



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
schurch55@aol.com
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
jamy@wctel.net
Kitchen: Jimmy Davis
864.271.9480
jwdavissr@mindspring.com
Music: Forrest Gilmore
864.391.5766
fcg0420@wctel.net
Candlelight: Barbie Cutts
864.646-7259
Agape: Jeff Young
864.848.1530
klray97@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
maragab@chesnet.net
Refreshments: Kathy Mims
864.878.8023
snick41@aol.com

From the Board

Greetings and a very Happy New Year from your Foothills Emmaus Board. We pray that as you were contemplating the giving and receiving of Christmas gifts that you did not forget the real meaning of Christmas. In our human and materialistic nature we all have a tendency to think only of ourselves. Did you thank God for his Son, Jesus, as you celebrated Christmas?

The Walk to Emmaus has a special meaning to each one of us individually. Few of us can ever deny that our Walk was anything less than a life-changing event. Praise and Glory to God for such an event. But what about those events that turn our world upside down?

Where were you and what were you doing when disaster struck on the other side of our world? In just a few minutes, ten's of thousands of lives were taken, and millions of people's lives were changed forever. We need to pray and do all we can for those human souls.

This unfortunate tragedy should awaken us to the realities of life here on earth. Are we guilty of taking our way of life for granted? If nothing else, we should all now understand just how precious life really is. In the blink of an eye our lives can go from joy and

thanksgiving to death and destruction. Is God, "again", speaking to us through this tragedy?

From this tragedy, we again have the opportunity to evaluate how we live in relationship to God. So, let each one of us take note of how we are living and what we can change so that we will truly be living a Christian life.

... re-establish some of those Holy Spirit filled moments ...

Do you have a family member whom you haven't seen or talked to in a long time? Do you have a family member you are not speaking with because of some forgotten bitter words spoken in anger? These questions can and do apply to your forgotten friends. And speaking of forgotten friends, how long has it been since you have attended a Gathering and re-established some of those Holy Spirit filled moments with your new friends on the mountain? The events of the past month should, at least, have shown us the reality of just how short and precious life really is.

While we still have time, let us forget our pride and re-connect with those disconnected loved ones before it is too late.

A New Year has begun and we have lots of work and many servant opportunities ahead of us this year. We, as your elected representatives, are looking forward to serving you this year. We each want to greet and meet as many of you as possible during the year. Please, attend a gathering, call a Board member and tell us your thoughts, and return to being an active member of your Community.

Relax, take a deep breath, close your eyes and return to your visit on the mountain. Now, be honest with yourself, wouldn't you like to spend some quality time re-living those moments. We pray that we will be able to meet and greet you at this coming Gathering.

Your servants are ready, willing and humbly awaiting to serve you.

*Foothills Emmaus Board Chair
Tom Howard*

OPEN GATHERING
January 21—7:30 PM
VICTORIAN HILLS
Independent Methodist Church
209 Victor Avenue Ext.
Greer, SC 29651
864.877.3981
Bring a drink/snack to share...and a friend!

From the Spiritual Director

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

On January 9 we celebrated “Baptism of the Lord” Sunday at our church with a service of baptismal reaffirmation. As I was helping close up the church, my 8-year-old daughter met me in the narthex. “Can I baptize you, Daddy?” she asked. I said yes and leaned over. “Remember your baptism and thank you,” she said as she drew the sign of the cross on my forehead with a wet thumb. I turned off the lights in the sanctuary and walked down the aisle. My 6-year-old son met me near the baptism font. “Daddy, can I baptize you, too?”

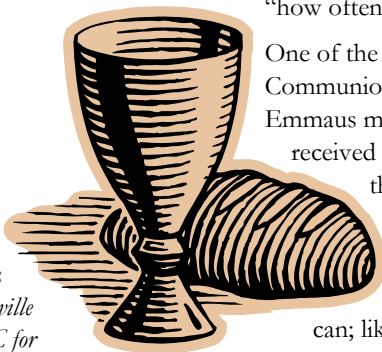
I was reminded of a similar moment four years earlier at another church. I found my daughter standing by the Communion table with a piece of bread in her hand and a distressed look on her face. “What’s wrong?” I asked. “I can’t reach the juice to have Communion,” she moaned, “Would you please get it for me?”

