

Emmaus of the Midlands Messenger

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

www.midlandsemmaus.com

September/October 2009

Make Time to Pray

Mary Furse

Emmaus of The Midlands had 3 very successful prayer vigils before and during the Men's and Women's Walk 34. We began our 72 Day Prayer Vigil on July 14.



It continued through Sunday of the Women's Walk. And we had our 72 Hour Prayer Vigils during the Walks for both groups. The participation and interest were outstanding!!! Thanks Everyone!!!

But don't stop PRAYING for our community!! Please continue to pray at NOON for our new pilgrims, sponsors who will be inviting pilgrims to go on Walk 35, the potential pilgrims who are invited, and our board as decisions are made to improve our future Walks.

Our 72 Day Prayer Vigil for Walk 35 begins January 4, 2010. Let's all strive to make EOM a more prayerful community during 2010.

Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests....Be alert and keep on praying for all the saints. Ephesians 6:18.

Trinity UMC – Blythewood Gathering

By: Tom Furse

The August 28, 2009 Emmaus Gathering was hosted by the Trinity UMC church in Blythewood. This Gathering culminated an effort led by Rev. Scott Bratton, the assistant minister at Trinity, to increase their members participation. During the introductions led by Anne Prescott, we learned that there will be quite a few Trinity members on the spring Walks. In addition to about 100 Emmaus members present, there were several guests who are either scheduled to attend the upcoming Walks or the spring Walks and several Emmaus members from other communities.

The Trinity members were very organized and everything was carried out like

[Cont'd on page 2](#)

Do you recognize this couple?



On August 18 Wesley and Doris Crocker were surprised by their church with a golden wedding anniversary celebration. Someone had made the photo. Doris said" I laughed until I nearly cried!"
Congratulations Doris and Wesley!

Seed Agape

Mary Furse



The Seed Agape for October is Table Cloths. The time has come for us to get some new table cloths to replace the plastic ones. Everyone will have an opportunity to help with this Seed Agape project at the gathering. Thanks to everyone who has contributed towards our monthly Seed Agape items. This is just another way to show love in our community.

Meditation from our Spiritual Director

Faith . . . is the decision to keep your eyes open.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ--

In her book *Amazing Grace*, Kathleen Norris cites novelist Doris Betts' assertion that "faith is 'not synonymous with certainty...[but] is the decision to keep your eyes open'" (p. 169). Those who have gone on the Walk to Emmaus can say "Amen" to that. For what happened to the two companions on the road to Emmaus when Jesus sat down at the table with them and broke bread? "Their eyes were opened and they recognized him" (Luke 24:31).

As followers of Christ, we are called to live with our eyes open to the presence of Christ around us. Sometimes we see Christ in the ordinary events of our lives, in the simple rhythms of the sun rising in the morning and going down at night, in the love and companionship around our family table. Sometimes we see Christ in the unexplainable, in God-incidences that are too good to be true. Sometimes we see Christ when we're going through difficult times that test us, when support comes from a friend or an unexpected source. In all circumstances, faith is the decision to keep our eyes open to the presence of Christ around us.

One of the favorite songs at the Spiritual Life Retreats with the youth at Springmaid was "Have You Seen Jesus My Lord?" The chorus answered that question by saying, "He's here in plain view. Take a look, open your eyes, He'll show it to you." On your Fourth Days, take a look with eyes of faith, keep them open, and you'll be able to say that you've seen Jesus our Lord.

De Colores,
Carol

Notes from the Board—Both the Men's and Women's Walk 34 were full of blessings. The Holy Spirit was truly with both teams and the pilgrims. We ask you to pray for Shelia Rogers and her family, as her son Andre became ill during the Women's Walk. Also please pray for Shelia Elliott, as her knee is still not 100% after her fall during the Women's Walk

Welcome New Members of Our Community

Men

Steve Aaron Buddy Batten Terry Broom Claude Humphries Ron Jordan Hubert Kinard Paul Larabee Herman Lightsey	Gary Ray Marshall Robinson George Sorenson Ernie Tarbox David Teague Rick Thain Robert Wayson
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Women

Naomi Baker Audrey Burroughs Sylvia Butler Stephanie Cato Vilma Cobb Rebekah Croft Aggie Davis Rebecca Eleazer Patricia Fabisiak Doris Frye Belinda Fulmer Sally Gandy Lynn Grimsley Linda Hiller	Arnette Jordan Regina King Dianne Kinzly Carol Lepp Cathey Lewis Judy Livingston Mary Lyghts Susan Matthews Gloria Nguyen Carol Parrish Celia Perez Christina Poston Anne Richardson Mable Ussery
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Cont'd from page 1 clockwork. There was plenty of delicious food and we even used china plates and silver utensils. You would not believe the quantity and quality of the deserts.

