

Emmaus of the Midlands Messenger

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

www.midlandsemmaus.com

January/February 2010

Seed Agape

Mary Furse

A big thank you to the Mursers of our community for a job well done. We were able to purchase new tablecloths for the upcoming Walks. A special thanks goes out to Sherrie Bowers for finding us such a good deal on the tablecloths. Because of the generosity of the community, our next Seed Agape project has been taken care of, too! Umbrellas have been ordered and will be available should we have rain during the upcoming Walks. We will now begin our next Seed Agape endeavor, and it is a big one. Have you noticed how worn our songbooks are? Our new project is to replace the old books. After the new one is selected, we will let everyone know the cost, and ask members of the community to donate one. Seed Agape is just another way we can show God's love in our community.



Notes from the Chair

MARCH ELECTIONS -March is just around the corner, hopefully bringing with it some of our beautiful Spring-like weather. Just as our world is renewed after the winter dormancy, in March our EOM Community Board undergoes renewal through the election of new members. One-third of our board (5 members) is replaced in our elections at the March Gathering each year. This enables us to keep a high level of consistency while bringing in fresh new faces with new ideas and energy to the board. Please plan to attend the March Gathering at Lexington UMC and vote for those willing to serve. Any members of the community interested in running for the board should contact one of the current Board members by March 6th.

SPRING WALKS - God continues to be faithful to us as an Emmaus Community. We have not only met our new minimum requirements for number of Pilgrims for the walks but we are also well on our way to filling the walks. Please send any additional applications to the Registrar, Carolyn McLean, as soon as possible. In addition, the seed Agape collections at the January Gathering have enabled us to purchase new dining room tablecloths and a number of umbrellas for use at Camp. Please continue to pray for the Pilgrims and the team members as we approach the March Walks.



Dennis Fish, EOM Board Chair

A Note From the Registrar: Thank you, sponsors, for answering the call! Both the Men's and Women's Walks #35 are a go!! As of this writing, we have 28 women and 22 men signed up, and it isn't too late to send in applications if you have prospective pilgrims. We will continue to take applications until the end of February and there is still time to fill up the walks with 36 pilgrims each. Continue to pray that God will speak to those who are considering taking this spiritual journey.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phi. 4:13

Carolyn McLean -Registrar

Will you put on your skates?

Chrysalis Flights Postponed

Barbara Laird

Have you ever been unsuccessful at something you tried? When my daughter Hannah was 5 years old she saw on line skaters on television. She was fascinated by the jumps and tricks. She begged for the real skates, so I got her a pair. She was so disappointed when she could not just put them on and skate. Those tears tore at my heart. I wanted to just snap my fingers and give her the ability she longed for.

Since I could not do that, I did what I could, I encouraged her. It was summertime, and I assured her if she just practiced everyday she would learn how to skate. She stopped crying, and for a whole summer, Hannah lived in her skates. It did not take her any time to become the envy of the older children in the neighborhood. She could skate faster than many children 3 or 4 years older than her, and she was learning to do those tricks. The experience of being forced to work for something worthwhile taught her so much. As many of you know, both the girl's and boys' flights for Chrysalis have been postponed for the second time. Our hearts ache for the missed opportunities. In Emmaus of the Midlands we have such strong support for both Epiphany and Kairos, we are truly blessed. It has been said that the test of our effectiveness is results. While the number of people professing a Christian faith going into prison and coming out professing a Christian faith is a little better than even, for every 5 Christians going into college only 1 comes out still professing a Christian faith. Chrysalis is an important tool of faith and change. The flights will be rescheduled. Be in prayer and help us find the teenagers to fill the flights. We ask that you put on the skates with us each day for Chrysalis.



