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# THE MIDLANDS MESSENGER

Emmaus of The Midlands

April 2006

## Message from Our Spiritual Leader

By: Michael Bingham

Once, when I was a boy, the Boyd twins and I had a bright idea: throwing rocks at a hornet's nest is both challenging and fun. (Please hold your judgment and any snorts, hoots, or laughter until I'm *finished* with this story.)

Now the Boyds and I are not as stupid as we might sound all these years later. No, I cannot offer any evidence to counter that opinion. So...OK...maybe we are as stupid as we sound. Anyway, here's what happened. We stood at the extreme edge of our range, about as far as we could chuck a rock with any hope of hitting our target. Soon enough, we nailed that nest good. And, lo and behold, it was both fun and exciting just as we had anticipated. Those hornets were made as...well, hornets.

Now here is where the story turns tragic. You see, the military has a strategy called "shoot and scoot." This is a method of avoiding enemy retaliation by "displacing" or moving as soon as a shot is taken. The Boyds and I were blissfully ignorant of the fact that hornets ain't as stupid as they seem. So we shot and kept shooting. What I mean is that we hit the nest and whooped and hollered and laughed. And then we continued throwing rocks to see who could hit it again. Did you know hornets can find you—even if you're standing a long way from the nest? Neither did we. The first indication we had that all was not right in our world was when Pat Boyd let out a bloodcurdling yawp that would curl your hair. And then he did this contemporary interpretation of a Native American dance that I have never seen duplicated. It seems that the first hornet announced its presence by zapping him right in the crown of his head. Man, that *hurts*. And I ought to know because one of those infernal critters nailed me in just about the same place an instant later. Now, my editor has encouraged me to omit most of the details of the next few seconds out of sensitivity to our readers, but trust me, it was awful.

Temptation and sin are like that. [How'd you like that transition?] Temptation always seems like a good idea, fun, whatever. And it never seems as dangerous as it really is. Sin looks good when we are the one tempted. When temptation rears its ugly head, we ignore warning signs, contrary indications, opposing viewpoints, and common sense. We wade into sin without a care, as if nothing bad is ever going to happen to us. Yet Scripture assures us that the wages of sin is death. Before you know it, there we are: hurt, ashamed, guilty, conscience stricken, convicted of sin. Often, the consequences of our sin are profound and far-reaching.

During this season of Lent, as we prepare to celebrate Easter, I encourage you to stop, take stock of your life, and listen to that still, quiet voice within you. What sin do you need to confess? From what temptation do you need to flee? The Lord is compassionate and gracious, abounding in love and faithfulness, and God is quick to forgive (see Ex. 34:6). Therefore, return to the Lord with a torn heart. Confess your sins, and He will forgive you (Joel 2:12ff). Repent, and believe the Gospel. Amen.

Come Lord Jesus!

## Prayers & Praises

Ken Meade; Laverne Greenway; Sterne & Sherri Bolte; Kaidan Moan; Patti, Stephen Hinson; Ruth Hinson; Doris Cotton; Kai Wilbanks; the Chrysalis Steering Committee; Melvin Lawhorn; Greenhill Baptist Church Family; Stephania Patton; Bobby Antonia Dixon; Altheia Keitt & children; Pompey Tucker; Wilson family; Sherrie Solomon; Bubba Ray; Chrisitan Turner; Crestwood High; Paiva family; Ray Family; Lisa & Mandy Wyer; Allycia Hawks; Sharon Hornsby; Beth Shores; Kyle Tickle; John Weir; Crews Family; Board elections; Jerry Poston; Tara Ashe's father; David Allen; Libby Rush; Courtney Gantt; Sunny's mom; Chuck's mother-in-law; Larry Brooks; Frankie Robinson; John Dubiel; Lindsay; Tasha; Lori; Michelle; Tori; Dustin & Austin; Betty Booth; Florence Burkette; Jordan Gardener; John Hopkins; Preston; Aline Hodge; Doris Cotton; Pat & Jerry Vinson; Joye Joole; Tom & Marilyn Lloyd; William Lloyd; Stuart Lloyd; Sue Valder; Happy Willis; Tom & Meg Wilkes; Susan Lamelin; John Ellis; Sherry Bolte; Raymond Quinn; Stephanie Hassing; Thomas Barrett; Sarah & Daniel Barrett; Les German family; Tam Belding; Pat Davis; Carlos, Stevie & Thomas Harris; Zebedee Feaster; Pat Cassels; Todd, Jan & Beth Stamps; Tim Looper; Chad Palmer; Marion Bond; Nicole Griffin; Roger Ash; Cassandra Walton;

