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864.646-7259

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864.878.8023
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From the Spiritual Director

The Walk to Emmaus is a powerful experience in Christian community. I for one didn't realize what I was getting into when I signed up for the Walk. I thought I was going away for some private time with God. The idea of Christian community somehow just hadn't come onto my radar screen ...

... until they threw me in a van with ten or twelve strangers; ... until they sent me to share a bedroom with a couple of the loudest snorers in upstate South Carolina;

... until I realized how many people were praying for our Walk;

... until I saw letters of love from all around the world displayed in the conference room;

... until I experienced the rich fellowship of the gatherings and my reunion group.

But sometimes our experience of Christian community is a bit disappointing. Ever heard (or said) something like, "I wish my church could be more like Emmaus"? Ever find yourself tempted to spend more time and energy in Emmaus than in your local church? Indeed, Emmaus itself can sometimes disappoint.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's classic little book on Christian community, *Life Together*, challenges us with some

powerful insights when we are tempted to give up on Christian community:

Christian Community Is Based in Jesus Christ — "Our community with one another consists solely in what Christ has done to both of us." These are wonderfully helpful words. It's not about us — it's about Christ. The church is Christ's church, not ours.

Beware of Wishful Thinking about Christian Community — "One who wants more than what Christ has established does not want Christian brotherhood.

He is looking for some extraordinary social experience which he has not found elsewhere.... Just at this point Christian brotherhood is threatened ... by the greatest danger of all, the danger of being poisoned at its root, the danger of confusing Christian brotherhood with some wishful idea of religious fellowship, of confounding the natural desire of the devout heart for community with the spiritual reality of Christian brotherhood.... But God's grace speedily shatters such dreams.... The sooner this shock of disillusionment comes to an individual and to a community the better for both."

Give Thanks for What God Gives Us — "Christian community ... is a gift of God which we cannot claim.... Just as the Christian should not be

constantly feeling his spiritual pulse, so, too, the Christian community has not been given to us by God for us to be constantly taking its temperature. The more thankfully we daily receive what is given to us, the more surely and steadily will fellowship increase and grow from day to day as God pleases. Christian brotherhood is not an ideal which we must realize; it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate."

Grace and peace,
Smoke Kanipe

"Call your Board Rep if you have questions, comments, or just want to pitch in and help out. We want to hear from you!"

CLOSED GATHERING

February 18—7:30 PM

ST. JAMES
United Methodist Church

213 North Lanford Road
Spartanburg, SC 29301
864.576.6480

Come Sign Up for the Spring Walks!

From the Board

Greetings and a very Happy Valentines Day from your Foothills Emmaus Board. We pray that you remembered your loved one with grace and love.

Well, guess what! The Spring Walks are just about here. It seems like only yesterday we were working on the Fall Walks. It is again time for all of us to search our hearts and minds and, not think about what we could do to help, but to think and commit to helping and working on the Spring Walks. In my readings for Bible Study and Lay Speaking encounters, I came across this poem by an Unknown Author.

*I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord,
Real service is what I desire.
I'll sing You a solo any time, dear Lord,
Just don't ask me to sing in the choir.
I'll do what you want me to do, dear Lord,
I like to see things come to pass.
But don't ask me to teach boys and girls, O Lord.
I'd rather just stay in my class.
I'll do what you want me to do, dear Lord,
I'll yearn for Thy kingdom to thrive.
I'll give you my nickels and dimes, dear Lord.
But please don't ask me to tithe.
I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord,
I'll say what you want me to say;
I'm busy just now with myself, dear Lord,
I'll help you some other day.*

Ring any bells? Hit any soft spots? None of us is perfect. We have all lived by those words far more often than we will omit. We can't change over night, but, let us start with the Spring Walks and make a commitment to God and ourselves to begin changing our ways and helping others as they have helped us. We may even receive the bonus of joyfully changing our lives for the advancement of God's word to others in the world around us.

The Board Members humbly and obediently ask for your help. We do what we can, but you all know that it takes far, far more than a few Board Members to successfully present to the Pilgrims what the Walk to Emmaus is really all about. There is much truth to the Old saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Plan ahead and come join us at the February Gathering. We wish to see all of you. And Please, Please sign up to do what you can to help make the Spring Walks the experience of what the Walk to Emmaus is all about for our Pilgrims.

May our Lord be with you, Bless you and comfort you as you encounter those daily tests of life on this earth.

DeColores!

*Foothills Emmaus Board Chair
Tom Howard*

72-Hour Prayer Vigil

Send community prayer requests to:
Jim Bleakley at
jamar@wctel.net.
Remember to include your name and Walk.

It was my privilege to serve as chairperson for the Transportation committee in 2004. I thank all of you who were helpful to me in our efforts. It is important that everyone who is going on the Walks checks in at the transportation table at send-off. This makes it easier for those working with transportation to get a head start to the camp. This year, my responsibility is for the 72-hour Prayer Vigil. For some of you who are unable to perform some of the tasks that are necessary to make the Walks go smoothly, I

would ask that you consider praying for the Pilgrims (and the others involved with the Walks).

This is a much less physically demanding and time consuming task than some of the other work involved in making the Walks a success. It is also one of the most important! God answers our prayers and is always there to support us, so your efforts as prayer partners is extremely important. The schedule of times available for prayer will be posted at the next gathering. Please, make sure that you stop by the table

to sign up.

If you would rather e-mail, or call me, that would be fine as well.

If you have any prayer requests that you would like the community to pray over, please forward them to me at the e-mail address below. Thank you for your concern and help.