Celebrating Christmas

Rev Wade H. Everett

Christmas was going to be different this year. The father called a family conference and challenged them to be more disciplined in the management of their time during the busy Christmas season and to curtail excessive spending on gifts. He talked about better relations between visiting relatives and a more congenial atmosphere around their home. He brought his speech to a crescendo with his final rally cry, "Let's make this the best Christmas EVER!" His little second-grade son countered the big motivational speech by noting, "But Dad, I don't see how we could ever improve on the first Christmas." We certainly can't improve on what happened that first Christmas, but we can improve on the way we celebrate it today. Each year Americans are bombarded by hundreds of thousands of advertisements. I noticed this year the day after Halloween, some stores began to reconfigure for Christmas. From then until now the emphasis we see in the store is on things. Buy this, buy that! We are left after Christmas feeling jaded and broke, wondering what it was really all about. Some people experience a very real and debilitating syndrome called holiday depression. Others find it very difficult to be joyful during this time because of bereavement. How can we recapture that sense of joy we were meant to have? Let's start with the Word of God. Isaiah 12:1 *You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. 2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. 3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. 4 And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. 5 Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. 6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.* By focusing on God, by focusing on the fact that our salvation comes from God, and not some giant superstore where we fill up two shopping carts with gifts we cannot afford in the first place, we draw water from the well of salvation and it is a joyful soul thirst quencher. Then, we can live as the author of Philippians wrote in **Philippians 4:1** *Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in*

Lord in this way, my beloved. 2 Exhortations I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Bill Keane's comic strip, Family Circus, has communicated a beautiful truth about Christmas. As the children were setting up their nativity set, little Dolly held up the baby Jesus and declared, "Here's the star of Bethlehem!" I pray that you all experience the majesty of gazing on the Star of Bethlehem during each and every Christmas season. Who is the star in your home? **Focus on Emmanuel, God with us, Christ Jesus the Lord, by prayer, by letting God speak to you through the scriptures as you read them aloud to your family, and you will see the joy of Christmas relight the light of your soul.**

Lord we pray for...

the Bill Rose family for the loss of his mother, Rose Rose.

Vince Halter in his recovery after knee surgery.

Mike and Kathleen Halter, as Mike battles cancer.

Ray Hydrick, Louisa Gantts Dad, as he recovers from a fall.

Linda Clarke's family in the passing of her Uncle, Legare " BO " Cato Jr.

Walt Proctor II, as he recovers.

Keith Cunnup, as he awaits bypass surgery

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Make Time to Pray *Mary Furse*

Signups for the 72 Hour Prayer Vigils have started. The Spring Walks are here and we have many blank slots on our rosters. You can still sign up in the following ways:

1. At the February Gathering
2. On line at www.midlandsemmaus.com
3. By emailing flossyd56@sc.rr.com
4. Calling Mary Furse 803-699-6557



We want our pilgrims to see a FULL ROSTER during the Walks. We covet everyone's prayers for the Walks. 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. We began our 72 Day Prayer Vigil on January 4 for Walk 35. Our participation and interest in the prayer vigils have been outstanding. Thanks to everyone for making EOM a growing and ever more prayerful community.

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

- February 26, 2010** Gathering - Frances Burns UMC
- 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
- March 26, 2010** Gathering—Lexington UMC
- April 23, 2010** Gathering - Lewis Chapel UMC
- September 30-October 3, 2010** Men's Walk 36
Candlelight Saturday Oct 2, 8pm
- October 7-October 10, 2010** Women's Walk 36
Candlelight Saturday Oct 9, 8pm

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 February 26, 2010 **Frances Burns UMC** **5616 Farrow Road** **Columbia, SC 29203** **(803) 754-1760**

Directions from Aiken: Take I-20 towards Columbia. Take I-20 Exit # 70 (Fairfield Road/US -321). Turn left on US-321 and go .1 miles to Prescott Road (second road on left). Turn left on Prescott Road and go .9 miles to Koon Road. Turn right on Koon Road and go .4 miles to Farrow Road, Bear right on Farrow Road (SC-555) after crossing rail road tracks. Arrive at church on left.

Directions from Sumter: Take US 521 from Sumter to I-20 and travel toward Columbia. Take Exit # 73A onto SC-277 South. Go 2.0 miles to Fontaine Road and take left onto Fontaine Road. Go .3 miles to Farrow Road (SC-555). Go 1.1 miles and arrive at church on the left.

Directions from Prosperity: Take I-26 towards Columbia. Take Exit 107B (I-20/Florence) and go 6.0 miles to I-20 Exit # 70 (Fairfield Road/US -321). Turn left on US-321 and go .1 miles to Prescott Road (second road on left). Turn left on Prescott Road and go .9 miles to Koon Road. Turn right on Koon Road and go .4 miles to Farrow Road, Bear right on Farrow Road (SC-555) after crossing rail road tracks. Arrive at church on left.