



December 2003  
Volume XI, Number 12

# De Colores

The Athens Area Walk to Emmaus & Chrysalis Newsletter

## The Athens Area Walk to Emmaus Board of Directors

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

### Athens Area and Foothills Joint Gathering

Friday, December 12, 2003 at 7:30 pm  
Toccoa First United Methodist Church  
407 East Tugalo Street  
Toccoa, Georgia

**DIRECTIONS: From Athens:** (1 hour 15 minutes driving time.) Take Highway 106 all the way (through Ila and Carnesville) to Toccoa. Cross Highway 123 (first traffic light), go two blocks and turn right on Tugalo Street. The church is five blocks on left.

**OR:** Take Highway 441 to I-85. Go north to Exit 57 (Highway 106); go left to Toccoa.

**From Gainesville:** (45 minutes driving time.) Take Highway 365 to Highway 123 (Jeanette Jamison Intersection). Highway 365/441 splits north of Cornelia, so look for the Toccoa signs! At Highway 123, turn left to Toccoa. At Broad Street (first light) turn left, go two blocks to Tugalo Street. Turn right and church will be five blocks on left.

**EMMAUS signs will be at major intersections for guidance.**

**CONTACT:** Neal Watson 706-779-3147

**CHURCH PHONE NUMBER:** 706.886.8783 or 706.886.9446

*Bring your worship books!*

### ~~~~~ Chrysalis Flight

**WHEN:** Friday, December 26 - Sunday, December 28, 2003

**WHERE:** Hartwell Mennonite Camp

**CATERPILLARS - we need more!** The flight is NOT full, and if anyone is still prayerfully considering sponsoring a caterpillar, please get their completed application in to David Monaghan ASAP. (You might want to call David 706-754-8527 or email him at [dmonaghan@alltel.net](mailto:dmonaghan@alltel.net) and let him know that you are mailing an application.) Reminder - the December flight is for guys only, 15 - 21 years of age. The girls flight will be in June 2004.

**AGAPE -** we will need 60 pieces of conference room/pillow agape, and 75 pieces for the dining room. Food agape, snack food, deserts, etc. would also be greatly appreciated. And, of course, don't forget the prayer agape - please keep the team, caterpillars and their families lifted up in your prayers!

Sendoff will be Thursday, December 26, 2003 at 7:00 pm  
Candlelight will be Saturday December 27, 2003 at 8:30 pm  
Closing will be Sunday, December 28, 2003 at 4:00 pm

Visit us on-line at [www.fourthdays.org](http://www.fourthdays.org) for all of your team applications,  
Pilgrim and Caterpillar applications, and back-issues of De Colores

## The Athens Area Chrysalis Board of Directors

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## A Message from the Board

Greetings brothers and sisters. As the year rapidly comes to a close, we can pause and reflect upon how God has blessed and sustained us even through times of trial and tribulation as well as the "good times" of joy and prosperity. November and December are two of my favorite months because in these months we can experience a time of celebration and thanksgiving. This is the season when we can gather with friends and family to thank God for the many blessings that He has poured out on our lives, our church, the Emmaus Community and this great nation. This time is also a season of "anticipation" (I know that we aren't supposed to do that .... anticipate, but sometimes it is a good thing!). Just as Mary and Joseph, and the ancient prophets anticipated the coming of the Christ Child, so we can also look forward to all the joy and magic of the Christmas season.

In retrospect, our community and the Board have faced many challenges this year. One of the more significant of these challenges was the dividing of our AAWTE community to "birth" the Georgia Foothills community. Although we were excited to help form a new Emmaus community to serve people north of Interstate 85, we were concerned about the impact it would have on the Athens community both financially and by the fact that we would be losing many "seasoned" leaders and team members to the new community. The Board and community prayerfully asked God to bring forth the people we would need to allow our community to function and to support our Walks. God has honored our prayers by filling our Walks, by sending loving and dedicated teams to serve our Pilgrims, and by the attendance of large crowds at our Emmaus functions (over 300 people estimated at the last candlelight and 73% Pilgrim attendance at our recent follow up gathering). Also like a proud parent, we are delighted to see the Georgia Foothills community up and going strong!

### **GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME!!**

May we all humbly rejoice in God's honoring our hard work and our faithful obedience. And above all, let us thank Him for hearing our prayers concerning our community and for each other. Let us be ever mindful of God's directive through the words of the apostle Paul in Philippians 4: 4-7;

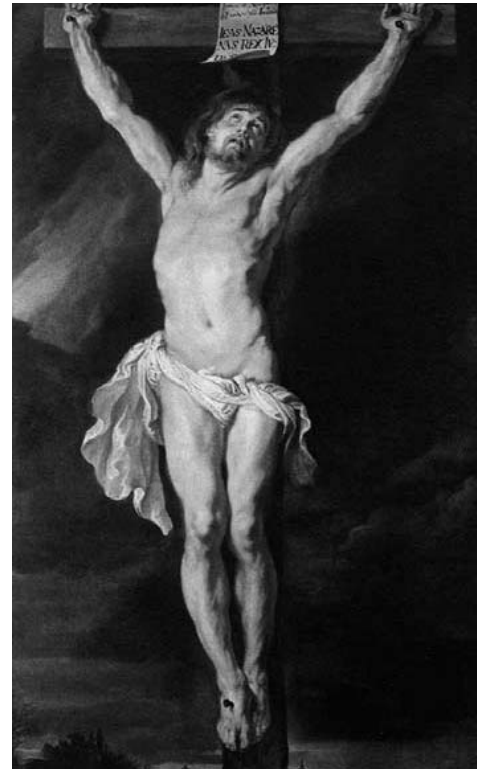
*"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, and with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

DE COLORES!!

