

Emmaus of the Midlands Messenger

May 2008

New EOM Board Members for 2008 – 2009

Six new board members were selected in the election held in March. They are

- Edna Bowers (Cayce UMC, Cayce)
- Kathie Brooks (Mt Horeb UMC, Lexington)
- Barbara Laird (Suber Marshall UMC, Columbia)
- John Denny (Lexington UMC, Lexington)
- Dennis Fish (St John's UMC, Aiken)
- Doug Meade (Windsor UMC, Columbia)

Please welcome these six to the board and lift them up, together with the other board members, in your prayers. We will have a brief bio on each of the new board members in the next newsletter.

They replace outgoing board members Ken Clarke, Millie Hopkins, Ed Hynson, Barbara Laird, Jerry McLemore, and Gail Snow. Please extend warm thanks to these individuals for their service.

Interested in going on a 10-day pilgrimage in November 2008 of Paul's 2nd and 3rd Missionary Journey?

If so, please consider going with a group being hosted by Boyce and Kathie Brooks through Educational Opportunities. The group will depart from Columbia in time to make a November 5 flight out of New York headed for Athens, Greece. Group will tour Athens and Corinth and set sail on a Chartered Cruise Ship for other guided shore excursions in Greece and Turkey. Bishop William Willimon is slated to provide Biblical insight into the life, teachings and ministry of Paul along the way. **Note** – There is a reprint of a talk by Bishop Willimon later on in the newsletter.

For more information and a brochure, please contact Boyce or Kathie Brooks at (803) 532-9490 or email them at boykatlh@aol.com.

Daily Bible Readings for June

This schedule of daily bible readings will take you through the entire bible in the course of a year. The January through May schedules are in the January, February, March, and April newsletters. However, remember that you may start at any time.

- 1 Prov. 19-21; Rom. 13
- 2 Prov. 22-24; Rom. 14
- 3 Prov. 25-27; Rom. 15
- 4 Prov. 28-29; Ps. 60; Rom. 16
- 5 Prov. 30-31; Ps. 33; Eph. 1
- 6 Ecc. 1-3; Ps. 45; Eph. 2

- 7 Ecc. 4-6; Ps. 18; Eph. 3
- 8 Ecc. 7-9; Eph. 4
- 9 Ecc. 10-12; Ps. 94; Eph. 5
- 10 Song 1-4; Eph. 6
- 11 Song 5-8; Phil. 1
- 12 1 Ki. 12; 2 Chr. 10-11; Phil. 2
- 13 1 Ki. 13-14; 2 Chr. 12; Phil. 3
- 14 1 Ki. 15; 2 Chr. 13-14; Phil. 4
- 15 1 Ki. 16; 2 Chr. 15-16; Col. 1
- 16 1 Ki. 17-19; Col. 2
- 17 1 Ki. 20-21; 2 Chr. 17; Col. 3
- 18 1 Ki. 22; 2 Chr. 18-19; Col. 4
- 19 2 Ki. 1-3; Ps. 82; 1 Tim. 1
- 20 2 Ki. 4-5; Ps. 83; 1 Tim. 2
- 21 2 Ki. 6-7; 2 Chr. 20; 1 Tim. 3

22 2 Ki. 8-9; 2 Chr. 21; 1 Tim. 4
23 2 Ki. 10; 2 Chr. 22-23; 1 Tim. 5
24 2 Ki. 11-12; 2 Chr. 24; 1 Tim. 6
25 Joel 1-3; 2 Tim. 1
26 Jon. 1-4; 2 Tim. 2
27 2 Ki. 13-14; 2 Chr. 25; 2 Tim. 3
28 Amos 1-3; Ps. 80; 2 Tim. 4
29 Amos 4-6; Ps. 86; Tit. 1
30 Amos 7-9; Ps. 104; Tit. 2

Financial Report as of April 2008:

Beginning Balance:	\$7,564.18
Income:	\$5,136.78
Expenses:	\$9,078.73
Ending Balance:	\$3,622.23

EOM Board of Directors for 2008 - 2009

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May 2008 Prayer Concerns & Praises

Praises:

Harry Varn (from his daughter) – he had a good report from his PET scan that his cancer is contained to his lungs and has not spread

