

BOARD MEMBERS

Rev. Michael Bingham— Spiritual Dir.
1732 Crestwood Drive
Columbia, SC 29205 803/799-2777
revbingham@aol.com

Doris Crocker— Newsletter/Chrysalis
144 Firebridge Drive
Chapin, SC 29036 803/932-0366
doriscrocker@bellsouth.net

Sheila Elliott—Music
32 Silverleaf Court
Columbia, SC 29209 803/252-4595
shellott@colacoll.edu

Carol Frye—Candlelight
86 Sharon Circle
W. Columbia, SC 29169 803/796-9459
cfrye2002@yahoo.com

Joan Gathers—Vice Chair/Gatherings
817 South Beltline Boulevard
Columbia, SC 29205 803/787-4269
jgathers@aol.com

Laxton Hinson — Community Lay
Director/Chairman
115 Clay Ridge Road
Columbia, SC 29223 803/736-3425
laxtonhinson@aol.com

John Hopkins—Transportation
1117 Back Swamp Road
Hopkins, SC 29061 803/783-9408
jthopkins@bellsouth.net

Laurel Irving—Housing
7010 Claudia Drive
Columbia, SC 29223 803/786-5533
lirving@myexcel.com

Rev. Bill McCown - Asst. Spiritual
Director/Chrysalis
5151 Sunset Boulevard
Lexington, SC 29072 803/356-1566
pastor@faith-united-methodist.com

Jerry McLemore—Table Agape
11635 Garners Ferry Road
Eastover, SC 29044 803/353-1014
vickijerry1@juno.com

Joey Mendiola— Sec./Sendoff/Closing
P. O. Box 122
Dalzell, SC 29040 803/469-7674
jmendiola@carolinapowersystems.com

Pam Rankin—Kitchen Coordinator
P. O. Box 258
Dalzell, SC 29044 803/983-2382
pam.rankin@era.com

Nub Shofner—Prayer Vigil/Seed Agape
118 Reynolds Road
Sumter, SC 29150 803/773-7060
nubbetty@aol.com

Jan Smith — Registration
301 Park Lake Road
Columbia, SC 29223 803/788-4551
janinsc@yahoo.com

Gail Snow— Snack Agape
1010 Spring Crossing
Eastover, SC 29044 803/353-0883
snow0927@netzero.com

Alex Tisdale— Treasurer
425 Mikom Road
Sumter, SC 29153 803/495-4344
alexbrainy@wmconnect.com

THE MIDLANDS MESSENGER

Emmaus of The Midlands

March 2006

Message from Our Chairman

By: Laxton Hinson

Greetings of Joy to each of you. God continues to bless our Emmaus Community in so many wondrous ways. In early January and again in February, we invited you through this newsletter to sponsor someone for the upcoming Walks. Your response has been tremendous. As of our Board of Directors meeting on Feb. 14th, we had approved more than 30 women and 25 men to attend the Spring Walks. There has been and continues to be a lot of prayers lifting up the names of potential Pilgrims. I believe God provides us with opportunities for Discipleship each day. It is up to us whether or not we accept His invitation. So many of you have stepped up to say, "Here I am Lord, use me." You've answered the call to Discipleship in so many ways.

Yes, a large number of you are sponsoring a Pilgrim in one or more of the upcoming Walks. And a lot of you will raise your hand and say, "You can count on me, Lord", as you prepare to practice servanthood during these Walks. You'll serve in the kitchen and enjoy such fellowship you can't wait until the next Walk to see your Emmaus Brothers and Sisters. Maybe you'll be here to help set up Camp Agape in preparation for the Walks or you'll help with moving the Pilgrims' luggage to the Bunk House. We pray that you'll be at Camp Agape for Send-Off on Thursday, February 23rd and March 9th; receive special blessings at Candlelight on Saturday, February 25th March 11th; and at Closing on Sunday, February 26th and March 12th. Remember, as a servant, you can serve the Pilgrims in so many special ways by your prayers, your presence, your participation and your love.

Finally, please remember that all things are possible through God if we will but surrender our lives to Him.

DeColores

Chrysalis news

By: Doris Crocker

Dates have been set for the first flights. They are January 13-15, 2007 for girls and February 17-19, 2007 for boys. These are Saturday through Monday and have been chosen to coincide with Martin Luther King Day and Presidents Day to try and avoid a day off school.



Prayers

Ken Meade, Candace Walsh; Randy Bowers, Angie Hilton; Lona Moscow; Sherri Williams family; Judith Hardin; McCloud UMC; Laverne Greenway; Sterne and Sherri Bolte; Pat and Jerry Vinson, their daughter and her family; people laid off by Ford and GM; Pilgrims and teams for Walk # 28; Dora Way's family.

