

Emmaus of the Midlands Messenger

P. O. Box 25165 Columbia, SC 29224-5165

www.midlandsemmaus.com

December 2008

Christmas Gathering at Brookland UMC



The Christmas 2008 Gathering was held at Brookland UMC. This was our second year in a row there and again the Reverend Carol & Robert Canon and the local reunion group were gracious hosts. We may be beginning a new tradition here. Perhaps you can pick out old (and new) friends in the picture above ... you can see our Community Lay Director Debbie Carter in the top left.

The first gathering of the new year will be at Lexington United Methodist Church on January 23, 2009 (directions on the last page). We would like to increase our attendance at gatherings, particularly among younger members and families with children. Lexington will be providing a nursery and you are invited to bring your children. They are going to set up for 250 folks and will be ready to set up more tables if necessary.

The March gathering will be held at Wightman UMC in Prosperity on March 27th. They are very active in Emmaus and will also be ready for 250+ folks.

Let's begin the new year with record attendance at our gatherings. *Come and you will be blessed!*

Got Your Lights Up Yet:

The Reverend Wade H. Everett

If Christmas has become for you an exhausting round of shopping, traffic jams, decorating (including outdoing the neighbors 5 mega watt light display), emotional stress, depression, and dreading those weird gifts like ties that play supposedly funny tunes, then you have missed the point. The whole point about Christmas is the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

The secularization, commercialization, and Hollywood-ization of Christmas has obscured the real meaning of it for too many folks. ***Instead of spending so much time and money on things which cannot satisfy, I dare you to do it differently this year.*** Make preparations, but make the right kind. John the Baptist spoke of this kind of preparation in Mark 1:1 – 5:

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

*As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight" ',*

*John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean
countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were
going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river
Jordan, confessing their sins.*

Here are some suggested spiritual preparations:

- Take time as a family to read the Christmas story from the Gospels once again. Seek first the Kingdom of God. Take charge in a loving way, and let the love of God fill your home.
 - Search your heart for what is most precious to you about Christmas. If it is the material side of things, the rounds of parties, and the conspicuous consumption of possessions, then you have to readjust your priorities.
 - Decide to make this the most spiritual Christmas you have had in years.
 - Go to Church and worship all during Advent, even if you got mad and quit the Church. ***You must forgive all, so that you may be forgiven all. After all, it's Christmas! Can you not forgive, and understand that unless God forgave you, you would never get to Heaven? Expect a miracle of love!***
- Take your whole extended family to Christmas Eve Holy Communion and Candlelight services. If you have reserved Christmas Eve for home gatherings and present openings, you missed the point. It is not about us, it is about God coming into the world to save us. I dare you to change. I invite you to come and be there on Christmas Eve.
 - Realize the truth that wise people still seek Christ. Worship him in spirit and in truth. Seek the presence of God in your heart, your home, and your church. ***Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.***
 - Love one another unconditionally. That is how Jesus Christ loves you.
 - Spend much time in prayer. ***"Come to my heart Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for you.***

Daily Bible Readings for January 2009

This list of daily Bible readings will take you through the entire Bible on one year.

- 1 Gen. 1-2; Luke 1
- 2 Gen. 3-5; Luke 2
- 3 Gen. 6-8; Luke 3
- 4 Gen. 9-11; Luke 4
- 5 Gen. 12-14; Luke 5
- 6 Gen. 15-17; Luke 6
- 7 Gen. 18-19; Ps. 3; Luke 7
- 8 Gen. 20-22; Luke 8
- 9 Gen. 23-24; Luke 9
- 10 Gen. 25-26; Ps. 6; Luke 10
- 11 Gen. 27-28; Ps. 4; Luke 11
- 12 Gen. 29-30; Luke 12
- 13 Gen. 31-33; Luke 13
- 14 Gen. 34-36; Luke 14
- 15 Gen. 37-38; Ps. 7; Luke 15
- 16 Gen. 39-41; Luke 16
- 17 Gen. 42-43; Ps. 5; Luke 17
- 18 Gen. 44-46; Luke 18
- 19 Gen. 47-48; Ps. 10; Luke 19
- 20 Gen. 49-50; Ps. 8; Luke 20
- 21 Ex. 1-2; Ps. 88; Luke 21
- 22 Ex. 3-5; Luke 22
- 23 Ex. 6-8; Luke 23
- 24 Ex. 9-11; Luke 24
- 25 Ex. 12-13; Ps. 21; Acts 1
- 26 Ex. 14-16; Acts 2
- 27 Ex. 17-20; Acts 3
- 28 Ex. 21-22; Ps. 12; Acts 4
- 29 Ex. 23-24; Ps. 14; Acts 5
- 30 Ex. 25-27; Acts 6
- 31 Ex. 28-29; Acts 7

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December Prayer Concerns & Praises

Joys & Praises:

Ruth & Laxton Hinson have their first great granddaughter, Addisyn Jo.

Sharon Neeley (Walk #31) married Richard Liberty on December 16th.

The Irvings have a new son in law as of November 29th.

Blessed Christmas for all and for everyone to remember why we celebrate Christmas. (Amen!)

Prayer Concerns:

Betty Maier

Bo Cato – healing from heart surgery (this is Linda Clarke's uncle).

Sam Hunt – member at Bethel and a retired Bell South employee.

Julie Weese – Walk #30

A friend of Carol Frye who is having mental problems.

Brenda & Tom Conway – Tom has liver cancer and will be having surgery on December 10th.

Ester Sosa – recovering from surgery.

Penny Wendt – recovering from broken arm.

Sally Turbeville – recovering from broken leg.

Anna Farmer

Arnette Dixon

Evelyn Etheredge

Robert Pegram family – His father died on Thursday, December 4th.

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Upcoming Events

- January 23, 2009** - Gathering Lexington UMC
Jan 17-19, 2009 - Girl's Chrysalis Flight 4
(Candlelight Sunday, 7 pm Jan 18)
February 5-8, 2009 - Boy's Epiphany
Feb 14-16, 2009 - Boy's Chrysalis Flight 4
(Candlelight Sunday, 7 pm Feb 15)
February 19-22 - Men's Walk 33
(Candlelight Saturday, 8 pm Feb 21)
March 12 - 15, 2009 - Girls Epiphany
March 12 - 15, 2009 - Women's Walk 33
(Candlelight Sunday, 8 pm Mar 14)
March 27, 2009 - Gathering at Wightman UMC

Next Gathering

January 23, 2009
Fellowship 7:00 pm, Worship 8:00 pm.
Lexington UMC
309 East Main Street
Lexington, SC 29072
(803) 791-1450

Directions from Columbia/Sumter: Take I-20 to exit 58, exit to the right on US #1 toward Lexington. This road becomes Main Street. The church is located down town next to the Lexington County Court House.

Directions from Aiken: Take I-20 to exit 55, cross over bridge back toward Lexington. This is Highway #6. Turn right on US #1 when you reach the down town area. The church is located down town next to the Lexington County Court House.