

# Emmaus of the Midlands Messenger

P. O. Box 25165 Columbia, SC 29224-5165

www.midlandsemmaus.com

## February 2009

### In This Issue

Our feature this month is an article by Ken Clarke describing his Emmaus journey (Pilgrim to Lay Director in Emmaus). We were originally going to run this in several parts but Ken wished to have it presented in a single issue so he has given us a condensed version. Due to the length of this article and Ken's wish to have it presented in a single issue, we have omitted the listing of the Board of Directors.



### January Gathering

We had a nice crowd for the January Gathering at Lexington United Methodist Church. We heard a nice Fourth Day speech by Bobby Bowers and, as always, enjoyed the music by Walt Proctor with help from Jeff Snow.

### March Prayer Concerns

Prayer list – Jenny Mangum, Marsha Frady, Ruby Branham, Sissy Wilson, Laverne Greenway, Tisha James, our new president, Clarence Huggins  
Larry Brooks – Hip replacement surgery  
Olean Brooks – Knee replacement surgery  
Barbara Herndon – Recovering from hip surgery  
Rev. Jerry James – Brain cancer  
Guy Miller – His wife Kay (whom he met on a

EOM walk) passed away

Nancy Kelly – Her mother recently passed away

Sarah Kate Bryant – Small child with health problems

Lucy Garrett (Walk #32) – Surgery recently

George Castle – Hip surgery

Carolyn & Charlie McLean – Thanks for the prayers

Cliff & Helen Rivers – Cliff's father recently died & their son just left for Afghanistan

Barbara Graham – Partial knee replacement

Robert & Tasha Graham – Divorcing

Verrall & Deborah Dugger – Moving

Dickie & Brenda Knight – Praise for fifth grandchild (Paxton)

## **Pilgrim to Lay Director in Emmaus**

*By Ken Clarke*

I can remember the day as if it were today. My minister, Harry Workman had asked me to go on a 72 hour weekend called Emmaus. He told me he was paying for it and if I did not receive anything out of it, that would be fine. I do not like to be forced to do anything, so I said I would think about it. Now, if I remember correctly it was around the first of December when he asked me. I finally said yes sometime around the end of January. The first thing I thought of was, I would be getting away for a weekend from work and home, getting some needed rest.

This was the EOM Men's Walk # 6 and the first place my minister took me was Shealy's to pig out. I tried to do so, but half way through my meal he got up and said we had to leave now. What a disappointment to me, leaving a meal and not finishing it. My first thoughts were that this weekend is not starting out very good. When I arrived at the Camp, I was a little nervous. I did not know many people except my brothers from Trinity UMC in Aiken. There was some more snack food waiting on me, so this passed some time.

Within the next few minutes we all walked to a gym for something we all did not know anything about and people were trying to sing a song which was not familiar to any of us. We all met our new best friend and this was a little more enjoyable. Later on we attended a movie, during which some snoring began. Then as the evening was coming to an end, we were told to go to bed and be quiet. Now telling Men not to talk, I was not too sure about this situation. Next morning being awakened by a ringing bell, I was still not sure about this weekend. After a morning of devotion, the silence was broken and I was relieved. The first breakfast was not very appealing to me. See, as a kid growing up I had eaten cereal almost every morning and I just wanted a real breakfast. Well, it got much better as the weekend went along.

To make this shorter in length, I had carried a lot of baggage to this place and I cried more than I thought I could the whole weekend. My minister delivered a talk called Means of Grace. I can remember when he took a break I went up to him and said Harry, please don't stop, but I believe I cannot cry anymore. But I cried the rest of the weekend, even at Closing. I gave all my baggage to God at the Altar during Dying Moments. After Closing I went back to my church, went to the Altar, cried and prayed with my minister some more.

My First Fourth Day was quite an experience. I had just reached a mountain top and did not want to come down. It took me quite a few weeks to come back to earth. I can remember going to work on Monday, working all day and around 4:00 PM my boss called me to his office. He asked if I had a few minutes to talk to him. He wanted to know what had happened to me over the past weekend, because he had noticed I was a changed man in his opinion. I began to explain the weekend briefly to him and he understood the change in me. The experiences at Emmaus had changed my life immediately.

We were told at the end of our Walk that the first way we could serve the community was to work in the kitchen on the next walk. Well I did this for the next sets of Walks in the Fall and the next Spring. I can remember receiving a phone call one evening from the Lay Director for the Men's Walk # 8. It was Tommy whom had been my Lay Director for Walk # 6. He was asking me to consider serving in the conference room for the next Walk. After a few minutes I told him no, with really good excuses. I let work interfere with serving my Lord. After about an hour, God had spoken to me and told me I had made a mistake by turning down Tommy's offer. I wanted to call him back and say yes, but I did not. I still regret it to this day that I said no, but I made a commitment to God that I would not say no anymore to working on an Emmaus weekend if asked again.

