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Greetings from the Spiritual Director!

On July 15,
 1928 young
 Dietrich
 Bonhoeffer
 preached a
 sermon on this

*“For God alone my soul in silence waits;
 ...from him comes my salvation.”
 – Psalm 62:1*

text. He was 22 years old and serving as
 assistant pastor at a German
 congregation in Barcelona, Spain. The
 sermon’s emphasis on the importance of
 silence in our spiritual lives still rings true
 across the years.

We are afraid of silence, Bonhoeffer
 writes, because we do not want to
 confront the truth about ourselves:

[W]e are so afraid of silence that we
 chase ourselves from one event to the
 next in order not to have to spend a
 moment alone with ourselves, in order
 not to have to look at ourselves in the
 mirror.... But we are not only afraid of
 ourselves and of self-discovery, we are
 much more afraid of God – that he
 may disturb us and discover who we
 really are, that he may take us with him
 into his solitude and deal with us
 according to his will.

Yet silence is absolutely crucial for a
 healthy spiritual life. Without it we end
 up pursuing our own agenda rather than
 God’s. Bonhoeffer again:

Being silent before God means making
 room for God so that he may speak
 the first and last word about us ... it
 means not wanting to justify
 ourselves.... To be silent does not

mean to be
 inactive, rather
 it means to
 breathe in the
 will of God, to
 listen

attentively and be ready to obey....
 “Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.”

Almost exactly 77 years later, silence
 remains one of the most neglected of the
 spiritual disciplines. It is so much easier
 to talk than to listen, to be busy than to
 sit quietly. Do you recall how hard it was
 to take off that watch as you began your
 Walk to Emmaus? Or how strange it
 seemed to spend time in silence? But, of
 course, there was a method to the
 madness. The point was to empty
 ourselves so that we could be truly,
 authentically open to the Holy Spirit.
 And that continues to be the point of
 holy silence as we continue along our
 Fourth Day journey.

Grace and peace,
 Smoke Kanipe

COVERED DISH
 GATHERING

Saturday, July 16
 4:00 to 8:00 PM
 Details Inside

From the Spiritual Director

Summer has finally arrived. We pray you will have a safe and enjoyable summer. Many of you will most likely be traveling on vacations or going to Family Re-unions. Whatever the case may be, keep God and Jesus with you at all times. Again, we hope you will join us at the July gathering for some old fashion fellowship and good food. Please continue to pray for our Community and all those we know need our prayers, but even more so for those who don't think they need prayer. Please keep in mind that we are having a second Women's Walk. So, be in special prayer for those three Lay Directors, the team members and especially the need for many, many more servants to work behind the scenes so that all who attend the Walks will experience the presence of the Holy Spirit on their weekend. See you at the gatherings.

As we celebrate the founding of our Great Nation, let us not only take time to give Praise and Glory to God for our Freedom, but lift up special prayers for those women and men who are putting themselves in harms way so that we may continue to live in a Free Country. In these troubled times we are facing, let us not forget the real story behind the 4th of July:

*if my people, who are called
by my name, will humble
themselves and pray and
seek my face and turn from
their wicked ways, then will
I hear from heaven and will
forgive their sin and will
heal their land.*

— 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)



Fourth of July

By Merritt W. Faulkner

As we come to this Fourth of July, we are again reminded of the fact that our nation is great because it has had a center—**GOD**. Just as the universe must have the sun at its center to keep it from flying off in space, so every nation and every individual must have a center. Before our forefathers landed at Plymouth Rock, they had a business meeting in the cabin of the ship and drew up the Mayflower Compact. That compact put **GOD** at the center of their lives and the life of the nation they were to found. When our forefathers signed the Declaration of Independence, they had great hope for the little nation called America, for they knew that it was founded upon a solid rock—belief in the guiding hand of **GOD**... We be-came a great nation under God, a nation full of hope.

Have a wonderful and joyous summer and may God be with and Bless all of you.

DeColores,

Tom Howard

Foothills Emmaus Board Chair

Calling All Reunion Groups

We are currently in the process of updating our list of Reunion Groups within the Foothills Community. These lists are helpful to new pilgrims coming off the Walks, community members who may be looking for a reunion group, or for Emmaus people who relocate to the area.

This information will also help us to communicate and respond to Agape requests and needs before and during the Walks.

Please contact me ASAP with the name of your reunion group, the town, the contact person, and his/her phone number and email address.

DeColores!

Jeff Young, Agape Chairperson



HELP!

Transportation Needs You!!!!

We need transportation volunteers for the upcoming Walks. We have three Walks this fall; so there are a lot of opportunities to get involved. Please prayerfully consider serving through transportation. Sign-up sheets will be available at the upcoming gatherings.

Join in the fun!

God Will Bless You!

Carlton Sharpe
864-879-7967

csharpe56@charter.net

Show Them

His Love!

If you or your group hasn't already done so, it's time to start thinking of AGAPE for the Fall Walks! Remember—there are three walks this fall. We need 72 pieces per walk!

If your church or group makes banners, we can use some new banners too!

