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# THE MIDLANDS MESSENGER

*Emmaus of The Midlands*

*January 2006*

## From the Board Chairman

*By: Laxton Hinson*

This is a very special time of the year for Christians all over the world. We have just celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ and our hearts and minds are filled with prayers for peace on earth and joy to all who believe in Him. Let us remember to keep those same prayers and those same feelings throughout the New Year. It will sustain us.

As we enter January, let us also continue to pray for those in our Community who have the desire to walk closer with Christ. Who among us will be willing to step forward and accept the responsibility to serve as a Disciple to potential Pilgrims? With whom will you share information about the Walk to Emmaus? It would be wonderful to have two full walks this spring. When I think about our ability to fill every available spot on the Walk to Emmaus, several things immediately come to my mind:

- I believe we should have a full walk every time because there are still Christian men and women out there who want to have a personal relationship with Jesus;
- I believe we should have a full walk every time because there are hundreds, maybe thousands of people in churches in our communities who have never heard of the Walk to Emmaus; and,
- I believe we should have a full walk every time because there are churches in our communities who are not growing and they are ministering to the needs of God's people; they need new and more involved leadership or they will cease to be effective.

Please pray now that new Pilgrims will come forth when they are invited and then act on your own prayer by contacting someone soon and tell them about the Walk to Emmaus. There are other things happening in January that need your prayers, too. Please pray for the Men's and Women's Teams for Walk #28. They will be training at Camp Agape on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Then, on the 27<sup>th</sup>, we will have the Anointing Ceremony for both Teams at the January Gathering. Please pray for this very special event. Let us continue to pray for the Men's Walk on Feb. 23-26 and the Women's Walk on March 9-12.

Finally, let us continue to pray for the future of Camp Agape. We have had no major movement in any direction yet, but I know you've been praying. Some of you have come forward to tell me of your concern. You want to know what will happen to "our" Camp if we can't do "something". Some of you have talked with members of the Board and shared some ideas with them. Isn't it time for you to share your ideas with the entire Community? Will you please share the results of your prayers with all of us? You can write, e-mail, or call me. What will happen to Camp Agape and what role will we play in it?

**DeColores**

**It is with a heavy heart the we learn that Phylis Plemmons the wife of Kenney Plemmons passed away on December 21st after a long battle a respiratory illness.**

**Phylis was a pilgrim on Walk # 26.**

**Please remember the Plemmons' family in your prayers.**

## Prayers

Laxton Hinson, Stern and Sherri Bolton, Madonna Graham, bereaved families of Vera Proctor and Jerius Stork, Family of Eddie McLemore, Cub and Boy Scout troop #20, number of recent accidents and suicides in Aiken area, George Cancer, team and pilgrims for upcoming walks, sponsorship decisions, Emmaus board and decisions to be made, nominations for Emmaus board, motor industry and employees, Virginia Summer, Katrina victims, troops overseas.

## Praises

Praise for improvements at Wesley UMC, children's hand bell choir at Rehoboth, Jerry McLemore's new job, Joey Mendiola sold house after 2 years.



## Emmaus Education Corner

### Chrysalis Flights

*By: Doris Crocker*

When we start our own Chrysalis we would like to have some adults and youth who are willing to participate. We can prepare for our flights by attending those in the following communities.

Carolina Coast Community is offering a flight for boys January 21-23 and for girls March 4-6. Registration forms and information are available at [www.ccchrysalis.com](http://www.ccchrysalis.com)

Coastal Georgia Community (which is quite near Aiken area) offers a boys' flight Jan 19-22 and a girls' flight Jan 26-28. Go to [www.segaemmaus.org](http://www.segaemmaus.org) for details.

There is a thriving community near Atlanta in Georgia. They have flights for boys and girls Jan 12-15, 19-22, 26-29 and April 6-9 and 20-23. Try [www.hogchrysalis.org](http://www.hogchrysalis.org)

Two girls and two members of the steering committee are planning to attend the flight in Coastal Carolina community and some steering committee members will be going to the flight in Atlanta in April.

If you know of young people, grades 10 -12 who would be interested in going, or if you are interested in knowing more about Chrysalis and would like to work on a team in any of these communities, please get in touch with Doris Crocker at 803-932-0366 or [doriscrocker@bellsouth.net](mailto:doriscrocker@bellsouth.net) or contact the community and make arrangements.

### Table Agape

*By: Doris Crocker*

When members of this community visit Chrysalis communities as observers or team members we would like to feel that we have the support of our friends here. One of the best ways to show this would be to **bring 72 table agape to the gathering in January** or give it to a member of the Chrysalis steering committee or Emmaus Board.

Please remember that the recipients will be youth in 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Thank you in anticipation of your generous response.

