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THE MIDLANDS MESSENGER

Emmaus of the Midlands

May 2006

“A TIME OF RENEWED DEDICATION”

It's May and a new group of Officers and Directors have been elected and officially take office with the first Board Meeting of the year. I want to welcome and congratulate each new officer and those new Board members. I want to especially congratulate Ken Clarke on his election as Community Lay Director and Chairman of the Board and Rev. Michael Bingham on his re-election as Community Spiritual Director.

It seems we are always starting over on something doesn't it? Instead of thinking in terms of stopping one thing and starting another, it would seem simpler to renew the old and rededicate ourselves to some rather basic goals. What should those goals be?

How about these: (1) To make the “Walk to Emmaus” experience available to everyone who desires a closer relationship with our Lord Jesus. If that means we should fill every Walk (Men's and Women's) with Pilgrims we should commit ourselves to invite them. If that means we should have more than two sets of Walks in one year, then we should commit ourselves to hold as many as we can as often as we can. (2) To make Chrysalis Flights available to as many young people as we can as often as we can. If that means we encourage all our Churches to support their youth by sponsoring those who want to attend, let's do it now. We want our youth to have a closer relationship with our Lord Jesus, too. (3) To find a “home” for the “Walk to Emmaus” as soon as possible before we have to settle for what's available to us. If that means we aggressively look for another site, let's do it. If that means we pursue every avenue to keep Camp Agape as the site for our Walks, let's contact everyone we know and solicit their assistance.

It's not enough to want these things. It is not enough to “hope” we can reach these goals. No! What's necessary is specific prayer for these things to occur. We can't just pray one or two times and expect results. Each member of the Community must pray each day the same prayer for the same things to take place and God will make it happen. We must not only renew our dedication, we must renew our faith that this ministry we call “The Walk to Emmaus” is important in the lives of believers and important to the establishment of God's kingdom on earth. In God's Time.....

De Colores
Laxton Hinson
Past Chairman of the Board

Prayers & praises

Praises: Aunt Jauanita's heart Cath

Concerns: Sisters Cheryl Smith and Karen Row -breast cancer surgery; Libby Taylor – needs heart transplant; Angela, Dana Edwards – bone cancer; Irving Johnson, stroke; Ella Powell and family – bereaved; Dianne Skipper; Bryan & Jacob; Susan Selens; Ron Smith; Axle, Suzanna Soletto & family; Jack Goff; Audrey Hoffman; Steve Pool recovering from broken pelvic bones; Ruth Hinson – knee surgery; Ida corl; Ken Meade; Colin Bennett, Lynn Burnett, Erwin Threat; Hispanic ministries and current political issues; Andrew Ward; Stella Hall; Joyce Sims; Mack Yelton; Youth summer jobs; Mickens family; Jessica, Curtis Gadsen & Andrea, Chrysalis steering committee; Melvin Lawhorn; Polly Hartley, Odessa Carter

Fourth Day Talk April 28, 2006

The Road to Emmaus A Way of Escape

The talk was given by Nathalie Gregg and was based on the reading of Luke 24:13-35.

Cleopas and his friend were discussing reality as they perceived it. Their hopes, like Jesus', were dead. They were "going over and over the same ground—as if saying it one more time would change the outcome. Don't we all do that? If we've lost something, don't we keep revisiting the same spot, thinking that if we go there often enough, the lost item will miraculously appear?"

Jesus responded by bringing the Old Testament and New Testament together, explaining how the prophets had foretold what would happen to the Messiah.

When their eyes were opened they "were so renewed in faith, so excited and happy that their feet grew wings, and they ran all the way back to Jerusalem to tell others the Good News."

Nathalie asked "Where are you on your road to Emmaus?" Are you discouraged due to your environment? Are you paralyzed due to the lack of money, education, motivation or past failures? Has God given you a portion of the vision for your life and you are waiting for Him to fill in the gaps? Are you avoiding your purpose running towards Emmaus only to end up right back in Jerusalem? Have you been focused on something only to receive a visitation from Jesus and be redirected?

When Christ came to earth, He came to bring to mankind the gospel of the Kingdom. Over the centuries, the Church has tended to emphasize only a portion of the gospel. That portion is the gospel of salvation. However, Jesus came that we might have more than just salvation. He came to give us a whole new life that was accompanied by signs, wonders, and His Spirit living in us and revealing Himself to us daily. He came so that we might walk on this earth as He did. If our lives are not reflecting the same things as Jesus' did, we must ask why?"

