



EMMAUS HOUSE

A Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta
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Dear Friends of Emmaus House,

Merry Christmas! Sometimes the holiday frenzy can sap all our energies in a vortex of self-concern. I invite you to experience the freedom which Christ's birth gives us to come to the stable, a home for a poor family, and find true joy.

We have many opportunities and events to help you participate more fully in the real spirit of Christmas. We are eager to enrich the lives of all we serve, those with means and those without, through joyous and effective partnerships.

Read on for fuller descriptions and, once you have chosen the way(s) you'd like help, please contact the coordinator of that activity directly.

Many all our lives reflect the good news of Christ's birth.

Yours faithfully,

The Rev. Elizabeth Claiborne Jones
Director and Vicar
claibornejones@emmaushouse.org

Emmaus House Christmas Schedule:

- Christmas Family Partnerships November-December
- Christmas in Peoplestown Saturday, December 1st
- Senior Strollers' Luncheon Friday, December 14th
- Grandparents' Party Tuesday, December 18th
- Secret Santa Shop Sunday, December 23rd
- Children's Christmas Festival Monday, December 24th

Overview of Events:

1. Christmas Family Partnerships (see pages 3-4)

We interview families in need and partner them with individuals, families and groups to provide the basics to help them through the winter months, along with some Christmas cheer.

2. Christmas in Peoplestown (see page 5)

Emmaus House partners with The Study Hall and the McDevitt Center for a fellowship gathering and tree lighting in Peoplestown.

3. Senior Strollers' Luncheon (see page 5)

Our Senior Strollers celebrate Christmas with lunch, music and a visit from Santa and his elves!

4. Grandparents' Party (see page 6)

Community grandparents raising grandchildren are invited to take the night off for dinner, music and a festive raffle.

5. Secret Santa Shop (see page 6)

Children from Emmaus House Chapel and the After School programs buy gifts for their parents, grandparents and family members.

6. Children's Christmas Festival (see pages 7-10)

Santa and Mrs. Claus come to Emmaus House and give out presents to 700+ children from all over Atlanta. There's no waiting in line since we have a storyteller, magician, snacks and a movie for all to enjoy.

1. Christmas Family Partnership November-December

- The median annual household income for our census tract block in Peopletown is \$6,000 a year.
- Food stamps do buy breads, cereals, fruit, vegetables, meats, fish, poultry, and dairy products.
- Food stamps do not buy non-food items such as soaps, paper products, clothing, school supplies and household supplies, vitamins and medicines.

These realities help explain why many families do not have enough money to provide for the necessities of daily life.

Christmas Family Partnerships help families we know with the basics to help them through the winter months.

How you may participate:

Call Stephanie Coble 404-525-5948 x 27 or email stephaniecoble@emmaushouse.org to find a specific family whose needs you can meet. The partnership can work in several ways.

- You may drive and accompany a family/parent on a Christmas shopping trip.
- You may meet the head of the household and give her/him gift cards to do their own shopping.
- You may shop for, wrap and deliver items to the family.
- You may shop for, wrap and deliver items to Emmaus House and we will deliver to the family.
- You may give a donation to Emmaus House so that we can pay down utility or rental expenses in arrears.

Guidelines for Family Partnership Gifts

- We emphasize **practical articles for daily living**. The following guidelines may help you better understand what we mean
- *Household supplies* (laundry detergent, cleaning supplies); *personal hygiene supplies* (bath soap, shampoo, shaving cream, razors, hand lotion, towels); *school supplies* (paper, pens, pencils, notebooks, binders), *kitchen equipment* (toaster oven, dishes, cutlery) and *clothing* (jeans, jackets, hats and gloves, shoes) cannot be purchased with food stamps.
- Please give gifts that are new or like-new and which you or your family members would be happy to have yourselves.
- Gift cards to Kroger, Target, Ross and Office Depot are the most practical. These stores are an easy MARTA ride away.
- If it requires batteries, **please provide the batteries!**
- Other gifts for children should be durable goods—not candy or perishable items. Dolls, action figures, and books should reflect “cultural sensitivity”. Please, no military toys or guns!

