



Emmaus of The Midlands Messenger November 2006

CHRYSALIS IS GETTING NEAR

We are really grateful to the Lexington UMC for allowing us to hold Chrysalis flights, send off, sponsor hour, candlelight and closing at their facility at 309 East Main Street. What a blessing they are. They are saving us a lot of money by sharing their premises and we cannot thank them enough.

The girls flight will take place January 13-15 and the boys' flight will be February 17-19. Team meetings will be held at Lexington on November 18, December 2 and 16 and January 6 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Registration will be at 8:00 am on the first day of the flights and sponsors' hour will begin at 8:40 am. Candlelight worship for the community will begin at 7:30 pm on Sunday and the young people will join at 9:00 pm. Closing will take place at 5:30 pm on Monday of the flights.

Please help us by coming to send off, candlelight and closing and by sponsoring young people who are in high school and have finished 9th grade. Sponsor forms are available at www.midlandsemmaus.com click on "walk forms" and you will find them for Chrysalis as well as Emmaus. Cost for the flights are \$70.00.

We would also like reunion groups to provide us with a meal. If you can come and serve the meal you provide it will help enormously because we will not have to accommodate a large number of people who are not on the team but this will provide an opportunity for the young people to see how much support there is available to them. Information about menus and meal slots can be had from susan.caskey@palmettohealth.org.

Please remember that we need agape gifts for the snack table, meal table and beds. The first day the symbol is a caterpillar; the second a chrysalis and the 3rd day a butterfly, but anything for young people will be appreciated. The motto is "Fly with Christ." www.orientaltrading.com has lots of stuff at reasonable prices if you are not creative.

We covet your prayers. Please, please pray for the steering committee, the teams and the young people who will come. This is a wonderful opportunity for each of us to invest in the life of a young person and send them on the road to spiritual maturity.

Thank you so much for your support,
The Chrysalis steering committee

Questions can be answered by contacting Doris Crocker at doriscrocker@bellsouth.net or calling 803-932-0366

The object of this community shall be to inspire, challenge and equip church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, work place, prisons, and communities through the

Without Him, I am nothing
But with Him I can do all things. Phil 4:13

When I think of any of my successes, I am thankful to GOD from whom all blessings flow, and to my family and friends that enrich my life.

Walk by faith
Not by sight
Receive God's blessings

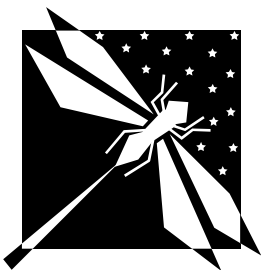
Do I take the time and opportunity to be a witness for Christ? Have I shared with someone how life in Christ will bring lasting fulfillment?

Almighty God, who lives and reigns forever, we give you thanks for all the gifts you have bestowed upon us.



Financial Report as of
11/10/06

Ending balance \$ 400.00



*Through it all...I am
trusting in God's Plan...*



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Central Alabama

Emmaus Community

Once there were three trees on a hill in the woods. They were discussing their hopes and dreams when the first tree said, "Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. I could be filled with gold, silver and precious gems. I could be decorated with intricate carving and everyone would see the beauty."

Then the second tree said, "Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take kings and queens across the waters and sail to the corners of the world. Everyone will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull."

Finally the third tree said, "I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the Hill and look up to my branches, and think of the heavens and God and How close to them I am reaching. I will be the greatest tree of all time and people will always remember me." After a few years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees.

When one came to the first tree he said, "This looks like a strong tree, I think I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter," and he began cutting it down. The tree was happy, because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.

At the second tree the woodsman said, "This looks like a strong tree, I should be able to sell it to the shipyard." The second tree was happy because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship.

When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his dreams would not come true. One of the woodsmen said, "I don't need anything special from my tree, I'll take this one," and he cut it down.

When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, he was made into a feed box for animals. He was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. This was not at all what he had prayed for.

The second tree was cut and made into a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying kings had come to an end..

The third tree was cut into large pieces and left alone in the dark. The years went by, and the trees forgot about their dreams.

Then one day, a man and woman came to the barn. She gave birth and they placed the baby in the hay in the feed box that was made from the first tree. The man wished that he could have made a crib for the baby, but this manger would have to do. The tree could feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One of them was tired and went to sleep. While they were out on the water, a great storm arose and the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man, and He stood and said "Peace" and the storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that it had carried the King of Kings in its boat.

Finally, someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. When they came to a stop; the man was nailed to the tree and raised in the air to die at the top of a hill. When Sunday came, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of the hill and be as close to God as was possible, because Jesus had been crucified on it.

The moral of this story is that when things don't seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for you. If you place your trust in Him, He will give you great gifts. Each of the trees got what they wanted, just not in the way they had imagined. We don't always know what God's plans are for us. We just know that His ways are not our ways, but His ways are always best.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING-WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

"Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." Psalm 103:2, NIV

November is upon us — a time when our hearts and minds turn to giving thanks. We remind our children often to say "thank you" when we give them something. It isn't that we have to be thanked to give them good things, but we want our children to have an attitude of gratitude. And we notice when we're not thanked.

Jesus noticed it, too. Daily the multitudes followed him, hoping to experience something miraculous. In Luke 17:11-19 we read about ten lepers who came to Jesus diseased, broken, and hurting. All ten left him completely healed, whole, and free from pain. But only one returned to say, "Thank you, Jesus!" When Jesus asked him, "Where are all the others?" he had no reply.

There are times when I'm like that one leper, and I return to praise God and thank him for his goodness and faithfulness. Yet it disturbs me how often I'm more like the other nine, forgetting in the midst of all my blessings to express my praise, love, and gratitude to him.

Psalm 103 calls us to praise the Lord and remember all his benefits. How do we teach our children to do the same?

The best way is to model it ourselves, to show a heart of thanksgiving throughout the year. Record your own list of blessings. It can be about your immediate family, your extended family, or your "family" of friends. Make a time line of important events. Then write them into your own praise history.

Here's an example:

- "Who gave Matthew the diligence to earn an excellent report card!"
 - "Who helped Daddy find a new job."
 - "Who healed Mommy of the flu!"
 - "Who brought Grandpa and Grandma here for a visit."

As you continue this tradition from year to year, a praise history will be established in your family that can be passed on from generation to generation as a testimony of God's goodness.

"Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits!"

Lord, help us be like the one leper who returned to praise and thank you. Help us be people of God who model gratitude attitudes!

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy your consolations.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen

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FUTURE EVENTS

November 2006 No Gathering

December 9, 2006 Gathering-Camp Agape 6:00 pm

January 13-15, 2007 Chrysalis Girl's Flight

January –19-20, 2007 Emmaus Team Training Walk 30

January—Gathering TBA

February 1-4, 2007 Epiphany Boys # 37

February 17-19, 2007 Chrysalis Boy's Flight

February 22-25, 2007 Emmaus Men's Walk # 30

March 8-11, 2007 Emmaus Women's Walk # 30

March 15-18, 2007 Epiphany Girls # 21

March 23, 2007 Gathering Wightman UMC

June 7-10, 2007 Epiphany Boys # 38

August 17-18 2007 Emmaus Team Training Walk 31

September 6-9, 2007 Epiphany Girls # 22
