

FULTON COUNTY SUED OVER FOOD STAMPS

Fulton County has thousands of people on a waiting list to get food stamps. The law requires that people be certified within 30 days, but the County is taking up to 2 months, so Legal Aid has brought suit. The Poverty Rights Office has been hard at work on this problem and took a big crowd of people to the County Commission last week. We hope something will be done as a lot of people are hungry. In the meantime, Mrs. Ethel Mathews of NWRO has announced a protest demonstration which is to take place on Wed. Dec. 18th. Call Emmaus House for more information, 525-5948.

WELFARE RIGHTS TO MEET.

The main business of the NWRO meeting next Wed. Dec. 11th, will be to plan the demonstration on Dec. 18th. Every year we try to do something to inform the people of the City of the sufferings of poor people in Atlanta during Christmas and the winter months. This Dec. 18th demonstration will do that - Let everyone know that in the midst of plenty there is terrible hardship. We want changes - in the food stamp program, in the way the SSI program is run (or not run), and in services for poor people generally. Be sure to join us. Come to the meeting Wed. For a free ride, call 525-5948 before 6 PM the day of the meeting. Stay for refreshments afterward.

SUTTON STUDY CLUB...

...meets Mon. nights at 7:15. All new students of Sutton Middle School are invited to join the club and take part in the interesting activities.

NEIGHBORHOOD CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our big party for all the neighborhood will be held on the Sun. before Christmas, starting at 8:00 PM. We want everyone to plan to come!!!

GOLDEN AGE CLUB...

...meetings for Dec. are on the 12th and 19th at 10:00 AM.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR MISSING PERSONS...

The City owes relocation money to these people. If you know where any of them are, please call the Poverty Rights Office (Mon. - Fri. 10 AM to 3 PM). Charles Green, Willie Jacobs, Louise Freeman, Banks, Robert Melton, Clarence Reed Kinsey, Ola Jordan, Martha Barnett Conwell, Jernigan, Rucker, J. Darrel Sheppard, Ethelyn Warner, John Brown, Walter Williams, Dennis, Barbara Willis, Taylor, John L. Patrick, Occie Pritchard, Alfonso Hill, Deloris Carter.

REIDSVILLE TRIPS

Our last trip to Reidsville was an ordeal. Since the disturbance down there in Oct. they have closed the visitors' reception center and you have to stand out in the road. It was raining when we were there in Nov. They had one man certifying visitors, and he could hardly read. Some waited for 2 hours and many were turned away because they weren't on the list or didn't have identification. We will go back for our next visit on the Sat. before Christmas (Dec. 21st). If you want to go with us come by Emmaus House very soon and sign up.

WARNING TO HOMEOWNERS!!

If you own your own home and sell it and move into public housing, which many people, especially older people, are being advised to do by City relocation workers, you could be in serious trouble. If you are relocated by the City and use the money you get for your house, plus the money the City is required by law to give you (about \$15,000 to buy another house, you can continue to get SSI, food stamps, and medicaid. If you sell your house and move into public housing, you will not get the relocation money, and you will go off of SSI, food stamps, and medicaid until the money you get for your house has been used up. DON'T SELL UNTIL YOU GET SOME ADVICE. Call Emmaus House

(525-5948) or the Poverty Rights Off. (523-2856) and ask for one of the Sister Gails, Sister Marie, or Father Ford or message for Dennis Goldstein

EMMAUS HOUSE NEWS

Vol. V, No. 42 1017 Capitol Ave., SW, Atlanta, Ga. November 7, 1974

NEW DATES FOR "EMMAUS HOUSE NEWS"

Due to shortage of funds and staff, it is necessary to cut down on the number of issues of our newsletter. From now on there will be just one issue a month. Please keep your newsletter for the whole month so that you can see what is scheduled to happen at Emmaus House.

WELFARE RIGHTS TO MEET THE 2ND WED.

The Welfare Rights Org. will meet next Wed., Nov. 13th at 8 P.M. at Emmaus House. THIS WILL BE THE ONLY MEETING THIS MONTH. You are urged to be present as Mrs. Ethel Mathews, Pres., has announced that at this meeting plans will be made for a demonstration to take place later in the month in favor of more help for poor people. You are needed to help plan. If you want a ride to the meeting, call the House, 525-5948, before 6 P.M. the night of the meeting.

GOLDEN AGE CLUB

The Golden Age Club will meet Nov. 14th and Nov. 21st-both times on Thurs. at 10 A.M. At the meeting on the 15th, Club members will be making Christmas decorations. A lavish Thanksgiving dinner is going to be served on the 21st - SO PLAN TO COME!!

SUGAR HILL TENANTS WIN ANOTHER ROUND

The people of Sugar Hill, who with the help of Dennis Goldstein, Gene Ferguson, Sister Marie, Barbara Reed, and other Emmaus House staff, brought suit against the City of Atlanta for failing to pay them relocation grants have won another important battle. The Federal Courts have ordered the City to pay the court costs which these 13 families had paid out of their own relocation grants. Now they will get their money back (\$1300 per family) and the City is going to be a little more careful in the future about forcing people to sue since they are not only having to pay the grants, but also for the price of collecting them.

IF YOU KNOW PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN MOVED BY CODE ENFORCEMENT since Jan. 1971, please call us- they may very well have money due to them. We have 130 names of people who will probably get \$4000 apiece! Call 525-5948.

SUTTON STUDENTS

Members of the Sutton School Study Club will be working each Mon. night (next column)

(SUTTON STUDENTS continued) at Emmaus House, doing homework and their science experiments. The hours are 7 - 8:30 PM.

HELP US FIND PEOPLE FOR SSI

Emmaus House is sponsoring a project that aims to speed the news about SSI and get all those eligible signed up for it. SSI means Supplemental Security Income. It is a new government program that is designed to increase the monthly income of people 65 or older, disabled, blind, or retarded, and who are in need.

Our neighborhood recruiters have already knocked on 1883 doors, talked to 903 people, filled out 346 forms, and so far sent 97 of these forms to the Social Security Office which whill, we believe, accredit them for SSI payments.

So help us out! If you know any needy person who is 65 or older, diabled, blind, or who has a retarded child-please call Sister Gail Mahan at Emmaus House, 525-5948. Thank you! POVERTY RIGHTS AUXILIARY

The Auxiliary Guild of the Poverty Rights Office will meet at Emmaus House on Tues. Nov. 12th at 11:30 AM. The group will have lunch.

SAVE THE FOX!!

The Emmaus House children have had many fine times attending free events at the Fox Theatre. They hope it will be saved, and are planning a demonstration this Sat. Nov. 9th at 10:30 AM. If you get your newsletter in time, call 525-5948 and join in. After the demonstration, there will be a picnic in Piedmont Park.

DENNIS GOLDSTEIN - A LAWYER!

Dennis Goldstein has come back to the neighborhood, and has already taken his exams and been admitted a full-fledged lawyer. He will be working 1/2 time for the Legal Aid on Washington St. & 1/2 time for the Poverty Rights Office here.

EMMAUS HOUSE NEWSLETTER

1017 Capitol Ave., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30315

September, 1977
Telephone: 525-5948

After a long break due to the illness of the faithful volunteer who has for years made the Newsletter possible, we are glad to be back in print!

THE SUMMER AT EMMAUS HOUSE

The big news, as always, was the summer program. One hundred children with the help of a large volunteer staff -- many of them formerly had been children of the program themselves -- had a wonderful time learning and playing. We are grateful to everyone who helped, and to the children who enjoyed themselves. They had to enjoy themselves during the last week at Camp Mikell (directed by Columbus Ward of the Emmaus House Staff) because the Number #1 rule of the camp was, "Everyone must be happy at all times".

SISTER MARIE LEAVES EMMAUS HOUSE

After ten years of close association with Emmaus House and the Community, Sister Marie has moved away to do other work. She felt that the time had come for her to do this and that the Lord willed her to get into something else. She had hoped to have a chance to say good-bye to everyone, but as she was leaving the day she returned from Camp Mikell she missed some people. She wants us to say that she didn't, and won't, forget anyone.... Of course we will always remember her and be grateful for all that she did to enrich our lives.. Her present address is 1625 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C.

EMMAUS HOUSE ACQUIRES A NEW BUILDING

The house just up the street from Emmaus House, 1003 Capitol Ave., went on sale at auction in June. The Emmaus House Chapel congregation bought it, and also undertook to furnish and equip it. The Chapel Congregation is small but determined, and with bake sales, pledges, contributions, and a loan from the Episcopal Diocese they have done a wonderful job! The building was dedicated on the second Sunday in September and is now in use. It is great to have more Sunday School space, and classrooms for morning and afternoon and evening activities during the week. Now that we have more space we will be starting new programs, and hope to hear from people about some things they would like to see happen there.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES RESUME

If you didn't finish high school and want to work for your GED... if you want to learn to read better... to type... enroll in the School at Emmaus House. Tuesday and Thursday mornings the School System provides us with a teacher. Transportation and baby sitting are provided too, and there is no charge for the program.

VOTE OCTOBER 4th!

Atlanta has made a lot of progress in recent years due in large part to the concern of citizens who put some good people in office. Now it's time to vote again... Remember, IF YOU DON'T VOTE YOU DON'T COUNT! Our neighborhood school representative is being opposed, and so are many others... TURN OUT AND EXPRESS YOURSELF. If you need help in getting to the polls, call us at Emmaus House.

NEW HOUSING OPENS ON CAPITOL AVENUE

More than one hundred apartments on Capitol Avenue are now ready for occupancy. This housing was made possible by the people of this community, working through the Emmaus House Redevelopment Corporation and Interfaith. Forty-three of these apartments have been set aside for very low-income people. IT IS NOT TRUE THAT EVERYONE MUST PAY THE BASIC RENT. For a family of three with no income but welfare, rent would be only about \$35 a month. Don't miss this chance! Until Friday, September 30th, applications for these low-income apartments will be taken only from this community. If you are interested, call Interfaith at 872-3848. Mrs. Alma Green is the Interfaith staff person assigned to help you.

