



Walk to Emmaus®

THE UPPER ROOM®

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From the Lay Directors



Ray and Deb
Murphy

Can you believe it's already spring-time? This year is moving forward and we have been blessed in the Heart of Carolina Emmaus Community. We have completed two Walks and will soon have another one in April. This means that many more have experienced the love of Christ in a way like no other.

We have a lot more opportunities to serve and be part of the excitement and joy of Emmaus. If you haven't served behind the scenes, prayerfully consider all the various ways you can serve ... kitchen, snacks, agape, altars, transportation, luggage, supplies, clean-up, prayer vigil, prayer chapel and sponsorship, just to name a few.

Your HOC Board of Directors recently met for a retreat, where the theme was "Have You Seen Jesus My Lord?"

Have you seen Jesus my Lord?

He's here in plain view

Take a look open your eyes.

He'll show it to you

Have you ever looked at the sunset
with the sky mellowing' red and
the clouds suspended like feathers?

Then I say

you've seen Jesus my Lord

Have you ever stood at the ocean
with the white foam at your feet?

Felt the endless thundering' motion?

Then I say

you've seen Jesus my Lord

Have you ever looked at the cross
with a man hanging' in pain and
the look of love in His eyes?

Then I say

you've seen Jesus my Lord

Have you ever stood in the family
with the Lord there in your midst
seen the face of Christ

on your neighbor?

Then I say

you've seen Jesus my Lord

Have you seen Jesus my Lord?

He's here in plain view.

Take a look open your eyes.

He'll show it to you

We say that we Jesus our Lord
every time we share communion,
serve one another, sing in worship
and praise and eat snacks together in
the HOC Emmaus Community.

Come, join us and see Jesus our
Lord.

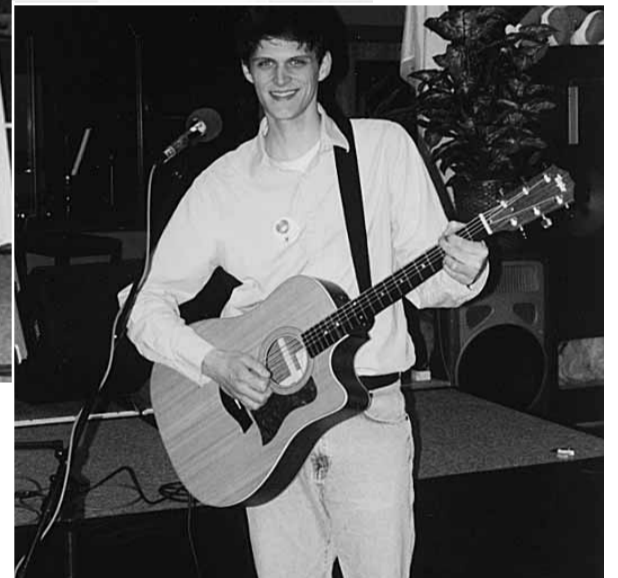
DeColores!

Ray and Deb Murphy



February 23rd Gathering

Above: Edenton Street UMC Liturgical Dance Team (from left to right: Linda Davis, Domini Boling, Chris Buchanan and Anita Hall, not pictured: Brooke Gunter). Right: Jason Justice, Flight #29, Table of the MOG Squad.



Building Emmaus in the Local Church

I was asked to provide some insight by the editor of our community newsletter as to what you can do to activate a vibrant Emmaus Community in your local church. I was not the originator of our church community. "Jesus" my Lord and Savior was, and still is. Our church community was established when each of us answered "God's" call to make the Walk to Emmaus, so I take "No Credit" for its inception and continual growth. The call was given to me by our new Pastor, Dr. Sam Wynn, because he wanted to get to know the members and get them involved in our church activities and mission endeavors.

He asked me to get them all together for a church wide meeting for all members of our Emmaus Church Community, which I did, thus the formulation of activation of our community members.

We elected a local team chairmen for our community to get started. I had the distinct pleasure of being that person in our community's initial start-up.

We discussed ways and means of operation within our church and community. Here are some initial steps to take in setting up an active Emmaus Church Community:

(1) Pastoral support and affirmation "Required."

(2) Elect a team chairman, who in turn will select four other community members to serve with that person on the Church Council in an advisory capacity.

(3) Define term for serving as team leader, unless voted on otherwise by your community. Ours is one year.

(4) Establish a church operating budget to submit to the finance committee for approval. Your budget should include costs for books, printing and other needed equipment.

(5) Have at least quarterly meetings. Have the community members vote on the day, time and other pertinent for those meetings. Ours is usually on a Sunday afternoon other than on Walk weekends or other conflicts.

(6) Have "open meetings" and invite all members and friends of your Emmaus and Chrysalis Communities.

(7) Have guest speakers at your community meetings or utilize your church community members to give their testimony.

(8) Initially, we had no funds to start-up. We got a start-up budget from the church and repaid it back by having dinner fundraisers. We now

have a flat membership fee of \$10.00 annually per member to be utilized for deaths within the community.

(9) Encourage active reunion participation within your community.

(10) We have been very blessed with a devoted community of leaders. Use them when you need them for sponsorship training, evangelism or any other need you may have. Their names and e-mail addresses are on the inside cover of this newsletter.

(11) Volunteer to work in all the areas of need for an upcoming Walk.

(12) Sponsors need to remember your obligations towards each of your pilgrims.

Lead by example, better known as christian action.

The keys to a vibrant and active Emmaus Community in your church are: (1) christian environment (2) commitment and (3) communication. These are essential in keeping your community active and informed.

How do you attain these three goals?

(1) Use the church for your meetings.

(2) Commit to attend.

(3) Communicate with your brothers and sisters.

Building - continued on back