

EMMAUS OF THE MIDLAND MESSENGER

July 2013

From the Chairman

In the June Newsletter you were introduced to our new Board Officers and new Board Members along with each person's responsibilities for the coming 2013-2014 year. Please remember that the sole purpose of the Emmaus of the Midlands Board is to put on Walks and serve the members of our community. Please keep each of us in your prayers as we strive to carry out these responsibilities. We are always open to any suggestions as to how we can better serve you and as space permits in each newsletter we will try to list all Board Members and their contact information. In the event the information you need isn't in the newsletter please remember you can always go to the Emmaus of the Midlands website.

At the July Board meeting a resolution was passed to reduce Team Members Fees from \$125 to \$95. Please keep in mind that if this is a financial burden and would keep anyone from serving on a team that there is scholarship money available to cover all or part of this fee. Also, this same policy of scholarship money applies to Pilgrim fees.

Please everyone, let's get busy and fill up these upcoming Walks!

God bless,
Leonard May

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Leonard May – Board Chairman

Emmaus of the Midlands Walk # 25

Table of Matthew,
Wightman UMC, Prosperity, SC

Retired Textile Manager; born in Sandersville, Georgia and grew up in Milledgeville, Georgia; Graduated from Southern Poly Tech in Marietta, Georgia. Married to Therry May for 39 years and we have 3 children, three grandchildren and 2 step-grandchildren.

During my career it seems like we have lived all over the Southeast with stops in Washington, GA, Salisbury, NC, Chattanooga, TN, Gastonia, NC, and finally Prosperity, SC.

Before my Walk to Emmaus I was pretty much a bench warmer going through the motions but since my Walk I have a passion for serving God in many different ways including Sunday School teacher, Stephens Minister, UMVIM, ERT and home missions and serving the Emmaus community.

However, my greatest passion is foreign missions through UMVIM and unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the July Gathering because we will be on our way back home from the Dominican Republic.

DeColores,

There will be a Sponsorship Training Session at the July Gathering for those who wish to become sponsors beginning at 6:45. The session will be led by Debbie Carter in room 215 of the Educational Building. Sponsorship Training is required prior to becoming a sponsor.

Also, child care will be provided at the Gathering. Please call the church office (803-736-6386) and let them know how many to plan for.

EMMAUS OF THE MIDLAND MESSENGER

July 2013

Beware of Emmaus Cliques

By: Tom Furse

We need to bend over backwards to avoid cliques in our congregations. Many congregations present Emmaus as an open community within the community of faith, not unlike a Sunday school class or a women's ministry circle or mission group. In these churches, fourth day reunion groups include a mix of people who have and have not participated in the Walk. Every reunion is an open invitation to everyone who wants to attend. Many good people have been sponsored because they first caught the spirit of Emmaus during a small group discussion or a pot-luck supper at the church.

When Emmaus pilgrims hug one another but not other people, they make the Emmaus community appear cliquish. People who have shared intense experiences feel close to one another. But when the people of a congregation observe pilgrims hugging one another and shaking hands with everybody else, they wonder – and rightly so. If we are going to hug anybody, we should be ready and willing to hug everybody. We should, of course, remember that hugging is not always welcome. I Corinthians 16:20 encourages the faithful to “greet one another with a holy kiss.” The modern equivalent may be a Christian embrace, but it is up to individuals to communicate their feelings about hugging.

The integrity of our experience during the Walk to Emmaus will be determined in large part by how we relate to people in our churches, both pilgrims and people who have not participated in Emmaus. The Bible advises us to walk wisely toward others. Wisdom means avoiding anything that could possibly paint Emmaus with the colors of cliquishness or secrecy. There is nothing secret about Emmaus.

Music Chair – Karen Hartman

Here's a note (la la la) from the Music Chair! Just a reminder! Emmaus of the Midlands has a CCLI License that needs to be used. If anyone makes copies for any function for the weekend, gathering or anyplace related to EOM I need to report it on our license. From here on out I will provide a form to fill out with songs used and the license number that needs to be included on all song sheets. Exceptions are songs out of the UM hymnal. If you have any questions please feel free to email me, text me, or call, Karen Hartman 803.513.3032. K.mariehartman@gmail.com

I am here to serve you in any capacity dealing with music & sound support. If you need a group to sing for your gathering or a pianist, please communicate with me. We now have a projector, flash drive with songs and the communion service ready to be used. So if your church does not have this equipment please let me know and we will get it set up for you. If you do have the equipment I can email you the Emmaus songs and the communion service so you can project it.

