

Foothills Emmaus Community

Footsteps *In the Footprints of Christ*

Update on Fall Walks- From the Lay Director

I want to take the opportunity to update the community on the Fall walks. The Men's Walk is scheduled for September 30 through October 3, and the Women's Walk is scheduled for the following weekend, October 7 through 10. The registration deadline is Friday, September 10.

As of the end of July, we have 2 couples and 2 single women for whom all paperwork is complete. We have another potential 17 pilgrims where interest has been expressed, but we do not have confirmation of attendance. These 17 potential pilgrims include people who could not attend the last walk, and we are awaiting confirmation from sponsors as to whether or not these pilgrims will be attending the Fall walks. We also have several incomplete applications that cannot be accepted in their current state. I have received several phone calls stating people's intent to sponsor pilgrims. If I put on my very optimistic hat, if all of these potential pilgrims attend, we will have 8 men and 15 women. The minimum number of pilgrims for a walk is 18 people, so we still have quite a way to go!

Training is scheduled for August 28, September 11, and September 18.

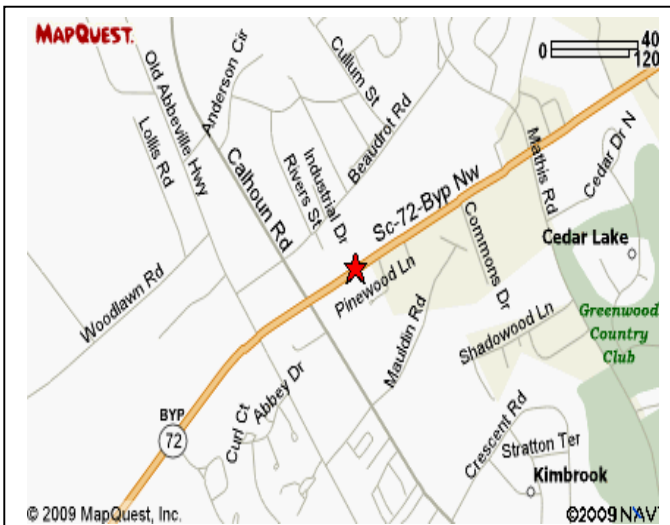
The Board will meet on September 17 prior to our September Gathering. I am hopeful that we will have enough pilgrims registered so that the Board is not faced with the difficult decision of canceling the Fall walks.

We currently spend \$5750 to use the Wesleyan Camp for each set of walks. We have a cancellation clause where we must pay 25% if we cancel the walks. Our contract with the Wesleyan Camp expires after our Spring 2011 walks, and we are looking at our alternatives of locations for future walks. Regardless of the venue, we are certain to have a similar cancellation clause, and our initial research indicates that our costs will not be decreasing.

Last Fall, the Board made the difficult decision to cancel the 2009 Fall Walks since we did not have enough pilgrims. At that time, the Board discussed whether or not our community should move to one walk a year. Our decision was to assess the situation again this Fall, so much is riding on these upcoming walks!

While I am well aware that having walks is not strictly a financial issue, the Board does have an obligation to be financially prudent with the resources with which we have been entrusted. With the expiration of our current contract with the Wesleyan Camp next Spring, we will be considering our needs for the future, including whether or not our community can support two sets of walks a year.

I ask for your prayers for the community, the teams, and the Board as we progress through these next few months. I remain cautiously optimistic that we will not only have the minimum number of pilgrims needed for the walks but that we will have an abundance. Remember what Jesus did with a few loaves of bread and several fish?



August Gathering

St. Mark UMC
 550 Hwy. 72 Bypass
 Greenwood, SC 29649
 (Just past Wal-Mart Shopping Center)

Important Fall Walk Information:

Fall Walk Dates:

Men's- September 30- October 3
 Ladies- October 7-10

Application Deadline:
 September 10, 2010!!

Other Community Information

New Board Member – Chris Arries has graciously agreed to serve our community as the Assistant Spiritual Director for the remainder of this year. Chris is filling the position that was vacated when Steve Keck moved out of the upstate region. Many thanks to Chris for his willingness to serve our community in this capacity!

Change in Fees – At the June Board meeting, the decision was made to increase the fees for our walks beginning with the Spring 2011 walks. The Board considered a number of factors when setting these new fees:

- Our community has not had a fee increase in years.
- Our costs continue to rise, including the cost of the camp.
- Analysis of other potential venues indicates that it is unlikely that we will see any reduction in our expenditures.
- Our current financial status provides only a small cushion for us.
- Benchmarking against other communities indicate that our fee is lower than other communities.

The new fee structure will be as follows:

- Pilgrims - \$125
- Team Members - \$100
- Clergy - \$0

The deposit will remain at \$25. We do have scholarship money which is available for pilgrims. If scholarship money is needed for a pilgrim, this request can be made on the application. While the Board approves scholarship requests, the only individuals who will know which pilgrims receive scholarship money will be the Registrar and the Treasurer.

The website has been updated with applications to reflect the planned fee increase next spring.