(Steering committee members are Nelda Canada, Frances Osteen, Joye Brotherton, Rev. Dickie Knight, John Chitty, Alice Douglas, Chuck Davis, Susan Caskey, Emily Caskey, Jeff McClendon, Victoria McClendon, Doris Crocker and Chris Goodman.)

### Golden Slippers

*By: Author Unknown*

It was only four days before Christmas. The spirit of the season hadn't yet caught up with me, even though cars packed the parking lot of our local discount store. Inside the store, it was worse. Shopping carts and last minute shoppers jammed the aisles.

Why did I come today? I wondered. My feet ached almost as much as my head. My list contained names of several people who claimed they wanted nothing but I knew their feelings would be hurt if I didn't buy them something.

Buying for someone who had everything and deploring the high cost of items, I considered gift-buying anything but fun.

Hurriedly, I filled my shopping cart with last minute items and proceeded to the long checkout lines. I picked the shortest but it looked as if it would mean at least a 20 minute wait.

In front of me were two small children - a boy of about 5 and a younger girl. The boy wore a ragged coat. Enormously large, tattered tennis shoes jutted far out in front of his much too short jeans. He clutched several crumpled dollar bills in his grimy hands.

The girl's clothing resembled her brother's. Her head was a matted mass of curly hair. Reminders of an evening meal showed on her small face. She carried a beautiful pair of shiny, gold house slippers. As the Christmas music sounded in the store's stereo system, the girl hummed along, off-key but happily.

When we finally approached the checkout register, the girl carefully placed the shoes on the counter. She treated them as though they were a treasure.

The clerk rang up the bill. "That will be \$6.09," she said.

The boy laid his crumpled dollars atop the stand while he searched his pockets. He finally came up with \$3.12.

"I guess we will have to put them back," he bravely said. "We will come back some other time, maybe tomorrow."

With that statement, a soft sob broke from the little girl. "But Jesus would have loved these shoes," she cried.

"Well, we'll go home and work some more. Don't cry. We'll come back," he said. Quickly I handed \$3.00 to the cashier. These children had waited in line for a long time. And, after all, it was Christmas. Suddenly a pair of arms came around me and a small voice said, "Thank you lady." "What did you mean when you said Jesus would like the shoes?" I asked.

The boy answered, "Our Mommy is sick and going to heaven. Daddy said she might go before Christmas to be with Jesus."

The girl spoke, "My Sunday school teacher said the streets in heaven are shiny gold, just like these shoes. Won't Mommy be beautiful walking on those streets to match these shoes?" My eyes flooded as I looked into her tear streaked face. "Yes" I answered, "I am sure she will."

Silently I thanked God for using these children to remind me of the true spirit of giving."

And the King shall answer and say unto them, "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done to the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me". Matthew 25 vs 40.

## DOLLAR\$&CENTS

### Financial Record

November 2005

Beginning Balance: 11/1/05 \$10,976

**Income:** Candlelight  
Community Store  
Walk/Team Fees

Total Income \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenses:** Walk Supplies  
Walk Food  
Community Store  
Walk Books  
Postage  
Bank Fees

Total Expenses \_\_\_\_\_

Ending Balance: (no report) =====

## The Emmaus Christmas Party

By: Joan Gathers

The annual Emmaus Christmas Party was held Saturday December 10 at Camp Agape. The Community assembled at 5:30 for an hour of fine dining and fellowship. The food was, as usual, outstanding!

After dinner the Community shared some of the ministries that our churches are involved with. We are all part of the Body of Christ and we are all called to be involved in different ministries. The following outreach ministries were shared at the Christmas Party.

McLeod UMC and Bethel UMC both have the Upper Room prayer lines. These lines are operated by different members of the respective churches on a once a month basis.

Lewis Chapel helped with a Shoebox ministry at the distribution center in Charlotte. They are also planning a Mission trip to the Gulf Coast area, to assist Katrina victims. The age requirement for this trip is 16 years and older. They also have an annual fishing trip for children. All fish are caught, cleaned, prepared and donated by the youths.

Chapin UMC is involved in helping with housing the needy. They refurbish homes and built a mobile home on the church grounds. The home was donated to a family with a need.

Wesley UMC involved in Epiphany and a once a month Soup Kitchen, where the homeless are provided with food for the body and for the soul.

First Christian had a Health Fair where they provided information for healthier lifestyles and also provided testing for high blood pressure. They also had a yard sale with the proceeds being donated to different charities

St. John's UMC in Batesburg are very involved with the children in their area. They provide mentoring to these young people in need. They also provided a Christmas party for the youths.