Two good Walks; lots of pilgrims;

Laurel and Laverne Irving's daughter got full academic scholarship to college.



## Emmaus Education Corner

### Emmaus of the Midlands Walk History

By: Tom Furse

With the completion of the Women's Walk # 28, The Midlands of Emmaus Community will have put on 58 Walks. I believe that it is important to document each of these Walks and as time passes it will become more and more difficult to obtain the details of each walk. I maintain a data base of each Walk and the Servants, and their position, on each walk. Several months ago I asked the community to share Walk group pictures with me so that I could preserve the photographic history of each walk. To-date I have received group pictures for 35 of the 58 Walks. I am missing the following Walks:

Men 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 12, 13, 14, 18 and  
Women 1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14B, 15B,  
17, 18

If you have any of these Walk group pictures please lend them to me to make a copy and I will return them to you. As I get new group pictures I post them on the EOM Web Ste for all to enjoy. Please check your files and help in this endeavor. Contact Tom Furse (803) 699-6557 or [furset@bellsouth.net](mailto:furset@bellsouth.net).

### 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](http://www.doveinc.com)  
- **Swanson's** -- 1-800-251-1402; [www.swansoninc.com](http://www.swansoninc.com)

Check out these locations to find your favorite Emmaus item.

### Lexington UMC Fourth Day

By: Bob Pettus

Although an active participant in the church prior to his walk, Bob discovered a new perception of what it mean to be part of the new creation described in 2 Corinthians 5:17 after he had taken his Walk to Emmaus. This was revealed to him in two parts.

The first part came from taking part in gatherings and other Emmaus events, such as Send Off. This led him to realize that he was part of new family. His involvement in Emmaus also helped him see his participation in the church in a different light.

The second part came as he realized that he is a member of a much larger family than Emmaus or his church. He is part of the Body of Christ that includes all believers everywhere. He began to realize that 1) as a member of the Body of Christ, he had obligations and 2) these obligations applied to everything that he did, not just his interactions with other believers. His first revelation helped him to discover Christ's great commandment, then his second helped him to realize the personal implications of His great commission.

Romans 10:14 took on new meaning: "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" Bob realized that he was the "someone" in the text. Preaching to them is not always using words. Bob's service in the kitchen was an opportunity to use his gifts in the service of God. Bob says that "The real message is that all service to God has meaning when it is done willingly and in a selfless manner. I learned that once I accepted our obligation to serve, God can use our simple talents to achieve his plan. He never makes us serve – we have to willingly choose to do so but he shows us the path that we are to follow. Sometimes by presenting opportunities, sometimes by helping me to step outside my comfort zone, and sometimes by having a dear friend say yes when you ask can you help."

Sometimes the way we help someone "hear" the gospel is by carrying a burden. This is made easier

as we are yoked to Christ. Mathew 11:29 promises that if we take Christ's yoke upon us we will find rest. "How can we take upon ourselves a yoke and yet find rest? The answer is that Christ's yoke comes with Christ. He is the one who will enable us to carry the load. It is in his strength that the burden is lifted and carried forward. The burden, that would have laid us out flat, is carried with little effort because Christ is doing the carrying. There is a key to allowing Christ to take up our burden for us: we must learn from him gentleness and humility. We need to come to the end of ourselves and realize that we are not capable of carrying our burdens ourselves. Only when we are ready to give up control and give control to Christ will we find rest for our souls and that His yoke is easy and burden is light."

