

FOOTPRINTS— IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CHRIST

BUILDING LEADERS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

JUNE 2010

Change is Life; God is Constant

There are those of use who embrace change and those of us who don't do so well with change. For the most part, I would fall into that second category. I am not one to embrace change. As a child, I moved several times with my family. By the time I finished high school, I had attended six different schools. Each move was difficult for me. Leaving friends and the comfort of the "known" seemed almost unbearable. However, I can now look back and see that each

move was indeed a blessing that allowed me to grow. Now, it

is difficult for me to imagine living in one place my entire life. If I had, I would have missed out on so much and so many neat people! I have learned over time to accept that change is a part



of life, and change requires me to make room for something new in my life.

As many of you know by now, Steve and Laura Keck have been called to serve two other churches and will be moving to Johnston, SC. Steve and Laura have been vital members in our community for many years and have served this community in a variety of capacities. Their leadership and faithfulness to this community will be greatly missed. On June 12, 2010, Steve will be ordained, and at the end of June, they will leave Green Pond United Methodist Church where Steve has served for several years. Their departure will create two open positions on our Board. Steve has served this year as our community's Assistant Spiritual Director. Over the next month, we will be naming someone to fill this role. Laura has most recently served as our Registrar. I am pleased to announce that Tom Howard has graciously agreed to join the Board and

serve as Registrar for the remainder of this year. While we will miss the Kecks, I am grateful to Tom for agreeing to serve as the Registrar. Tom has been our community's Registrar in the past which should enable us to make a seamless transition.

Like the Kecks, there are many of us who are facing changes, both expected and unexpected. Like me, many of you probably share mixed emotions about these changes.

While there is a natural human tendency to experience some anxiety about changes, there is also some excitement in embarking on new opportunities. As Christians, we can delight in knowing that, regardless of the changes in our lives, God's awesome love for us is constant, and He is always with us to comfort us and guide us. In addition, we are blessed by the power of prayer through our brothers and sisters in Christ. Regardless of our circumstances, we are reminded in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Rejoice always! Pray constantly. Give thanks in everything." It is with that spirit that I challenge you to embrace the changes in your life.



June Gathering

June 18th, 7:30 pm
Buncombe UMC
200 Buncombe Street
Greenville, SC 29601



Where Do You Find God?

The Lord says, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)

Where have you encountered God's goodness lately? God comes to us in all aspects of life. Certainly God's extraordinary goodness comes to us in our ordinary days.

I tend to see God a lot lately in my ordinary activities. Especially I have encountered God in my gardens.

organic produce. I ready I have and pablono herbs of all God's good-walk around before my with a place vest. Just the creative powers of God, nourishment for the body is produced.



Wanting to eat as healthy as possible, I began growing my own produce last fall. My spring garden is planted and beginning to picked green beans this week and they were delicious. Al-lots and lots of tomatoes, small cucumbers and squash, red peppers, and okra that seems to grow overnight. A bounty of flavors and varieties are there for my choosing. The miracle of neness for me occurs every morning as I take my cup of tea and the garden and admire the growth and beauty that is displayed eyes. What is amazing is that God's goodness provides us where we can put seeds in the ground and feast on the har-ordinary seeds and plants – nothing special – and yet, through

Another ordinary activity that I enjoy in life that leads me to ponder the goodness of God is with the birds that call the parsonage home! There are lots of feeders all over the yard that provide a smorgasbord of delicious food for a whole host of beautiful, feathered friends. The hummingbirds have returned and I can sit for hours just observing them as they stop by for a refreshing drink and a sniff from the flowers blooming. Many families have begun in the bird houses provided for them. Watching new born birds being cared for by the parents reminds me of how God cares for us. Last weekend I stood in the kitchen window and watched as a male and female woodpecker hung on a feeder. It was apparent that she was expecting and maybe soon. The male woodpecker would pick out a piece of corn and one of the dried cranberries and reach over and actually put the food in her mouth. I couldn't move; I was so blessed to be able to watch God at work with his creation.

Being a part of the Emmaus community also provides me and you with opportunities to experience God's extraordinary goodness. Perhaps our meetings are just ordinary events for some, but out this ordinary experience, we once again experience God's care. Perhaps we experience God as a quiet voice and gentle whisper, or in the beauty of the music. For some God's goodness is revealed through the talks so thought-fully prepared. Surely God's goodness is discovered in the breaking of the bread and the drinking of the wine. How often have your discovered God waiting for you in the ordinary things of life, waiting to be found?

Search for God, seek God, and when you seek God with all your heart, you will find God – yes, even and perhaps especially, in the ordinary things of life.

Shalom,
Peggy Garland
Spiritual Director





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FOOTHILLS EMMAUS COMMUNITY

WWW.FOOTHILLSEMMAUS.ORG

Calling All Crocheters and Knitters



Dale Henry is interested in starting a **crocheters/knitters** reunion group with the intent of making bookmarks or other simple agape gifts for walks. If you are interested in participating in such a group, please contact Dale at fourthdaymom@yahoo.com or 864-439-0509 or 864-357-4022.

Future Events!

**Mark Your
 Calendars**



August Gathering

August 20th
 7:30 pm
 St Mark UMC
 Greenwood, SC

July Gathering

Picnic
 Table Rock Wesleyan Camp
 Covered Dish

Fall Walk Dates:
 Men's
 September 30- October 3
 Ladies
 October 7-10