

Footprints

published by

Foothills Walk to Emmaus



December 2007

Merry Christmas to All

Board of Directors

Chair: Bonnie Franklin

864-855-2507

foothillsemmaus@charter.net

Spiritual Director:

Luke Mims

Tranumc@emerald.is.com

Vice-Chair/Follow Up/PR:

Dawn Rampey

864-850-1160

der9195@bellsouth.net

Asst. Spiritual Director:

Blaine Hudson

blanehudson36@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Sherrill Austin

864-329-1316

austin31604@bellsouth.net

Secretary/Housing:

John MacKeil

864-627-9622

jmackeil@bellsouth.net

Registrar: Lou Ellen Davis

864-901-4527

lebglass@bellsouth.net

72-Hour Prayer Vigil:

Bob Goulart — 864-877-9948

bgou@charter.net

Agape: Libby Waldrep

864-573-8519

lwaldrep@earthlink.net

Candlelight: Carlton Sharpe

864-879-7967

csharpe56@charter.net

Housing: Anna Chandler

864-627-1113

annachandler@charter.net

Kitchen: Craig Ditmar

864-877-3249

acedittmar@charter.net

Literature: Gabe Stoeppler

864-703-4104

gstoeppler@limestone.edu

Music: Connie Herring

864-446-3435

conniepraisinghim@yahoo.com

Newsletter/Web/Directory:

Bill Houx — 864-646-9575

wch45@bellsouth.net

Refreshments: Steve Grose

(864) 616-5811

stephengrose@yahoo.com

“In the little village of Bethlehem

There lay a Child one day

And the sky was bright with a holy light

O're the place where Jesus lay. Alleluia!”

From our home and family to yours,

May your Christmas be filled with the

Love and joy of our Christ the King.

Let this season be a time of deep spiritual

reflection and renewal for us all.

The prayer of our house is for all who are sick, weary,

lonely, or heavy laden, to look up and see the star

shinning brightly over the manger.

Help us all, Lord, to see what gifts of ourselves

we can offer to a needy world in the name of the

Child who is for us the light of the world.

Let the star that led the wise men to a stable

shine in our hearts this Christmas.

Grace and Peace,

Luke Mims

Mark your Calendars for Our Upcoming Gatherings

December 14 — My Father's House, Easley

January 18 — Mauldin UMC, Mauldin

February 15 — Covenant UMC, Greer

March 21 — Buncombe Street UMC, Greenville

April 18 — TBC





DeLoreS' column answers your questions regarding the Walk to Emmaus and/or our Foothills community. Send questions to foothillsemmaus@charter.net. DeLoreS will attempt to answer them.

Q How many people from one church can attend the Walk to Emmaus?

A Six men and six women are allowed from one church. This ensures that each pilgrim is seated at a table without another church member.

Q Can we submit more than six applications for both men and women from one church?

A You can — and we encourage you to do so. The applications are dated when received. The first ones received are registered for the next Walk. Those received after the first six are held for the following Walk.

Q Is there ever an exception to the six men and six women from one church?

A If the Walk is not full (36 pilgrims) two-weeks prior to the Walk, the registrar will talk with the church pastor to see if there would be any conflicts. If not, they are invited to attend.

A Note from the Registrar

Give the gift of sponsoring- do you know someone you would like to sponsor on the walk this Spring? The next Walk begins March 6 for the men and March 13 for the women. Applications are available online at www.foothillsemmaus.homestead.com.

If you would like to be a sponsor and need pilgrims I have two different couples both from Greer who want to go on the Walk. They have been "sold" on the Walk and are ready to go! They just need sponsors. Would you consider sponsoring them?

DeColores,
Lou Ellen Davis, Registrar
901-4527
lebglass@bellsouth.net

2008 Board Members

At the end of this year, Anna Chandler, Bonnie Franklin, Bob Goulart, and Carlton Sharpe leave the Foothills Emmaus board. Joining the board for three-year terms are Steve Grose, Laura Keck, David Norrell, Leah O'Neal, and Barbara Rambo. Serving one-year terms are Lydia Beck, Connie Herring, and Roy Suttles.

I know that we can expect the same awesome support from the community that everyone has given the board this year. I ask that you keep our new board in your prayers.

