

# Emmaus of The Midlands Messenger October 2006

Welcome new members to the Emmaus of the Midlands Community of Faith. We are thrilled to have you as our newest members.

Now that you have completed the 72-hour Walk to Emmaus there are several available opportunities and means to be the hands and feet of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the world today. Emmaus is designed to build local church leaders. To empower and strengthen you to be leaders in your local church. Ask God for guidance and direction in leading you to the area where you may best be a servant, including serving the Emmaus Community. Other areas of service are Kairos, Epiphany, and Chrysalis. These are all extremely important ministries of outreach that could use your help.

Kairos is a prison ministry designed to take the word of God behind prison walls to adult inmates incarcerated in state facilities. There are many ways to help without attending. Kairos taking thousands of cookies into the weekends, they also have a prayer vigil. If interested they have a monthly reunion where they do a program and have food, come and see!

Epiphany is similar to Kairos. The major difference is it is designed to bring God's word to juvenile offenders in the department of corrections. Instead of the walk their three days are called weekends. There prayer vigil is physical where you write something positive on a heart and during the weekend you pray for the Stars, as these young men are called, and the team. The hearts are hung around the chapel during the weekend. You would not think a paper heart would mean so much. The young men read the messages that are on the hearts and are encouraged because people actually took the time to write to them. You can also supply Agape, letters, baked goods and funds. They also have a monthly reunion, where there is a program and food. You will receive such a blessing by being apart of Epiphany.

Chrysalis is very similar to the Walk to Emmaus, designed for teenagers between 13-17 years of age. Chrysalis weekends are called Flights and the girls Chrysalis flight for Emmaus of the Midlands will be held January 13-15, 2007 at Lexington UMC.



## Emmaus of the Midlands Financial Report as of 10/09/06

Balance Brought Forward	\$4,445.16
Total Income received	\$2,341.00
Total Expenses This Period	\$1,786.41
Balance on Hand	\$4,999.75

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Aiken—Music  
803-649-7635 bbaiken@gforcecable.com

Rev. Michael Bingham—Spiritual Director  
803-799-2777 revbingham@aol.com

Debbie Carter—Gatherings  
803-782-0611 dcarter@scetv.org

Ken Clarke—Chairman  
803-648-4053 clarkek45@aol.com

Doris Crocker—Chrysalis  
803-932-0366 doriscrocker@bellsouth.net

Carol Frye—Candlelight  
803-796-9459 cfrye2002@yahoo.com

Tom Furse—Registration  
803-699-6557 furset@bellsouth.net

Joan Gathers—Newsletter  
803-787-4269 jgathers@aol.com

Laxton Hinson—Ex-Officio  
803-736-3425 laxtonhinson@aol.com

Millie Hopkins—Treasurer  
803-723-9408 milliehopkins@bellsouth.net

Laurel Irving—Housing  
803-786-5533 l Irving1@sc.rr.com

Rev. Dickie Knight—Asst. Spiritual Director  
803-359-5885 rhk4him@lexumcsc.com

Leonard May—Snack Agape  
803-364-1894 leonard@backroads.net

Jerry McLemore—Table Agape  
803-353-1014 vickijerry1@juno.com

Joey Mendiola—Prayer Vigil  
803-469-7674 jmendiola@carolinapowersystems.com

Pam Rankin—Kitchen Coordinator  
803-983-2382 pamrankin@ftc-i.net

Charles Shipman—Transportation  
803-788-9502 shiphome@att.net

Gail Snow—Secretary  
803-353-0883 snow0927@netzero.com

## A Special Blessing

Being a part of the Emmaus of the Midlands community is indeed a **special blessing** in my life!

After I went on my walk at Seaside Emmaus in the 1990's, I didn't get involved in the community there. I had a wonderful experience on my walk, but following my walk, I didn't seek out a reunion group nor did I attend any community "gatherings." I did one talk at a men's walk, but that was the extent of my involvement with the Seaside Emmaus community.

Then I moved to Lexington. A few folks at Lexington United Methodist Church had been on the Walk to Emmaus, and one couple in particular was hopeful that we could get more church members to go on the walk. With the demands of a relatively large church on my shoulders, I didn't think much about encouraging folks to go on the walk – until two or three years ago. Over the past couple of years, around eighteen men and women have gone on the Walk to Emmaus, five women are scheduled to go on Walk # 29, and we will continue to encourage and recruit people to attend future walks.

I have gotten involved in the Emmaus of the Midlands community, and that involvement has blessed me so much. I have served at the Table of Servants on two men's walks, am serving on the Chrysalis of the Midlands Board, and am the Assistant Spiritual Director of the Emmaus of the Midlands community. I have attended several monthly "gatherings" and have enjoyed the fellowship, food, and worship of those times together with other members of this community of faith. The friendships that I'm establishing with folks in the Emmaus of the Midlands community are especially meaningful to me. I thank God for ALL of my new Christian friends, and I look forward to the establishment of more friendships in the days, months, and years ahead.

Again, it's a **special blessing** to be part of such a wonderful Emmaus community!