Mary Furse, Board Director responsible for Prayer Vigil, reminded us that more signatures are needed to complete the 72 Hour Prayer Vigil for the September/October Walks.

The Worship service in the beautiful Trinity sanctuary was very moving. Danny Hanna gave the Fourth Day Talk. Danny told us that his Walk 19 years ago prepared him for the work that God had planned for him. He is deeply involved with Kairos and loves every minute of it. Rev. Scott Bratton gave the clergy response to Danny's Talk.

The Music team of Karen Hartman, Charlie McLean, Gary Hartman, and Sheila Elliott led us in good old Emmaus songs. Gray played the piano and sang a solo during the offering was taken.

Sorry that so many of you missed this great Gathering.

Our hats go off to the members of Trinity for making the Gathering so enjoyable.

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What's with the Rainbow and Rooster?

De Colores Song

The true story is that the song "De Colores" was a song in Spain that was sung in the taverns. It was also a victory song during the Spanish revolution. The vineyard workers sang it while they worked too. So the tune was a well known one, but nobody knows who actually wrote the music.


During a Cursillo weekend someone changed the words to reflect Christian expressions. Instead of the colors of the ladies red lips, and their beautiful eyes and hair, they sang about how the rainbow is vested across the blue skies, and the colors of God's world, etc. Later when the movement went to Mexico, this is where the bus breakdown took place and some of the pilgrims continued to add verses.

The story about the bus breaking down is basically this: A Spanish group had been on a Cursillo event (the forerunner of our Walk to Emmaus) and was heading home. After hearing the many talks on the colors of God's grace, they were a joyful group indeed. Suddenly the bus broke down. Fortunately there was a barnyard nearby. The glorious show of spring colors in the fields, the flowers, and the budding trees inspired them. The bright iridescent colors of the roosters and chickens and a distant rainbow touched them. So they wrote new verses for the song "De Colores" which means of the colors. It says they obviously waited a long time because there are 99 verses, but we usually only sing a few....

Emmaus of the Midlands
P.O. Box 25165
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 <u>EOM Financial Info</u>	
Sept Beg Bal	\$ 6,956
Income: Walk Register	1,520
Team Fees	140
Gathering	741
Seed Agape	<u>60</u>
Total Income	\$ 2,461
Expenses: Walk Supplies	0
Camp Rental	0
Kitchen Costs	0
Candlelight	0
Community Stores	0
Bus Rental	0
Mini Storage	0
Int's Walk Fee	<u>0</u>
Total Expense	<u>\$ 0</u>
Sept End Bal	\$ 9,417

Upcoming Events

- October 23, 2009** Gathering—Windsor UMC
- November 2009** No Gathering
- December 5, 2009** Gathering- Brookland UMC
- January 14-17** Boy's Chrysalis Flight 4
Candlelight Saturday Jan 16, 8 pm
- January 22, 2010** Gathering –Lyttleton UMC Camden
- February 11-14** Girl's Chrysalis Flight 4
Candlelight Saturday Feb 13, 8 pm
- February 26, 2010** Gathering - Frances Burns UMC
- March 2010** No Gathering
- March 11-14, 2010** Men's Walk 35
Candlelight Saturday Mar 13, 8 pm
- March 18-21, 2010** Women's Walk 35
Candlelight Saturday Mar 20, 8pm
- April 23, 2010** Gathering - Lexington UMC

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

Next Gathering
October 23, 2009
Fellowship 7:00 PM Worship 8:00 PM
Windsor United Methodist Church
9500 Windsor Lake Boulevard
(803) 788-1858

Directions: Take I-20 to exit # 76 (Alpine Road). Go North on Alpine Road. The third stoplight will be the corner of Alpine Road and Windsor Lake Blvd. The church is across from EL Wight Middle School