If you would like to help but do not have much time:

- You may donate money, gift cards, household items or MARTA cards.
- You may also donate securely on-line using the following link (please be sure to note that the gift is for Christmas):
<https://public.serviceu.com/payment/default.asp?OrgID=4758&PaymentID=1860>

2. Christmas in Peopletown Saturday, December 1st

Last year Emmaus House partnered with our neighbors at The Study Hall and the Rick McDivett Center for our first Christmas in Peopletown. We made outdoor ornaments, had wonderful refreshments and gathered at Emmaus House to sing carols and light a 20ft Christmas tree on the front lawn!

How you may participate:

- Call Stephanie Coble 404-525-5948 x 27 or email stephaniecoble@emmaushouse.org
- Donate a 20ft Christmas tree (live, if possible).
- Bring your family and friends to Emmaus House on Saturday, December 1st and join us for an event to warm your heart for the Christmas season.
- Bring a group and help us Deck the Halls of Emmaus House in preparation for the celebration.

3. Seniors Strollers' Luncheon Friday, December 14

Thirty seniors (25 women and 5 men) participate in our Senior Strollers' Program year 'round. At their annual Christmas luncheon the seniors sing carols and each person receives a gift basket delivered by Santa!

How you may participate:

- Call Brittany Grace 770-356-9486 or email gerobics@yahoo.com
- Supply/Donate lunch for thirty seniors



"Santa & Mrs. Scott Dancing"

4. Grandparents' Party Tuesday, December 18th

After a wonderful meal and entertainment, each of the 70 grandparents raising their grandchildren will receive a \$10 gift card. The highlight of this festive evening is the "raffle" for special items collected particularly for grandparents.

How you may participate:

- Call Judi Oakley 404-771-7474 or email gableoak06@comcast.net
- Donate \$10 gift cards
- Donate raffle items (towels sets, dishes, small appliances etc.,)



"Singing Carols"

5. Secret Santa Shop Sunday, December 23rd

After the 10:30 a.m. Emmaus House Chapel Sunday service, children visit the Secret Santa Shop to buy gifts for their parents and grandparents. All items are priced at 10 cents. Scarves, slippers, hankies, socks, soap, shampoo, cologne, shaving cream and razors, gloves, billfolds, decorative items, costume jewelry, watches all make great gifts. Durable items may be *gently* used.

- Call Anne Summerlin 404-252-6021 or email ravs@mindspring.com
- Donate small items for the gift shop
- Come help children select and wrap gifts Dec. 23rd

6. Children's Christmas Festival Monday, Dec. 24th

Santa and Mrs. Claus give presents to each of about 750 children between 8:00 a.m. and noon on Christmas Eve. Children and their parents are entertained by a storyteller, magician and a Christmas movie. Snacks are also provided. We hope to provide health and welfare screening also.

How you may participate:

- Call Stephanie Coble 404-525-5948 x 27 or email stephaniecoble@emmaushouse.org
- Sign up to shop, collect and wrap toys (**using our guidelines on the next page**). This year we are asking that gifts be wrapped before they are delivered. This can be a wonderful and fun family, group or parish activity.
- Gifts should be delivered between November 26 and December 21. See **wrapping instructions** on pg 9.
- Set up an angel tree at your church or business (see page 10 for instructions) and collect and wrap toys for all ages.
- Come to Emmaus House and help sort, stack and wrap last-minute Christmas gifts from December 17th-22nd.
- Volunteer to help the Clauses December 24th
- **No time to shop?** Send a donation to Emmaus House and we will shop for you!



"Wrapping Gifts"

Gift Suggestions

Infants: Blankets, sleepers, diapers, wipes, baby lotion, powder, shampoo, drinking cups, educational toys and books. Clothing for 8 months and older and items that are easily washed.

Toddlers, 1 - 2 years: Girls, culturally sensitive dolls, tea sets, hair ribbons, and purses. Boys, age-appropriate cars and trucks, soft footballs, and action figures. Boys or girls, musical & educational toys, stuffed animals, puzzles, games, back packs, art sets, building blocks, balls, crayons and coloring books, videos, and books.

