

Foothills Emmaus Community

Footprints - In the Footsteps of Christ

Lay Director's Thoughts

I remember studying the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15) during my teenage years. You probably know the story: wealthy man with two sons. The younger son asks for his inheritance and then leaves home and spends everything he's been given. The older son stays home and fulfills his duties as a son. Then the younger son returns home. The dad places the best robe on him, a ring, sandals, and orders the fattened calf to be killed in order to host a big celebration feast due to his younger son's homecoming. This story troubled me somewhat as a teen. I could relate to the older son who was angry and felt somewhat slighted since he had done what he was supposed to do yet never received so much as a goat for a celebration.

I could relate better to the father of this story early this morning. I have two small long-haired miniature dachshunds. They are my babies, and they are quite spoiled. I have a fenced back yard, but there are stairs leading down to it. It was cold, and the stairs were icy this morning, so I allowed the girls to walk out front with me. I didn't take time to put on their collars and leashes. I'm not a morning person. I knew better. They are not trained to return to me on voice command. Chloe does not like to get her feet wet, so she stayed right beside me. Bella is a different story. Bella is just plain different. She saw a squirrel and heard a bird, and she took off running. I quickly put Chloe inside, grabbed my duck boots and coat, and began searching for Bella. With the help of neighbors, I quickly found her. As I called her, she pretended not to hear. As I got closer to her, she continued to move away from me. Eventually, I reached her, picked up all 5 pounds of her soaking wet little body, and returned home. If dogs

could smile, she would have had a big grin on her face. She is happy being a hound dog. She was also thrilled to get home and curl up in front of a warm fire. I must admit that I was mad. I was not mad at Bella but at myself. I knew better. When I finally had Bella in my arms and was heading home, I was so very thrilled to be reunited with her. I couldn't hold her close enough.

How much more does our heavenly Father love us? How often do we turn away from Him? How often do we ignore or pretend not to hear His call? How often do we move close to Him, yet evade His reach, His loving arms, and His warm embrace? Even so, He is always there to welcome us home and back into His loving arms when we are ready.

I'm not that different from Bella. I have a natural curiosity of the world. However, I know that, no matter what I do, I have a loving Father to whom to return. I know now how the wealthy father felt. I don't love Chloe any less or Bella any more. I love both of them and am glad to have them both home and in arms.



If you've been away from the church or the Emmaus community, you have a loving place waiting for you when you are ready to return. If you've been the obedient older brother, perhaps you know someone like the wayward son who could use a little encouragement from you to

return home.

I must go now. I have special treats for both of my dogs and am looking forward to some good snuggle time with both of them in front of the fire.

Leah O'Neal Board Chair

Transportation



Helping with transportation and handling of luggage is a great way to give your time to the pilgrims. Assist with the checking-in of luggage at send-off or unloading of the luggage at the camp. Please contact

Alice Galloway at 288-5399 (home) or 230-3196 (cell) or e-mail: mecitygirl@charter.net

Update From the Registrar

The deadline for sending applications for the Spring Walks is February 19th. It is hard to believe that is less than a month away! At this time there are 18 men and 23 ladies registered for the Spring Walk! Please consider sponsoring someone for the Walks. We need a minimum number of 20 men and 20 ladies by February 19th.

I appreciate those of you who responded to me about your Pilgrims who were registered for the cancelled Fall Walks.

However, I still have not heard from several sponsors and really need to confirm that your pilgrim still intends on attending the Spring Walk!

Please be in prayer for our Walks, our Teams, our Board and our Community. Christ is counting on You!! DeColores! Laura Keck



Housing

The Spring Walks are almost upon us, which means that I'm gonna need a bunch of help for set-up and break-down. Set-up will begin at 9am on Thursday, March 4 and will last until we get the trailer unloaded, and the conference, dining and bed rooms ready. We might need to assist with kitchen set-up, too. Break-down will BEGIN on the Sunday of Women's Closing, and we'll finish on Monday, March 15. The trailer will have to be re-loaded as this is the time of year when we cannot store any of our belongings inside the Camp buildings. Sign-up sheets will be available at the February Gathering. If you for any reason won't be



at the Gathering PLEASE either call me (446-3435) or e-mail me (conniepraizinghim@yahoo.com) so that I'll have a good idea of how many to expect to be there to help. As always, I appreciate any and all who can help with this mighty task,

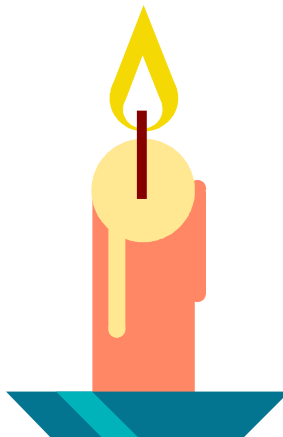
cause I can't do it by myself!!!! And thanks to those of you who already signed up. You know who you are, and you're awesome! DeColores!

Love you all,

Connie <><

Candlelight

Greetings to all. We are looking forward to the spring walks and need your help as servants to make each pilgrims walk a mountain top experience. The candlelight services on the 6th and 13th need your help from handing out candles and programs to cleaning up the church after the pilgrims have left. A few people make quick work of the job.



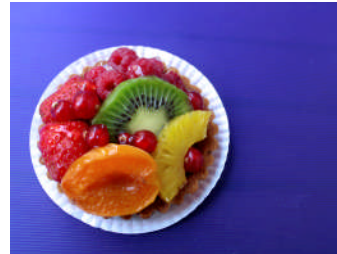
Remember even if you can't help clean up, the pilgrims need you there for their experience. See you there! Call Janice Byrd @ 864-895-4288, or e-mail jfbyrd2@aol.com.

God Bless and Decolores!

Janice

Below is the list of Board Members for 2010

Board Chair ~~~~~Leah O'Neal
 Vice Chair ~~~~~ Roy Suttles
 Secretary~~~~~George Yoder
 Treasurer ~~~~~Jimmy Davis
 Spiritual Director ~~~~~Peggy Garland
 Asst Spiritual Director ~to be determined
 Registrar~~~~~Laura Keck
 Housing~~~~~Connie Herring
 72 Hour Prayer Vigil~~~~~Ray McCoy
 Kitchen~~~~~Lydia Beck
 Music~~~~~Steve Grose
 Agape~~~~~George Yoder
 Worship~~~~~Conway Belangia
 Transportation ~~~~~Alice Galloway
 Newsletter/Web/Dir~~~~~Barbara Rambo
 Literature~~~~~Holly Gunderson
 Refreshments~~~~~Renee Reid
 Candlelight~~~~~Janice Byrd



Refreshments

Gobs of tasty refreshments are needed for the up-coming walks. Use your talent in the kitchen to make lots of happy people! Sign-up sheets for snacks will be available at the February gathering. Also needed will be help to serve refreshments at various times. Sign-up for serving will be available as well. If you are unable to attend the next gathering, but would like to sign-up, please give Renee Reid a call at (864) 463-6446 or e-mail at



USSCOWPENS@CHARTER.NET

Future Gatherings & Community Events

- February Gathering is at Mauldin UMC in Mauldin. This meeting is closed to visitors due to discussion of up-coming walks.
- March Gathering will be at Buncombe Street UMC.
- Spring Walks (#39) are: Men's—March 4-7. Women's—March 11-14. We now have 18 men and 23 women signed up to attend. Applications will be accepted until February 19th.



*Like the innumerable snowflakes,
 God
 creates each of us
 unique.
 How great is our
 God!!!*