

Lowcountry Emmaus

And their eyes were opened, and they knew him. Luke 24:31

Volume 14 Number 10

October 2005

TO THE COMMUNITY

I would like to thank Bethel United Methodist Church for hosting our September gathering. Those of you who were not there missed a great 4th day talk given by Bill Owens, who also was not there (but his message was felt).

At the gathering we handled some business regarding means of supporting our Gulf friends who are suffering in recent losses. The board brought to the community that we would donate \$500.00 plus the offering collected at the gathering to UMCOR, which is the United Methodist Relief Organization. All the funds received go directly to the relief efforts. Those who were not at the gathering but want to help through our community can mail a check to the community and mark it for hurricane victims. At the gathering we collected approximately \$1,000.00. Those who can help with financial support are needed, but also there is much need for prayer for these families whose lives are displaced.

On another note about evacuees, the camp has been listed as a place for maybe housing people temporarily. If this comes about, we may ask some help for those people brought there. Keep in your heart what you may be able to do if this occurs.

Getting back to some local thoughts about our upcoming gathering at Camp S&M on Saturday, October 15th from approximately 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 PM, if you want to come early, you can and enjoy the camp. This is a time when we hope to get excited for the Lord again and do his

will. Lunch will be a covered dish, and the board will supply the paper products, ice, and drinks. This will be a great time to invite friends, family, and those who have not been active in a while. There will be music, fellowship, and fond memories and food again. Keep in mind that gatherings are open to children, prospective pilgrims, and those who want to be among other Christians and praise God. Please also bring a lounge chair for sitting.

This month's gathering can be a time of focus on what God wants us to do about upcoming walks in the spring. We are still behind on the number of applications for the spring walk. We have approximately 10 men and women and we must have 20 to go forward. The date for making this determination is Dec 16th at our gathering. The team selection committee will be meeting in November. Let's not wait until December to make that quota. We have to ask ourselves whether we are committed to make the walks happen, because there are team members who will be called on to commit. We don't want to let them down and most all let down God, who is committed to each one of us. The spring walk lay directors will be Cliff Simpson and Teresa Strickland. The Lay Directors in Training will be Dudley Patrick and Julie Simpson. Be in prayer for these walks but also for God's call in each of our lives.

A note about walks, candlelight, send off, closing and gatherings: For the new pilgrims who may not have experienced the other side, we

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Need an application? You can download one on the web at
<http://www.umcsc.net/communities/lowcountryemmaus/application.pdf>
Don't forget to check the important dates on the back page.

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

All my friends in the Low Country Emmaus Community,

I thought I would write to you about some thoughts I have had concerning what has been happening to our fellow countrymen in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. I also want to comment on the offering we received at the last gathering.

In recent years I have come to a new understanding of what God's requirement for us is when faced with circumstances such as these. My thoughts are based on a Scripture passage found in Matthew. Jesus is telling his disciples some events which will happen when time is over and we are judged. This passage is found in the 25th chapter, verses 34 through 39. "The King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me. Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.'"

Wow! I don't know about you but these verses kinda upset some of my beliefs. Won't Jesus judge us on how we behaved on earth? Won't he ask us how many times we prayed, or went to church, or if we tithed and supported the ministry of our local congregation? While all these things are great to do, and believe me they are very important, the bottom line is, No. Jesus will judge us on how we treated people when we were given the opportunity while living on earth. I know I sound like I'm preaching, but I believe this is important for us to understand as God's people. Sometimes we get so caught up in doing God's work on earth that we forget that what

really matters is people.

That is why I am so proud and pleased about what this Emmaus community did for those who are suffering from the devastation of Katrina. Your generosity will be remembered not only by those whom the offering will help but by the great Judge as well. You all should feel a sense of accomplishment.

But while we celebrate, let us not forget there is still much to do. I encourage any of you who can to go on a mission trip. If you have a special skill, please offer it to God, and remember the old saying: God doesn't call those with ability; God calls those who have availability.

Have a blessed month, and I look forward to seeing you all again in October.

*De Colores,
Steve Gaither*

THIS MONTH'S GATHERING

Saturday, October 15, 2005
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Camp Summers and Magnet
(Southern Methodist Camp)
Cameron, SC 29030

Covered-dish lunch. Be sure to bring serving utensils. Paper products and drinks will be provided. For more details, please see Dan Hare's column on page one.

Don't forget your lawn chairs.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CAMP

Take I-26 to the SC 33 (Cameron) exit. Turn north on SC 33. Just as you come to the edge of town, the road to the camp turns off to the left. There is a white sign at the corner indicating the turn for the camp.

If you are coming from I-95, take the US 176 exit and go west until you come to the SC 33 intersection in Cameron. Turn left and look for the camp turn-off on the right as you come to the edge of town.

