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THE MIDLANDS MESSENGER

Emmaus of The Midlands

July 2010

Lay Director's Message

By Dennis Fish, EOM Lay Director and Board Chair

From my vantage point, I believe that God has once again blessed the EOM community with another strong board. I personally thank you for the trust that you have placed in each of us serving in this capacity and pray that you will continue to keep us in your prayers throughout the year.

For those who haven't heard, our 2010-2011 Spiritual Director is David Anderson and the assistant Spiritual Director is Larry Brown. Our officers are: Barbara Laird (Secretary), Bill Rose (Treasurer), Anne Prescott (Vice-Chair) and myself (Chair). The other board members and their responsibilities can be found in the list at the left column of this page.

Please feel free to contact any of us for any information or concerns you may have. Our purpose is to support the community in putting on Walks.

Spiritual Director's Message

By Rev. David Anderson, EOM Spiritual Director

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Maria and I just got through watching the Gamecocks win the College World Series. National Champions! Wow!! What a thought. I didn't think that I would live to see the day. I know my father-in-law, Bill, who died over 15 years ago would have really enjoyed seeing this moment and though I cannot find a theological way to explain it but a part of me knows that Bill was saying "Go Gamecocks!" in heaven.

When I reflected on this achievement by a group of courageous, dedicated young men I thought of how hard they had to work to overcome the many difficulties of a long season. I was reminded of another team of two thousand years ago when a small group of scared disciples were charged to spread the news of the risen Messiah. These guys changed the entire World. They brought the light of the Risen Christ to those who desperately needed to see the light.

I know that it is our mission is to support the local church. And our mission as the Emmaus community is to equip the church to be a group of dedicated Christians who work together as a team: A group that is excited about the mission ahead; a group that knows that teamwork and cooperation will bring the victory and a group that is willing to give nothing but their very best for the cause of Christ.

In order for us to do this we must have Pilgrims to attend the Walks. We need to have at least 10 Pilgrims by August 19, 2010 to proceed with the preparations for the Walks. I urge you to pray earnestly for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to show you a potential Pilgrim and for the words to share the Emmaus story. God will do the rest. I urge you to commit to sponsoring a Pilgrim. What a way to share the Light of the World!!!! That is better than any National Championship ANYDAY!!!

Reflect the Love and Grace of Jesus Christ in all you do. DeColores!

Update on Walks # 36

By Carolyn McLean, EOM Registrar

Last year the Emmaus board voted that there must be a minimum of 20 pilgrims for a Walk to go forward and that those applications must be received no later than six weeks before the beginning date of the Walk. As of mid-July, 19 women have been approved for the Women's Walk and 7 for the Men's Walk.

Sponsors, there is work that has to be done between now and August 19, 2010, the deadline for receiving applications for Walks #36. Please prayerfully consider those prospective pilgrims that you feel led to sponsor, and get their applications filled out and mailed in as soon as possible. Don't forget the dates: Men's Walk is September 30-October 3 and Women's Walk is October 7-10. All of us working together can ensure that the walks are full and that lives will be changed as "eyes are opened" during this 72-hour encounter with the Risen Lord.



**Emmaus
Education
Corner**

**Single-Gender Music
Teams**

By: Dennis Fish

Several times over the past couple years, I (as EOM Community Lay Director) have been asked by several people:

Why does the EOM community no longer utilize mixed gender music teams?

For those unaware, this is a requirement was sent from the Emmaus International Office. In a recent communication from this office, I, as the Community Lay Director, was provided a checklist of 22 items that I am responsible for as a community. Item #20 reads:

"Are your teams same gender except for clergy? Musicians MUST BE the same gender as the walk. If you believe this is a problem, you are probably using too many musicians. One or two is adequate for a walk."

Similar to the agreement we make when working a Walk that we will abide by the guidelines, we as a community are bound by the International guidelines.

Blessings on each of you!
DeColores!

Seed Agape Update

By Mary Furse

The Emmaus of the Midlands community has worked hard to bring "Seed Agape" back into the main stream in our Emmaus Community.

During the last several months, over \$800.00 has been donated by dedicated and generous members for Seed Agape. The first project was to replace our well-used tablecloths for the dining hall at Nazarene Camp and to provide umbrellas for Pilgrims (and Team Members) to use when it rains during a Walk.

Cherie Bowers and Delores Fish were instrumental in locating and securing the new table clothes. Thanks ladies!

At the February 2010 Gathering at Frances Burns UMC in Columbia the new table clothes and umbrellas were blessed and put into operation.