Praises

Family members who have returned safely from Iraq,
Jerry McLemore's new job



Emmaus Education Corner

A Word about Candlelight

By: Rev. Barrett Alewine

Walking into the church, hearing the beautiful, even angelic, voices singing "Jesus, Jesus", seeing the candles aglow, I was sure I had been transported to heaven. The walk down the aisle was only the beginning of the most powerful spiritual experience of my life. Christ blessed me that night with a vision of his presence. As the music team sang "Holy Ground" I saw the bright light of Christ's glory and an inexpressible joy filled my heart. I wanted to dance, sing, and celebrate the love of Christ for me. What a night!

It is that kind of night, that rich blessing of Christ's presence, which we hope to offer all pilgrims. Only Christ can control the outcome, but we must create the atmosphere for the Holy Spirit to work in us. Candlelight is a service of worship that focuses upon the presence and joy of Christ in our lives. It is to concentrate upon that focus that Emmaus has established guidelines for the conduct of the Walks, including Candlelight.

Since Candlelight is a service of worship focusing the pilgrims' attention upon Christ we, in the Midlands Community, should conduct ourselves as we would in worship. Some behaviors are conducive to worship and some are not. We should sing with enthusiasm and our faces should glow with the love of Christ. There are some behaviors that defeat our purpose. Focusing attention only upon your pilgrim does not lift up Christ for all pilgrims. No pilgrim should be singled out because those who follow may feel left out. Stepping into the aisle to hug pilgrims draws their attention, and that of the other pilgrims, away from the worship of God and into a focus upon you. To attempt to draw the attention of a pilgrim to those who have come to Candlelight rather than upon the God who welcomes them into his temple, is similar to grabbing the bride as she comes down the aisle for her wedding ceremony. Your presence on her special day lets her know of your love, but pulling her aside for a hug is inappropriate at that time. Save those

hugs of celebration and the distracting noise that they create until Closing. The atmosphere at Closing is a time for allowing each pilgrim an opportunity to bond again with spouse or sponsor. Let's not confuse the worship of Candlelight with the party of Closing.

May all pilgrims be allowed the opportunity to open themselves to the work of the Holy Spirit in the quiet, beautiful, and worshipful atmosphere of Candlelight.

DeColores!

Getting What You Deserve

by: Bill McSmith

There have many times when I couldn't understand why something didn't go the way I thought it should. I remember when I was in my junior year of high school, for example, that I was called to the principal's office one day. You can imagine what went through my mind. What had I done? I was "pretty much" just a straight-laced guy. I wasn't failing and had average grades. I never (well, not often) got into trouble. So, why had I been called in to "The Office."

As I sat there waiting these questions filled my mind. Then they escorted me into the principal's office where he stood with a smile on his face. He advised me that three students had been selected to apply for a special preceptor ship through the summer. That meant...money! It was involved with engineering and drafting, which is what I thought I would choose as a career at the time. How wonderful.

He told me who the other two people were, and that gave me great confidence. I just had to take a civil service test and the committee would select. I knew the other two and I was by far the best qualified for the position. Neat! (I mean, Cool!) Yes, I had better grades than the other two. I had more experience in drafting than the other two. I was most well rounded (in my judgment) than the other two. I was just plain...better qualified.

They picked someone else! How could they do that? That just wasn't right, I was better. I DESERVED that position. Well, I since learned a little more about the person who was selected and that really did help his future. And, who knows, if I had done that, I may be writing these devotionals from an engineering perspective, rather than a medical perspective. I started to say that I may not be writing them at all because

it's hard to find Christian engin....No, won't go there :) Just kidding!!!!

The fact is, I didn't get what I deserved. I got what I needed and was supposed to have. I don't deserve the beautiful wife I have, believe me, but God gave her to me. I don't deserve the wonderful children I have, but God gave them to me. Have you ever stopped to think where you would be if you had gotten everything you had coming to you in this life?

THOUGHT: The most disappointed people in the world are those who get what is coming to them.

VERSE: A man's own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the Lord.

Proverbs 19:3

Emmaus and Chrysalis Products

You can now order for yourself any of that cool Emmaus and Chrysalis stuff that you have seen at Emmaus of the Midlands events – Gatherings, Spring and Fall Walks, etc. and even at your local church.

The following organizations sell Emmaus and Chrysalis products and donate part of their proceeds to the International Offices:

- **Dove, INC** -- 333 Miles Lane; Campbellsville, KY 42718; 1-888-848-DOVE; www.doveinc.com
- **Swanson's** -- 1-800-251-1402; www.swansoninc.com

Check out these locations to find your favorite Emmaus item.