DeColores
Jim Bleakley
864.391.3101
jamar@wctel.net



From the Registrar

Sponsorship is the heart of Emmaus. It strengthens the Church as well as the Emmaus community. Thanks to all the sponsors who have made Spring Walk #30 a reality. Please continue to pray for the Walks, team members and your pilgrim. Honor your commitment as a sponsor by attending Send-off, Candlelight, Closing and Follow-up. Remember good sponsorship is the cornerstone a successful weekend is built upon.

There will be two Walks for women in the fall. Twenty-two women are currently waiting to attend. Some have been waiting over a year for this opportunity. Two walks will require a major commitment from everyone in the community in terms of pilgrim enlistment and support. It's not too early to begin thinking about sponsorship. Do you know someone who is on a pilgrimage? Who desires to grow spiritually and renew their commitment? Good sponsorship is prayerful and purposeful. It's not about getting our friends to go. It's about building up the Body of Christ.

DeColores,
Dianne Perry



*Application Deadline for
our Spring Walks is
February 17.*

Refreshments

Remember the wonderful surprise you felt when you discovered the snack table? Remember how surprised you were when your favorite thing "magically" appeared when you casually mentioned it or wrote it on the wish list? Make that same feeling occur to our newest pilgrims. Sign up to help



bring refreshments, serve ice cream on Saturday, or serve snacks at send off. All slots are open. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Also, please remember that your name should not be put on bags of chips, candy, cookies, sodas, etc. Your



name should ONLY be included if your dish needs to be returned after the Walks.

Please sign-up at February's Gathering, call or e-mail me.

DeColores,
Kathy Mims

It bears reminding ourselves over and over again that the community we enjoy in Emmaus is not an independent, stand-alone experience. Emmaus exists to serve the local church.

Calling All Kitchen Helpers

Everyone should remember the great meals that were prepared and served to us during our walk. There is lots of hard work that goes into preparing and serving these meals and we need help. For the men, we have six slots available on Friday, seven slots Saturday, and seven slots Sunday. For the women, we have seven slots available on Friday, seven slots Saturday, and 13 slots Sunday. Some of these slots are for alternates who need to be available to come only if called to fill in for someone. You may e-mail me at jwdavissr@alum.wofford.org or call me at 864.271.9480 if you would like to serve. I can let you know which meals still need help and add you to the list. I am also looking for volunteers to do some grocery shopping (I will provide a list) and for someone to pick up the chicken from Amick Farms, located in Batesburg/Leesville. Thanks for your willingness to serve in Christ's name.

DeColores!
Jimmy Davis

Candlelight

It's been said that the Candlelight experience on Saturday night must be a preview of what Heaven will be like. Well, our Candlelight takes people to put it together ...and then to clean up when the pilgrims leave.

Please consider helping out during the Walks. Sign-up at the Gathering or give me a call.

DeColores,
Barbie Cutts
864.646-7259



Agape Needed

Just a reminder that I am collecting AGAPE for the spring walks. Be sure to have 72 pieces for each walk! Please bring your finished agape to the February Gathering. If you are planning agape and it is not finished, please email or call me with a description, so that I can plan the distribution ahead of time.

The **absolute DEADLINE** is send-off for each of the walks.

DeColores,
Jeff Young, Agape Chairperson
FECagape@aol.com
864.848.1530

Foothills Emmaus Community
PO Box 25024
Greenville, SC 29616

If you would like to make contributions to the newsletter, have an address change, or want to be removed from the mailing list, please contact:

FoothillsEmmaus@charter.net
www.foothillsemmaus.homestead.com

A Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus

CLOSED GATHERING

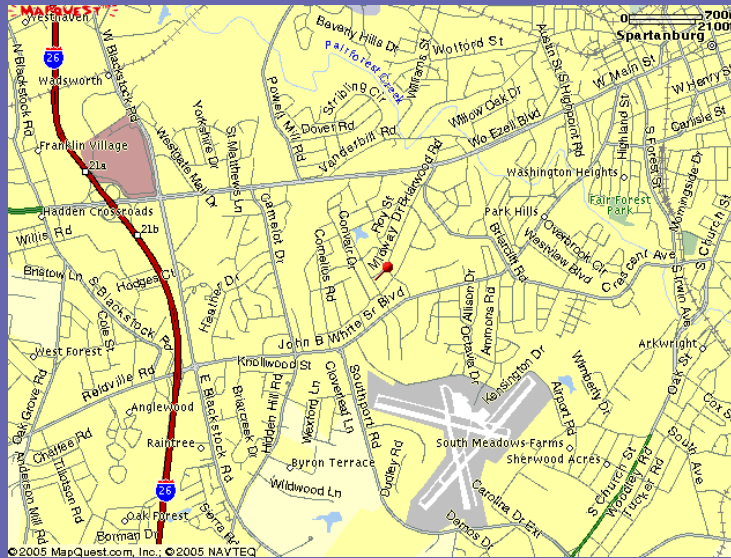
February 18 —7:30 PM

ST. JAMES

United Methodist Church
213 North Lanford Road
Spartanburg, SC 29301
864.576.6480

Bring a drink/snack to share...and a friend!

Go to our web site for Driving Directions:
www.foothills.homestead.com



SPRING WALKS

MEN'S #30

March 3-6, 2004

WOMEN'S #30

March 10-13, 2004

SEND OFF

March 3 & March 10
7:30 PM

St. Andrew UMC

309 Pelzer Hwy
Easley, SC 29642
864.859.1567

Come to the Gatherings!

SIGN-UP SHEETS
for the Springs Walks

AGAPE
Enthusiastically Accepted

SHOW GOD'S LOVE

AGAPE NEEDED

Foothills Emmaus Community

Agape now due for the Springs Walks —
144 pieces are needed (72 each Walk)

Looking Ahead...

March will be a Closed Gathering

March 18 —7:30 PM

St. Matthew UMC
Greenville, SC