Walk # 35 was the first Walk for their use. All who saw the new tablecloths remarked about how much they improved the atmosphere for eating, sharing, and celebrating all that the Lord has given to us. The umbrellas were also a God-send for Walks #35 as there was rain—heavy rain—on both weekends.

The current Seed Agape project is the replacement of the songbooks. Board member Sheila Elliott is assembling and editing a customized EOM songbook. Her plan is to have these books ready in time for Walks #36 in September and October 2010. Anyone interested in helping with the production of this songbook should contact Sheila as soon as possible.

As the Board member responsible for Seed Agape, I want to thank the entire EOM community for their prayers and financial support of Seed Agape!

Thanks be to God!



DOLLAR\$&CENTS

Financial Record

June 2010

Beginning Balance: 6/1/2010 \$2,574

Income: Gathering—May 537
 Gathering— June 400
 Seed Agape— May 294
 Seed Agape—June 45
 Community Store 27
 Pilgrim Fees 105

Total Income \$1,408

Expenses: Walk Supplies 7
 Rent—Storage Unit 75
 Insurance 1,415
 Total Expenses \$1,497

Ending Balance: 7/1/2010 \$2,485



Our 72 Day Prayer Vigil starts Tuesday, July 20 and will continue until the Women's Walk concludes on October 10. Members of the community are asked to pray every day at noon for our Pilgrims, our teams, our sponsors, and the Walks.

There are 3 ways to sign up for the 72 Hour Prayer vigils:

1. On our EOM website (www.midlandsemmaus.com)
2. At the July and August gatherings
3. By calling Mary Furse at 803/699-6557

June Gathering at First Christian Church

By Doug Meade

A wonderful and blessed evening of fellowship and worship was shared by the 75 people at the June Gathering at First Christian Church in Columbia.

George Castles sang a solo during the offering, Nancy Merrill and Paul Larrabee gave a powerful and inspirational Fourth Day talk, and the Rev. Torrie Osgood provided the clergy response. Holy Communion was led by our the Rev. David Anderson, our new Community Spiritual Director.

The Holy Spirit's presence was certainly present among us that night. I pray that he has been with each of you since then.



Message from the Newsletter Editor

By Doug Meade, Newsletter Editor

I am excited to have the responsibility to prepare and distribute the EOM Messenger during my final year on the EOM Board. I have some ideas about how to make this newsletter informative and relevant for the entire community. For example, in addition to the directions to this month's Gathering, at the bottom of this page—directly behind the directions—you will find a small map to the Gathering. Between the map and the directions—which are directly behind the map—I hope this makes it a little easier for some of you find Platt Springs UMC. You will see more changes in the months to come.

But, to be truly reflective of the EOM Community's needs, I request your input and feedback. Please feel free to submit articles (short or long) that you would like to share with the rest of the Community. Pictures, or other visual artwork, are also appreciated.

I would love to have a couple of pictures to insert around this box to complete this page. Instead, for this month, I will leave this space empty and let you think about what you would like to see in its place.

I am already working on the August edition of the Messenger. In order to ensure you receive the Messenger well in advance of each month's Gathering, I need to have all submissions no later than the 10th. Submissions made after the 10th will be included if possible, or held until the next month.