1017 Capitol Ave., SW
Atlanta, Ga. 30315

October, 1977
Telephone: 525-5948

MARGARET GRIGGS REELECTED

Atlanta voters returned Mrs. Margaret Griggs to the School Board for another four year term. Many Emmaus House people were involved in the campaign, and we congratulate them one and all, and Mrs. Griggs herself, on this important victory. It is especially important at this time, because the suit brought by community people to force the integration of Atlanta's schools is about to come to court - and Mrs. Griggs has been a supporter of the suit from the start. We're looking forward to an interesting time of change and improvement.

YOUTH PROGRAMS GET STARTED...

The Reading Club, directed by Mrs. Mary Slade for children in the 1st-8th grades, meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:00...Girl Power Club, for girls from six to twelve, meets Saturday mornings from ten to twelve o'clock. Ray Quinnelly is director...Panther's Boys Club, directed by Columbus Ward, for boys between eight and twelve, meets Saturday mornings from ten to twelve at Four Corners...Among Ourselves (ages 13-17) meets Thursday and Sunday nights at 7:00. Gene Fergerson is Advisor to the group which undertakes programs of many kinds... The Sunday School is open to all. It begins on Sunday morning with breakfast at 9:15 and ends at 11:45.

SOCIAL SECURITY CONFERENCE

Seven representatives of the Poverty Rights Office attended a Regional Forum on Social Security on September 19-20. They pushed the need for better services for aged, blind, and disabled persons, for more effective outreach programs, and for a more courteous attitude on the part of Social Security officials. They found that representatives of other organizations were after the same things. The Government has promised to try harder... and PRO volunteers plan to continue to press for speedier handling of applications and complaints. Those attending were Harriet Heriot, Lanelle Ward, Audrey Burdett, Mary Ball, Barbara Reed, Frances Pauley, and Muriel Lokey.

ADULT EDUCATION

The Adult Education program has taken on a new life this Fall. There are about fifteen attending classes, and these meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from nine till twelve. Transportation and baby-sitting services are provided. If you are interested in attending to complete your high school education, to learn to read, to type, or for any other study purpose, call the House for details.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OFFICE OPENS HERE

Emmaus House is to be the headquarters for the Southern Regional Office of the Division of Church and Society of the National Council of Churches. Rev. Augie Vanden Bosch is Director. The presence of this important office in our neighborhood will make it possible for us to let the Churches know what's going on in poor communities, and to join with them in solving problems that affect the lives of poor people. We welcome them to Peopletown and Emmaus House!

CHIEF OF STAFF SYSTEM IN EFFECT

We have started a new system at Emmaus House. Each month a different member of the staff is Chief, and responsible for seeing that everything goes all right. The office rotates each second Monday of the month. The first Chief was Columbus Ward, who did a good job. He has been succeeded by Ray Quinnelly. Any questions, complaints, or suggestions she will be glad to hear about. SISTER MARIE's address is 110 S. Wolfe St., Baltimore, Maryland.

SARA CRAIG MADE HEAD OF HEW

The new Director of the Southern Regional Office of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is Miss Sara Craig, a member of our Chapel Congregation, and a friend and supporter of many efforts to help poor people to a better life. Who would have thought it? We congratulate her and ourselves on this important step ahead by the Carter Administration. We are looking forward to working with Miss Craig, and hope to have a chance to celebrate her appointment with a community reception that the Chapel Congregation, the Georgia Welfare Rights Council, and the PRO are planning.

WHY IS THERE SO MUCH WELFARE FRAUD?

Thousands of welfare recipients in Georgia and Fulton County are under investigation for cheating the welfare department. Numbers have already been convicted and sent to prison. Many people, including many of those who have been friendly to welfare recipients, feel that this is as it should be. "If people lie and cheat," they say, "they ought to go to jail."

But try to put yourself in the other person's place. A typical welfare family is made up of a mother and three children. Now let us say that the mother we are thinking of has a job. She earns \$300 a month. In order to encourage her to work, the welfare rules disregard the first \$170 she makes -- they use a complicated formula to arrive at this amount, but we can ignore that. So, for figuring purposes, they say that she has an income of \$130 a month. This is the \$300 she makes, minus the \$170 which they have disregarded. The maximum welfare grant for a family of four is \$141 a month. So this mother gets to keep the difference between \$130 and \$141. She has a welfare grant of \$11. You might say, what difference does that make? It's not enough to do her much good. The difference is that any amount of welfare qualifies her family for medicaid.

Now let us suppose that the rent -- which is probably about \$100 a month -- is behind. The mother has been paying off a furniture bill. She has had to buy some extra clothes for the children. The utility bills have been going up a lot...And she is worried...Christmas is coming... So, she gets offered a little day work on Saturday. She makes an eight hour day and earns \$2.50 an hour -- \$20. She is required by law to report this to her case worker. If she doesn't, she is guilty of a felony, and can go to prison. If she does, she is \$9 over the maximum, and will lose her welfare grant, and with it her medicaid. She knows that if she loses the medicaid she won't be able to manage if one of the children gets sick. So she decides to say nothing about her Saturday job, and hope she doesn't get caught....Perhaps you wouldn't do as she did...But can you understand why she committed this crime? If you think the State of Georgia is wrong to make it so hard for welfare recipients to work, will you call the Governor's office, or your State representatives, and say so?

FINALLY!

A friend of poor people has been made regional head of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. We are celebrating, and honoring

SARA V. CRAIG

YOU ARE INVITED TO A PARTY

EMMAUS HOUSE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4th, 4:30-7

Sponsored by the Georgia Welfare Rights Council, the Poverty Rights Office, Poverty Rights Organization & Emmaus House Chapel Congregation.

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM MRS. MATHEWS:

The old time Welfare Rights Org. will be having its final meeting for 1977 Wednesday night, November 30th, at 7:30 p.m. at Emmaus House. It is a very important meeting, and I am extending an invitation to everyone to attend. There will be a big treat in store for you, so please come. For more information, or if you need a ride to the meeting, call 525-5948. We'll be looking for you!

THIS AND THAT....

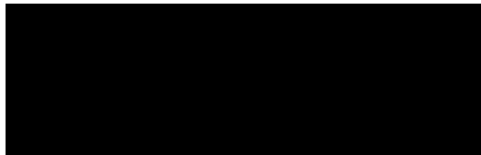
The Golden Age Club had a fine Thanksgiving Dinner, and were glad to welcome Mrs. Rogers as a new member...Children and youth programs are active at Emmaus House, and there are activities for all ages. If you want to join a class or club, call the House, 525-5948...AMONG OURSELVES, one of the Youth Clubs, is raising money for a special event they intend to sponsor for Senior Citizens. They are selling cookies and cakes, so if you can help them by baking something, call Columbus Ward or Gene

(over)

Ferguson at 525-5948....The Sunday School is having a good year, and observing Advent Sunday this week, when they begin a new series of lessons. New members of the Sunday School are always welcome. Breakfast is served at 9 a.m. each Sunday, and classes follow at 9:30, with the Worship Service at 10:15....We regret the death of Mrs. Brenda Zelner, and extend our sympathy to all her family, especially Maurice and Michael who were members of many programs at the House. Mrs. Zelner was only 27 years old, and died after a brief illness....Congratulations to the Bennie Jenkins Family who had a happy reunion on Thanksgiving Day!

IMPORTANT MEETING IN MILLEDGEVILLE

Everyone who can go with us to a meeting in Milledgeville on Saturday, December 10th, is urged to do so. We will be working for a national welfare program. President Carter has proposed such a program, and this will give us a chance to find out what is going on. We will take the bus down, leaving at 7:30 a.m., and meals will be provided. Call 525-5948 for more information.



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1017 CAPITOL AVE., S. W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30318

EMMAUS HOUSE NEWSLETTER

1017 Capitol Ave., SW
Atlanta, Ga.

May, 1978

SUMMER PROGRAM TO BEGIN

Our Summer Program is larger this year: We are adding 25 children and five weeks to it. The program starts June 12th and ends August 17th. The older children in the program will attend Camp Mikell August 19th-26th. The hours are from 8:30 till 3:00 each day (somedays we are a little later getting back.) There are no charges for the program, but children must be regular in attendance. Ages served are from four through elementary school. To register, call Emmaus House, 525-5948 and ask for Gene or Columbus.

The traditional subjects (reading, writing, math, black history, etc.) will be taught, but using content from the health field. Don't be surprised if your child comes home and wants to take your blood pressure! A talented staff will be working with the children and we expect a lot of learning to take place in a happy situation.

Many staff members will be new to the House and the neighborhood. Please help us to welcome them and make them feel at home.

COLUMBUS WARD

We are both sad and happy to announce that Columbus Ward will be leaving the staff of Emmaus House on June 1st. He has accepted an important position as director of a new counseling center for youth sponsored by the Lutheran Church in Dixie Hills. We know he will do a wonderful job, just as he has at Emmaus House. Columbus has meant so much to everyone, young and old. It seems impossible to imagine Emmaus House without him. And we don't have to, fortunately - After all this is still home, and he'll be around a lot. In fact, he plans to direct the Emmaus House camp at Mikell in August. So we don't have to say goodbye - Just thanks for a job well done and congratulations on an important new assignment.

THE SCHOOL TERM IS ENDING....

