

Merry Christmas



*For a child has been born
for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his
shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace. His
authority shall grow conti-
nually, and there shall be
endless peace for the throne
of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and
uphold it with justice and
with righteousness from this
time onwards and for
evermore. The zeal of the
LORD of hosts will do this.*

The December Gathering was held on December 8, 2007 at Brookland UMC in West Columbia. The Reverends Carol & Robert Cannon were the hosting clergy.

After a delicious covered dish supper we all went to the Sanctuary, sang Emmaus songs, Christmas songs, prayed, and heard an excellent devotion given by Carol Cannon.

Anne Prescott, Frank Hill, and Walter Proctor III were the music team for the Gathering. Walt sang "Away in a Manger" as a special treat for us. We all had a great time and we thank Reverends Carol and Robert for letting us gather at Brookland UMC.

The next Gathering will be on January 25, 2008, at Suber Marshall Memorial UMC in Columbia.

(An old camp ground song, *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*, has a line "The world behind me, the cross before me." Ironically, it is at Christmas that the forces of the world seem most likely to distract us from the cross. The following version of 1 Corinthians speaks to this.)

1 Corinthians 13, Christmas Version

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family and friends, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family and friends, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family and friends, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids or grandkids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust ... but giving the gift of love will endure.

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December 2007 Praises, Prayer Requests, Praises, & Announcements

Praises:

Adam Robert Levelle (grandson of Charles & Mitzi Shipman) turns one on 12 Dec.

Prayer Requests:

Ken Clarke – colon surgery

Sandra Cantwell – ovarian cancer.

Chrysalis Flight #3

Upcoming Epiphany weekends

Please pray for my friends Tom, Susan, and Stephanie Atwood.

Robert Goble (esophageal cancer)
Ed Shaw
Nub Shofner (surgery) and Betty Shofner
Donald Boner (for continued improvement in his health)
Brad Hendrix (colon cancer)
Julie & Jeff Weiss
Eddie Blanks – healing
Ken Meade (Doug’s father) – continuing treatment for cancer
Bill Whiting – for healing
Patsy White (hospice) and family (her caregivers)
Shirley Blankenship

Contact Information:

Jamie & Tracey Best –
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FYI:

Keep Walt Proctor and family in your prayers as he is now full-time in music ministry. He would like to have bookings with churches in the Emmaus community. His web site is www.waltproctormusic.org Walt will be heading up the music team for the next men’s walk.

Snack Agape

Late Saturday, after the final closing ceremony of the Emmaus/Chrysalis Regional Gathering at Lexington, I was walking around making sure that the church was locked and prepared for Sunday morning worship. One light was still on in the lower level where the meetings were held. Investigating, I found Leonard May and his wife Therry cleaning up the snack agape area. We joked about the “Lone Snack Agape Man” and I asked him to write an article for the Messenger. This is the result.

Leonard was born in Sandersville, GA and grew up in Milledgeville. He is a member of Wightman UMC in Prosperity and his walk was EOM #25, Table of Matthew. He and Therry have three children, scattered from Prosperity to Chattanooga, TN, to Sydney, AU. He is a textile engineer.

From the time we went on our walks we have

loved working behind the scenes, mainly in the kitchen.

In 2006 when a Board Member resigned I was called by the Chairman of the Board and asked if I would serve on the Board with my responsibility Snack Agape. I agreed to do so and finished out that term.

In 2007 I ran was elected to a three-year term. I was again appointed for this year to the Board responsibility of Snack Agape.

Snack Agape is a wonderful way to serve anonymously behind the scenes on every walk. It is a three-day commitment for each walk because there are many behind the scenes functions that must be performed.

Thursday night you have to gather all the snacks that have been brought to camp, refrigerate any perishables; set up needs table for pilgrims and keep it stocked with needed items, as well as handle special requests, fill the cooler with ice and get all items necessary for coffee and drinks. These tasks will be repeated many times over a weekend.

On Friday pilgrims are not allowed to have coffee until after breakfast, but after that you are responsible for having coffee and drinks ready for them first thing in the morning as well as throughout the day.

For the rest of the weekend you are responsible for having snacks available for the pilgrims as they go to breaks. We always try to pick out a variety of snacks, including sugar-free items as well. We also try to switch out snacks from one break to another to offer more variety. We also work with the kitchen coordinator for any items needed that have not been donated. Also, after each break throughout the weekend we are responsible for cleaning the break area.

On Saturdays we are responsible for preparing the Thorn Cross and placing it in the middle of the snack table by mid-afternoon.

DeColores – Leonard May

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If you receive this newsletter and have an e-mail address, please consider using the Emmaus Web site to read the monthly newsletter. This will reduce the cost of printing and mailing. If you are willing to help in this way, e-mail tomfurse@sc.rr.com

Upcoming Events

January 19 – 21	Girl's Flight 3
January 25	Gathering – Suber Marshall UMC
January 25, 26	EOM Team Training Walk 31
February 16-18	Boy's Flight 3
March 28	Gathering – Windsor UMC

Next Gathering - January 25, 2008
7:00 pm Meal – 8:00 pm Worship

Suber Marshall Memorial UMC
3900 Live Oak Street - 803/787-2497

Directions from Sumter/Dalzell: Take US 378 to Columbia, Left on Rosewood Extension, Left on South Beltline Blvd., Take 2nd right on Live Oak Street, Church is on the right in the 3rd block.

Directions from Aiken, Camden, & Florence: Take I-20 to Columbia, Take I-77 towards Charleston, right on Shop Road, Right on South Beltline Blvd (1st Traffic light), Left on Live Oak Street, Church is on the right in the 3rd block.