



# A Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus

## Board of Directors

Chair: Tom Howard  
864.836.3368  
howardtr@mindspring.com  
Vice Chair: Joanna Neubert  
864.836.6046  
jfneubert@msn.com  
Treasurer: Steve Church  
864.895.5321  
SEC55@charter.net  
Secretary: Bonnie Franklin  
864.855.2507  
FoothillsEmmaus@charter.net  
Spiritual Direction: Smoke  
Kanipe 864.576.5267  
smokek@bellsouth.net  
Asst Spiritual Dir: Tom Wilkes  
864.457.5658  
tmwilkes@alltel.net  
Registrar: Dianne Perry  
864.963.4821  
twoperrys@charter.net  
Housing: Larry Boyer  
864.244.0957  
larryboyer@charter.net  
72-Hour Prayer: Jim Bleakley  
864.391.3285  
jamarly@wctel.net  
Kitchen: Jimmy Davis  
864.268.9480  
jimmy.davis@pepsigvl.com  
Music: Forrest Gilmore  
864.391.5766  
fcg0420@wctel.net  
Candlelight: Barbie Cutts  
864.646-7259  
Agape: Jeff Young  
864.848.1530  
FECAgape@aol.com  
Worship: Ray Williams  
864.322.6599  
rayw61@charter.net  
Transportation: Carlton  
Sharpe 864.879-7967  
csharpe56@charter.net  
Literature: Gabe Stoeppler  
864.703.4104  
gstoeppler@limestone.edu  
Refreshments: Kathy Mims  
864.878.8023  
snick41@aol.com

## Greetings from the Chair

We pray each of you had a wonderful and joyous Thanksgiving, with family and friends. We have finally come to the last newsletter of the year for 2005. What a gracious and event-filled year it has been. Again this Beloved Community of ours successfully pulled off another double Women's Walk. So with a total of five Walks, we added many new members to our Community. Praise GOD!

By the time you receive this newsletter we will be well into the Christmas Season. Our hopes and prayers are that you all have a safe and very Merry Christmas. At the same time let each of us remember what this Season is really all about, CHRIST.

Take a moment to look back over this past year and reflect on the wonderful things Christ has done for you. Yes, we have all suffered some set backs. Only Jesus and His Father know why. But we, as Christian's should pick up the pieces and continue to serve our LORD and Savior as best we can. Remember what our cross says to us, "CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU". And our reply should be no less than, "WE ARE COUNTING ON CHRIST". What could be more joyful than having Christ in our Hearts, Minds, and Souls.

Serving as your Community Board Chair/Community Lay Director for the past year has been an experience I shall never forget. It has been filled with many challenges as well as opportunities. I leave

this position with no regrets. I truly believe that I have and will continue to put what is in the best interest of the Foothills

Community first and foremost in any Emmaus activities.



One last time I would like to thank all of

those who so generously gave of their time, money, and talents to keep our Community active. It is always a blessing to serve GOD, so let each of us find new and more effective ways of serving Him. May GOD truly bless each and every one of you.

*Foothills Emmaus*

*Community Lay Director*  
Tom Howard  
*DeColores*

### Words from an Unknown Author:

GOD bless you all this  
Christmas Day;  
May Bethlehem's star still  
light the way,  
And guide thee to the perfect peace  
When every fear and doubt  
shall cease,  
And may thy home such glory know  
As did the stable long ago.

## Annual Christmas Gathering

Friday, December 16, 2005

7:30 PM

**Trinity UMC**

**403 South Weston Street  
Fountain Inn, SC 29644**

**864-862-4561**

**Come join us for hot  
Christmas Cider and  
homemade cookies.**

## From the Spiritual Director



“It’s always winter but never Christmas” in C. S. Lewis’s Narnia; the White Witch has cast a spell over everything. In our own culture the month of December is often not so very different from Narnia. It’s not a white witch who has enthralled us, though: it’s the idols and false gods of our own world — the mall, the “Christmas spirit,” the impossibly long list of things to do, consumerism, materialism, and sentimentalism. And before you know it, we’ve had “winter but not Christmas”; we’ve had Frosty, Rudolph, and Santa but not Jesus.