And with it a very successful season of programs for children and youth. The Girls' Club and the Boys Club have had superb leadership this year. The Reading Club, as always under the inspiration of Mrs. Mary Slade, has forged ahead; and Among Ourselves (which will be continuing through the summer) has achieved a lot for youth and staff. We want to say thanks to those who did so much, but you never should thank people for loving -- so we won't do that -- but only take account of the fact that some good folks have been at work.

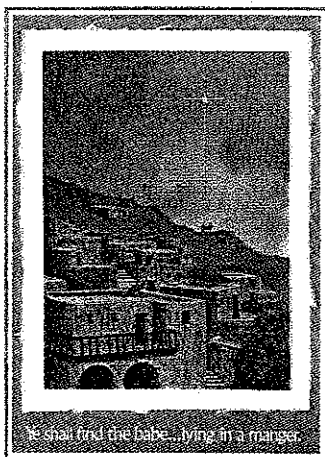
OTHER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The Poverty Rights Office has weathered another storm! Several experienced staff members left during the winter and things were rough for a while, but the faithful crew held things together and Muriel Lokey, coordinator of the Office, thinks things are holding pretty well. This office does so much for so many and provides a unique service in Atlanta... Meanwhile, the Georgia Poverty Rights Org. held a spring meeting in Milledgeville. Reports were received on a successful lobbying season in the Legislature, and plans made for new efforts to get better services and programs for poor people in the year ahead.

EMMAUS HOUSE NEWSLETTER
December, 1978

A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

To all our friends and neighbors we extend warm holiday greetings. We hope this Holy Season will warm all hearts, that every home will be filled with peace, and that those of you who are especially burdened with cares will be cheered with thoughts of the Saviour who came to share our every load. May God bless you every one!



CHRISTMAS PLANS AT EMMAUS HOUSE

There will be parties and activities for young and old this year. Please note especially that SANTA CLAUS WILL COME TO SEE THE CHILDREN on Saturday, December 23rd, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. All children are invited for a happy day, which will include a magic show and a visit with Santa Claus, who plans to have a stocking stuffed with good things for each and all.

CHILDREN, HAVE YOU GOT SOMETHING FOR YOUR MOTHER?

If not, come to Emmaus House on Sunday, Dec. 17th at 12:30 p.m. Bring a few coins and buy something nice from the Secret Shop.

THE ADULTS IN YOUR FAMILY ARE INVITED TO A PARTY AND DANCE
NEW YEAR'S EVE, SUNDAY FROM 8 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Everyone is welcome to the Christmas morning service at Emmaus House. The service begins at 10:30 a.m.

THE CHILD NUTRITION ACT SIGNED BY CARTER

At the last moment before the legislation expired, the President signed the Child Nutrition Act. This guarantees funding for the program which provides food for indigent pregnant women, for nursing mothers and their babies under eight months. It is one of the most important programs we have, and credit for the signing is given to the fact that an avalanche of letters and telegrams was sent to the president urging his approval. People can make themselves felt and we are grateful that this time they did.

WELFARE RIGHTS COUNCIL MEETING AND DINNER

This is an important occasion, and several of the newly-elected members of the Fulton County Commission will be with us to discuss emergency assistance for poor people. All members are urged to attend on December 13th at 7 p.m. For a free ride call before 6 p.m. on the 13th.

NEW RADIO PROGRAM TO BE AIRED

A monthly program concerned with the problems of prisons, welfare, health, and education will begin on WIGO Radio on Christmas Eve at 4:30. After that the program may be heard each fourth Sunday afternoon at that hour. Sponsored by the Welfare Rights Council and Friends and Families of Prisoners, the program gives us a chance to let the public know what is really going on. Gene Ferguson will be the moderator. Be sure to tune in.

Governor Busbee has come out for increases in welfare payments. Georgia has been embarrassed, because although Georgia is no longer a poverty-stricken state, it's welfare payments are among the lowest in the nation. The Governor and Lt.-Governor (Miller) are pushing the Legislature to increase grants for a family of four from \$148 to \$193. Some legislators say that welfare recipients should receive only as much raise as state employees. They forget that state employees get a raise every year. Welfare recipients have had cuts. Two years ago a family of four was receiving \$161 a month.

Anyway, the \$193 being proposed is just not enough to make it possible for a family of four to live if they have no other income. Only one-parent families qualify for any kind of welfare. This always means a woman alone. Normally she has few skills and few job opportunities. If the children are small she may have no access to day care, so cannot work in any case. This family has been made the subject of all kinds of abuse and prejudice. It is simply assumed by many people that the mother of the family wouldn't work if she could, doesn't care, is lazy, cheats the system, and is a drag on society. NO DOUBT SOME WELFARE MOTHERS ARE LIKE THIS! Most are decent people, having to live, like everybody else in the world, with the consequences of their own decisions, some of which may have been mistaken. Now the rent may be more than the entire family income, utility bills don't get paid, children get no clothes for school... things fall apart.

It is a crying shame that the people who ought to care about this situation seem to care less than most: Christian and other religious people. If ever "Lazarus" was lying at the door, it is in the person of these inadequately cared-for families. A generation is being brought up among us condemned to an inadequate, possibly a criminal life; while those who have the influence and ability to change these conditions, if they only cared enough and paid attention, look the other way.

MRS. JOHNNIE BROWN TAKES AFTERNOON PROGRAM

Registration for the Afternoon Program will be held on Saturday, February 3, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Mrs. Brown, Emmaus House staff, and other volunteers are organizing a very interesting series of activities for boys and girls ages 6 through 13. The hours of the program will be 3:45 till 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. We are pleased that Mrs. Brown, who has a long experience with the children of the community, will be heading all this up. We need the cooperation of all parents to insure that children are encouraged to register, and to attend regularly... Another activity, designed mostly for the Sunday School, but open to any children who want to come, will be a religious education program on Wednesday afternoons at the same hours.

EMMAUS HOUSE: SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Sunday: 9 a.m.: Children's breakfast; 9:30, Sunday School; 10:15, Worship; House open, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday: House open, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Poverty Rights Office open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Education Program, 3 & 4 year olds, 9 a.m. - Noon; Tuesday: The same as on Monday. Also, Adult Education (High School Equivalency) 9 a.m. to noon, and afternoon program for children, ages 6-13, Wednesday: House, and Poverty Rights Office, open same hours as other days. Pre-school and afternoon programs, same hours as other days. Welfare Rights Council meets the second Wednesday at 8 p.m. and the Friends of Prisoners meets the first Wednesday at 7:30. Thursday: Same schedule of activities as Tuesday. Golden Age meets the third Thursday. Friday: Same schedule as Monday. Saturday: House open same hours as other days; PRO closed. Boys and Girls Clubs meet on opposite Saturdays.

The first meeting of the year for the Emmaus House Panthers Boys Club will be Saturday, Jan. 27th, at 11:00 a.m. This is a fun and educational program for our young men. Activities are recreation, arts and crafts, field trips, mature study, black history, sports teams, health class, movies, rap sessions, cooking and big brother. We meet every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Four Corners Park. The ages: 7-12 year olds. If you are older, you can become a junior staff member. For more information call Columbus or Michael at 525-5948.

April 1979

1017 Capitol Ave., S.W.

WELFARE BENEFITS TO RISE

The Georgia Legislature has adjourned after a stormy session. It had been hoped that welfare benefits would be raised to \$227 a month for a family of four, but they won't. They will go up, however - 7% this month, and another 8% in July. This year Governor Busbee reluctantly asked for a 30% increase, which was a very hopeful sign because he has been responsible for a steady stream of decreases during his time in office. At his urging, the Legislature has reduced welfare benefits for a family of four from \$165 a month (which is what they were when he became governor) to the present \$148. Now a family of four will be receiving \$171 per month, and we can at least hope that the tide has turned and that next year something more will be done to alleviate the sufferings of poor people in Georgia, three fourths of whom are children. We also lost something this year: Formerly, if a family was found to be eligible for welfare, they began to receive benefits from the day of application. Now they will not receive benefits until the day they are found to be eligible - which comes after verification of employment or disability, and a home visit. In Fulton County this takes about a month, so families with nothing to live on will just have to live on nothing for that month.

Some people who have been removed from the welfare rolls will now be eligible again. If you are making just a little more than the welfare department allows, you should apply for welfare again. Remember that although your monthly check may be small, being eligible for welfare makes you eligible for medicaid.

CONGRESS AND FOOD STAMPS.

Last year, Congress placed a "cap" on the amount of money that could be spent for Food Stamps. Now with so many people out of work and therefore eligible for food stamps, it was obvious that the amount of money wouldn't cover the cost of the stamps. All food stamps recipients would get fewer stamps, probably in October. An effort was made in Congress to take this cap off, or raise it to cover the need. To everyone's surprise, Senator Talmadge worked hard in the Senate Agriculture Committee to raise the cap. He succeeded. Next month the Congress will vote, and on that vote depends whether poor families will continue to receive as many stamps as they do now.

STAFF NOTES

Ned Stone, who has been for many years a volunteer in our children's programs, is working and living at the House full time. We are happy to have him here. Barbara Hayes, who has been with us since the first of the year, has returned to Antioch College, but will be back for the summer. Another Antioch staff member will arrive soon... Charlotte Norby's parents will be visiting us through Easter, and we are delighted to welcome them.

EMERGENCY WELFARE IN FULTON COUNTY

There is no state program for families or individuals not on welfare who face emergency situations. The family with a father in the home, no matter how poor, is not eligible for any kind of help, nor the single individual with no children, however desperate his or her plight may be. Fulton County appropriates \$915,000 a year to meet this need. It had been hoped that the newly-elected Commissioners would do something significant to increase this appropriation, which

is so inadequate that last year 3300 requests for help were turned away. Up to now they have not. Please write or call your county commissioner and ask for an increase in the emergency assistance program. Several members of the Commission are concerned, and representatives of the Welfare Rights Council and the Poverty Rights Office have been meeting with them. It has been found that the welfare department has been taking money refunded to them by the federal government when a family they had helped turned out to be eligible for a state or federal program, and putting it into a general fund instead of using it to help other poor families. This will cease, and will mean that there will be an extra \$125,000 a year in the emergency assistance fund.