I am here to serve you! If you would like to sing, play an instrument or do improve, please let me know. At the next gathering there will be sign-up sheets to expand our music ministers. Thank you to all that have let me know what preference for serving is to our community. Looking forward to singing along with you
De Colores

EMMAUS OF THE MIDLAND MESSENGER

July 2013

"What Is That Going To Look Like?"

When Neil Armstrong died, many memories of the race to the moon between Russia and the United States of America were remembered. With each new mission something was learned whether it was from something going as planned or something veering off course. Each new mission brought NASA closer to achieving their goal of putting a man on the moon. Can you imagine the challenges faced by the astronauts. Their mission was beyond the world, as they had known, all of their minds and lives were stretched beyond their imagination. Each member of the team was important. When we entered this new era of space exploration, there was not one man touching the moon but rather an entire nation was touching and experiencing the moon through this man as the nation watched in utter and complete amazement.

Our memories shape us and over time create who and what we become with each passing moment, day, and year. Our lives are lived within a community. The church lives within a community that calls us into the world by the power of the Holy Spirit and the God that is simply: Out of This World!

Sometimes when we hear what God is calling and asking us to do in the world, we think, "That ain't happening!" If we are not careful our thoughts will become reality. And God will do, what God has always done, find OTHER followers of His Son Jesus that will listen to his call upon their lives and earnestly seek to do his will. God gives us a chance, but if we will not heed his voice and call upon our lives; God will find a people who will listen and heed his voice.

The Past and the Future are always, in tension, in the Present. One calls us to the experiences of the Past that are comfortable and comforting and have helped make us who we have become. The other calls us out of the boat to walk where we have never walked before into the Future in a process of becoming more than we have previously known. We are intrigued at the possibility of keeping one foot in the boat (For stability and comfort), and one foot in the water (For excitement and unknown stories that everyone will long to hear).

We like Peter, and Neil and long list of other unknown adventures had to trust that while the future was unknown the allure of knowing more about life and God would enhance our lives in ways that we don't fully understand until we are there in the Future. Churches throughout the world are seeking to be alive in Jesus Christ so they will make new disciples for God through his Son. As the world around us all continues to change daily, we find comfort in the past and struggle with an unknown future. Our lives, if they are placed in God's hand will be taken into ministry, to people we have not known and places that we have never been before; but God is already there waiting for his people. Will you be God's person? Will we in the Emmaus of the Midlands Community and our churches seek to know and follow God's adventure for our life that awaits?

I will guarantee you that it will be an adventure that you will Never, Ever, Forget!

SERVING WITH JESUS IN THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME,

Pastor Wayne Smith

Spiritual Director for EOM

Emmaus of the Midlands
PO Box 25165
Columbia, SC 20224-5165



www.emmausofthemidlands.com

July

Emmaus Gathering...July 26
Pot Luck Dinner @ 7 pm
Program @ 8 pm
Northeast UMC
4000 Hardscrabble Road
Columbia, SC 29223
803-736-6386



Upcoming Events

Aug 12	EOM Board Meeting Windsor UMC @7 pm
Aug 23	Gathering @ Lexington UMC (Lexington)
Sept 9	EOM Board Meeting Windsor UMC @7 pm
Sept 27	Gathering @ First Christian Church (Columbia)
Oct 17-20	Men's Walk #42
Oct 24-27	Women's Walk #42
Oct	No Gathering
Nov	No Gathering
Dec 7	Christmas TBD

From Sumter: Take I-20 West towards Columbia. Take Exit # 80 (Clemson Road). Turn right and go five miles. You will pass the Village of Sandhills on the left. Turn left on to Hardscrabble Road. Go 1 mile and arrive at church.

From Aiken: Take I 20 East towards Columbia. Take Exit # 72 (Farrow Road/US555). Turn left at the stoplight and proceed on Farrow Road/US555 for 3.4 miles. Turn right on Hardscrabble Road and go 1.9 miles and arrive at church on right.

From Prosperity: Take I 26 South to Columbia. Take Exit # 1078/Florence. Go 8.3 miles on I 20 East towards Florence. Take Exit # 72 (Farrow Road/US555). Turn left at the stoplight and proceed on Farrow Road/US555 for 3.4 miles. Turn right on Hardscrabble Road and go 1.9 miles and arrive at church on right.