Nathalie explained that there are three types of believers. Those who never get

past the "Bless me, Lord" stage and are only looking for salvation. Some go through a crisis and seek Christ to "get out of the pain of living", a stage characterized as "Help me, Lord." Others are in a stage of discipleship. "They are seeing daily occurrences of His involvement in their lives. They are motivated by a deep love for Him. They know Him. These people have an attitude characterized by these thoughts, 'Have me, Lord; though He slay me, still will I trust Him.'"

Nathalie challenged us to consider where we are and to go deeper into our walk with Jesus. We can experience the fullness of the gospel if we are "willing to have our eyes opened in faith so that we can see the Risen Christ for ourselves, so we can feel his presence and his peace as they surround us."

New Board Members

In order to become a little acquainted with the new board members the following information is provided for your perusal.

Ken Clark- I was born in Athens Tennessee in 1945 and have lived in Aiken from 1951. I was raised in the Baptist church and joined the United Methodist Church in 1976. I accepted Christ as my Savior when I was ten years old and was baptized at Millbrook Baptist Church in Aiken.

I am a graduate of Aiken High School and Massey Business College in Atlanta. I married in 1966 for nine years and then divorced. I married the second time to Linda D. Hartley in 1976. We have twin boys who are 24 years old and they are graduates of the USC.

I have been a member of Trinity UMC since 1983 and have served on every committee in the UMC except SPRC and I cannot serve there because Linda is a paid employee of the church.

I attended the Emmaus of the Midlands Men's Walk # 6 and that weekend changed my life forever. I have served as the Lay Director for Men's Walk # 25, and I served on the Emmaus Board of Directors for a two year term in 1999 - 2001.

I have retired from Owens/Corning Fiberglas Corporation after working for

them for thirty-six years. I have been a member of the USC Gamecock Club for forty-one years now and my two favorite hobbies are golf and fishing. I love the Lord and I am willing to serve Him.

Tom Furse -I attended School in Florence, SC and was graduated from Wofford College in 1958.

I worked 11 years for Milliken Textiles, 10 years for W. R. Grace & Co, and 3 years for Coastal States Gas.

Retired in 1991 from the Saudi America Oil Company where I was Director of their Scientific Computer center in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Married to Mary Floyd Furse, we have three children and 9 grandchildren

I live in Columbia and attend Windsor UMC. I teach an adult SS Class and am Financial Secretary at Windsor

I attended the EOM Walk # 7 and have served as TL and ATL on several walks. I was on the EOM BOD from 2001-2004 and served as Registrar and editor of the Newsletter.

I designed and implemented the EOM Web Site and am currently acting as Webmaster.

Debbie Carter -I am married to Allen Carter (we just celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary). We have two daughters, Kristen Enright Carter (a recent graduate from USC) and Frankie Elizabeth Carter (a junior at USC studying early childhood education).

I work at ETV as a graphic designer and have been here for 25 years. I am very blessed to love both my job and the people with whom I work.

I went on Emmaus of the Midlands Walk #4 and sat at the table of Mary.

I worship at Bethel UMC in Columbia and Emmaus has been the biggest blessing (excluding my husband and children) of my life and I continue to strive for a closer walk with or Lord and Savior.

Bill Aiken -I was born in my grandmother's boarding house in Langley SC in 1940. We lived in Clearwater SC until August 1948. I grew

up in Statesville, NC where we went to Broad Street United Methodist Church. I was active in the MYF there.

I attended UNC for 2 years and served in the Air Force for 4 years. After serving in the Air Force I returned to Statesville where I met my wife Brenda. We were married on May 24, 1969, and because Brenda is the only one that can put up with me we are still married. What a blessing from God.

I also went to work in textiles and worked in Clearwater SC from 1970 – 1977. From 1977 until 1980 I sold life insurance. In 1980 I went to work for A B Beverage Co. and stayed with them until March 31, 2006.

We have 2 adult children, Will and Gene.

We have been members of St. Johns UMC in Aiken since 1973. I have served on the official board, taught Sunday School, and am currently on the Nurture committee.

Brenda and I attended the Emmaus Walk #14. Both of us have served on walks. I am a past board member and served as the community Treasurer.

