



A Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus

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Greetings from the Board!

We pray you are enjoying these warm pre-summer days. We hope you will join us at the July gathering for some old fashion fellowship and good eating. 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. We love this Community and continue to strive to do our best for our fellow members. Have fun this Summer, drive safely, allow a little extra time for the unexpected and always, always remember we are His servants and are here on this good old earth to do his will.

Also 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 enjoy our time outside, keep in mind this prayer by E. Paul Hovey,

at dedication of Angostura Dam in the Black Hills.

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

DeColores

Tom Howard

Foothills Emmaus Board Chair

Our Father in heaven, Lord of the field and the stream,
The sun and the clouds, we thank Thee for the revelations
Of Thy power in all growing things. We invoke Thy blessing
Upon the efforts of men to harness and control the floods
That they may give unto the fields that which is necessary to
sustain life.

The winds are in Thy hand, O God; bridle and bind them,
That they may not come forth to destroy the labors of the
ploughman,
Nor to defeat the farmer of his hopes. Grant unto all who dwell
On this Thy Holy Earth wisdom to understand Thy laws,
And to cooperate with Thy wise ordering of this world.

Give to our statesmen the will to make just and righteous laws
Regarding the lands. Give to the farmers the desire to preserve
This Holy Earth that future generations may know its fruits.

Grant that the harvests of these fields may not make men selfish,
But that it may bring good health and abundant Christian living
to this people, according to Thy will as revealed in the life
Of Thy Son our Saviour and Lord, even Jesus Christ in whose
name we pray. Amen.

From the Spiritual Director

In the March newsletter of The Brothers and Sisters of Charity, former missionary Glen Galtere labels the worldview of the average 21st century American “SHIM.” The acronym stands for “secular, humanistic, individualistic, and materialistic.” Of these four spiritual dead-ends, the one which most plagues our churches is individualism. Galtere writes, “The spirituality that emerges from such a dynamic is more secular than sacred. It is a spirituality that is egocentric....It is a spirituality that produces isolation rather than community. It is a spirituality that produces neurotic individualism rather than redemptive community.... It is a spirituality that wants to fix things and give answers rather than stand before the unfixable and the Mystery in life.”

Then Galtere goes on to note some exceptions to this “SHIM” spirituality, which, he writes, “provide opportunity for hungry Christians to experience a deeper scriptural walk with God and a sense of committed Christian community.” Lo and behold, one of the exceptions he lists is the Walk to Emmaus!

Is the Foothills Emmaus Community the kind of authentic Christian community Galtere describes? Ask yourself:

- Does our community exist to build up the Body of Christ, or simply for the religious recreation of individuals?
- Does our community exist for those outside, or simply as our own spiritual club?
- Is the gospel we proclaim the good news of a God whose work of new creation is the reconciliation of estranged human beings to God and to each other, or is our gospel simply a few tips on how to use God to get what we want in this life and the next?
- Does our worship invite us into an encounter with the awesome mystery of God’s presence, or is it simply a time for spiritual warm fuzzies?
- Are we disciplined in using the communal means of grace, such as reunion groups, gatherings, and our own local congregations?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us that “Christian [community] is not an ideal which we must realize; it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate.” May you and I rededicate ourselves to receiving the gift of community which God wants to give us. May that community be a witness to the world and a means of grace for us all.

Grace and peace,
Smoke Kanipe



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

72-Hour Prayer

Greetings!

The summer months will pass quickly and we will soon find ourselves preparing for the Fall Walks. It is our committee's prayer that you will enjoy your summer vacation-time, and that you will consider our requests for Prayers for these Walks. Please look for sign-up sheets at upcoming gatherings.

DeColores
Jim Bleakley

Fall Walks Are Fast Approaching

Have you been praying about sponsorship? Better yet have you been listening? Maybe you are still waiting for an answer. If God has laid an individual on your heart, you will want to meet with them personally as soon as possible and share some of the basics of the walk.

Pilgrims may have anxiety and questions. Be prepared to give them honest answers. Most just want to know a general idea of what to expect and a matter of fact explanation will suffice. Tell them there will be fifteen talks, discussion groups, fun, fellowship and more food than they can imagine.

Don't forget to discuss the Walk dates: Sept. 29-Oct. 2 for men and Oct. 6-9 and Oct 13-16 for women. Be sure to advise female pilgrims to be prepared to attend either date. Schedules are based on the registration postmark date. Applications are accepted for review and a confirmation letter will be sent to both pilgrim and sponsor two months prior to the Walk upon acceptance.

What to do in the interim? Continue to pray for your pilgrim and the Walks. It's the single most meaningful thing a sponsor can do.

DeColores,

Dianne Perry
FEM Registrar

Agape Items Needed

With three Walks in the Fall more Agape are needed than ever before. Please plan for 72 items for each Walk — a total of 216. WOW! That's a lot of love! Start your plans and get those creative gifts of love in the making. 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?

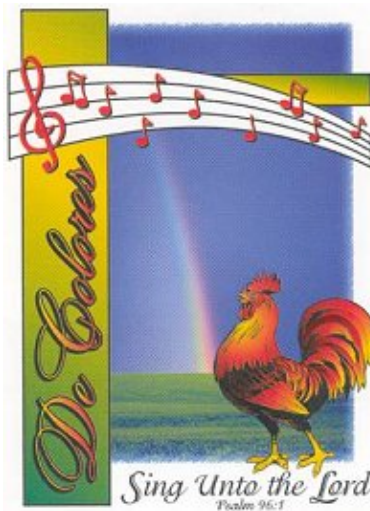
- If your last name begins with the letters A-F, please bring a side or vegetable dish.
- If your last name begins with the letters G-O, please bring a meat/casserole dish.
- If your last name begins with P-Z, please bring lots of yummy, delicious deserts.

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!

Music Workshop



A workshop for Foothills Emmaus musicians is being planned for this Summer. This will be a four-hour workshop for instrumentalists, vocalists, and sound technicians to be on a Saturday, and the tentative location is St. Matthew UMC in Greenville.

To make this an effective tool for upcoming Walks, we need your help and input. If you want to participate, please contact me so we can send you an invitation and information. We don't want to leave anyone out who might be interested; so please contact Forrest Gilmore

for more information by email: feg0420@wctel.net; by phone: 864-391-5766; or by mail: 147 Antioch Drive, McCormick, SC 29835.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Contact me today!

DeColores!
Forrest Gilmore

Foothills Emmaus Community
PO Box 1904
Easley, SC 29641

A Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus

OPEN GATHERING

June 17 — 7:30 PM

COVENANT
United Methodist Church
1310 Old Spartanburg Rd
Greer, SC 29650
864-244-4741

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

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

PLEASE CHECK YOUR LISTING

We have an on-line
Foothills Directory at:
www.foothillsemmaus.homestead.com

Please make sure your contact
information is correct.

WHAT'S AN OPEN GATHERING?

That's when you can invite friends, neighbors, and loved ones—perhaps even someone you'd like to sponsor in the Fall. Only three Gatherings are closed to non-Emmaus members—two before and one after each Walk. These are when specific plans are discussed and sign-up sheets are posted for each Walk.

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

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.
- Help the participant sponsor others.

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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.foothillsemmaus.homestead.com.