DOLLAR\$&CENTS

Financial Record

January 2006

Beginning Balance: 1/1/06	\$5,324
Income: Gathering	576
Walk Fees	972
Team Fees	2,420
Misc.	75
Total Income	4,043
Expenses: Walk Supplies	2,524
Newsletter	458
Misc.	13
Total Expenses	2,995
Ending Balance: 1/31/06	\$6,372

Financial Help for Chrysalis

The Chrysalis flights will incur upfront expense for food, materials, site rent, transportation, etc.. We will also have to start from scratch to get manuals, talk outlines, etc., as well as tee shirts and books for sale. It costs about \$5500 to put on an Emmaus Walk and we anticipate it will cost no less a Chrysalis flight.

We have no money set aside for Chrysalis. Please can you help to build up some funds so we can feel confident about going ahead with this venture? If you can help, please send donations to Box 25169, Columbia SC 29224 and be sure to mark your check for Chrysalis. We appreciate all the help you can give and especially value your prayers. Thanks you so much for your consideration

March Gathering for Teens.

We are inviting teens to the March gathering. They will eat with the Emmaus community so be mindful of their appetites when you bring food. After the meal they will meet apart from the community for their own special gathering, called a Chrysalis Hoot. They will have their own music and speaker, and will meet up with Emmaus again for communion.

We are sending letters to all the youth leaders in the area inviting them to come and bring their youth groups, but if you know any young people, especially those in high school, please give them an invitation and offer to bring them to the gathering. We want our young people to know that we care about them and their walk with Jesus and to be prepared for the upcoming Chrysalis flights.

What is Chrysalis?

By: Chuck Davis

For me it was one of the most meaningful and spiritually awakening weekends in my life. As a senior in high school in 1993, I experienced three days that changed my life and brought me into a closer relationship with Christ. The only downside to Chrysalis is that many teenagers in the Midlands do not have an opportunity to experience it...until now.

A group of us from the Midlands Emmaus community known as the Chrysalis Steering Committee are

making sure that Midlands teenagers have the opportunity to share the same "life changing" experience that I had over 12 years ago.

Chrysalis is the name chosen for the youth version of The Walk to Emmaus because it symbolizes the spiritual growth that is essential between adolescence and adulthood. That growth is as crucial for youth as the cocoon is for the caterpillar. It is that precious time of nurturing a person's faith for discipleship. Chrysalis lifts up a way for youth to enjoy Christ's friendship and love and to be Christ's friend and partner in the world. The three days focus on God's grace, the youth's experience with

Christ as friend, what it means to be the body of Christ, and giving love to a needy world. The hope and prayer of the Chrysalis movement is that the flame of God's love will spread far beyond the closing service of the three-day event.

There will be a HOOT held at Lexington UMC on March 24th where more information will be shared about the 2007 Chrysalis of the Midlands Walks. Those walks have already been scheduled. The girl's walk will be January 13-15th and the boy's walk will be February 17-19th. Please encourage the youth of your church's to join us for the March 24th HOOT and our upcoming walks!

The following Pilgrims will be on the Emmaus of the Midlands Walk # 28. Please pray for them and Walk Servants.

Beulah & Oak Grove UMC – Mary Lynne & Bill Lynch Jr
 Bishopville Church- Kenneth Carrington
 Camden First UMC- Brian & Venaye Allen; Molly & Carl Robinson Sr;
 Melanie Reames
 Chapin UMC – Brett & Renee Rogers; Linda DuRant
 Christian Faith Fellowship – Mattie DeBramaletta
 Cornerstone Presbyterian – Carole Bundy
 Dalzell UMC – Ed Shaw; Erin & Tara Ash; Doug, Shawn & Lori Crews;
 Sharon Hornsby; Kay Raffield
 First Baptist Camden- Dick Blaskowitz; Buddy English
 Green Hill Baptist – Steve Qualls
 Harmony UMC – Debra Harrison
 Lexington UMC – Brett Finley; Lonnie Winkler; Ginny Kurtz
 Malvern Hill Baptist – Carl Kambeitz
 Mt Horeb UMC – John & Cathy Dubiel
 Mt Olivet Lutheran – Debra Barrett
 Red Bank UMC – Tim & Lisa Heathcote; Mo Reese; Suzette Winkler
 Rehoboth UMC- Billy & Tammy Crawford; Samantha Harris; Kelli Windham
 St Johns UMC Aiken – Bob Jones; Keith & Julie Polk; Marge Jones; Brenda Smith
 Trinity UMC – Tom Geddens; Mike Stamps
 Wesley Memorial UMC – Van & Elsie Montgomery; Margaret Burley
 Wesley UMC – Eddie Morgan ; Cheryl Jackson
 Wightman UMC – Ceile Kempson
 Windsor UMC – Ivey Hart; Neil Woods; Nam Allen; Kathy Hart; Renee Reschke

Candlelight 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

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

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