Charles Shipman -I worship at Windsor UMC in Columbia. I attended Emmaus of the Midlands Men's Walk # 4 and sat at the Table of Peter.

My spouse is Mitzi and we have 2 adult children - Heather and Charlie.

I grew up in SC; attended the University of SC; and have been a resident of Columbia for 30+ years.

My work background is accounting in the health-care field. I am currently self-employed. Past employers were the State of SC and Blue Cross of SC.

Hobbies are golf, reading and travel.

Millie Hopkins -live in Hopkins and worship at Mill Creek UMC. I attended Emmaus of the Midlands walk #14 and sat at the table of Martha.

I was born and raised in Columbia and have been a member of Mill Creek all my life. I graduated from Hammond School and then attended Columbia College and Midlands Tech. I married John in October of 1988. My working career was in insurance and computers, but in 1996 I left my career to be a stay at home Mom and raise our two girls, Addie, now 16 and Kate, now 14 This past year, I returned to work part time.

When I am not working or being a taxi driver for my girls, I enjoy reading and gardening. I love to travel and the beach is my destination of choice. The most adventurous outing was a road trip to California and back with just me and the girls.

I look forward to serving on the Emmaus Board of Directors and following God with all the new opportunities He is showing me.



Why We Need Chrysalis

by John Chitty
Steering Committee Chairman

When people ask me what new responsibilities I took on in the church after my Walk to Emmaus experience there is really not a whole lot to tell.

I was active with the children and the prayer ministry in my church prior to my Emmaus experience. The only new duty I have taken on is the Chrysalis steering committee.

However, if you ask me how I work in the church has changed that is a different story entirely. My Emmaus experience gave me passion for the work I do within the church. It was no longer an attitude of, "Gee, it looks like they need help over there." It became an attitude of, "Jesus wants me to share what he has so graciously revealed to me."

I have been religious all my life. I have been passionate about my Savior for about two years now. My transformation was moving forward prior to Emmaus, but when I returned I got off the treadmill and jumped in the rocket ship. Things cleared up and my relationship with my Savior grew remarkably. I thought what if this had happened 15 or 20 years ago, how much more could I have done for the Lord? I thought of the countless friends who fell away from the church in high school and college.

I realized something had to be done to make this available to the youth of our community.

Midlands Emmaus has the largest population base of any Emmaus community in South Carolina, and we have had ONLY ONE set of Chrysalis flights. The good news is the second set is on the way. We have now scheduled dates for the second set of flights in our community. Many of you have agreed to serve in this incredible service to our Lord. We are making a fresh start for Chrysalis in the Midlands, and we need everyone's help to make this a success.

We ask that each of you pray daily for the success of these flights. We ask that you pray Chrysalis become a lasting and amazing tool for our Lord in the Midlands. Most of all we ask that you invite and welcome young people to the Chrysalis Hoots which will be held in conjunction with some of our Gatherings. Read your newsletter for dates. What better place to direct the passion the Lord gave us on the Road to Emmaus than toward the youth of our community?

DOLLARS&CENTS

Financial Record

Beginning Balance: 3/20/06 \$11,002

Income:

Walk/team fees	80
Kitchen	60
Community Store	484
Gathering	793
Chrysalis	65
Total Income	\$12,484

Expenses:

Kitchen	638
Community Store	352
Bus Rental	900
Int. Walk to Emmaus	1,010
Total Expenses	\$2,900

Ending Balance: 4/10/06 \$9,584

A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS

Maybe you have noticed that this newsletter is very different from those you have received during the last year. That is because they were formatted by Tom Furse. Thanks Tom for all the work you did. God bless you. Doris Crocker.

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

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

May 26, 2006
Potluck at 7:00 pm/ Worship at 8:00 pm
St. Johns UMC, Aiken
104 Newberry Street Northwest
Aiken, SC 29801 (803) 648-6891

Directions from Columbia/Sumter/Dalzell:

Take I-20 towards Aiken and exit onto US 1 (exit # 18). Continue towards Aiken. US 1 becomes York Street. Take York Street to Richland Avenue. Go two blocks. St. John's is on the second block, on the corner of Richland and Chesterfield. Turn right onto Chesterfield and find a place to park

Visit our web site at
www.midlandsemmaus.com