P.J. WOODS CENTER

The P.J. Woods Center for the Blind and Senior Citizens was rescued from closing several years ago when the Metropolitan Area Services for the Blind cancelled its funding. (Some of you will remember an Ash Wednesday service that never got going because Fr. Ford was the bus driver for a blind-clients' protest and couldn't get back in time!) Blind clients, and numerous Emmaus House people, led by Rev. Joseph Boone, made a successful effort to save the center. Since then it has been uphill work keeping it going. Now things look very good: A harassing law-suit has been thrown out of court by Judge Charles Weltner. And funding from federal, state, county, and city, amounting to more than \$200,000 has begun. The Center will be serving 50 clients each day in a variety of programs. We congratulate the staff, who have worked hard, often with no pay, and always with great dedication; the Rev. Joseph Boone, who gave leadership to the effort that saved the Center; and most of all the blind clients who were determined to save a center that for many years had been like home to them.

WE GIVE THANKS FOR SPRING AND EASTER

Once again we rejoice in the renewal of the earth, and in the renewal of hope that comes to us with the Easter reminder of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the earth puts away the cold dark days of winter, so our lives and minds may shed the fear of death and abandonment that haunt us all sometimes. Everyone has crosses, but God is watching over us all the time and will rescue those who trust in him. This is our Easter Gospel. Easter Day will be celebrated at Emmaus House at 10:15 in the morning. Bring some flowers to help us decorate the cross, and join us in our welcome of the Risen Lord.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

GEORGIA WELFARE RIGHTS COUNCIL, Wednesday, April 11th, 7:30 p.m.; GOLDEN AGE MEETING AND LUNCH, April 19th, 11 a.m.; RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF PRISONERS, May 2, 7:30 p.m.; Mother's Day Weekend: VISIT TO REIDSVILLE, May 12th (Saturday)...if you want to go make your reservation soon. MARCH AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY, May 12th, noon, Martin Luther King Center, across the street from Ebenezer Church.

EMMAUS HOUSE NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 1980

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYBODY!!!

Christmas at Emmaus House went very well this year. The festivities included a party that Columbus and the youths of E.Y.C. arranged for our grandparents, and an evening of Christmas Caroling put together by Silva and the Church School children. Mary Ball gave a great party after the caroling. The arrival of Santa Claus on Christmas Eve was really something! Over 400 children came for a movie, a magic show, a snack, and a visit with Santa. Everybody had a wonderful time.

We want to thank all the people who helped in so many ways to make this Christmas such a happy one at Emmaus House. A very special thanks to Bill and Mary Morrison, who did such a wonderful job of putting it all together and making sure that everything went according to plans.

AFDC: CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR

If you had to care for yourself and two small children, could you manage with \$ 145.- a month? The people who do this can tell you that it is impossible. Our legislators are now discussing the AFDC budget which will affect our lives for the next 18 months. Will you write or speak to Governor Busbee and Speaker Murphy, as well as your legislator about this important issue? Tell them that children cannot exist on so little money.

For the latest news on what's happening at the Capitol, call Christians Against Hunger during the day at 588-1458 and Frances Pauley during the evening at 373-6735. Get involved - make a difference for the children of Georgia.

CHURCH SCHOOL AND E.Y.C.

We are very happy to welcome Katherine Amos, who has been with the Church School for three months. She joins the loyal staff of May Helen Johnson, Nancy Beishline, Columbus Ward and Ray Quinnelly. The attendance of the Church School is steadily growing and we want to thank all the adults who have assisted in any way. We thank Niels, Gene and Charlotte who have helped and filled in when there was a need. The children worked hard on their Christmas pageant and had a very successful program. The Episcopal Young Churchmen (E.Y.C.) meet weekly on Sunday afternoon. The group has developed an enthusiastic following of young people, who are interested in the church, its teachings, and in fellowship. Every time we meet we become more and more of a community. Both the Church School and E.Y.C. are open for any suggestions and assistance.

ADULT EDUCATION

CONGRATULATIONS to the five people who received their G.E.D. Diplomas at the graduation ceremony of the adult education class at Emmaus House. At the same occasion we said goodbye to Virginia Priest, the teacher of the past three years, who is changing jobs. This, however, does not mean the end of our school. Our new teacher, Mr. Johnny Morgan, started early this month and classes are continuing as usual. We want to welcome Mr. Morgan and thank him and all the students for continuing the program. Classes meet every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. They offer opportunities for working on your highschool diploma at a pace that fits you and brushing up on your basic skills.

PRESCHOOL

The Emmaus House Pre-school program, extended in 1978-79 to a year round program, took a big leap forward this year due to the generosity of St. Bartholomew's parish; they gave half of the proceed from the Olde English Festival to the program.

Much exciting new educational equipment has been added and a part-time staff member, Mrs. Tinnei Prather, has been engaged. The director of the program is Anne Henderson, a clinical psychologist, who has experience in working with children. The Emmaus House staff member working with the program this year is Niels Klit. The pre-school offers to three-and four-year olds a program of reading- and math-readiness as well as a variety of experiences designed to help them learn to work in groups, follow directions, and generally feel comfortable in a kindergarten- like setting. During both years those children who have regularly attended have made great progress. This spring Gene Fergerson has agreed to act as a liason with parents in the community to aquaint them with the aims of the program and encourage regular attendance and fuller perticipation by a larger number of students and parents. Our next aim is to expand enrollment to double or more the number of children presently attending. For this we will need more staff, particularly volunteers. Anyone out there interested?

OTHER PROGRAMS FOR THE CHILDREN

Boys and Girls Clubs meet every Saturday morning at 10 a.m., for fun, recreation, learning and fieldtrips. Both programs serve a lunch to the children before adjourning at 1 p.m. The Girls Club, which is for girls age 6-12, meets at Emmaus House and is directed by Helen McCrady and Ray Quinnelly. The Panthers Boys Club, for boys age 8-12, meets at Four Corners Park and is run by Columbus Ward and Niels Klit. Boys 13 or older can serve as junior staff to the boys club. In addition, a group of older girls age 12-14 meet every Monday and Friday afternoon from 5 to 7 p.m. The girls are taken home after program but must get here on their own. Contact Charlotte Norby for more information on this program.

INCOME TAX

Mr. Coe is at the front desk on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to help fill out income tax forms. You can come by and see him or drop your papers by for him to fill out. We are very happy to welcome Mr. Coe back on the volunteer staff of Emmaus House, we all missed him while he was gone.

Our address is: Emmaus House
1017 Capitol Ave., S.W.
Atlanta, Ga. 30315
Phone number: 525-5948
523-2856 (Poverty Rights Office)
Come by and see us sometime.

CITY CUTS IN PARKS AND RECREATION

The City of Atlanta Budget for 1980 included some major cuts through-out programs that serve the Black and poor community. The Mayor and the City Parks and Recreation Dept. had made a recommendation that 11 of the neighborhood recreation centers be closed, mostly those within poor black neighborhoods. Included was our Four Corners. The Mayor and the Parks and Recreation Dept. are once again trying to shift their responsibility off on the poor community. Their suggestion was for community groups and organizations to accept the responsibility of providing services and develop the programs that are needed for children and other residents. This points clearly to the City Government's lack of concern and commitment to the poor community and its children. For the City to tell community groups and organizations to provide the services and utilize the space vacated is criminal behavior. The city services provided for children and youths in the community are already without the proper expertise, financial and moral support. A cut of any size or closing the rec. centers will have more harmful effect on the lives of our children, especially when the City report showed that one of the reasons for crime is the lack of structured programs and activities in youths' lives. We won our first battle thanks to the efforts and sacrifices of May Helen Johnson, Dorothy Smith, Father Miller, Raymond Grier, Michelle McClave, Bernard Brown, Ms. Mathews, Robert Thomson, Mr. Render, Marion Greene, Ms. Metts, John Boone, Mrs. Thrasher, Ricky Victrum, Mrs. Moore and others. All these people attended meetings and spoke out against the cuts; children and others who were unable to attend the meetings signed petitions that were later presented to the Finance Committee. On Feb. 4, 1980 the Finance Committee voted to close only three centers. This decision was later accepted by the Council. The three centers to be closed are the ones housed in school buildings, with the request that the Board of Education becomes fully responsible for them. They also voted to cut staff to one paid person per center. We must not overlook our first victory, nor must we let the City treat us this way. A city-wide coalition of people from various communities has been formed to keep working on this issue. WE NEED EVERYBODY'S HELP.

PLEASE PLAN TO: 1. Join the coalition.

2. Contact your city council person and ask him or her to make the city provide the needed services for our children and communities.

3. Contact the Mayor.

We are asking for two or more full-time professional staff at each center; adequate funding for programs; the re-opening of the centers that have been closed.

For more information call Gene Ferguson at 525-5948

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE

The PRO is observing our tenth year of operation here at Emmaus House. Our hours are 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. from Monday through Friday, and our phone number is 523-2856. We invite you to call us, and come by and see us with any problem you might have in welfare, housing, food stamps, SSI, SSA, et.c. It is your place! If you do not already subscribe to our Poor People's Newspaper, we would like for you to receive it. It is free, and is published every month except August. Please call us and we will put you on the list. New members who have joined our staff since September are: Niels Klit, Libby Ramsey, Becky Sadosky, Betsy Fancher, and Michelle McClave. We are certainly glad to have their help.