Need some ideas, call Jeff Young, our Agape Chair, at 848-1530 or email him at FECAgape@aol.com.

That's a Lot of FOOD!

We're planning a different kind of a Summer Gathering in July. There'll be lots of food, fun, food, fellowship...and did I mention FOOD?

Sure I did! We're having a **covered-dish dinner on Saturday, July 16 from 4:00-8:00 PM at St. Matthew UMC** on Cleveland Street in Greenville, SC. (The Spring Follow-up Gathering was held here.)

The Board will supply the drinks and ice. The community will supply the food. Here's how it will work?

- **If your last name begins with the letters A-F, please bring a side or vegetable dish.**
- **If your last name begins with the letters G-O, please bring a meat/casserole dish.**
- **If your last name begins with P-Z, please bring lots of yummy, delicious deserts.**

I can hardly wait to see how many fantastic Emmaus cooks we have in our community!

There will also be games and activities...and of course, all the music we've come to love in the foothills community. If you're interested in playing or singing, please give Joanna Neubert or Forrest Gilmore a call. Joanna would also love some help with set-up, take-down, and clean-up.

Mark July 16 on your calendar. You won't want to miss it ...and we hope to see you there!



Don't Let Time Get Away

Those "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer" are upon us. It's time to fire up the grill, enjoy the outdoors and take a trip to the beach. Soon enough the long, hot, humid days will surrender to the refreshing fall breeze. The September and October walks are just around the corner! Don't be lulled into procrastination and wait until the last minute. If you're planning to sponsor a pilgrim get that application in as soon as possible.

Acceptance letters will be mailed to pilgrims in early August. Housing and table assignments will begin immediately thereafter. Planning ahead is thoughtful sponsorship and ensures a quality experience for you and your pilgrim. It also gives Housing, Transportation, Kitchen and the team an opportunity to plan properly and recruit volunteers.

DeColores,

Dianne Perry
FEM Registrar



What is Sponsorship?

Sponsorship is an act of love for God, for the participants in the Walk to Emmaus, for the Emmaus Community, and for the church. It is a demonstration of agape love. A sponsor will:

- Pray for the participant's openness to God's call to discipleship.
- Make an appointment with the participant (or participating couple) to discuss his or her participation in Emmaus.
- Invite the participant to take part in Emmaus for the sake of a more vital relationship with Jesus Christ. The sponsor shares his or her faith, explains the basic purpose, elements, and follow-up dimensions of the Walk.
- Ask the participant to make a commitment by filling out a registration form. If the participant is married, the sponsor will speak with both partners and encourage an equal commitment by both spouses.
- Support the participant's Walk through prayers and otherwise. The sponsor will also support the participant's family by house-sitting, baby-sitting, watering plants, picking up mail, feeding pets, or just checking in with a spouse to see if any help or support is needed.
- Encourage the participant in his/her continued journey and take the participant to Emmaus "gatherings" after the Walk weekend is over. Help the participant re-enter his or her church and consider ways to act out new commitment and enthusiasm.

Foothills Emmaus Community
PO Box 1904
Easley, SC 29641

A Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus

CLOSED GATHERING

August 19 — 7:30 PM

MCCORMICK
United Methodist Church
200 Gold Street
McCormick, SC 29835
864-465-2394

Bring a drink/snack to share

Call the church or go to our web
site for Driving Directions:
www.foothillsemaus.homestead.com

KAIROS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Upcoming Kairos Weekends are in need of volunteers. MCCI#24 begins September 14-18. Men and women are needed. Contact Mack Cason (864)882-4900, or e-mail mack2099@yahoo.com

WHAT'S AN CLOSED GATHERING?

There's excitement in the air! Preparations for the Fall Walks are underway. Bring your pen and sign up! Sheets will be available for all positions: 72-hour prayer vigil, yummy food for the snack room, kitchen volunteers, luggage helpers, luxurious transportation to and from camp, . Please plan to attend.

Plan now for the FALL WALKS

MEN'S #31
September 29 - October 2,
2005

WOMEN'S #31
October 6 - 9, 2005
October 13 - 16, 2005

Fourth Day Reflections

The trickle of the brook winding through the woods faded into the background as the scene focused on the Lord. I was kneeling before him. He whispered an answer to my prayer, "Jesse, you know what to do. The call has always been there. You just have to answer." With those words I looked into his face and beheld the love in his eyes.

While on Walk #27, this vision caused me to realize that ever since I was young, I had dreamed of becoming a writer. God placed that desire in my heart so that I might glorify Him. In my fourth day, I have taken steps that will lead toward the fulfillment of God's dream for me. The first step was to join the Christian Writer's Guild, which is helping me to grow as an author through apprenticeship. My mentor is a great encourager and faithful servant of the Lord's will.

Through this new column, I hope to give others the chance to share their fourth day stories as well. If you have a story, please e-mail Jesse Stewart at 4thday-jfs@earthlink.net or call (864) 430-8170 for a mailing address. Due to space constraints, please limit your story to 200 words or less.

DeColores!
Jesse Stewart
Foothills Emmaus, Walk #27

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 or www.foothillsemaus.homestead.com.