DeColores,
Dawn Rampey, Vice-Chair

End of the Year Contributions

As you look towards the end of 2007 please consider making a tax deductible contribution to Foothills Emmaus. We are a 501c3, so your contribution is tax deductible. Bring your checks to the Gatherings. If you can't make the Gatherings, contact me and we'll make other arrangements.

DeColores!
Sherrill Austin, Treasurer
864-329-1316 or austin31604@bellsouth.net



Calling All Reunion Groups

Hear ye! Hear ye! To all Reunion Groups: Are you in an active reunion group? Is your reunion group listed? If your reunion group is active and **not** listed, **please** send me the following information: NAME, TOWN, SHEPHERD/ CONTACT, and TELEPHONE. Reunion groups on the current list are: A-Town Apostles, Buncombe Streeters, Covenant UMC, Dandelion Sowers, G.I.F.T, God's Groupies, His Mighty Moos, Jubilee Planters, Mustard Seeds, Soul Sisters, Spreading HIS Love, St. Mark Mountain Movers (Greenwood), St. Mark Reunion group (Seneca), Wild Hog Reunion group, YaYa Sisters.

Even if your reunion group has been active for a long time, please submit the information. Thanks in advance for assisting in updating the Foothills Reunion Group list for the pilgrim's packets.

DeColores,
Libby Waldrep, Agape

A Brief History of Santa

— Wendy Murray Zoba,
Christianity Today, December 4, 2000

The first Santa Claus had his roots in the church. His name was Nicholas, bishop of Myra (an ancient city along the Mediterranean coast of what is now Turkey). Other than his living in the fourth century, very little is known about him historically, though oral tradition abounds. Some accounts have him participating in the Council of Nicea in A.D. 325, though surviving documents do not list him among the bishops in attendance.

Myra was a key port city where ships stopped on their way to and from Rome, Egypt, and Byzantium. Paul stopped there on his way to Rome (Acts 27:5-6). Nicholas is said to have saved Myra from starvation by seizing grain off a ship bound for Byzantium from Egypt. Because the stolen cargo was never missed it was counted as a miracle, and bishop became the patron saint of sailors.

A second "miracle" associated with Nicholas set the stage for his becoming the inspiration behind Santa Claus. According to tradition, a poor family in Myra had three daughters who were being courted for marriage but who had no dowries. This doomed the girls to a life of shame and possible prostitution. The good bishop took it upon himself to supply their dowries, anonymously slipping bags of gold into their home – some say into stockings that were hanging to dry. In securing their dowries – and so their right to marry – he rescued them from an otherwise degrading destiny. When Nicholas's identity as the benefactor came to light, so began the adulation of this gift-bearing saint. As a result, he also became the patron saint of children.

He died on December 6, A.D. 345 or 352, and was buried in a small church in Myra. But the story of what became of him after his death is almost more fantastic than the works he was said to have performed during his life.

In that day, the bodies of holy men were of immense value, for both religious and commercial reasons. So on May 9, 1087, sailors from the southern port city of Bari, Italy, raided Myra and stole Nicholas's



remains. The bishop bones remain in Bari to this day. The heist effectively transferred the mystery and magic of the oral tradition surrounding Nicholas from the East to the West. It was the first step in the transformation of the godly, provincial bishop into the omniscient superstar.

It didn't take long for the Westernized Nicholas stories to assume a place in each country's individual context and tradition. In 16th-century Germany, for example, church Reformers banned celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas on Dec. 6. Instead, they sought to emphasize the Christ child, or Christkindlein, who, taking his cue from Nicholas, brought gifts to children on Christmas Eve. This figure evolved into "kristkingle" and eventually "Kris Kringle," who was more or less indistinguishable from the mythical Nicholas figure.

The Dutch tradition behind Sinterklaas is the most direct link to the modern American Santa Claus. This mythical figure is supposed to have sailed from Spain with a Moorish helper named Black Peter and filled Dutch children's shoes with nuts and candies. Sinterklaas had the uncanny ability to know about children's good or bad behavior.

