

# EMMAUS OF THE MIDLANDS MESSENGER

*February 2012*

## **From the Spiritual Director**

*by David Anderson*

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I have just returned from the funeral service of a member of my extended family. During the service I was reminded that God has shown us love in the most dramatic way possible in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. All other expressions of love seem to pale at the gift of eternal life that God has provided through Jesus Christ.

This expression of AGAPE is what the Walk to Emmaus is all about; God loving us so much that despite our faults, He still loves us. God's love does not give us a "three strikes and you are out" kind of love, but a love that is steadfast and unconditional, even if we stray. It is a love that never ends. Thank be to God for that love!

But we can share that love with others by sharing the love of Christ. The way to become rich in God is to give God's love to all that we see and that see us.

DeColores,

David

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## **From the Lay Director**

*by Anne Prescott*

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Hearts. Flowers. Candy. Balloons. Cards. Everywhere we look we can see these symbols of love. We make an extra effort to tell our family and friends that we love them.

In the Bible, the word love is used hundreds of times. We are instructed who to love. Love God. Love our neighbor. Love one another. Love our enemies.

First Corinthians 13 tells us what love is and is not... *"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged...There are three things that will endure—faith, hope and love—and the greatest of these is love."*

As a Christian, we should show God's love to our world through our actions, words, and attitudes. Our very being should be a reflection of Christ. The world should be able to see His love for them through us.

Just as we make that special effort to remind those close to us that we love them, should we not also make the same special effort to tell all of God's children that God loves them.

As you journey through your Fourth Day, remember God loves you and wants you to share His love with others.

De Colores!!!!

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The board is currently soliciting active community members who are willing to commit to serve as board members for the next 3 years. Five (5) board members rotate off each year.

If you are interested in running for the board, please let any of the board members know as soon as possible. We will publicize the list of those running in March.

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## **A word from Chrysalis**

*by Bobby Bowers*

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There will be a girls Chrysalis flight in Charlotte, North Carolina on November 8-11, 2012 to be held at Mill Grove UMC. The cost for the weekend is \$100.00 and a deposit of \$35.00 is required with application. The Chrysalis Board is willing to help with the cost of the Charlotte flights. If anyone is interested, please call Bobby Bowers immediately at 803-359-2394.

## **Agape Needs**

*by Debbie Murphy*

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The snack room will be up and running full speed on both of the Spring Walks in March. We are in need of items that pilgrims, in that moment of "crazy" packing, might have left behind. We all remember those things : over-the-counter meds, toothpaste, mouthwash, soap, shampoo, razors, EAR PLUGS...and did I mention EAR PLUGS! Thanks for your help in advance.

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**There is still time to turn in applications for available spaces on both upcoming Walks. Please contact Carolyn McLean / Registrar at [chmclean55@yahoo.com](mailto:chmclean55@yahoo.com) or 803.414.6216.**

## **Planting the Seeds of Agape**

*by Karen Hartman*

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Seeds are a renewable source in the scheme of life. In Emmaus, it is a renewable source to fund the Walks. When given this task, the thought came—how does God want this represented in our community? A vision of wheat came as well as an explanation of how to represent this great ministry among us. So, off to the hobby store I go to find wheat. In the bargain bin, I found some ribbon with crosses; put together with the wheat, this is what came to mind.

The wheat is used for the making of the bread of life-Jesus. In giving your seeds (money), the community can continue to be part of making the bread of life (Jesus) real to the pilgrims, who will in turn make more bread known in their churches.

The second observation I received is that the seed pods are not the same. Some are large, others smaller, which reminded me of our gifts. We are not all blessed with the same gifts. Our seed agape reflects different amounts to be given as you are lead. Our first and foremost gift is our tithe that should be given to our church. This offering of seed agape should be secondary to that tithe.

The ribbon represents the headship of Christ that brings us into community. The song *Bind us Together Lord* comes to mind when I see that ribbon tied around the wheat. An Emmaus Walk can only happen through the leadership of Christ who binds all our gifts together to work as a body.

So, how do we do this seed agape? There will be a table set up at every Gathering with the wheat in a vase and envelopes marked for different gifts that can be given to be a renewable source among us and to bring the bread of life to the pilgrims. Each envelope has different items that will be purchased for future Walks such as crosses, devotional books, printing of items etc. Take the envelope, fill it with the amount you can give and drop it in the offering or send it to the Emmaus of Midlands mail box.

The board is asking for a sound system which is above the normal seed agape items, to be placed with the other seed agape. Please prayerfully consider your part in seed agape for this project and the upcoming Walks. De Colores!!

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There are still plenty of spaces available on the Prayer Vigil for Walk 39. You can sign up on our website at [www.midlandsemmaus.com](http://www.midlandsemmaus.com), and there will also be sign-up sheets available at the Gathering at Rehoboth UMC on February 24.

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## **A word from Public Relations**

*by Bobby Sandifer*

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I would like to thank Pastor Constance Nelson Barnes and all the church members from St. Matthews UMC and Emmanuel UMC in Camden, SC for giving the Emmaus community the opportunity to come and share The Walk to Emmaus. I have operators standing by waiting on someone to call. If you know of any church that has an interest in the Emmaus presentation, just call our hot line at 803-983-7380. May our Lord and Savior be with you and your family as we press on into this New Year.



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**Visit our website**

**[www.midlandsemmaus.com](http://www.midlandsemmaus.com)**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **APRIL**

#### **Emmaus Gathering...April 27**

Pot Luck Dinner @ 7 pm

Program @ 8 pm

Mt. Horeb UMC

1205 Old Cherokee Rd

Lexington, SC

803.359.3495



**From Sumter:** Take Hwy 76/378 West to Columbia, exit onto I-77 South, then merge onto I-26 West. Take Exit 111A onto US 1 / Augusta Rd through Lexington, continuing on Old Chapin Rd. Merge left onto Old Cherokee Rd, Mt. Horeb UMC is on the left.

**From Aiken:** Take I-26 East to Exit 55, then left onto Hwy 6. Coming into Lexington, turn left onto Hwy 1 / East Main St, continuing on Old Chapin Rd. Merge left onto Old Cherokee Rd, Mt. Horeb UMC is on the left.

**Mar 12**

EOM Board Meeting (7 pm, Windsor UMC)

**Mar 15-18**

Men's Walk #39

**Mar 17 @ 8 pm**

*Candlelight—Trinity UMC (W. Columbia)*

**Mar 22-25**

Women's Walk #39

**Mar 24 @ 8 pm**

*Candlelight—Trinity UMC (W. Columbia)*

**Apr 9**

EOM Board Meeting (7 pm, Windsor UMC)

**May 14**

EOM Board Meeting (7 pm, Windsor UMC)

**May 25**

Gathering @ Wesley UMC (on the corner of Gervais and Barnwell)