Board of Directors

Position	Name	Phone	E-mail address	Class
Lay Director	Dan Hare	843-899-6626	adhareww@homexpressway.net	2007
Spiritual Director	Steve Gaither	843-744-9962	alders@dycon.com	2006
Assistant Spiritual Director	Anthony Hodge	843-824-1419	ahodge3@umcsc.org	2006
Vice-Chair/Treasurer	Babs Patrick	843-881-0857	babspatrick@bellsouth.net	2007
Secretary/Team Selection	Kerry Dwyer	843-871-8781	kdwyer@sc.rr.com	2006
Kitchen	Hal Ellman	843-871-6871	BadSlicer@aol.com	2006
Literature/Letters/Supplies	Emily Ghassemzadeh	843-849-6507	emily.ghassemzadeh@tenethealth.com	2006
Agape	Lisa Hawkins	843-577-7719	Chaswesfdn@bellsouth.net	2006
Registrar	Joel Strickland	843-871-1406	jstdhs@yahoo.com	2006
Gatherings	Michael Arant	843-889-6511	jmarant@umcsc.org	2007
Newsletter	Terry Lupo	843-856-9246	terry@lupofamily.org	2007
Fourth Day	Betty Vannoy	803-499-3635	mandbvannoy@yahoo.com	2007
Music/Entertainment	Jennie Goodman	843-766-9597		2008
Prayer Vigil/Refreshments	Ray Metts	843-873-5667	rmetts@peoplepc.com	2008
Luggage/Transportation	Joel Hand	803-245-2395	joelwhand@bellsouth.net	2008
Housing	Jim Roth	843-846-0459	mandj@islc.net	2008
Sendoff/Candlelight/Closing	Cindy Weatherford	843-563-2163		2008

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ask that crosses not be worn at sendoffs or candlelight because the pilgrims have not received them. At sendoff, candlelight, and closings we ask that there not be any cameras, because this could make some pilgrims uncomfortable.

Name tags should be worn every time we gather so we can help remember each others names. Believe me, I am the world's worst with names, but remember faces. Crosses can be worn at closing and all gatherings.

Sendoff, candlelight, and closing do not have child care, so please have prior arrangements. At all gatherings child care is provided by the community and is the responsibility of the board member in charge of the gathering.

During walks at the camp, non-visibility is important. When working in the kitchen or whatever capacity you are helping, we must enter from the back of the camp and be as inconspicuous as possible. Our servanthood is anonymous servanthood, which is low-keyed and behind-the-scenes, not to draw attention to us. The basic guideline for serving in the different support roles is to serve humbly, selflessly, and invisibly, so far as possible.

To conclude, I would like to say that this Lowcountry Emmaus has inspired me in more ways that you can imagine, but I know that is

because of the Spirit of God in this community. As I am writing this letter, Hurricane Rita hit, and with the many prayers that went out, there was a different outcome as was in Louisiana and Mississippi. May God be with all those who were in this tragedy and also with you.

*De Colores,
Dan Hare*

TREASURER'S REPORT

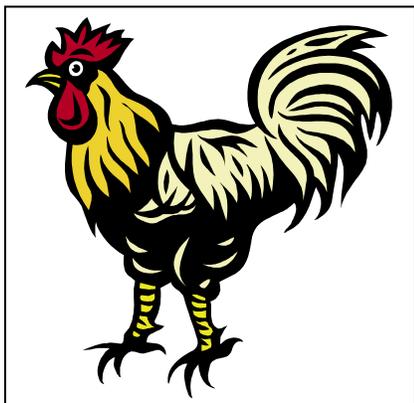
Beginning Balance	\$4,230.83
Deposits	979.00
Disbursements	1,628.79
Ending Balance	\$3,581.04
Savings	\$2,993.36

Thanks to all of you who contributed to the Hurricane Katrina offering! \$979.00 was collected at the Gathering and the Board voted to send an extra \$500. A check was sent in the amount of \$1500 to UMCOR to assist with Hurricane Recovery. Again, God bless your generosity.

*De Colores,
Babs Patrick*

Lowcountry Emmaus
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Lowcountry Emmaus Calendar of Events

- Oct. 11** Board Meeting (7:00 PM)
- Oct. 15** Picnic Gathering at the Southern Methodist Camp in Cameron – covered dish (11:00 AM - 3:00 PM)
- Nov. 18** Gathering (7:30 PM)
Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Sumter
- Dec. 16** Gathering (7:30 PM)
Stallville United Methodist Church

Future Walk Dates

Men: March 16-19, 2006

Women: March 30 – April 2, 2006

20 applications for each walk must be received by December 16, 2005

Men: October 12-15, 2006

Women: October 26-29, 2006

20 applications for each walk must be received by July 12, 2006

Remember: All dates are tentative until we have enough pilgrims registered for that weekend.

Deadline for newsletter is the 25th of each month