NEW PROGRAM FOR YOUTH IN PEOPLETOWN

Columbus Ward, who for the past year and a half has been working for Aid Association for Lutherans, is getting ready to start a youth program in Peopletown. The program is called Atlanta Help Our Youth!, and offers various activities and help for all young people. After a long period of looking, without success, for a facility in the Dixie Hills Community, Atlanta Help Our Youth! now has been granted the use of the former South Branch Library building on 929 Capitol Ave., S.W. The new program will be having their GRAND OPENING on Sunday March 16, 1980, at 3:00 p.m., and everybody is invited to attend and welcome Atlanta Help Our Youth! to the community. We wish Columbus Ward and his program good luck!

Atlanta, Ga. 30315
525-5948

SUMMER JOBS FOR YOUTH

It is time now for all young people to start thinking about Summer employment. Like last year CETA, Summer Youth Employment Program, offers part-time jobs during the school vacation. To qualify for a job you must be:

1. between 14 and 21 years of age
2. Live in the city of Atlanta
3. your family's income must be below a certain level.

CETA has been taking applications at most of the high- and junior-high schools by now and many young people have already applied. If you have not yet turned in your application or if you never got one you can go either to * the Georgia State Employment Service at One Peachtree St., N.E. or * to your local E.O.A. office (ask for the Labor Department Representative).

If you do not know what E.O.A. office to go to you can call 525-4262 and give them your address, they will tell you where to go.

HURRY UP - time is running out and there are only a limited number of jobs. Remember to bring your ID when you go to apply.

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING UNITS

Neighborhood planning units (NPU's) are the formal links between the city and the community. Each neighborhood in the city has a NPU that meets on a monthly basis to discuss matters concerning that particular area. NPU-V includes Peopletown, Adair Park, Summer Hill, Pittsburg, and Mechanicsville and meets on the second Monday of each month. To find out when and where the next meeting will be held call Rosa Burney, chairperson, at 524-8014 or Inza Howard, city planner, at 658-6424.

If you do not live in NPU-V you can call the city planning office at 658-6306 to find out which NPU you belong to and when they meet.

WELFARE RIGHTS

The Welfare Rights Organization is in its 13th year of existence here at Emmaus House. Ms. Ethel M. Mathews, president of the organization, and other members meet on the second Wednesday of every month at 8:00 p.m. The organization works on many different issues pertaining to poor people; some of the issues are the operation of the welfare and food stamp programs, SSA, and SSI. A special group are concerned about the circumstances in our prisons and are committed to work with prisoners, exoffenders, and their families to improve the situation. They have been meeting on the first Wednesday of every month. To be effective in getting things changed many people need to join in the struggle. If you are interested in joining the organization, attending the meetings or just want to hear some more call Ms. Mathews at 525-5948. Leave your name and number for her and she will return your call.

Update on welfare legislation: The legislature raised the percentage of payment from 75% to 85% of the standard of need. This means that starting July 1, 1980 all welfare recipients will receive a slight increase. People whose income is just above the limits now may also be eligible after July 1. As we all know this increase was badly needed and we want to thank everybody who worked for it. But we cannot forget that benefits still will be far from adequate and we need everybody's help to keep fighting for increases.

SENIOR CITIZENS PROGRAM

A group of people have been working for a while on putting together a Senior Citizens Program at Emmaus House. So far we have started on a small scale and are meeting only twice a month, but we have great plans for the future. We will be remodeling and landscaping to make Emmaus House easier to get to for senior citizens and hope to establish many different activities and programs. The group meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 10:00 A.M., and we have made plans for fieldtrips, sewing, drawing, and speakers. At the last meeting Michael Goodman from the Forrest Avenue Consortium visited us; he spoke about P.H. Polk, a Black photographer, and everybody enjoyed the program. A visit to the High Museum's exhibition on Black photographers with breakfast compliments of The Park at Colony Square is scheduled for the next meeting.

Mary Ball, Lewis Sinclair, and Michelle McClave have volunteered their time to work with the program and we greatly appreciate their efforts and good ideas. If you or anybody you know is a senior citizen and interested in attending the meetings, or if you have some time to help us make this program a success, please call Charlotta at 525-5948.

A.H.O.Y.

The grand opening of AHOY's new facility on Capitol Avenue was a very successful event. Many people participated on the program and as guests. Janice Scruggs read a poem written by one of her friends and we would like to share it with all of you:

Ghetto Unity

Mommy has gone
Daddy has died
Until mommy comes back
In this alley we'll hide
The rats and the roaches
Are squirming around
Pieces of glass scattered
All over the ground
Old newspapers
And cigarette packs
Stale rotten food
Eaten by rats.

So now that both
Our parents have died
I guess in this alley
We'll continue to hide
Together we'll make it
Though progress may be slow
For we have each other
And on we'll go
Trying somehow to laugh
To hide our fears
Though our laughter moves aside
When approached by the tears.

Not far away
We heard someone screaming
Footsteps running
And sirens ringing
As we pressed through the crowd
To see what was there
All we could see
Was blood everywhere
Among the crowd
We heard someone say
That it was my mother
Who had passed away.

I who am alive
Must be brave and understanding
Though our hurt is the same
And our lives are demanding
Must it always take pain
To bring the unity
In our ghetto minds
And ghetto communities
Daddy has died
Mammy has too
Leaving us each other
To get us through.

NOTES

If you would like us to print a notice about an important event in your family we will be glad to do so. Please call Charlotta at 525-5948 and give her the information.

By April 15th all income tax forms have to be filed. Mr. Coe is still at Emmaus House every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to help you do this. You can either come by and see him during these hours or drop your forms by.

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM FACES SERIOUS DANGER

The food stamp program is in danger on two fronts right now. First, there is a very serious possibility that there will be no food stamps in the month of June. The present budget will run out of money for food stamps by June 1st, and unless Congress acts by May 15, 1980, and puts more money in the budget, no recipients will get their food stamps in June. It is extremely important that everybody contacts his/her representative and senator immediately and lets them know, that poor people will starve if they do not get their food stamps. In June the children will be out of school and will not be getting the free school lunches and many parents will have no way of feeding their children without food stamps.

The other thing that threatens the food stamp program is the proposed cuts in next years budget (the fiscal year 1981 which starts in July, 1980). These cuts will affect poor people in many ways. Congress is considering a \$ 1.4 billion cut in the food stamp program, which would mean a 15-25% reduction of benefits starting October 1, 1980. If this happens everybody's benefits will be reduced and many families will no longer be eligible.

We all know that we and our children cannot live without food and we must make our elected officials understand this. These are the phone numbers of the representatives of this area :

Senator Herman Talmadge : 221-6255 Senator Sam Nunn : 221-4811

Representative Wyche Fowler : 688-8207

Representative Elliot Levitas : 377-1717

Call them right now and tell them,

1. To put money in the budget for food stamps in June,
2. Not to make any cuts in next years food stamp allocation.

On Friday May 9, 1980, at 10:00 a.m. the Welfare Rights Organization is sponsoring a demonstration in protest of the proposed cuts. The demonstration will be in front of the Federal Building on Spring St. and we urge everybody to attend and help avoid the cuts. For a ride or more information call Emmaus House.

SCHOOL DESEGREGATION

In 1972 a group of 24 Black parents filed a suit (Armour vs. Nix) against the seven school districts of the Metropolitan Atlanta area. The suit charges that the school districts are violating the constitution in not integrating the schools and that integration only can be obtained with a plan that involves all of the metro area school systems. The eight years that have passed since the suit was filed has been a long and often discouraging battle for the 24 parents, their lawyer, Margie Pitts Hames, and other supporters. In November, 1979, the U.S. District Court finally ruled, saying that they did find violations of the constitution but no way of changing the situation. Ms. Hames filed an appeal with the US Supreme Court and finally, after eight long years the government has joined in the struggle and showed their support. Last month Wade McCree, US Solicitor General, filed a brief on behalf of the US Justice Department with the Supreme Court in support of the Metro Suit. Mr. McCree is a Black man, formerly Circuit Court of Appeal Judge, who himself has done school desegregation cases for NAACP before becoming a judge.

Nobody can say when the Supreme Court will rule on the case, but it is a great encouragement to have the support of the federal government, and it finally looks like the time when Atlanta's schools will be integrated is within sight.

SUMMER SCHOOL

The Summer is getting close and everybody is busy planning for the Emmaus House Summer School Program. Mrs. Anderson will be the director of the program again this year so we know the Summer is in good hands, and are all looking forward to lots of fun and learning. Like last year we will be housed in Pryor Street Elementary School.

The program will be for children who will be in kindergarten in the Fall up through those who are graduating from 7th grade. We will start on Monday June 16, 1980 and continue for nine weeks followed by a week at Camp Mikell in August (only children who have graduated from 1st grade will go to camp).

Sign-up days for the Summer School program will be Saturday and Sunday May 24th and 25th, 1980, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Children who live in the community and those who are presently enrolled in Emmaus House programs will be given first priority and a parent or guardian must sign the children up. We are looking forward to a great Summer and hope your child(ren) can join us

TENANT WINS SUIT AGAINST AHA

In September, 1975, the Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA) moved a woman from the house she was renting on Haygood Ave. because the house had been condemned. AHA assigned her to one of the old city trailers. Since some repairs needed to be done to the trailer before she could move in, AHA placed her in a motel for a week while the work was being done. When the tenant did move in, however, the trailer was still filthy; one of the burners on the stove did not work; and water was dripping in the kitchen. She complained several times but nothing was done. A week after she moved in, an AHA employee came to ask her to sign a paper saying she would pay the bill for staying at the motel. Although the tenant understood that AHA would pay those expenses and although she could not afford to pay them, she signed the agreement. When check day came the AHA collectors followed the mailman until he delivered the tenant's check, then took her mother to get it cashed so they could collect the money for the motel bill.