Prayer Requests:

Vickie Weed Family – young mother who died of cancer

Gene Aiken – brother of Bill Aiken

Polly Hartley – Linda Clarke's mom, cancer

Bill Whiting – seriously ill, in hospital

Gayle C. Whisonant (walk#17) – health concerns

Courtney Winsor (Chrysalis flight #2) – health concern

Bruce Scott, who has terminal cancer, and his wife Barbara and family

Friend of Frank Wendt and her husband Walter, who has a stomach disorder which requires tube feeding

Eddie Taylor, Drew Kneece, and David Hamm

David and Connie Proctor – their house burned.

Linda Jane McDonald – recently diagnosed with breast cancer

A Request:

One of the booklets had the following request: *He has risen and will come again so go out and serve, be a worker for Christ, not an excuse maker, be an example of the risen Christ.* Seems like pretty good fourth day advice!

On Not Reaching Our Culture Through Our Preaching

By The Rev. Dr. William H. Willimon

Recently I led a group of pastors in a discussion about our preaching. When I asked the pastors, "What areas would you like help with in your preaching?" most of them responded with, "I want help in making connection with my listeners, relating the gospel to their everyday lives."

"I want to preach sermons which really hit my people where they live."

In sum, these pastors wanted to preach in a way that addressed their culture. There was a time when I would have agreed that this was one of the primary purposes of Christian preaching – to relate the gospel to contemporary culture. However, I have come to question this way of construing the task of Christian preaching.

Sometimes in leaning over to speak to the modern world, I fear that we may have fallen in! When, in our sermons, we sought to use our sermons to build a bridge from the old world of the Bible to the new modern world, the traffic was only moving in one direction on that interpretive bridge. It was always the modern world rummaging about in Scripture, saying things like "This relates to me," or, "I'm sorry, this is really impractical," or, "I really can't

make sense out of that." It was always the modern world telling the Bible what's what.

I don't believe that the Bible wants to "speak to the modern world." Rather, I think the Bible wants to change, convert the modern world.

The modern world is not only the realm of the telephone, the telegraph, and allegedly "critical thinking," this world is also the habitat of Auschwitz, two of the bloodiest wars of history, and assorted totalitarian schemes which have consumed the lives of millions. Why would our preaching want to be comprehensible to that world?

Too often Christians have treated the modern world as if it is an unalterable fact, a reality to which we were obligated to adjust and adapt, rather than a point of view with which we might argue.

Fortunately, modern ways of knowing and thinking are gradually losing their privileged status in Western thought. We are realizing that modernity is only one way of describing what is going on in the world. Humanity has received many gifts from modern, scientific, technological ways of thinking. However, as we ended the twentieth century, we realized that modernity was not without its losses.

Rather than reaching out to speak to our culture, I think our time as preachers is better spent inculcating Twenty First Century Americans into that culture which is called church. There is no way that I can crank the gospel down to the level where any American can walk in off the street and know what it is all about within fifteen minutes. One can't even do that with baseball! You have to learn the vocabulary, the rules, and the culture in order to understand it. Being in church is something at least as different as baseball.

Forming the church through our speech, laying on contemporary Christians the stories, images, and practices which make us disciples is our most challenging task as preachers.

The point is not to speak to the culture. The point is to change it. God's appointed means of producing change is called church. God's typical way of producing church is called preaching.

William H. Willimon

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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

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 - May 30, 2008

7:00 pm Meal - 8:00 pm Worship

Crosspoint Baptist - Sumter
2755 Carter Road

From Columbia/Aiken/Saluda Via I-20: Take I-20 to Exit 98 (US 521). Turn right onto US 521. Proceed towards Sumter. Approximately ½ mile before the US 76 underpass, turn right onto Alice Drive (SC 120). Cross over US 76 and proceed south. Turn right onto W. Westmark Boulevard. This street turns into Carter Road after you cross Wilson Hall Road. The church is located at 2755 Carter Road.

From Columbia/Aiken/Saluda Via US 76: Take US 76 towards Sumter. As you approach Sumter (just beyond Loring Road, SC 204) turn right onto Carter Road and go 1.2 miles. The church is located at 2755 Carter Road.