Children, 3 - 5 years: Girls, culturally sensitive dolls, jewelry, purses, barrettes & hair accessories, dish/tea sets, jump ropes. Boys, Tonka trucks, car collections, and action figures. Boys or girls, sports equipment, backpacks, sleeping bags, stuffed animals, art & craft and magic sets, chalk, books, educational toys.

Children, 6 - 8 years: Girls, culturally sensitive dolls, jewelry, purses, hair accessories, dish/tea sets, jump rope. Boys, trucks, car collections, and action figures. Boys or girls, Sports equipment, backpacks, duffel bags, sleeping bags, stuffed animals, art & craft and magic sets, chalk, science books, educational toys and games, videos.

9 years – 12 years:

Girls, portable CD players with batteries, science sets, jewelry, arts & crafts supplies, slippers, sports equipment, stuffed animals, back packs, board games, educational items, CDs, sleeping bags, books and videos, socks, gloves, scarves, and warm hats. Boys, portable CD players with batteries, sports equipment, science sets, watches, arts & crafts supplies, CDs, back packs, board games, educational items, books and videos, socks, gloves and hats.

13 years – 16 years

Girls, portable CD players with batteries, watches, jewelry, makeup kits, hair brush and comb sets, slippers, pajamas, perfume, purses, sports equipment, backpacks, books and videos, socks, gloves and warm hats. Boys, portable CD with batteries, sporting equipment, backpacks, board games, playing cards, cologne, shaving items, nail clippers, sunglasses, crew/sports socks, gloves and warm hats.

GIFT WRAPPING INSTRUCTIONS FOR GROUPS

(Individuals, please adopt and adapt these as well.)

Gifts are to be wrapped and labeled to indicate the age and gender suitability. Use a white adhesive label to write the age range and a colored dot to indicate the gender.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Wrapping paper, scissors, tape, black sharpies, white address labels (1" – 2 5/8") and colored dots: yellow, red and blue.

1. Sort gifts by age *and* gender. (There could be 18 stacks of gifts!)

The six age categories are: Infant, 1-2 , 3-5, 6-8 , 9-12, 13-16
The three (!) gender categories are: boy (BLUE), girl (RED), either (YELLOW)

2. Setup stations with wrapping supplies and instructions. Put sorted unwrapped gifts at each station with appropriate labeling supplies. Be sure those working at the station know what the age and gender is for each gift they are wrapping. For example, a station wrapping gifts for boys age 9-13 would end up with gifts having a white address label with a blue dot on it and "9-13" written large and legibly on the label. It's that simple.

3. Please place white address label (with age range and colored dot) on top of the gift where it is easily seen.

4. While all ages can help, non-adult wrappers will need careful supervision. We don't want any child to be disappointed by Santa's gift.

PLEASE DO NOT WRAP OR LABEL THESE ITEMS

Stuffed animals, book bags, sleeping bags, basketballs, footballs and other balls.

THANK YOU AND HAVE FUN WRAPPING!

ANGEL TREE INSTRUCTIONS FOR GROUPS



Cut out simply shaped paper Christmas ornaments (last year's Christmas cards are a place to start). Number each ornament and write a description of the item age and gender of the child. (For example #**26, 3-5 year girl, doll.**) Keep a master list of the numbered ornaments/gifts.

3-4 weeks before Christmas, place an ornament tree in a high traffic area in your church or business. Invite people to pick an ornament, sign the numbered list, and take the ornament as a shopping reminder. When gifts and ornaments are returned, donors check them off the master list.

Then you could host a wrapping party. It can be BYO paper, tape and scissors and is a great way share Christmas joy. When all gifts are wrapped (**using the specific instructions on p. 9**) arrange delivery to Emmaus House.

Additional Ways to Help This Christmas-contact

Stephanie Coble 404-525-5948 or email

stephaniecoble@emmaushouse.org

After School Children's Program: 12 children (1st to 5th Grade) participate in the Emmaus House after school program. You may provide gifts, gift certificates or host a party for the group.

Poverty Rights Office: We need large adult winter outerwear such as jackets, hats, scarves and gloves. This is a year 'round ministry that also needs sandwiches, socks and toiletries to hand out all year long.