Wesley Memorial UMC – Celebrations – A monthly meeting for Women with the purpose of Praising and Worshiping God. This ministry is designed for meeting the Spiritual needs of Women. The first meeting is January 28, 2006 at the church. The James Club a Sunday school class for

those with an addiction. The class is also for friends and family members of the addicted. Wesley is also planning a Mission trip to the Gulf Coast in June.

If you are interested in helping with any of these missions ,or in starting a similar mission in your church, please contact the church for information.

If you have a mission that your church is involved with please share that outreach by submitting an article to the Newsletter. This may be done by contacting Doris Crocker at 803-932-0366. You may also e-mail her at [Doriscrocker@bellsouth.net](mailto:Doriscrocker@bellsouth.net). If you have an upcoming event please place a short announcement. We as the Body Of Christ need to help each other to make disciplines and to spread the Good News.

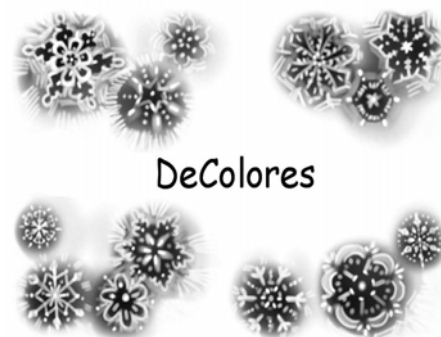
The evening concluded with the Community singing Christmas Carols. Anne Prescott led us in song, accompanied on piano by Carolyn McLean. The highlight of the singing was the song, "The 12 Days of Christmas". Anne

assigned members from different tables with the days of Christmas. The Community took their assignments seriously! You should have been there to take part! It was quite an experience! No one will ever forget the partridge in the pear tree!

## Nursery for Gatherings

By: Doris Crocker

**Sorry, there will be no nursery for gatherings.** Some churches do not have the facilities and it is easier to remember that there will be a nursery at some meeting and not at others.



## Emmaus of the Midlands Walk # 28 Team of Servants

### Men's Walk

L.W. Smith  
Dennis Fish  
Boyce Brook  
Dickie Knight  
Alonzo Tucker  
Jerry Watson  
Steve Hudson  
George Castle  
Al Carter  
Jeff Snow  
Bobby Coker  
Steven Douglas  
Robert Pegram  
Steve Wheaton  
Bobby Sandifer  
Scott Shull  
Laurel Irving  
Greg Prewitt  
Bernie Gathers  
Bill Rose  
Bob Pettis  
Walt Proctor III  
Charlie McLean  
Carolyn McLean  
Bill Begemann  
Pam Rankin

Lay Director  
Lay Director In Training  
Spiritual Director  
Assistant Spiritual Director  
Assistant Spiritual Director  
Assistant Spiritual Director  
Assistant Lay Director  
Assistant Lay Director  
Assistant Lay Director  
Assistant Lay Director  
Table Leader  
Table Leader  
Table Leader  
Table Leader  
Table Leader  
Table Leader  
Assistant Table Leader  
Assistant Table Leader  
Assistant Table Leader  
Assistant Table Leader  
Assistant Table Leader  
Assistant Table Leader  
Music Leader  
Music Team  
Music Team  
Board Representative  
Kitchen Coordinator

### Women's Walk

Debbie Nix  
Kelsey Jones  
Mary Teasley  
TBA  
TBA  
TBA  
Millie Hopkins  
Samantha Thames  
Diane Parker  
Sandra Cantwell  
Terry Booth  
Kelleve Rembert  
Melanie Prewitt  
Geni Brame  
Esther Sosa  
Tammie Bates  
Sheri McClendon  
Stefini Green  
Wendy Davis  
Jennifer Collins  
Laverne Irving  
Betty Shofner  
Hank Edens  
Angela Halter  
TBA  
Pam Rankin

Please pray for each Servant by name

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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 me at: furset@bellsouth.net.

## Future Events

February 23-26, 2006	Men's Walk # 28
February 25, 2006	Men's Walk # 28 Candlelight
March 9-12, 2006	Women's Walk # 28
March 11, 2006	Women's Walk # 28 Candlelight
March 24, 2006	Gathering — Lexington UMC
April , 2006	Gathering — TBA

## Next Gathering

January 27, 2006  
Pot Luck Supper at 7:00 pm  
Service 8:00 pm  
at  
**Green Hill Baptist**  
Elgin, SC

Directions: Take I-20 East to exit 87 White Pond Rd. Turn left toward Elgin. Once in the town limits turn right on Pine Street, which is the 1<sup>st</sup> street. Go to the stop sign turn right. About one block turn right on to Green hill Road. About 1-1 ½ mile church will be on the right. Power station is across the street. Church phone number 803-438-9692

Visit our web site at  
[www.midlandsemmaus.com](http://www.midlandsemmaus.com)