A couple of months went by with no repairs. In December, the tenant fell through the floor of the trailer. She was recovering from back surgery at the time and the accident reinjured her back, leaving her permanently disabled. Still no repairs were made. A volunteer at the Poverty Rights Office put the tenant in touch with Legal Aid and then with a private lawyer. On the advice of these attorneys, she temporarily withheld her rent which she felt was too high since the trailer was in such bad condition. In the Spring of 1976, AHA finally had some work done on the trailer. At the same time, the private attorney filed a suit on behalf of the tenant against AHA, asking for compensation for her back injuries and charging AHA with fraud for forcing her to pay the motel expenses. A long time passed. The lawyer did the legal work and kept fighting. The tenant kept waiting, surely sometimes feeling discouraged and impatient. But she felt she had been wronged and was determined to demand her rights.

In the end, it paid off. In March, 1980, her case went to court. The jury determined that she was right and the judge ordered AHA to pay her \$71,000. Although things hardly ever work out that well, poor people can rejoice that this story had a happy ending. It encourages us to keep fighting for our rights.

1017 Capitol Ave., S.W.
Atlanta, Ga. 30315
525-5948

SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Our Summer Program at Pryor Street School went really well. We had a wonderful group of children coming every day for studies in the morning hours, and swimming and recreation at Pittman Park in the afternoons. On our last day parents and friends were invited and each group had prepared their own program to share what they had learned. Dance and music groups performed and we had an art exhibit. It was obvious to everyone who attended that a lot had been accomplished during the summer.

Our annual week at Camp Mikell was somewhat shortened this year. Due to a breakdown of the waterpumps we were forced to leave two days early. The time that we did have at camp was very happy and exciting. We were pleased to have Father McGraw and his family spend the week with us. We want to thank all the people who helped make this summer enjoyable for the children; a special thanks to the teenagers of Atlanta Help Our Youth who volunteered their time as counselors for the younger children at camp.

SENIOR CITIZENS

All though we, due to the Summer School Program, had to limit our activities during the summer months, the Senior citizens still met every Friday at Four Corners Park. Our exercise and quilting classes continued all through the summer and went really well. We have been working hard on a 'tulip quilt' which is almost finished. In addition to the quilting we now also have a painting class. Kay Martin, a professional artist who teaches in Doraville, is volunteering her time to teach painting to the senior citizens. This class has been a great success, we see lots of talents and everybody is enjoying it very much. In the early part of July we had a picnic at Stone Mountain which we all enjoyed, even though we were unable to climb the mountain! And in August we went to one of the Braves' games. In the fall our Friday program will continue as usual and we will be meeting on Tuesdays as well for field trips and speakers. Plans for the remodeling of our facilities are also proceeding and we are looking forward to getting started on the work sometime in the fall.

Ardy Blandford, a long time Poverty Rights Office volunteer, is expanding her hours to include working with the senior citizens this fall. We are happy to have her and know that she can add a lot to the program. A special project of Ardy's will be going out into the Peopletown community to visit senior citizens and find out their needs and interests. Please call Ardy if you want a visit or know of a senior citizen who would like to join the program or have Ardy come by. She can be reached on Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Poverty Rights Office (523-2856) or you can leave a message at Emmaus House anytime.

CAPITOL AVE. APARTMENTS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The apartments that are being build in the old Capitol Ave. School are nearing completion and the management company - Continental Wingate - is presently taking applications. The building has 48 one-bedroom apts all of which are HUD subsidized. The rent will be calculated according to your income and will include utilities. People who apply must be 62 years of age or handicapped. A few of the units are specially equipped for handicapped persons. For more indormation about the apts. or how to apply you can call the manager Alice Denham at 874-6301.

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE

The Poverty Rights Office has been reorganized this summer, and Lewis Sinclair is now the Director, working to develop our program and representing us with the public and private agencies with whom we have contact. We are open as usual from 10:00 to 3:00, Monday through Friday. Call us at 523-2856 if you have a problem that you think we may be able to help you with.

The Poor Peoples Newspaper is in its 10th year of publication, and the staff are planning to have an evening gathering at Emmaus House for our readers. We want you to come and tell us what you think about the paper, and what news you would like to receive. Please come Wednesday night Oct. 15 at 7:30 p.m. for cookies and coffee, and to meet with us. If you need a ride, call the PRO at 523-2856.

MARTA FARE INCREASES

As everybody is aware of by now, MARTA increased the bus and train fares from 25¢ to 50¢ in July. Several individuals and organizations have been, and are still, involved in protest actions against the increase. The many people who spoke out before the increase went into

effect did win some small victories: 1. senior citizens can now ride at reduced fares except during morning rush hours, 2. the proposed extra increase of 10¢ in January 1981 was eliminated, and 3. the \$4.-/week Transcard was introduced. But the situation is still causing extreme hardship for all poor people who depend on MARTA for transportation to school, shopping, hospital, work, etc. The Board of Education has this year eliminated the free bus tokens and provide transportation only for children who live further than 1½ miles from school. This, coupled with the fare increase, will force many children to walk long distances every day, often through unsafe neighborhoods. In view of the recent incidents where several young children in Atlanta have been kidnapped and/or murdered, this situation cannot be tolerated. There are still protests going on and Ms. Mathews, president of the Welfare Rights Organization, filed a suit against MARTA which presently has been appealed to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

STAFF NOTES

Mike Carlson, Annie Black, and Niels Klit all left Emmaus House right camp. We enjoyed having them on staff and will miss them. We wish them luck with school and work and hope that they will be back soon. Presently on staff are Dawn Adkins, Gene Fergerson, Ruth Gilbert, and Charlotta Norby. Gene is now also working part time for the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta as an assistant to the director of Special Ministries. Ruth Gilbert, a long time close friend and supporter of Emmaus House, moved here from New Jersey in the middle of September. She is living at the House and will be involved with various things around here. At the moment she is visiting the families of the Chapel Congregation. She wants to get to know everybody and is compiling a profile of the Congregation to find out what their interests and ideas are for furthering our christian community. We are all very happy to have Ruth Gilbert with us and hope that many of you will take the time to come by to welcome and get to know her.

VOTING ?

If you plan to vote in this years presidential elections you must register N O W ! In order to vote one must register at least 30 days prior to the election. If you have been registered to vote earlier, but have not voted in the past three elections - or - if you have moved to a new county you must register again. You can call the court house in your county to find out if you are still registered; they can also tell you where to register. In Fulton County the phone number is 572-2581.

1017 Capitol Ave., S.W.
Atlanta, Ga. 30315
525-5948

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

On October 28, 1980 we will be beginning our afternoon program for elementary school children in the neighborhood. We will be accepting children from Kindergarten through Fourth grade. The program will have two parts. On Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. we will have reading, music, and art for children who are interested in participating in serious studies. This part will be directed by Johnnie Brown and staffed by Dawn Adkins, Ruth Gilbert and Charlotta Norby. Wednesdays, also from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., will be for children who want a relaxing and fun afternoon. Gene Fergerson will direct this part. We hope to have lots of fun and learning and are looking forward to welcoming many children.

EPISCOPAL YOUNG CHURCHMEN

The E.Y.C. group is still meeting every Sunday afternoon from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. We have a steady group of young people who enthusiastically participate in the various activities. On October 19, 1980 Emmaus House E.Y.C. was invited, together with several other EYC groups from the city, to Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church for a "Silly Olympics" event. We all had a wonderful time and the young people showed much talent and won, through a great group spirit, the Gold Medal. We are very proud and want to congratulate them on their efforts and accomplishments.

PRESCHOOL

The preschool program started up again in early October under the direction of Columbus Ward and Tiny Prather. Anne Henderson, who has directed the program for the last two years, will be returning in November. Presently the program is filled to capacity with fifteen three and four year old children. The children are introduced to a classroom situation in the program and given ample opportunity to have fun while they learn. Also working with the children this fall are Jean White, Gabriel Nekongo, and Dawn Adkins.

DRAMA GROUP

The first organizational meeting of the Adult Drama Group will meet Monday, October 26, under the enthusiastic direction of Mrs. Rose Miller. This is a new group and all interested adults desiring to participate in the production of a play for fun and entertainment are urged to join. Transportation can be provided. For more information and future meeting dates call Dawn at 525-5948.

ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP

On Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (except the 2nd Wednesday) the adults interested in discovering some of the teachings of the church, renewing some of their insights about the Christian faith, and re-searching biblical teachings about justice will gather at Emmaus House. At the present time plans call for beginning with Evening Prayer and continuing with discussion and refreshments. The book chosen to begin this shared inquiry is : Faith In Practice. For more information call Ruth Gilbert at 525-5948.

CHAP BILL

On November 12 Ruth Gilbert and Kathie Clemons, representing Emmaus House and the Poverty Rights Office, will join many others in Washington D.C. for a "Actions for Healthy Children Day", in support of the CHAP bill. We urge everybody to act immediately in any way they can to help get this bill passed. The CHAP bill can mean the difference between adequate health care and virtually no health care at all for children and families outside the Metropolitan Atlanta area. See the enclosed leaflet for more information.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

Election day, Tuesday November 4, is just around the corner and we want to take this last chance to urge everybody to vote on that day. We will be electing a president and other officials who will be running our government. It is important to us who they end up being. Do VOTE.

ACOLYTES

Mrs. Jean McGraw has started working with the churchschool children ages 12 and under, training them to be acolytes in the church service. They will learn about being torchbearers, carrying the cross, taking up offerings and presenting the sacraments to the priest.

CARNIVAL FOR CHILDREN

On Saturday November 1, from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. the Peoplestown Booster Club will be sponsoring a Carnival for children in the neighborhood. The activities will take place at Four Corners Recreation Center on 30 Haygood Ave, S.W., and include fleamarket, sale of refreshments, games, and much much more. Contact Columbus Ward at 523-5213 or Beatrice Metts at 588-9976 to find out how you might be able to help. Make sure to bring your children and their friends for a fun afternoon.