The Germans, the Dutch, and others brought their Nicholas traditions when they migrated to the New World. Once ensconced in the United States, the literary community embellished the myth and

brought it to the levels it has assumed today. The American Santa was shaped most notably by Union Seminary professor Clement Clark Moore's 1822 children's poem "A visit from St. Nicholas," which begins with the legendary line "Twas the night before Christmas..."

By the early 20th century, Santa appeared in department stores and mail-order houses that vied to be his "official headquarters." Post offices were overrun with letters to Santa from children who addressed them to "the North Pole."

The present-day Santa, in his most secular manifestation, is divorced from the spiritual moorings and motivation of the real life Nicholas. But he still personifies goodness and a kind of justice, which might help explain the terror that arises in some children when they enter his presence. The evolution of the Nicholas story, beyond attesting to the American spirit of entrepreneurial innovation, bears out the overwhelming need people feel to believe in something and to celebrate something greater than themselves – even if it means making it up.

Keep Christ
in CHRISTmas

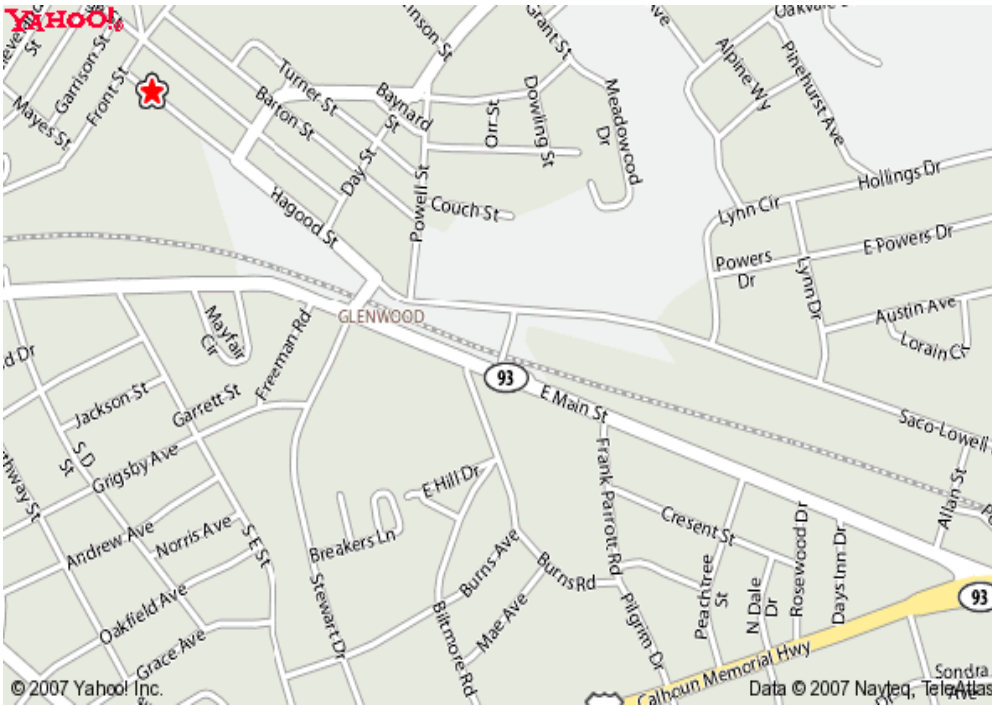
Foothills Emmaus Community

c/o Bill Houx
6137 Highway 187
Anderson, SC 29625

A Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus

This Month's Gathering - Friday, Dec.14 at 7:30

My Father's House,
102 Hagood Street, Easley, SC 29640 ■ 859-8000



Newsletter Info

If you would like to send articles for the newsletter, have an address change, or would like to be removed from the email list, send an email to newsletter@FoothillsEmmaus.org.

Updated Directory

The directory on our web site has been updated. Please check your listing. If it needs to be changed, please email newsletter@foothillsemmaus.org.

Plan now for the SPRING WALKS

MEN's #36 — March 6-9, 2008
WOMEN's #36 — March 13-16, 2008

Prayer Needed

Please pray for our upcoming Walks, teams, your involvement, and the pilgrims. Pray and sponsor someone!

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: newsletter@FoothillsEmmaus.org or go to www.FoothillsEmmaus.org.