Tom Coley  
Board Chairperson, 2003



## It All Started with a Baby!



We all have a picture in our minds similar to the one above where Jesus is on the cross paying the price for our sins. What we often fail to recognize is the fact that this same Savior came to us as an infant. An infant that was precious in the eyes of God, and in the eyes of His earthly parents.

Can you look at this same image with a baby in place of an adult? Our minds are more accustomed to seeing an adult in situations where there is suffering. What if He had been your earthly son? What if He had been your earthly brother? Could you look upon this image? Could you simply see someone that you do not know and say that it was a noble sacrifice that was made? Could you detach yourself from the events that are depicted?

Keep in mind that to get to the cross, there had to be a baby! A baby who came into the world to go to the cross for each of us! A baby who was more than any other baby ever would be, for He was the Son of God.

When we celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas, we must not forget who He is and why He came.

## Gathering Followup

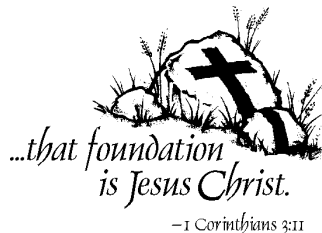
Of the 70 Pilgrims who "walked" in October, 51 gathered at the Follow-up on November 14. That's 73% of the new Community members in attendance-almost three-fourths! In case you weren't there, a lot of information was shared - especially about reunion groups and sponsorship.

Several years ago, De Colores reprinted a letter from Ron Colwell, Director of the Upper Room Walk to Emmaus in Nashville. In the letter Ron mentions that he doesn't believe that the seventy-two hour weekend alone can "develop Christian leaders for the local church who will change the environment." Instead, he thinks, "If after the seventy-two hours, those [on the Walk] will commit to a weekly accountability group that examines each one's relationship with Christ in terms of Piety, Study and Action," then we, as Christians, can make a change in the world.

Sponsors, what are you doing to encourage your new Community member to participate in a Reunion Group? Are you in an accountability group? If you're not, consider joining with others to meet in a small Christ-centered group on a weekly basis. The Reunion Group may be the simplest, most effective way to keep the fire we experienced on our weekend burning brightly.

It's already time to prayerfully consider sponsoring someone on the Spring Walks. Are there folks in your church or workplace for whom the Walk to Emmaus would be a blessing, enrich their lives, and, in turn, help strengthen the church, as well as help make the world a more Christ-filled place? Pray about it in earnest. If you feel you're being led to sponsorship, talk with them about how Emmaus has changed your life, and give them an application. Then stand back - and watch God work!

Remember: The Men's Walk will be April 15-18, 2004; the Women's weekend will take place April 22-25. If you need more information about sponsorship, please contact Keith Wilson at 706.549.2199 or by e-mail (kwilson99@charter.net).



## Community News

The tally for the Board elections is complete. The new Board members will be introduced in the next newsletter. We need to keep the Board in our prayers as they seek to follow Jesus and the direction of the Upper Room in all that we, as an Emmaus community, do. We also need to keep the outgoing members in our prayers for the years of service that they have willingly committed so that God's will could be accomplished through this community.



## Points to Ponder

Christmas will soon be here. Everyone is frantically preparing for the day that we celebrate as the birthday of Jesus.

However, too many of the people who are caught up in the festivities of the season do not truly understand why we celebrate. They give gifts out of tradition. They sing carols because it is the thing to do at this time of year. They put up decorations because they do not want their neighbors to put on a better show than they do.

If only they would listen to the words of the songs they sing. If only they would realize that we give gifts because of the gift that we were given. If only they would realize that the lights they put up should be a beacon of hope for those who see them.

How can we make sure that they understand? How can we use this time of year to turn hearts to Jesus? There is, perhaps, no fixed answer to these questions. Each of us must find the answer that fits our situation and then apply that answer. Reflect on what your weekend meant to you. Each of us were impacted in a unique way.

We must be willing to impact others, each in a unique way if necessary. If you decorate your house, show a theme that is more than Santa. If you give gifts, give them with the love of Jesus. If you sing carols, be sure to sing boldly of what Christmas is truly about.

We have a wonderful message to deliver. We should deliver it with all of our hearts.

Remember . . .

Christ is counting on you!  
Are you counting on Christ?



**Athens Area Walk to Emmaus**  
**PO Box 80624**  
**Athens GA 30608**

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**Return Service Requested**



He had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. (Luke 24:35)

**Would your church like to host a gathering in 2004?**

If you're interested, please contact Jerry or Phyllis Kiser at 706.769.1231 (leave message) or email: [kiserhome@charter.net](mailto:kiserhome@charter.net). Gatherings are held monthly except April and October when the Walks are held. Get your church signed up right away to get the month you want!

Following is the schedule to date. Please mark these on your calendar and prayerfully consider having your home church host one of the open slots.

January 2004	Young Harris Memorial UMC, Athens **joint with Chrysalis community
February 2004	Watkinsville First UMC, Watkinsville
March 2004	Jones Chapel, Danielsville
April 2004	no gathering-work walks!
May 2004	Follow-up gathering @ Athens First UMC
June	open
July	open
August	open
September	open
October	no gathering-work walks!
November	Follow-up gathering @ Athens First UMC
December	open

**Upcoming Walk Dates**

Mark your calendars!

Following are the dates for the Walks for the next two years. Plan now to work one of these weekends or to attend Send-off, Candlelight and Closing!

**Spring 2004**

- Men's #23 Apr. 15-18
- Women's #24 Apr. 22-25

**Fall 2004**

- Men's #24 Oct 14-17
- Women's #25 Oct 21-24

**Spring 2005**

- Men's #25 Apr 14-17
- Women's #26 Apr 21-24

**Fall 2005**

- Men's #26 Oct 13-16
- Women's #27 Oct 20-23