And so as another December dawns, we again have the challenge of making room for Christmas in the midst of the world’s “winter.” How will you do that this year? Does your family has an Advent calendar? Will there be special services at your church? Do you have a tradition of doing something for someone else over the holidays? Do you plan to pack up the family to see “The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe” at the movie theater (or better yet, read the book together in front of the fireplace!)? Do you plan to be at the December Emmaus Gathering?

Meeting Jesus at Christmas doesn’t just happen. It takes work — discipline, planning, and priorities. Jesus comes to us today just as he always has — humbly, gently, softly, and unobtrusively. He comes. But it is up to us to make room for his coming.

DeColores,

Smoke Kanipe  
Spiritual Director

---

## Committee News

### Agape

I know that we are not supposed to say thank you for agape love... but with that being said, I say to you... "Thank you, thank you, thank you!" It was awesome to see how willingly you all gave of yourselves to provide agape for 3 walks! What a blessing for the pilgrims to see how the community extends their love to them!

Keep up the great work... the spring walks are right around the corner!

Merry Christmas! I give thanks for you!

Blessings, Andrea & Jeff

### 2006 Board of Directors

Thank you for your participation in this year’s . Following is the list of our newly elected Board members for 2006: Anna Chandler, Toby Childress, Lou Ellen Davis, Bob Goulart, Dennis Jones, and Dawn Rampey. Their term begins in January with our first Board meeting on Thursday, January 5.

**THANK YOU**

Our returning Board members with one-year remaining are Larry Boyer, Tom Howard, Joanna Neubert, and Ray Williams.

Those members with two-years remaining are: Bonnie Franklin, Forrest Gilmore, Dianne Perry, Carlton Sharpe, and Gabe Stoepler.

We bid a fond farewell and a HUGE thanks for a job well done to Jim

Bleakley, Barbie Cutts, Jimmy Davis, Smoke Kanipe, Kathy Mims, Tom Wilkes, and Jeff Young.

### Registration

Believe it or not applications for the Spring Walks are already beginning to arrive. Begin praying now about your sponsorship. Talk to him/her about the Walk. Invite them to a Gathering or your Reunion Group. Review the application and fill it out together. Send in the completed application, sponsorship form, and deposit as soon as possible.

DeColores,  
Dianne Perry

# True Meaning of Christmas

Just a week before Christmas I had a visitor. This is how it happened. I just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed, when I heard a noise in the front of the house. I opened the door to the front room and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out from behind the Christmas tree.

"What are you doing?" I started to ask. The words choked up in my throat and I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. Gone was the eager, boisterous soul we all know. He then answered me with a simple statement..."**TEACH THE CHILDREN!**"

I was puzzled. What did he mean? He anticipated my question and with one quick movement brought forth a miniature toy bag from behind the tree. As I stood bewildered, Santa said, "Teach the children!

Teach them the old meaning of Christmas. The meaning that now-a-days Christmas has forgotten. "Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a **FIR TREE** and placed it before the mantle. "Teach the children that the pure green color of the stately fir tree remains green all year round, depicting the everlasting hope of mankind, all the needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of man's thoughts turning toward heaven."

He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant **STAR**. "Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Savior for the world, and the star was the sign of fulfillment of His promise."

He then reached into his bag and pulled out a **CANDLE**. "Teach the children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world, and when we see this great light we are reminded of He who displaces the darkness."

Once again he reached into his bag and removed a **WREATH** and placed it on the tree. "Teach the children that the wreath symbolizes the real nature of love. Real love never ceases. Love is one continuous round of affection."

He then pulled from his bag an **ORNAMENT** of himself. "Teach the children that I, Santa Clause, symbolize the generosity and good will we feel during the month of December."