DeColores

### Chrysalis Flights

By: Doris Crocker

We had three girls go on a Chrysalis Flight at the SC coast in March, and at least one boy is going to a flight in Asheville NC in May.

We are interested in getting some young people in grades 10-12 to go on some flights so they can be available to work on our upcoming flights in January and February 2007.

The following websites provide registration forms and information.

[www.carolina-chrysalis.org](http://www.carolina-chrysalis.org) Girls flight July 12-15. Boys July 26-29 at Sugar Creek NC.

[www.northgachrysalis.com](http://www.northgachrysalis.com) Girls flight June 22-25. boys June 15-18

[www.fourthdays.org](http://www.fourthdays.org) Girls flight November 23-26. Boys June 8-11 at Athens GA

[www.mountainridgechrysalis.org](http://www.mountainridgechrysalis.org) Girls flight Sept 2 – 4. Boys May 5-7 at Asheville NC

[www.ccchrysalis.com](http://www.ccchrysalis.com) .Girls flight Sept 30-Oct 2. Boys Oct 13-15 at SC coast.

If you know any young person who is interested in going, or if you would like to work on a flight and have not been on one before, be please get in touch with John Chitty (732-7021) or Doris Crocker (932-0366). Someone from the steering committee may be going to a flight you choose.

DeColores

## Chrysalis Talk

By Karyn Osteen

My name is Karyn Osteen. I attended Coastal Carolina Chrysalis Flight 31, and sat at the table of the Dios Muchachos. I went with my twin sister and a friend from church. My weekend was unlike any other experience I have had in my life. It was trying, exhausting, beautiful, and uplifting. The weekend passed with many laughs and a few tears, concluding with the comfort that I now had a more fulfilling and genuine relationship with Christ.

The first day, when I was told we would be hearing five talks per day, I was not excited. When we had to take notes, I was less than thrilled. This was turning out to be like school. But as I sat through the first talk, I found myself trying to capture every word on paper, so that I would not forget any of the valuable lessons I was learning. With each talk I became more engaged in this thing called Chrysalis. It is a truly unique and wonderfully designed three days that unifies you with Christ.

The music was definitely one of my favorite parts of the weekend. I must have sung De Colores 50 different ways throughout the weekend. I sang it in rap, country, opera, and even to the Macarena.

One of the most touching memories I have from the weekend was the first night, the night we died with Christ. We nailed the sin/sins that kept us from having a closer relationship with Christ to the cross to be cast away forever. With nail and hammer in hand, you have the strength to finally relieve yourself of a burden that you might have carried with you for years.

The experience was touching, and I am excited about the opportunity to return to Chrysalis on the Big House Group, and as a group leader. I hope that sharing my experience will help to enhance that of another's.

## The Miracle of a Brother's Song

Like any good mother, when Karen found out that another baby was on the way, she did what she could to help her 3-year-old son, Michael, prepare for a new sibling. They find out that the new baby is going to be a girl, and day after day, night after night, Michael sings to his sister in Mommy's tummy. The pregnancy progresses normally for Karen, an active member of the Panther Creek United Methodist Church in Morristown, Tennessee. Then the labor pains come. Every five minutes...every minute. But complications arise during delivery. Hours of labor. Would a C-section be required? Finally, Michael's little sister is born. But she is in serious condition. With siren howling in the night, the ambulance rushes the infant to the neonatal intensive care unit at St. Mary's Hospital, Knoxville, Tennessee.

The days inch by. The little girl gets worse. The pediatric specialist tells the parents, "There is very little hope. Be prepared for the worst." Karen and her husband contact a local cemetery about a burial plot. They have fixed up a special room in their home for the new baby, now they plan a funeral. Michael, keeps begging his parents to let him see his sister, "I want to sing to her," he says. Week two in intensive care. It looks as if a funeral will come before the week is over. Michael keeps nagging about singing to his sister, but kids are never allowed in Intensive Care. Karen makes up her mind. She will take Michael whether they like it or not. If he doesn't see his sister now, he may never see her alive.