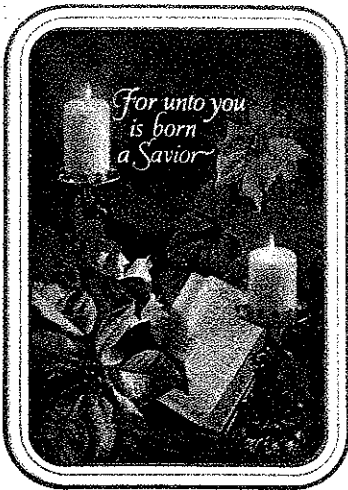
NEW CONSUMER LAW CENTER

The law firm Moore, Samford, and Moore has recently opened a Consumer Law Center in downtown Atlanta. This is an effort to serve consumers in many different cases; such as: garnishments, repossessions, collections, evictions, warranty cases, and insurance claims. The Center will serve consumers only. To make the services available to low-income people, the Center is using paralegals in addition to the attorneys. They will charge a basic fee of \$ 25.- to take a case and if you lose the case that is all you have to pay. If you, with their help, win the case they will charge an additional fee of 1/3 of your economic benefit.

This is a good opportunity for low-income people. The Consumer Law Center of Moore, Samford, & Moore is located in Suite 906 at 15 Peachtree St. To set up an appointment or learn more about the Center you can call Ms. Gregory at 524-8512.

EMMAUS HOUSE NEWSLETTER
1017 Capitol Ave., S.W.
525-5948

December 1980



Christmas is coming very close, and at Emmaus House staff and volunteers are busy getting ready for it. We hope all our friends and neighbors will join us in the celebration of this happy time and that this Season will be a special one for you and your family

Following is a list of activities planned in observance of the Season:

PRISON TRIP: Saturday December 20th, leaving at 7:00 a.m., a chance for family members to visit loved ones imprisoned at Reidsville. As in previous years before returning to Atlanta, we will conduct a brief memorial service of carols and prayers at the prison cemetery. The bus is full at this time, but we can accept names for the waiting list. Call 525-5948.

SECRET SHOP: Sunday December 21st, at 12:00 p.m. after church service, children can buy presents for their parents in the Secret Shop. All children in our Churchschool, Reading Program, Boys Club, and Girls Club are invited to come at this time. (New development - this year there will be father's presents, too!) Parents, don't let the children forget to bring a dime to make their purchase.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: Sunday December 21st, at 6:00 p.m., the children will be going Christmas Caroling in the neighborhood. After that we will go for a party at Mary and Turner Ball's house. In order to participate, children must attend the rehearsals on Tuesday Dec. 16th and Thursday Dec. 18th, at 5:00 p.m. Those who need transportation or more information should call Dawn at 525-5948.

DECORATION OF THE BIG TREE AT EMMAUS HOUSE - anyone who wants to help, come by on Monday December 22nd, in the morning after 9:30 a.m.

GRANDPARENTS PARTY: On Monday December 22nd, members of the Senior Citizens Program and grandparents of children in Emmaus House programs and activities are invited to the annual Grandparents Party. We will celebrate the evening with refreshments, song and music, and share memories of how Christmas was celebrated many years ago. Transportation will be provided for this activity, and grandparents can call Charlotta if they need a ride. The party will begin at 6:00 p.m.

SANTA CLAUS: The highlight of Christmas celebration will be Santa's visit to Emmaus House on Christmas Eve from 10:00 a.m. to noon. All children 9th grade and younger are invited to come for storytelling, a magic show, refreshments, and a good visit with Santa. Make sure you put this on your calendar! The real Santa Claus makes this one of his few stops in Atlanta.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE: Christmas Day at 10:15 a.m., everybody is invited to attend. Before the service, the Sunday School children will have their Christmas party, and there will be a brief reception for adults after the service.

"THE KING AND I": Provided the run of this popular musical is extended, we will be taking a mixed group of young and old on December 26th - If you want to go, call Jette at 525-5948.

CHRISTMAS DANCE: All adults are invited to our annual neighborhood party to be held on Sunday December 28th. Dancing, music, and fun from 8:00 p.m. to midnight.

NEW HOUSING CODE IN ATLANTA

The Atlanta City Council has adopted a long needed new housing code, on Sat. Dec. 6th, Emmaus House sponsored a workshop on this subject. Councilwoman Debbie McCarty, Cathy Malicki, from the City's Bureau of Buildings, and Dennis Goldstein, of Atlanta Legal Aid, presented the new Code and answered many questions from the participants.

Much of the emphasis in code enforcement will be shifted from homeowners to private and public landlords. Homeowners will be required to comply with some minimum health and safety standards, but they are less extensive than under the old code, and homes are not subject to inspection except as a result of complaints or requests. A new system which involves obtaining a "Certificate of Compliance" will be required for landlords whose property has been found in violation of the Code. They will be given a time limit to comply and will be subject to fees and legal action if they fail to repair. All the City's rental property involving four or more units will be subjected to inspections. People who rent single family housing, duplexes, or triplexes will have to contact the Bureau of Buildings themselves to get their homes inspected. Those who fear that their landlord may react negatively if they request an inspection, can ask the Bureau not to reveal their identity or have a neighbor, their NPU, or a community organization file the complaint on their behalf. The Code applies to public housing, Section 8, and other subsidized housing as well as to privately rented housing.

Although there are changes for the better in the new Code it is not perfect and we should still be working on the local and state levels for improved rights for tenants. There is opposition to the new Code, and there will be attempts to dismantle it and go back to worse circumstances. Therefore it is important for people to use the Code, so it later can be documented as to what effect it has had. People are also encouraged to write the Mayor asking him to appoint a judge to the Municipal Court, who would be willing and interested in housing matters. If you would like more specific information or help with your own house or apartment, you can call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856, or the Atlanta Legal Aid.

RAFFLE PARTY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

On Friday January 16, 1981 the Emmaus House Senior Citizens are going to have a raffle party! There is going to be entertainment, refreshments and just a whole lot of fun! The group is raffling off items that they have made themselves - 1st prize: a handcrafted quilt, other prizes include a decorative pillow, a cuddly homemade dog, and a jar of homemade pickles. The group is selling tickets for 50¢ a piece or three for \$1.-, and all proceeds go towards their own activities and trips. The party will be from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Emmaus House and every one is invited. For more information about the Senior Citizens or the Raffle, please contact Ardy or Charlotta at 525-5948.

STAFFNOTES

We are happy this year to have more staff than usual at Emmaus House. In November a new staff member arrived from Denmark to spend a year with us. Jette (pronounced Yetta!) Stokholm is a friend of Niels Klit's and we are very pleased to have her with us. We hope you all will get a chance to meet her. Father Gabriel Nekongo left Atlanta the first week in December to go back to New York. We wish him good luck and hope to see him again soon.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYBODY

Christmas went very well at Emmaus House. In spite of very cold weather a group of about 40 children went Christmas caroling in the neighborhood on the Sunday before Christmas; a hundred children shopped for their parents in the secret shop; and the grandparents and the Senior Citizens spent a nice and fun evening at their party. Three members of the Senior Citizens program shared memories of "Christmas when they were young" with the group. On Christmas Eve 380 children visited Santa Claus. We want to thank all the volunteers and friends who contributed in so many ways and made a happy Christmas at Emmaus House. We are now back to our regular programs and have gotten off to a good start. We are glad to have Anne Henderson back with the Preschool program, which she runs with the help of Tiny Prather and Jette Stokholm. Afternoon reading program, boys club, and girls club are also back in operation as is the Senior Citizens program. The Senior Citizens started the new year off by having a shop, house and raffle on Jan. 16, 1981. The attendance at the party was great. We had many senior citizens present who also had invited their family and friends. The party was a great success and the lucky winners of the raffle were: 1. Handmade quilt: Father Gabriel Nekongo, 2. Decorative pillow: Mrs. Pearl Hardy, 3. Homemade dog: Ms. Mae Bell Jordan, 4. Homemade pickles: Ms. Ann Clarke and the bonus price went to Mrs. Mooney.

NEW HOUSING CODE

As a follow up to the workshop held at Emmaus House on the new Housing Code, we are planning to inform tenants of their rights in "house meetings". If you can invite 8-10 of your neighbors to a meeting, please call Ruth Gilbert at 525-5948 and arrange a date. Already the landlords, and real estate people are trying to change the code. If people know of its benefits, they will be better able to fight to keep the new code in place and even work to improve it. Yet involved! Be an advocate for decent housing! Learn how to file a complaint! We are working in co-operation with Atlanta Legal Aid, Southside office, to produce a booklet to give out. This booklet will give all the information for effective individual and neighborhood action.

INCOME TAX

It is again getting to be time for filling income tax returns. Mr. Coe will be at Emmaus House on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to help people fill out their forms. You can come by and see him during those hours or drop your papers by for him any time during the week. Be sure to bring all your W-2 forms, the names and ages of all your dependents, your husband's or wife's name and social security number, and make sure to include your correct address.

CHRISTIANS AGAINST HUNGER

Christians Against Hunger in Georgia, located at 201 Washington Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, across from the Capitol, is a public policy advocacy group made up of people from various churches throughout the state who work to improve the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program. Their office will be open from Feb. 9, 1981 through Feb. 12, 1981 for clients, advocates and other concerned individuals for morning briefing on the A.F.D.C. issue to be followed by a walk to the Capitol to meet with your legislators around the issue. They provide a light breakfast and lunch for those attending, so please give the office a call at (404) 588-1458 or write if you are planning to come. Margie Brown, a former staff and long time friend and volunteer at Emmaus House, is the new director of Christians Against Hunger in Georgia. She looks forward to meeting with you during the week in February.