Now, friends, it just doesn’t get any better than that for a father! Isn’t that our fondest hope and prayer – for our children to love worship and to experience deep joy in the things of God? But let me tell you, it doesn’t get any better than that for a pastor, either. We long to see our people hunger for the sacraments and participate in them with all their hearts. We long to hear the eager question “how often do we *get* to do this?” rather than the old complaint “how often do we *have* to?”.

One of the richest joys of the Emmaus experience is its appreciation for the sacraments. Communion is served every day on the Walk and at every Gathering. This is no accident. The Emmaus movement is simply following in the footsteps of John Wesley, who is estimated to have received Communion 2-3 times per week throughout his life. Indeed, when we make Communion the central act of Christian worship, we are following the majority tradition of the church universal. In his sermon entitled “The Duty of Constant Communion,” Wesley writes: “Let everyone therefore who has either any desire to please God, or any love of his own soul, obey God and consult the good of his own soul by communicating every time he can; like the first Christians, with whom the Christian sacrifice was a constant part of the Lord’s day’s service. And for several centuries they received it almost every day.”

See you at the table!

Grace and peace, Smoke Kanipe



We thank Abbeville UMC for their generous contribution of a silver chalice.

From the Registrar

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve on the board for the past three years. It was an experience I will never forget.

It has been my pleasure to pass my registrar duties on to Dianne Perry. She is busy getting the acceptance letters ready to send to sponsors and pilgrims for Walk #30.

Currently we have 13 couples, 30 single women and 3 single men. A full walk consists of 36 pilgrims. Please send your applications to Dianne as soon as possible. **It is very important that you have the pastor's signature and have filled in ALL the blanks on the application.** Each application must be accompanied by a sponsor's sheet (if sponsoring a couple you need two sponsor sheets—one for each pilgrim). Applications are available on the website at www.foothillsemmaus.homestead.com or from Dianne.

You may send your applications to Dianne Perry, 6 Staffordshire Way, Simpsonville, SC 29681. If you have questions, please call (864) 963-4821 or email twoperrys@charter.net.

In His Service, Robbie Kane



Make sure to double-check your applications and sponsors forms for accuracy and completeness before submitting them to the Registrar.

Want to Help?

Hi - I am Gabe Stoeppler, a new board member, responsible for the Literature Committee of the Foothills Emmaus Board of Directors.

The Literature Committee is responsible for several aspects of the semiannual weekends. We acquire and make available to the teams items such as crosses, Pilgrims Guides, and

Conference Room - ALD - table supplies. The committee has the primary responsibility for the Book Table at the weekends - acquisition of books and other table items, set up of the table on Saturday morning, maintenance of the table and collection of receipts during the weekend, and take-down and storage of inventory

on Sunday afternoon prior to closing.

We can use your help. If you have an interest in working on this aspect of the Walks please contact me:

Work — 864 488-4535
gstoeppler@saint.limestone.edu

Home — 864 703-4104
maragab@chesnet.net

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

Thanks for Three Years of Great Support!

Thank you for all your support over the past three years. It was an honor to serve on the Board, and a great opportunity to grow spiritually and gain a better understanding of the Emmaus organization.

Anyone who wrote out IOUs for books from the Book

Table at the October 2004 Walks can send their payment to Foothills Emmaus, c/o Lydia Beck, 117 Burlington Avenue, Greer, SC 29650. Lydia will be mailing friendly reminders in case you forgot what your amount due is. My prayers go out to the new and current Board members as they

continue to represent and direct our Foothills Emmaus Community. God bless you in 2005.