The next call I received was for the Men's Walk # 12, to serve as a Silent Partner and give a talk called Life in Piety. I surely can tell you all I was very nervous when it came time to give the talk on the weekend. When I arrived at the podium and placed the crucifix in my right hand, calmness came over me. I know it was God taking control and my nerves calmed tremendously. Since that time I have never had any trouble speaking in front of a group. If you give it to God, he will be in control.

I later served on Men's Walks # 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24 as a Table Leader, Silent Partner, ALD and Lay Director in Training. It had become my time to serve as the Lay Director for the Men's Walk # 25. Every walk I had served on in the past had been different. There are always some things which make each walk very special. It would take too long to describe all the experiences I have had on each walk, but God has blessed me in many ways. To serve the Emmaus Community as a Lay Director is reaching a mountain top again, in my opinion. What a wonderful weekend. Since my weekend as the Lay Director, I have served on Walk # 29 as the silent ALD. That weekend was very enjoyable because I served my Lord Jesus Christ again in the Conference Room and trained three new ALD's, whom have come a long ways in Emmaus since that weekend.

I have served two separate two year terms on the EOM Board of Directors. The last two year term I was honored to serve the EOM Community as the Community Lay Director/Board Chairperson. My current term as Ex-Officio expires April 30, 2009. I have really enjoyed serving the Emmaus Community in many different ways and have gained valuable experience.

In Closing, I encourage each of you to find some way which suits you in serving the Emmaus Community and stay active in the Community. For each walk there are many ways to serve without being in the Conference Room. Some of the opportunities are working in the Kitchen, being a part of the 72-hour prayer vigil, attending

Send-off, Candlelight and Closing, providing Snack and Table Agape, helping set up the camp, helping to take down the camp, helping with

luggage, being on the Logistics Team, helping set up Candlelight, writing letters to the pilgrims, providing Seed Agape (donating money for items such as Christ Candles, pens, tablets and pilgrim books). Ask a Board Member if there is anything you can do to help with their walk responsibilities. Remember you are serving your Lord Jesus Christ. I also encourage each of you to sponsor a pilgrim on each future walk and remember your experiences you had on your original walk. If God had a hand in changing your life, then I know there is at least one person out there you know who would enjoy a 72 hour weekend with God.

DeColores, Ken

### March Bible Readings

- 1 Num. 28-29; Mark 8
- 2 Num. 30-31; Mark 9
- 3 Num. 32-33; Mark 10
- 4 Num. 34-36; Mark 11
- 5 Deut. 1-2; Mark 12
- 6 Deut. 3-4; Ps. 36; Mark 13
- 7 Deut. 5-6; Ps. 43; Mark 14
- 8 Deut. 7-9; Mark 15
- 9 Deut. 10-12; Mark 16
- 10 Deut. 13-15; Gal. 1
- 11 Deut. 16-18; Ps. 38; Gal. 2
- 12 Deut. 19-21; Gal. 3
- 13 Deut. 22-24; Gal. 4
- 14 Deut. 25-27; Gal. 5
- 15 Deut. 28-29; Gal. 6
- 16 Deut. 30-31; Ps. 40; 1 Cor. 1
- 17 Deut. 32-34; 1 Cor. 2
- 18 Josh. 1-2; Ps. 37; 1 Cor. 3
- 19 Josh. 3-6; 1 Cor. 4
- 20 Josh. 7-8; Ps. 69; 1 Cor. 5
- 21 Josh. 9-11; 1 Cor. 6
- 22 Josh. 12-14; 1 Cor. 7
- 23 Josh. 15-17; 1 Cor. 8
- 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

Remember that your daily Bible readings are intended to *complement*, not replace Bible studies at your church!

**Emmaus of the Midlands**  
**P.O. Box 25165**  
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### **Upcoming Events**

- February 19-22** - Men's Walk 33  
(Candlelight Saturday, 8 pm Feb 21)
- March 12 – 15, 2009** - Girls Epiphany
- March 12 – 15, 2009** - Women's Walk 33  
(Candlelight Sunday, 8 pm Mar 14)
- March 27, 2009** - Gathering at Wightman UMC

### **Next Gathering**

March 27, 2009

Fellowship 7:00 p – Worship 8:00 pm

### **Wightman UMC**

302 North Main Street, Prosperity, SC 29127

803 364-2340

**Directions from Aiken:** Take I-20 towards Columbia, take exit 39 (North) towards Camp Agape. Pass by Camp Agape on US-178 and turn slightly right on SC-245 (South Lee Street). Proceed through Batesburg/Leesville on SC-245. Turn slightly right onto SC-391 (Summerland Avenue) and continue through the roundabout at Round-O staying on SC-391. SC-391 becomes Main Street when you reach Prosperity.

**Directions from Columbia:** Take I-26 West towards Greenville/Spartanburg. Take exit 82 towards Prosperity on SC-773 (Wheeler Street). When SC-773 ends turn right onto US 76 and then turn left on Langford Street (SC-S-36-516). Cross over the railroad tracks and turn into the Wightman parking lot.

**Directions from Sumter:** Proceed to Columbia and take I-26 West. Proceed as above in Directions from Columbia.