

**“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulders and his name shall be called wonderful...”**

Isaiah 9: 6

I often hear stories of children who have to move into new accommodations before Christmas. Often they ask, “Will Santa know that I moved?” or “this house doesn’t have a fireplace, how is Santa going to get in to leave me my presents?” I am thankful that the pleas for Toys for Tots and Heifer projects international to help children that otherwise would have no Christmas don’t compute to their brains, but the fear is “What if Santa doesn’t come?”



This Christmas I invite you to ask, “What if Jesus never comes?” You laugh, I know, because Jesus already came! That is exactly what this season is all about. That is why the Grinch cannot steal Christmas! But for thousands of years God’s people asked, “When will the Messiah come?” And they worshipped God and were faithful to God not knowing if the Messiah were a pipe dream or a hope. How lucky we are to not have to live with that doubt and only live INTO that hope. Do our lives reflect the joy that Jesus *was* born? Do our priorities broadcast the good news that “unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given..?” Do we allow Christmas to be the time in which we indeed receive our King again? Or do we reflect the secular culture’s emphasis on commercialism, expectations, competition, and self gratification?

My fear is that for many Jesus doesn’t come and they don’t even know what they are missing. Whether or not we wear Christmas jewelry and festive warm clothing, we need to wear our joy and praise and peace proudly! (We can always give a scholarship as a gift, or our service to at Walk, or introduce a friend to Christ in praise of Jesus’ birth!) My prayer is that this year Jesus is nearer to you and more real than ever. Merry **CHRIST**mas.

**T**hanksgiving is over and I hope everyone has had time to reflect on the many things and people that God has blessed us with over the years. I realize each and every year how thankful I am for my family, my health and my Emmaus family. Most of all I am thankful for a God who has loved me at my most unlovable times and who wooed me until I heard His voice. As we approach the Christmas season, let's not fall into the "Happy Holiday" trap. Let's not forget WHY we have this wonderful season; it is the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior. Don't hesitate to wish someone "Merry Christmas!" Who knows, maybe that special phrase will spark a desire in someone that will lead them to know that "special baby" in a personal way. What a Christmas gift!! Also during this season, don't forget to continue to pray for our spring lay directors and for the right pilgrim for you to sponsor. Someone told me recently that '08 is the year of new beginnings! Are we ready? Let's enter this New Year with much ANTICIPATION and PRAYER. Let's look for new opportunities to serve and share our Savior. Let's make this the best year EVER!

From my family to yours," Merry Christmas" and May God bless you and yours in the New Year.

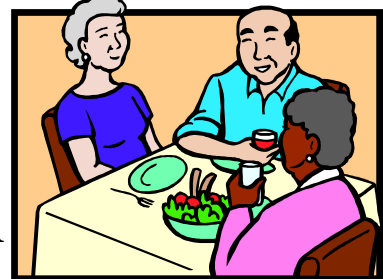
Pat



**We GATHER Together....**

Mark your 2008 Calendars **NOW** and plan to join us for the following Gatherings!!

**January 19, 2008 - Lithia Springs UMC**  
**Feb. 16, 2008 - Faith UMC in Cartersville, GA**



**AT HIS FEET**

**Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name  
in all the earth!**

*Psalm 8:1*



## Giving Thanks



What am I thankful for? The fact that God has blessed me so through my family, my friends, my Emmaus experience and that He loves me in spite of me! I'm thankful for my health and the health of my family. In - and through - each of these, I can honestly say I have **felt** the love of God. I am richly blessed in so many ways and I thank **God** from whom **ALL** blessings flow!

Merry Christmas to each of you,  
Marcia



This Christmas I'm particularly thankful for the love of friends and family. Some of my dearest friends have been made in the Emmaus movement. Made God bless each of you during the holidays and in the New Year to come! - Rev. Donna T. Lucas



I am grateful for the gift of life, purpose in Christ, family, friends and the challenges and promises of each new day.

Linda



I am grateful for the Emmaus Board and community, my family and my friends.

Janeane



I am thankful for my family, my health and my Emmaus family. Most of all I am thankful for a God who has loved me at my most unlovable times and who wooed me until I heard His voice.

Pat



*“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”*

*Luke 2: 8 - 12*

*Merry Christmas from your NWGWTE Board of Directors!!! Have a safe and blessed Christmas season and New Year!*

## **EMMAUS BOARD POSITIONS FOR 2008**

**Chair - Pat Stevens**  
**Vice Chair - Ed Beacham**  
**Secretary - Marcia Dillard**  
**Treasurer - Jan Lemke-Springmeir**  
**Team Selection - Ed Beacham**  
**Gatherings - Donna Grenier**  
**Communications -**  
**Set Up/Take Down - Billy Halbrooks**  
**Literature and Supplies - Janean Endraske**  
**Follow Up - Calvin Waddell**  
**Registrar - Janice Russell**  
**Agape/Training - Debbie Beck**  
**Send Off/Candlelight - Steve Standridge**  
**King's Retreat Trustee - Billy Halbrooks**  
**King's Retreat Trustee - Steve Standridge**

## 2008 Gathering Schedule

**January 19** - Lithia Springs UMC - Lithia Springs

**February 16** - Faith UMC - Cartersville

**March 29** - Villa Rica UMC - Villa Rica - This is a combined Follow-Up **AND** Gathering

**April 19** - TBA

**May 17** - \* Acworth UMC - Acworth

**June 21** - Hiram UMC - Hiram

**July 19** - \* Southern Hills Christian Church - Carrollton

**August 16** - TBA

**September 20** - TBA

**October 18** - TBA

**November 15** - \* Host: Love EMC - \* Location - Kennesaw

**H**appy Holidays to all of the Emmaus Community! I have a tentative list of upcoming Gatherings for 2008. If your church would like to host one of the open dates, please let me know as soon as possible. The red asterisk ( \* ) by the dates above mean that those dates are being discussed by host churches.

(Please note that the March Follow-Up and Gathering are combined!)

I hope to see you at our Gatherings!! We Graze at 6:00 pm and Praise at 7:00 pm!

Again, have a wonderful holiday season and be safe!

In God's Hands,

Donna Grenier, Gathering Chair