She dresses him in an oversized scrub suit and marches him into ICU. He looks like a walking laundry basket, but the head nurse recognizes him as a child and bellows, "Get that kid out of here now! No children are allowed in ICU." The mother rises up strong in Karen, and the usually mild-mannered lady glares steel-eyed into the head nurse's face, her lips a firm line. "He is not leaving until he sings to his sister!" Karen tows Michael to his sister's bedside. He gazes at the tiny infant losing the battle to live. And he begins to sing. In the pure hearted voice of a 3-year-old, Michael sings: "You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, you make me happy when skies are gray --- "Instantly the baby girl responds. The pulse rate becomes calm

and steady. Keep on singing, Michael. "You never know, dear, how much I love you, Please don't take my sunshine away--" The ragged, strained breathing becomes as smooth as a kitten's purr. Keep on singing, Michael. "The other night, dear, as I lay sleeping, I dreamed I held you in my arms..." "Michael's little sister relaxes as rest, healing rest, seems to sweep over her. Tears conquer the face of the bossy head nurse. Karen glows. "You are my sunshine, my only sunshine. Please don't, take my sunshine away."

The girl is well enough to go home! Woman's Day magazine called it "The miracle of a brother's song." The medical staff just called it a miracle. Karen called it a miracle of God's love. A few weeks later, Michael's little sister was baptized at the Panther Creek Church.



## Betty Huggins' Chocolate Pound Cake

### Ingredients:

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

### Directions:

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



## Chrysalis Talk

By: Emily Caskey

I attended the first Chrysalis Flight of the Midlands when I was a junior in high school. I was never what you might label someone as the “church” or “religious” type. I was very involved in activities outside of school as well as clubs and other organizations at my high school. I of course went to church every Sunday and was involved with my youth group, but I had never really thought about my relationship with God. If somebody asked me if I was a Christian, then I would of course say yes, but I never could back it up with very much. I couldn’t quote any of the scriptures from the bible, I couldn’t give a sermon about anything, I didn’t even tith regularly to my church, that was my parents responsibility.

After I attended my Chrysalis weekend, I had formed a working relationship with God. I learned many things that weekend. One of the most important things I learned was that it was OK to be friends with God. My friends that I hung out with in high school and in other extra curricular activities did not go to church on a regular basis, so I always felt a little out of place. I always thought that they might find me strange since I went to church and I was involved with my youth group. It was as if I was talking about God and Christianity, but I wasn’t living for God and for Christianity. During my weekend at Chrysalis, I heard many people talk about events in their lives and how their faith and trust in the Lord helped them get through their troubles. After listening to these testimonies and after talking with other people my age about things we were all seeing the wonders of being a Christian and how God had brought us all together to experience this journey in faith called Chrysalis together.

During my weekend at Chrysalis, I met my very best friend. We kept up with each other by attending Hoots like the one we are all attending this evening. We lost touch for some time, but found each other again when we went to the same college. We experienced many trials and tribulations but we also experienced many joyful and exciting times. She lives far away now, but the one piece of our friendship that has never

changed has been that of our steadfast faith. We have often prayed together and we remember our times at our Chrysalis weekend. Chrysalis showed me that being a Christian does take work, we have to work hard to be followers of Christ. My best friend was brought to me, she and I both believe that God brought us together and this is a thought that is in both of our minds. I hope you will think about going to Chrysalis, it’s a fun filled weekend where you can find your comfort in God and you will learn many things about yourself that you did not know before going to Chrysalis.