He then brought out a **HOLLY LEAF**. "Teach the children that the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our Savior. The red holly berries represent the blood shed by Him.

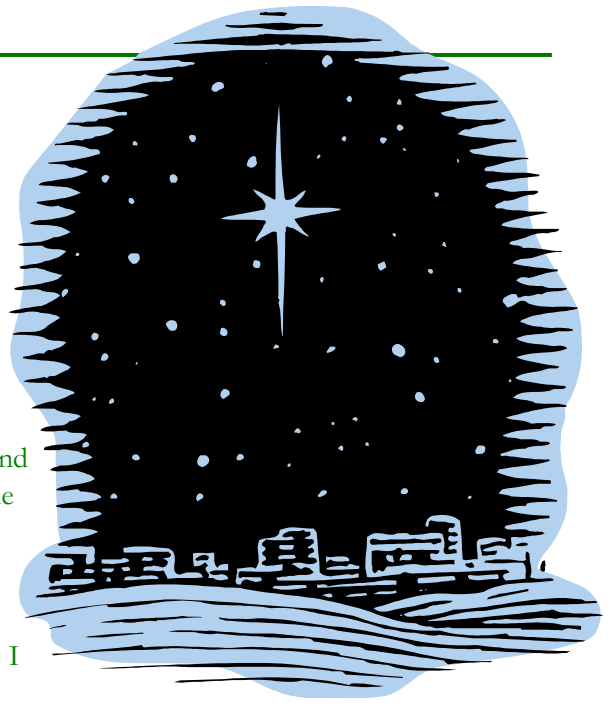
Next he pulled from his bag a **GIFT** and said, "Teach the children that God so loved the world that he gave his begotten son." Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a **CANDY CANE** and hung it on the tree. "Teach the children that the candy cane represents the shepherds' crook. The crook on the staff helps to bring back strayed sheep to the flock. The candy cane is the symbol that we are our brother's keeper."

He reached in again and pulled out an **ANGEL**. "Teach the children that it was the angels that heralded in the glorious news of the Savior's birth. The angels sang Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will toward men."

Suddenly I heard a soft twinkling sound, and from his bag he pulled out a **BELL**. "Teach the children that as the lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, it should ring mankind to the fold. The bell symbolizes guidance and return.

Santa looked back and was pleased. He looked back at me and I saw that the twinkle was back in his eyes. He said, "Remember, teach the children the true meaning of Christmas and do not put me in the center, for I am but a humble servant of the One that is, and I bow down to worship him, our LORD, our GOD."



Foothills Emmaus Community  
PO Box 1904  
Easley, SC 29641

*A Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus*



*Merry Christmas*

### **KEEP IN TOUCH**

We have an on-line  
Foothills Directory at:  
[www.foothillsemmaus.homestead.com](http://www.foothillsemmaus.homestead.com)

Please make sure your contact  
information is correct.

### **Plan now for the SPRING WALKS**

**MEN's #32**

March 2-5, 2006

**WOMEN's #32**

March 9-12, 2006

## ***Fourth Day Reflections***

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;  
make known his deeds among the nations;  
proclaim that his name is exalted. - Isaiah 12:4  
(NRSV)

Then they told what had happened on the  
road, and how he had been made known to  
them ... - Luke 24:35 (NRSV)

The purpose of this column is to give everyone  
the chance to share their fourth day stories. If  
you have a story, please e-mail Jesse Stewart at  
[4thday-jfs@earthlink.net](mailto:4thday-jfs@earthlink.net) or call (864) 430-8170  
for a mailing address. I hope to collect many  
stories that can be shared throughout the year.

DeColores!

Jesse Stewart

Walk #27, Table of Peter

---

If you would like to make a contribution to the newsletter, have an address change, or want to be removed from our mailing list, please contact: [FoothillsEmmaus@charter.net](mailto:FoothillsEmmaus@charter.net) or [www.foothillsemmaus.homestead.com](http://www.foothillsemmaus.homestead.com).