

Emmaus of the Midlands Messenger

March 2008

Two Months – 2 Walks + 2 Flights + 1 Gather!

Emmaus of the Midlands had a full schedule for January and February – Chrysalis Boys and Girls Flight 3 and Men’s and Women’s Walk 31 plus a Gather at Bethel UMC in Columbia. Both flights, which were held at Lexington UMC, were very successful. Sendoff, Candlelight, and Closing were well attended. Several churches and reunion groups provided meals for both flights.

Camp Agape had become an Emmaus tradition – maybe the beds were a little too hard (or sagged too much) and the hot water wasn’t, but it was familiar and we loved it. It was sad to have to move, especially when we had to cancel the fall walks while we looked for a new location. What a joy it was when both the men’s and women’s walks went very well. Anyone who was at either send off could tell that the pilgrims had had a “mountain top” experience. There will no doubt be some tweaking for future walks – send off was moved to a bigger room for the Women’s Walk – but our new location appears to be better than Camp Agape in most respects. We have found a new long term home and we’ve kept at least one important tradition – Shealy’s!

Pilgrim Check-in at Send-off

By: Tom Furse

Sometimes things get a little hectic at send-off. It is a fun time for all. Our Pilgrims and friends are getting ready to “Take the Walk”. How excited we are. There is plenty of delicious food to eat and members of the community that we haven’t seen in a while to talk with. Some have already had their tummies filled at Shealy’s.

But wait – we forgot to check our pilgrim in and take care of his/her luggage. It is the sponsor’s role to pick up their Pilgrim and to assume control of the Pilgrim’s luggage. The Pilgrims are not supposed to see their luggage again until it mysteriously appears on their bed. The sponsor is responsible for tagging the luggage and delivering it to the luggage handlers – without the Pilgrim’s assistance.

If you have been guilty of letting the Pilgrim handle their own luggage, you need to change your ways and abide by the Emmaus guidelines. Please remember how you felt about this time on your walk – most pilgrims are rather apprehensive at this time and we need to reduce this stress as much as possible.

And please remember to pick up the luggage at closing – we don’t want concerns about “where is my stuff?” to interfere with the joy the pilgrims feel at closing.

New Items on the Emmaus Web Site

The format of the sponsor’s letter has been updated and the new version is now available on the Emmaus of the Midlands web site. The new version will be included in all future pilgrim packets.

There has been an increase in the number of requests for various items to be emailed to the community so the Board has created a set of guidelines in order to prevent members of the community from being bombarded with too many emails (“spammed”). The guidelines are now posted on the EOM web page.

Daily Bible Readings for April

This schedule of daily bible readings will take you through the entire bible in the course of a year. The January, February, and March schedules were in the January and February newsletters; however, you may start at any time.