DeColores

## A Word from the Kitchen

By: Pam Rankin

To the pilgrims; Now that you have completed your walk and are not sure where to start please remember we can always use you in the kitchen. We have a place for you to stay one night or the whole weekend. There are always jobs to be done no matter what time you come, or how long you can stay. It is a wonderful time and being the hands and feet of Christ is always a blessing. We work, we pray, we fellowship, we sing and we cry. As you can see there are no Is. It is a SERVANT role and we thank God for the opportunity to SERVE. So come join us and you’ll see how much fun it is.

If you cannot come, there are other duties that have to be done before and after the walks. So please don’t hesitate to get in touch with me and let me know your available times, or even if you have special skills that may be useful to the community. There is something for everyone. DeColores.

## Chrysalis Gifts

We are grateful to God and to donors for seed money donated to Chrysalis. So far we have received \$320 towards our total of \$5500. (Please remember to mark your checks with the word “Chrysalis” so it goes into the correct account. ) We mailed 247 letters to local churches inviting youth to the Hoot on March 24<sup>th</sup> and the postage for these letters was donated to Chrysalis. We also received crosses and crocheted butterflies to be taken as agape gifts to the flight the young girls from Aiken attended.

## Two Pilgrims From Heaven

By: Bernie & Joan Gathers

The Emmaus of the Midlands Men’s Walk #28 was blessed with two unexpected Pilgrims from Heaven. Friday night two baby Squirrels fell from the ceiling of the Gymnasium to the conference room floor. Prevenient Grace must also apply to squirrels as they survived the fall. The two unexpected Pilgrims were placed in a box and cared for by Gail Snow and the Kitchen Crew. They were named Mary and Joseph, however after closer inspection their names were changed to Matthew and Mark.

The human pilgrims thought they had luxurious beds; well Matthew and Mark were placed in the finest pair of wool socks that Camp Agape had to offer. The two special pilgrims were bottle fed every 3 to 4 hours, and sat at the tables of Caring and Love. There is a rumor that they were seen eating at the snack Agape table, this cannot be confirmed though. J

Cullen’s Archangel Rescue provided care instructions and formula for these unexpected pilgrims. Matthew and Mark have been placed with Carolina Wildlife where they will be cared for and released back into the wild at the appropriate time. God is Good All the time... and All the time God is Good!

## DOLLAR\$&CENTS

### Financial Record

March 2006

Beginning Balance: 2/1/06	\$6,468
<b>Income:</b>	
Candlelight	1,179
Walk Fees	4,750
Store Sales	1,133
Chrysalis	320
Seed	60
Total Income	7,442
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Walk Supplies	826
Store Supplies	1,664
Candlelight Supplies	17
Postage	321
Kitchen Exp	33
Misc.	48
Total Expenses	2,909
Ending Balance: 3/20/06	\$11,002

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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

April 28, 2006	Camden First UMC
May 26, 2006	St. John's UMC—Aiken
June 23, 2006	East Lake Community Church - Irmo
July, 2006	TBA
August, 2006	TBA
August 18-19, 2006	Walk # 29 Team Training
September 21-24, 2006	Men's Walk # 29
September 21, 2006	Men's Walk 29 Send-Off
September 23, 2006	Men's Walk # 29 Candlelight
October 12-15, 2006	Women's Walk # 29
October 12, 2006	Women's Walk #29 Send-Off
October 14, 2006	Women' Walk # 29 Candlelight

## Next Gathering

April 28, 2006

Potluck at 7:00 pm/ Worship at 8:00 pm  
Camden First United Methodist Church  
704 Dekalb Street  
Camden, SC 29020  
Phone 803-432-3101

**Directions from Sumter:** Take US 521 to Camden. Cross over I-20 and travel 2 ½ miles to Dekalb Street (Also US 1). Turn left onto Dekalb. Church is at 704 Dekalb Street.

**Directions from Columbia/Aiken:** Take I-20 to exit 98 (US 521) left, towards Camden. Travel 2 ½ miles to Dekalb Street (Also US 1). Turn left onto Dekalb. Church is at 704 Dekalb Street.

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