

Foothills Emmaus Community

FOOTPRINTS

In the Footsteps of Christ

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August 2009

Note from Our Board Chairman

Summer is quickly coming to a close and Walk #39 will be here before we know it. It's time to start talking with potential pilgrims now and getting applications sent to the Registrar Laura Keck. We all know what special things God has in store for those who will attend. Let's continue to spread the gift of Emmaus to as many people as possible.

In doing so, there are some basic steps to keep in mind when completing the application. If these are followed it will provide a better experience for the pilgrim, you as a sponsor and make the job of the team easier.

After you have decided to sponsor someone for the walk and have prayed that they are the ones that you want to sponsor, take the application and complete it with them present. There are some questions that they may need clarification such as: what they expect to get from the Walk to Emmaus and that the follow-up gatherings have been explained! These are critical points to complete so the Pilgrims know what they will experience during the weekend and their Emmaus commitment.

Remember that the application needs to be signed by the Pilgrim's Pastor. No applications can be accepted without that signature!

As a sponsor you have some obligations that need to be fulfilled. These include bringing your pilgrim to send-off, closing and all functions during their weekend. Instructions are available as part of the application process and are on the website. Please read these before you decide to sponsor.

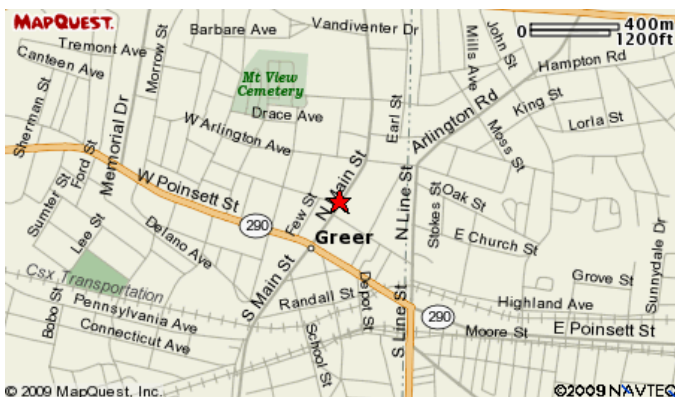
Keep in mind that The Walk to Emmaus is something special and those you want to sponsor should be people that you feel will contribute to their churches and the community when they return. As much as we would love to have a full walk during the weekend we want to ensure that each of those who participate is there for a reason: That Christ can count on them just as he does you!

In His Service

John MacKeil

Regarding the Board of Directors Meetings

Reminder to the community that all of the meetings of the Board of Directors is open to everyone!



August Gathering

August 21st 7:30 pm

Memorial UMC

201 N. Main Street

Greer, SC 29650

Deadline Fast Approaching

From the Registrar

We are fast approaching the Fall Walks! The walks are only 2 months away. Please make an appointment with the perspective pilgrim and help them fill out the paperwork completely. Please explain follow up activities and the walk to the pilgrim. Please follow the health policy. Remember that the camp and the church in Pickens is not handicapped accessible. Please let the pilgrim know that electronic devices are not permitted during the weekend. This includes laptops, iPods, cell phones, blackberries, cameras, beepers, etc. All applications that are in-

complete or do not include the \$25 non-refundable deposit will be returned to the sponsor.

A full walk consists of 36 pilgrims. We can only accept 6 pilgrims per church. There are 10 single men and 10 single ladies accepted per Walk. The deadline for sending in applications is September 18th. Any applications received after that time will be deferred to the Spring Walks.

At this time we have 10 ladies and no men registered for the Fall Walks. You can download an application at www.foothillsemmaus.org. Please return all applications to

the PO Box on the application or to Laura Keck, 147 Stoddard Mill Rd., Gray Court, 29645.

DeColores! Laura



Thoughts From the Spiritual Director

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the bonuses that I received when we bought our retirement home two years ago was a large yard full of beautiful plants. At least, they had been beautiful at one time. These include two huge fig bushes and two scuppernong vines. They had had no attention for several years but I got a little fruit from all of them. At the end of our first summer I knew I should give them all some care to get more fruit the next year.