- 1 Judg. 11-12; Ps. 50; 2 Cor. 1
- 2 Judg. 13-16; 2 Cor. 2
- 3 Judg. 17-18; Ps. 89; 2 Cor. 3
- 4 Judg. 19-21; 2 Cor. 4
- 5 Ruth 1-2; Ps. 53, 61; 2 Cor. 5
- 6 Ruth 3-4; Ps. 64-65; 2 Cor. 6
- 7 1 Sam. 1-2; Ps. 66; 2 Cor. 7
- 8 1 Sam. 3-5; Ps. 77; 2 Cor. 8
- 9 1 Sam. 6-7; Ps. 72; 2 Cor. 9
- 10 1 Sam. 8-10; 2 Cor. 10
- 11 1 Sam. 11-12; 1 Chr. 1; 2 Cor. 11
- 12 1 Sam. 13; 1 Chr. 2-3; 2 Cor. 12
- 13 1 Sam. 14; 1 Chr. 4; 2 Cor. 13
- 14 1 Sam. 15-16; 1 Chr. 5; Mt. 1
- 15 1 Sam. 17; Ps. 9; Mt. 2
- 16 1 Sam. 18; 1 Chr. 6; Ps. 11, Mt. 3
- 17 1 Sam. 19; 1 Chr. 7; Ps. 59, Mt. 4
- 18 1 Sam. 20-21; Ps. 34, Mt. 5
- 19 1 Sam. 22; Ps. 17, 35; Mt. 6
- 20 1 Sam. 23; Ps. 31, 54; Mt. 7
- 21 1 Sam. 24; Ps. 57-58; 1 Chr. 8; Mt. 8
- 22 1 Sam. 25-26; Ps. 63; Mt. 9
- 23 1 Sam. 27; Ps. 141; 1 Chr. 9; Mt. 10
- 24 1 Sam. 28-29; Ps. 109; Mt. 11
- 25 1 Sam. 30-31; 1 Chr. 10; Mt. 12
- 26 2 Sam. 1; Ps. 140; Mt. 13
- 27 2 Sam. 2; 1 Chr. 11; Ps. 142; Mt. 14
- 28 2 Sam. 3; 1 Chr. 12; Mt. 15
- 29 2 Sam. 4-5; Ps. 139; Mt. 16
- 30 2 Sam. 6; 1 Chr. 13; Ps. 68; Mt. 17
- 24 Josh. 18-20; 1 Cor. 9
- 25 Josh. 21-22; Ps. 47; 1 Cor. 10
- 26 Josh. 23-24; Ps. 44; 1 Cor. 11
- 27 Judg. 1-3; 1 Cor. 12
- 28 Judg. 4-5; Ps. 39, 41; 1 Cor. 13
- 29 Judg. 6-7; Ps. 52; 1 Cor. 14
- 30 Judg. 8; Ps. 42; 1 Cor. 15
- 31 Judg. 9-10; Ps. 49; 1 Cor. 16

Financial Report as of January 2008:

Beginning Balance:	\$9,282.06
Income:	\$965.80
Expenses:	\$922.50
Ending Balance:	\$9,325.36

EOM Board of Directors for 2007 - 2008

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March 2007 Prayer Concerns & Praises

Prayer Requests:

Charlie McLean has cancer and his wife Carolyn has hepatitis C. Charlie's cancer is treatable but the treatment options are complicated by a past surgery. Please be much in prayer for these long time members or our community.

Gina Smith, a pilgrim on women's walk 31, had to leave the walk on Friday because her father, who had failing health, took a turn for the worse and died Saturday. Please keep her and

her family in your prayers.

Praises:

The spring walks and flights

A Pilgrim's View of Candlelight

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!

Lent and 40 Days

You probably know that the forty-day period of Lent is symbolic of the 40 days spent by Jesus being tempted in the desert, but you might not know some of the other references to the number forty. The number forty has many other Biblical references: the forty days Moses spent on Mount Sinai with God; the forty days and nights Elijah spent walking to Mount Horeb; God made it rain for forty days and forty nights in the days of Noah; the Hebrew people wandered forty years traveling to the Promised Land; Jonah in his prophecy of judgment gave the city of Nineveh forty days time in which to repent.

Jesus retreated into the desert, where he fasted for forty days, and was tempted by the devil. Jesus overcame all three of Satan's temptations by citing scripture to the devil, at which point the devil left him, angels ministered to Jesus, and he began his ministry.

It is also traditional belief that Jesus lay in the tomb for 40 hours (which extended over a period of three days). This is certainly consistent with the fact that he was buried late on Friday and was resurrected on Sunday morning.

Emmaus of the Midlands
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If you receive this newsletter and have an e-mail address, please consider using the Emmaus Web site to read the monthly newsletter. This will reduce the cost of printing and mailing. If you are willing to help in this way, e-mail tomfurse@sc.rr.com

Upcoming Events

Next Gather – March 28 at Windsor UMC
August 15 - 16: EOM Team Training Walk 32
Men's Walk 32 Sep 18-21, 2008
(Candlelight Saturday Sep 20, 8 pm)
Women's Walk 32 Oct 2-5, 2008
(Candlelight Saturday Oct 4, 8 pm)

Next Gathering – March 28, 2008

7:00 pm Meal – 8:00 pm Worship
Windsor UMC – Columbia

Directions: Take I-20 to exit # 76 (Alpine Road). Go North on Alpine Road. The second stoplight will be the corner of Alpine Road and Windsor Lake Blvd. The church is located at 9500 Windsor Lake Blvd. The phone number is 788-1858.