Christina Turner
Literature Chair 2004

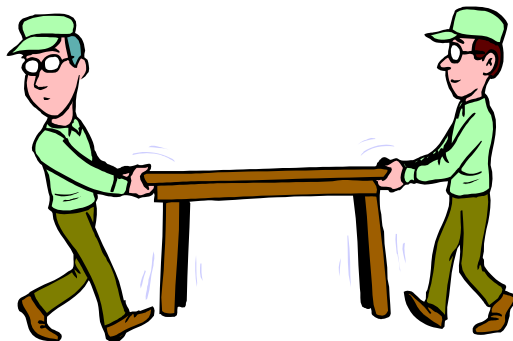


Have you paid for the books you purchased from the book table during the October 2004 Fall Walks?

Housing Needs Your Help!

The holidays are behind us and now we turn our attention to the spring walks and they are close approaching. We need volunteers to help with set up on March 3rd, clean up on March 7th, and tear down on March 14th. We start at 8:30 am and the more people to help the easier it goes. So if you can help I'll be at the next gathering with sign-up sheets or you can e-mail me at larryboyer@charter.net. We'll have a lot of fun and fellowship as we prepare for another great weekend.

Grace & Peace,
Larry Boyer
864.244.0957
larryboyer@charter.net



Worship Committee

Are you interested in hosting a Gathering at your church? We are looking for host churches beginning in the late Spring. This is a great time to reconnect with pilgrims at your church and with the rest of the Community.

Gatherings are held the 3rd Friday of each month. If you are interested, check your church calendar for those dates and contact me. I will be happy to help you organize everything else from there.

Thank you for your support of the Foothills Community!

Ray Williams
864-918-4181
rayw61@charter.net

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

OPEN GATHERING

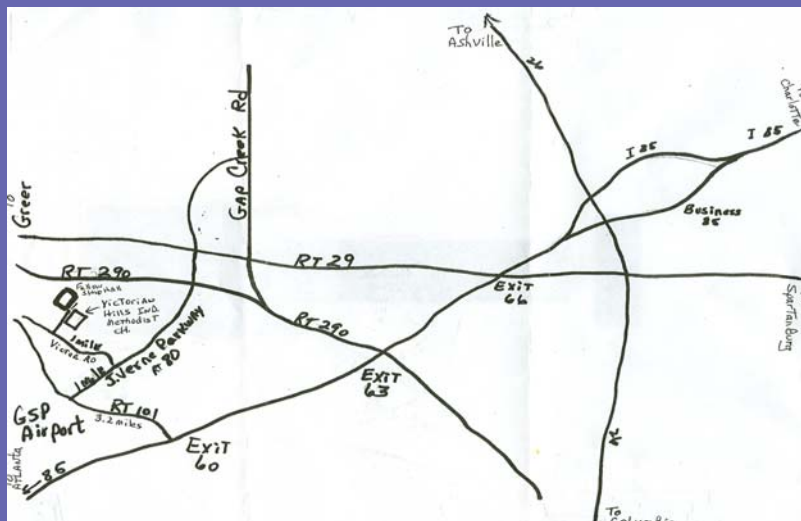
January 21—7:30 PM

VICTORIAN HILLS

Independent Methodist
Church

209 Victor Avenue Ext.
Greer, SC 29651
864.877.3981

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



SPRING WALKS

MEN'S #30
March 3-6, 2004

WOMEN'S #30
March 10-13, 2004

FALL WALKS

MEN'S #31
Sept 28-Oct 1,
2004

WOMEN'S #31
Oct 6-9, 2004
&
Oct 13-16, 2004

*Come to the
Gatherings!*

SIGN-UP SHEETS
Available
for the Springs Walks

AGAPE
Enthusiastically Accepted

SHOW GOD'S LOVE

AGAPE NEEDED

Foothills Emmaus Community

Start making and collecting agape now for the Springs
Walks — 144 pieces are needed (72 each Walk).

*Looking
Ahead...*

February will be a
Closed Gathering
Feb. 18 —7:30 PM
St. James UMC
Spartanburg, SC