I go see Eli."

"Eli?"

"Yes, Eli. The woodcarver. I sit in the workshop with him."

"Why?"

"Why don't you find out for yourself? Go up the hill. He's there." And with that the Wemmick with no marks turned and skipped away.

"But he won't want to see me!" Punchinello cried out. Lulia didn't hear. So Punchinello went home. He sat near a window and watched the wooden people as they scurried around giving each other stars and dots. "It's not right," he muttered to himself. And he resolved to go see Eli.

He walked up the narrow path to the top of the hill and stepped into the big shop. His wooden eyes widened at the size of everything. The stool was as tall as he was. He had to stretch on his tiptoes to see the top of the workbench. A hammer was as long as his arm. Punchinello swallowed hard. "I'm not staying here!" and he turned to leave.

Then he heard his name.

"Punchinello?" The voice was deep and strong.

Punchinello stopped.

"Punchinello! How good to see you. Come and let me have a look at you." Punchinello turned slowly and looked at the large bearded craftsman. "You know my name?" the little Wemmick asked.

"Of course I do. I made you."

Eli stooped down and picked him up and set him on the bench. "Hmm," the maker spoke thoughtfully as he inspected the gray circles.

"Looks like you've been given some bad marks."

"I didn't mean to, Eli. I really tried hard."

"Oh, you don't have to defend yourself to me, child. I don't care what the other Wemmicks think."

"You don't?"

"No, and you shouldn't either. Who are they to give stars or dots?"

"They're Wemmicks just like you. What they think doesn't matter, Punchinello. All that matters is what I think. And I think you are pretty special."

Punchinello laughed. "Me, special? Why? I can't walk fast. I can't jump. My paint is peeling. Why do I matter to you?"

Eli looked at Punchinello, put his hands on those small wooden shoulders, and spoke very slowly. "Because you're mine. That's why you matter to me."

Punchinello had never had anyone look at him like this--much less his maker. He didn't know what to say.

"Every day I've been hoping you'd come," Eli explained.

"I came because I met someone who had no marks."

"I know. She told me about you."

"Why don't the stickers stay on her?"

"Because she has decided that what I think is more important than what they think. The stickers only stick if you let them."

"What?"

"The stickers only stick if they matter to you. The more you trust my love, the less you care about the stickers."

"I'm not sure I understand."

"You will, but it will take time. You've got a lot of marks. For now, just come to see me every day and let me remind you how much I care."

Eli lifted Punchinello off the bench and set him on the ground.

"Remember," Eli said as the Wemmick walked out the door. "You are special because I made you. And I don't make mistakes."

Punchinello didn't stop, but in his heart he thought, "I think he really means it."

And when he did, a dot fell to the ground.

### Memorial

We are pleased and thankful to acknowledge receipt of a memorial in the name of Phyllis Plemmons and would like to take this opportunity to offer our deepest sympathy to Kenny and the family.

The Board members of the Midlands Emmaus Community

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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](mailto:furset@bellsouth.net).

## Future Events

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 - Lexington UMC
April 28, 2006	Gathering - Suber Marshall UMC
May, 2006	TBA
June, 2006	TBA
July, 2006	TBA
August, 2006	TBA

## Next Gathering

March 24, 2006  
Pot Luck Supper at 7:00 pm  
Service 8:00 pm  
at

## Lexington UMC

309 East Main Street  
Lexington, SC 29072  
(803) 359-6838

**Directions from Columbia/Sumter:** Take I-20 to exit 58, exit to the right on US #1 toward Lexington. This road becomes Main Street. The church is located down town next to the Lexington County Court House.

**Directions from Aiken:** Take I-20 to exit 55, cross over bridge back toward Lexington. This is Highway #6. Turn right on US #1 when you reach the down town area. The church is located down town next to the Lexington County Court House.

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