STAFF NOTES

On January 1st, 1981 we said goodbye to Dawn Adkins. She left us, after 7 months on staff, to go back to school in Sewanee, Tenn. We will all miss her and wish her good luck in school. Hope to see her back soon! We are now anxiously awaiting the arrival of a new staff member from Denmark in early February.

NOT ON THE SHELF

By Wayne Martin

"Painting is so relaxing," said Mrs. Merriweather, "I love it."

In her 70's, Mrs. Merriweather has not been painting most of her life. In fact she learned how within the past year through the Emmaus House Senior Citizens Program. Located at 1017 Capitol Ave. SE, Emmaus House is a community house attempting to serve the poor by advocating for their rights and by providing free programs.

After brushing the finishing strokes on her seascape painting, Mrs. Merriweather talked about the group and herself.

"So many senior citizens feel pushed back on a shelf," she said. "If they can get involved in something, they forget about themselves and they can work. I've been with this group ever since it was organized and I wouldn't miss it for anything. It makes you feel like you're needed and so many don't feel like that. But here, she finished, "we are just like one big family."

"The Senior Citizens Program," said Emmaus House volunteer Charlotta Norbee, "provides activities for area se-



nior citizens. It gives them a chance to be together with peers and provides an environment where they can challenge themselves..."

Waiting for a building permit to allow repairs of a room in Emmaus House, the group now meets in the nearby Atlanta Help Our Youth building twice a week. Tuesdays are educational days and the elderly group often goes on field trips or listens to guest lecturers talk about other lands and cultures.

Fridays are art days. Some of the women are teaching others to crochet and a string patterned quilt is almost finished. Mrs. Kay Martin, an artist who teaches painting in her home volunteers her services to the group each week. "Mary Ball (Emmaus House volunteer) asked for a volunteer to teach art to senior citizens," said Mrs. Martin. "I'm nearly a senior citizen myself," she laughed, "so I thought it was something I could do."

Working together only a little more than a year, the elderly group has already sold a number of their crafts, including paintings, stuffed animals and a quilt. "And they have had offers

to sell more," reported volunteer Ardie Blansford.

Ms. Blansford, who is working with the senior citizen group for her practicum from the Atlanta University School of Social Work, is impressed with how the group has taken charge of itself.

"There used to be a steering committee that decided what they would do," she said, "now they run their own meetings." The Emmaus House volunteers try to help group members with personal problems and aid in coordinating projects but are careful not to be too overbearing as organizers.

"We are their instruments," stated Ms. Blansford. "We are not 65 years old and the program is for them, not us. We can't be their babysitters either--they don't want that."

In addition to art and educational activities, the group has weekly business meetings, monthly Birthday celebrations and monthly shopping days. Future goals include getting more senior citizens involved, especially men, and, with the money raised from their craft sale, a trip to a camp for senior citizens and handicapped.

Interested as a senior citizen or volunteer? For more information, call Emmaus House at 525-5948 or 523-2856.

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RECREATION FOR CHILDREN

In view of the distressing situation for Atlanta's children, Emmaus House is considering opening our facilities for extended hours. We have thought about having the House open in the evenings to provide supervised recreation for children. We would like very much to hear from parents who have children in need of chaperoning in the evenings. Please call one of the staff at 525-5948, if you and your children are interested. We would also like to hear from adults who would like to volunteer as recreation leaders or assistants one evening per week.

PROTEST AGAINST CUTS IN PROGRAMS FOR POOR PEOPLE

A newly formed group - People's Anti-War Mobilization - are using office space at Emmaus House while they are organizing for a national demonstration in Washington, D.C. on May 3, 1981. This will be a demonstration protesting President Reagan's proposed cuts in Food Stamps, Medicaid, School Lunch programs, and many other areas that will affect poor people. It also protests the increase in military spending.

If you would like more information about the demonstration or have some time to help organize, you can call Jim Harlow or Bob Bruton at 525-5948.

CUTS IN FOOD STAMPS

The president has asked for drastic cuts in the Food Stamp program. It is impossible to say, at this point, exactly who will be affected and by how much, but the cuts will definitely mean that many people who are now receiving Food Stamps will be ineligible, and that benefit levels will be lowered for those who continue to receive Food Stamps.

Two of the most serious cuts will severely affect people with young children, the unemployed, and the working poor. One proposal, "elimination of duplication in food benefits", will hurt families with children. Approximately \$12/month will be subtracted from the family's Food Stamp allowance for each child who receives free meals in school or day care. An other proposal calls for "retrospective accounting." This means that eligibility will be determined from an average of the applicant's income over the past three months, rather than on his/her present income. The result would be that people who have lost their job or have had a change in income may have to wait up to three months before they can start receiving Food Stamps. Many people who are now receiving relatively small, but very important, amounts of Food Stamps would no longer be eligible. The over all proposed cuts are of 14-20%, and instead of eliminating fraud the president will be cutting people, who depend on the Food Stamps to feed their children off the program.

INCOME TAX

Mr. Coe has been extremely busy doing income tax forms this year and we are no longer able to accept forms when he is not there. You can still come by on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. and Mr. Coe will be glad to help you. If you are not able to come at these hours, a volunteer income tax assistance service is offered at the following malls: North DeKalb, South DeKalb, Buford-Clairmont, Columbus, Greenbriar, West End, and Cobb Center. You can get assistance with your income tax at those malls every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through April 11, 1981.

CURFEW

A new City Curfew Ordinance makes it against the law for children 14 years and younger to be out by themselves between the hours of 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. Parents can be fined up to \$500 or put in jail for up to 60 days if their child is caught violating the ordinance. Gene Ferguson and a group of people are opposed to the curfew; they feel that it is wrong in putting all the blame and responsibility on the parents.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Gene Ferguson at 525-5948 or 659-8139.

STAFF NOTES

We are, of course, all happy to have Father Ford back from his trip to England and glad that he had a wonderful time. Ardy Blandford finished her 6 months internship, from Atlanta University School of Social Work, and we wish her luck in her new job at the Jury Project. Our new Danish Staff member, Pia Nystrom, arrived in early February and we are very glad to have her. She will be at Emmaus House through the summer.

Sorry, my "e"s gave out!

Glory to God.

EMMAUS HOUSE NEWSLETTER

1017 Capitol Ave., S.W.
Atlanta, Ga. 30315
525-5948

CHRISTMAS 1981

Staff and volunteers at Emmaus House extend best wishes for a very merry Christmas to all of our friends. This fall's budget cuts have brought hardship to many homes and the need this year will be greater than usual. But we hope this season still will be a happy and special one for you and your family. All is not right with the world, but God is still in His heaven - Christmas reminds us of His care, so let us celebrate the birthday of the Lord with joy and hope.

Here are the activities we have planned:

FLEAMARKET: Emmaus House Chapel congregation is trying to raise \$2,500 to dig a well for 100 families in an African village. There was a successful barbeque on Labor Day. On Saturday Dec. 12, there will be a fleamarket. Mrs. Etta Ezzard is in charge, and the market will be held in the Welfare Rights room, or outside if the weather permits - from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please call us if you can donate things we can sell at that time. Come and buy interesting Christmas presents at low prices.

PRISON TRIP: On Saturday Dec 19th the bus goes to Reidsville State Prison. This gives a chance for family members to visit their loved ones there. There will be a memorial service at the prison cemetery following the visit. Please call us at 525-5948 to put your name on the waiting list - unfortunately the bus is full at this time.

SECRET SHOP: Children in our boys and girls clubs, reading programs, Sunday School, and boy scouts are invited to Santa's Secret Shop. Each child can buy one present - Cost: 10¢, giftwrapping provided. The Secret Shop will be held on Sunday Dec. 20th following the church service (approximately 11:45 a.m.)

GRANDPARENTS PARTY: All grandparents with children in programs at the House, members of the Senior Citizens, grandparent volunteers are invited to our Grandparents Christmas party on Sunday evening Dec. 20th at 6:30 p.m. This is a big night and we hope you all will come. A quilt made by the senior citizens will be raffled off. Tickets for the raffle can be bought at \$1.00 each from participants in the Senior Citizens program or the staff. Transportation provided! Call Charlotta at 525-5948 if you need a ride.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: On Monday Dec. 21st the children will go caroling and afterwards attend a party at Marv and Turner Ball's home. If you want to go you must attend the caroling rehearsals. Please call Fritz for time and date or if you need transportation.

SANTA CLAUS: Santa Claus has promised to make a spectacular stop-over at Emmaus House on Christmas Eve, Thursday Dec. 24th. All children under 16 are invited to come for a visit with Santa. The program starts at 10 a.m. and ends at noon. It will include a magic show, re-telling of the Christmas story, lunch, Christmas stockings and a gift for each child.

CHRISTMAS MORNING: Sunday School party at 9 a.m., followed by a service of carols and worship at 10:15. Everyone is invited to join us for this happy occasion. Plan to stay for refreshments after the service. For a ride, call 525-5948.

CHRISTMAS DANCE: All adults (neighbors, friends, and volunteers) are invited to our annual neighborhood Christmas party on Sunday Dec. 27th from 8 p.m. to midnight. Dancing, music, refreshments, and a happy time.

Most of our regular programs will not meet during the Holidays. Last meeting days this year are as follows:

Reading programs - Wednesday Dec. 16th

Preschool - Thursday Dec. 17th

Senior Citizens - Friday Dec. 18th

Boys and girls clubs - Saturday Dec. 19th

The Welfare Rights Organization will not meet in December. Please join us for the next meeting on the second Wednesday in January at 7:30 p.m.

The Poverty Rights Office will be closed on Dec. 24, 25, and 31st and on Jan. 1st.

Let us pray together that the new year may bring
peace to the world and help for those in need.