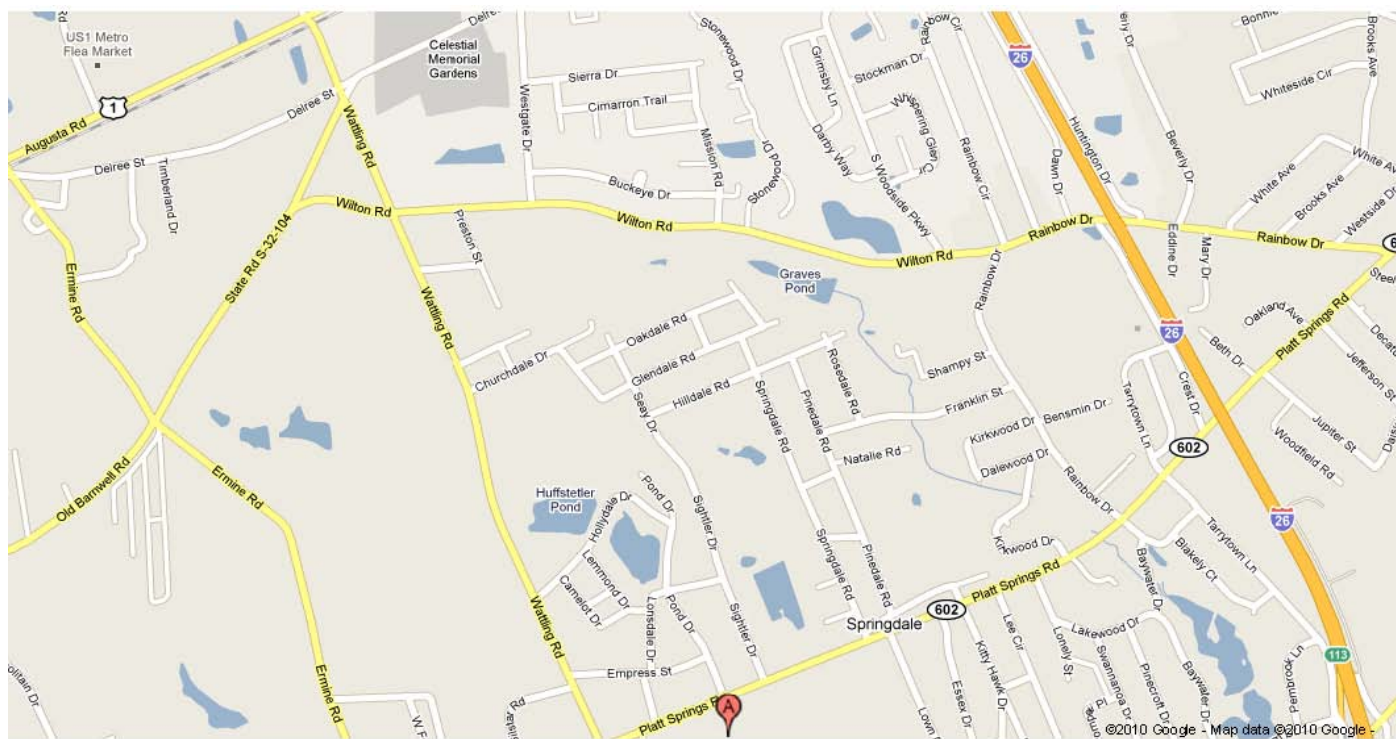
What would you like to see in this space?

Send your ideas to Doug Meade (doug.meade@gmail.com) no later than the 10th of each month.

Map to EOM Gathering in July 2010

(see other side for directions from Sumter, Aiken, and Prosperity)

A: Platt Springs UMC, 3215 Platt Springs Rd, West Columbia, SC



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If you received this newsletter and have an e-mail address, please consider using the Emmaus Web Site to read the monthly newsletter and help reduce the cost of printing and mailing. If you are willing to help in this way, e-mail Tom Furse at: tomfurse@sc.rr.com

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Jul 23	Gathering—Platt Springs UMC
Aug 20-21	Team Training—Lexington UMC
Aug 27	Gathering—Trenholm Road UMC
Sep 24	Gathering—TBA
Sep 30-Oct 3	Men's Walk #36
Oct 2 (8pm)	Candlelight—Trinity UMC
Oct 7-10	Women's Walk #36
Oct 9 (8 pm)	Candlelight—Trinity UMC
Oct 22	Gathering—Bethel UMC (Columbia)
Dec 4	Christmas Party—Brookland UMC

Next Gathering—Friday, July 23, 2010

at

Platt Springs UMC

West Columbia

Sponsorship Training at 6:45 pm

Pot Luck Supper at 7:00 pm

Worship at 8:00 pm (Childcare provided)

Directions: from Sumter: From US 76/378 towards Columbia, turn Left to take ramp onto I-77 S towards Charleston/Spartanburg (go 8.3 miles). Take Spartanburg exit onto I-26 W (go 2.5 miles). Take exit #113/Cayce/Cola Airport (go 0.1 miles). Turn Left on Airport Blvd (SC-302) (go .1 miles). Bear Left on Tarrytown Ln (go 0.6 miles). Turn L on Platt Springs Rd (SC-602) (go 0.9 miles). Arrive at Church, on left.

from Aiken: Take I-20 E towards Cola (go 39.6 miles). Take exit #58/Cola Airport/West Cola onto Augusta Rd (US-1) toward West Cola/Cola Airport – (go 4.2 miles). Turn R on Wattling Rd – (go 1.5 miles). Turn Left on Platt Springs Rd (SC-602) – (go 0.3 miles). Arrive at Church, on right.

from Prosperity: Take I-26 E toward Cola, take exit #113/Cola Airport (SC-302)/Cayce – (go 0.1 miles). Turn R on Tarrytown Ln – (go 0.6 miles). Turn Left on Platt Springs Rd (SC-602) – (go 0.9 miles). Arrive at Church, on left.

Visit our website at
www.midlandsemmaus.com