I remember that Jesus said that the vinedresser cuts out the dead branches and burns them and prunes the good branches that they might bear more fruit. The first part was easy. Dead branches are dry and ugly and break away easily. The plants instantly look better with all the dead, ugly branches removed. But then came the hard part; pruning the good branches. It is hard for me to cut away something that I have worked hard to get growing. I cut out some new growth here and there but I was really afraid that I would kill the plants if I did too much pruning.

The results were predictable. I got more fruit from the figs bushes and the scuppernong vines. This encouraged me to get serious with my shears and loppers that fall. I cut away everything but the bare vines. I was sure that I had destroyed them all! new growth began to come in "a hundred fold", to use Jesus' words, "I have bountiful fruit hanging from the vines! It works just like Je- magazine article I read said it would! Why should I be surprised?"

Well, as always, Jesus was talking about more than just pruning. He was giving us a parable for living. Sometimes painful things we are certain is going to kill us, but as we struggle through it we recognize that it's through His pruning, cutting back the new growth and better things might grow in its place. Every difficulty is an opportunity for God to bless us. Every hardship makes us stronger and draws us

De Colores, *Richard +*



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In the spring the
words. I now
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grapes and figs.
come to us that
with God's help
growth, that big-
an opportunity for
closer to our Lord.

Help With Housing Needed

Since Fall Walks are almost upon us it's time to start thinking about how to help.

Sign-up sheets for HOUSING will be at the August Gathering.

If YOU won't be there to sign your name please call (446-3435) or e-mail



(conniepraisinghim@yahoo.com) me, and I'll be more than

happy to do the writing for you!!!

Thanks, and BE BLESSED.

DeColores, Connie <><

Angels All Around

*There are angels in the Heavens,
There are angels on the ground.
There are angels all around you,
Just waiting to be found.
So when you are feeling lonely
Or just a little blue,
Open your eyes to see the angels,
They are there, waiting for you.
Don't forget about these angels
During all of your good times too,
For they like to share your happiness
And the joys that come to you.
They will wrap their wings around you,
To protect and guide you through
All the sad and tragic moments
That this life can throw at you.
They are sent to you from Heaven
From our Father up above,
So remember to look for the angels.
They'll show you all God's Love.*

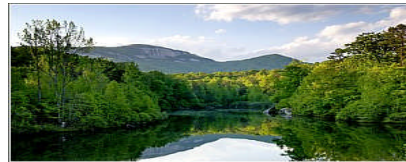


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Just Look Up

Our high school just had a concert, and we went through a long and trying 2-hour practice the afternoon of a concert. As we sat down to play, this came to mind. Hope you like it . . .

Life is like playing in an orchestra. First, God gives you your instrument and some music, and you sit down to play, but you say, "God, I've never played this piece before! Look at all of those notes! I'll never be able to do it!" But God gets up on the pedestal and holds His baton in His hand. He winks at you and says calmly, "Just follow me."



You say, "But God, that will be too hard ...can't we play this other song? It looks a whole lot easier and a lot more fun to play," but God says, "No, follow MY lead"

Well, you decide that it doesn't matter what God says, you want to play the other song. So, as He raises His baton and begins to conduct, you ignore Him and begin wailing away at the piece you wanted to play. However, it just doesn't quite work. The music doesn't sound beautiful at all, because it's not the way God wanted you to play. After a little more playing and a whole lot more frustration, you realize that it would be better just to listen to your Conductor. So, with a red face you silently search for the piece God wants you to play.

"But God, it looks so hard." But God just smiles caringly and taps the baton on His stand. "No matter what, follow Me. Just look up at Me, and I will lead you," He whispers. So, you begin to play. In the beginning, it seems as though you will never be able to play this piece. All you can see are those notes rushing by. Then you remember what God said . . . "LOOK UP" . . . so you look up and see God carefully counting out the beats for you, and if you listen really carefully, you can hear His Voice humming your part.

The song is the most beautiful song that you have ever heard, and you find that as long as your eyes are fixed on the Conductor, you are able to play along. All you have to do is look up! Sure, some parts are REALLY tough, but as long as you follow the Conductor and listen to His steady rhythm, you can make it through. All you have to do is LOOK UP!



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Check us out at:
www.foothillsemmaus.org

Future Gatherings

(Note the special instructions for October)



September 18th - 7:30
Covenant UMC
(Pre-Walk; No Visitors Please)

October 16th - 7:30
Mauldin UMC

November 20th - 7:30
Host Church Needed



For A Chuckle!