DeColores!  
Dickie Knight

---



### Small Gifts, Big Blessings

A couple of years ago, our church sent a United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) team down to a poor community in Mexico to help build a church. We were the first team in this particular community, and we were going to do some prep-work to get things started. The people of that congregation had been praying for thirty years for the Lord to help them build a church. With God's help, we began to answer those prayers.

Our congregation wanted to send a gift to the Mexican congregation. Through UMVIM, we found out that they did not have a communion set, and that they could use the kind that uses those little plastic cups to hold the juice. Our church took up enough money to purchase a nice set from Cokesbury, along with all the little items that come with it. The Mexican Pastor wanted to surprise the congregation with this gift. Both the Bishop and the District Superintendent were in attendance at worship and, with their help, we were going to present the communion set as a part of this special worship experience.

*El Pastor* and I were getting the communion elements ready. I was showing him how to fill the little plastic communion cups using the squirt-bottle. We were filling 100 cups. Using the translator, the Pastor thanked me graciously for gift of 100 cups, but he was worried that that would not be enough. I said, "*No problema*. We brought a box of 1,000." The pastor's face lit up. His eyes filled with tears. Speechless, he hugged me. The realization dawned on me: A thousand cups [at a cost of about \$.02 each] was a greater blessing than the pastor could comprehend. Forget the communion set and the fact that we were there to begin construction on a church building, in poverty-stricken Mexico \$20 worth of *disposable* cups were seen as a tremendous blessing.

The worship service was awesome! Praise the Lord, we had to wait while more cups were filled. Afterwards, the church's matriarch—who, with her husband, founded the church—came to me with the translator. She was crying. As she spoke, the translator began to cry. Then the translation: "If all your team had come to Mexico to do was to bring this communion set, it would be remembered for generations as one of the greatest days in the life of this church." We hugged and cried together.

In the Kingdom of God, the smallest thing can be a BIG blessing. God can take things we see as ineffective, disposable, or useless and use them to His glory. All it takes is for the People of God—you and me—to have a willingness to share the blessing. What blessing do you have to share? A smile, a hug, a kind word, a witness, an honest invitation money, or time? These may seem small to you, but they are blessings-in-waiting. Small gifts. Big blessings. Get busy!

### **The American Red Cross has an urgent need for Platelet donors.**

Platelets are tiny cells in the blood that promote blood-clotting and blood vessel repair to prevent uncontrolled bleeding. A healthy adult has an abundance of platelets; however a patient going through cancer treatment or heart surgery may be completely dependent on platelet transfusions to prevent life threatening hemorrhage.

Most people are quite familiar with the need for blood. Since blood drives can be set up at community sites such as businesses, schools, and churches there is significant exposure for the blood program. By contrast the Platelet Program is not mobile. Because of the intricate equipment used platelet donations can only be accepted at a Red Cross donor center.

The donation process is approximately 1 1/2 - 2 hours in length and donors must be scheduled throughout the day. Since platelets must go from the donor to a patient in 2-5 days the Red Cross cannot store platelets.

**This makes the demand critical and constant.**

Platelets cannot be synthetically manufactured. They come solely from volunteer donors as a special gift to a patient in need. **Each and every platelet donation makes a significant difference to the well being of a critically ill patient.** Please contact your local American Red Cross for more information and to schedule an appointment to donate platelets. **Columbia** (803) 251-6085; **Charleston** (843) 852-2914; **Florence** (843) 673-1900.

**Emmaus of the Midlands**  
**PO Box 25165**  
**Columbia, SC 29224-5165**

**Presorted Standard**  
**US Postage**  
**Paid**  
**Columbia, SC**  
**Permit No. 01157**

If you received this newsletter and have an e-mail Address, please consider using the Emmaus Web Site [www.midlandsemmaus.com](http://www.midlandsemmaus.com) and help reduce The cost of printing. If you are willing to help this way, e-mail [furset@bellsouth.net](mailto:furset@bellsouth.net).

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

October 27, 2006	Gathering - Bethel UMC Columbia
November	Epiphany #1 Camp Long in Aiken
November	No Gathering
December 9, 2006	Gathering - Camp Agape
January 13-15 2007	Chrysalis Flight #2
January 19-20, 2007	Team Training Walk 30
February 17-19, 2007	Chrysalis Boys Flight #1 Training
February 22-25, 2007	EOM Men's Walk # 30
March 8-11, 2007	EOM Women's Walk # 30
March 23, 2007	Gathering - Wightman UMC

### **Directions to Bethel UMC, 4600 Daniel Drive (803) 787-3058.**

**From Aiken:** Take I-20 to Columbia and then I-77 south to exit 12 (Forest drive). Go West on Forest Drive and, take the first right after you pass Trenholm Road (Gamewell Dr). Gamewell Drive dead ends into Daniel Drive.

**From Sumter:** Take Us 378 to Columbia and then I-77 north to exit 12 (Forest Dr.). Go West on Forest Dr. and, take the first right after you pass Trenholm Rd. (Gamewell Dr.) Gamewell Dr. dead ends into Daniel Dr.