

December 4, 2001

Footsteps

Foothills Emmaus Community
www.foothillsemmaus.homestead.com

Be the Lord's Servant

December marks the completion of service on the board of directors for five board members and our Community Spiritual Director, Bob Everett. Mackie Manning, Mike Reid, Reba Scott, Jan Suttles and myself will rotate off the board and make room for five new people in January. I am confident the present board and the new members will continue to serve this community in a most dedicated and wise manner. I thank the above individuals and those remaining board members for giving so much time and energy to this community. I have been both humbled and honored to serve this community in the capacity of Community Lay Director. When I look back over these last 11 months, my thoughts are filled with memories of God's people gathered for Holy Communion, of welcoming new pilgrims to our community, of friendships developed and strengthened as we work side by side in servant roles during the weekends and mostly importantly, of a community of people bound together by our love for Jesus Christ. A love that requires of us patience as we seek to hear and answer God's call.

As this Holy season is upon us, we are entering a time where we are once again called to wait patiently. During Advent we begin the "waiting" for the celebration of our Savior's birth. But how do we wait? Are we actively anticipating the call of God in our lives or do we passively hide hoping that silent faith is enough? I am reminded that during the first Advent, Mary also had to choose how to wait. She was called by God to bear His son. With this call came sure pain, humiliation and unknown reaction from all those she knew. She could have said "no." She could have turned her face away and taken the safe, earthly road. But she didn't. She said "yes" to God, yes to Jesus and yes to a faith that is hard for us to imagine. So what will our answer be - will we turn away and hope we are not asked to walk too far out of our comfort zone or will we say, as Mary did, "I am the Lord's servant...May it be to me as you have said." Luke 1:38

May God richly bless each of you with His presence this Holy season and may you answer as Mary did...." I am the Lord's servant"

De Colores!

BWare, Community Lay Director.

The new class of 2005 board members will be announced at the December gathering. They will begin serving three year terms in January. In a typical year, five people rotate off the board and five new people take office. However, in the fall of this year, we have had two resignations of board members with one year remaining on their terms. Therefore, seven new people will come on board in January. The first five will serve three-year terms and the next two will serve out the one-year terms of those who resigned.

TRUE LOVE NEVER FAILS

This year is about to draw to a close as does my responsibility of Emmaus Foothills Community Spiritual Director. It has been a most rewarding, exciting and educational experience of my 58 years in ministry for the Lord. In fact the happenings of this year remind me of what Jesus said in Matthew 22:37-39; that the first and second greatest commandment, was to "Love God with all your heart", and then ""Love your neighbor in the same manner." That's what I will remember about you, as your Agape Love has been and continues to flow toward your brothers and sisters of like faith. What is more important is that your love has not been one of emotions or feeling. But it has been your setting aside yourself and relinquishing your own desires and needs for others. Kinda like John 12:24. "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone, but if it die (learns to yield itself), then it bringeth forth much fruit. (God's Love to others)

The Fruit from your labors of love, is more disciples who are willing to show their love to others in the same way. This has become a domino effect. And I think the key to all of this is embodied in at least four thoughts; Obedience, Trust, Worship and Service to God.

(OBEDIENCE)---Choose continually to set aside what we think, want and pleases us, and choose instead to do whatever God has asked us to do.---Total surrender.

(TRUST)---We must rely on the faithfulness of God to perform His will through us, no matter how we feel, what we think, or what the circumstances are.

(WORSHIP AND SERVICE TO GOD-ONLY)---It means to prostrate ourselves before God, presenting our bodies as living sacrifices, in order that God--not ourselves---be glorified. Literally it means following after Jesus. It means to cleave unto Jesus so that we become one with Him. I might add that is what Christmas is all about-as we celebrate His birthday.

I pray in the coming year, that each of you will be able to deny yourself (thoughts, emotions) and choose instead to obey God's will, so we might have three (3) more successful walks.

God Bless, Merry Christmas and may 2002 be full of wonderful blessings for each of you.

De Colores

Bob Everett, Community Spiritual Director

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Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage-- with great patience and careful instruction. 2 Timothy 4:2 (NIV)

Spring Walks

Men's February 28 - March 3, 2002 Women's A March 7-10, 2002 B March 14-17, 2002

TWO WOMEN'S WALKS PLANNED FOR SPRING 2002

The board has voted to have two women's walks this coming spring. This action was taken as a result of a long waiting list for women, particularly single women. The addition of a walk will not be an every year occurrence but something the board will review periodically and make a decision based on need. The walks will be the same with both married and single women on each. Barbie Cutts will serve as the Lay Director for the second weekend March 14-17, 2001 with Kathy Mims as the Lay Director in Training (LDIT). The additional walk on March 7-10, 2002 will be led by Jane Ford: one of the founding members of the Foothills Emmaus Community. Jane has served as LD for a previous walk and has also served as the Community Lay Director. There will not be a LDIT for this walk. The board is aware that three weekends will require a greater commitment on the part of our community. We hope everyone will prayerfully consider what part you can play in making these weekends run as smoothly as possible. Extra help will be needed on all committees and extra patience will be appreciated as we learn and grow in this new setting! The dates are listed above.

Foothills Emmaus Board of Directors

News from the Registrar

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you for the last two years. It has been a pleasure to work with so many wonderful people.

We are going to have two Women's walks this spring. Their will be many ways you can help. Please take the opportunity to do this, for without your help it will be very difficult to have three walks. The Men's walk will be Feb. 28 - March 3, 2002. The first Women's walk will be March 7 - 10, 2002 and the second March 14 - 17, 2002.

Now is the time to get the applications in for all those you wish to sponsor. We will not be limited to only 10 single women for the walks. I will not be the registrar for next year so please mail your Pilgrim's application along with your Sponsor's form and \$25 for each application to:

Foothills Emmaus Community
P.O. Box 25024
Orchard Park
Greenville, SC 29616.

You can also print out forms from the website:
www.foothillsemmaus.homestead.com.

De Colores,
Reba Scott
Phone: 864-963-9826
E-mail: rebascott@earthlink.net

From the Treasurer

Since my term is coming to a close, I would like to thank the Emmaus community for all your support and generous giving. There were times when the Board and I worried about our expenses, but this community came together and with God's help, we were able to make it all work out. Our budget is in great shape and that is all due to your generosity. Thank you for everything that you do and give. Your giving is a true agape to this community.

Thanks again and much love to all of you!
Jan Suttles

WANTED:

New Dining Room Tablecloths

It is time to replace the tablecloths in the dining room at camp. The tables are eight foot tables (96"x30"). Eight, white, vinyl, flannel backed tablecloths are needed. This is great agape from a reunion group, individual, or group of individuals. If interested, please contact Carol Hetzel at 864-627-8350 or email chetzel1@aol.com.



A Different View From Luke 1: 26-38

It was the end of the day & I was sitting on the rooftop. My family was visiting with friends & Joseph was working on a chest for our new home. A warm light appeared near me & from that light stepped a stranger, different from anyone I had ever seen before. His eyes were bright with excitement, but comfort also came from him. He seemed to know how afraid I was and sought to put me at ease. When he told me I was favored of God, chosen to bear the Messiah, I again was frightened. The Messiah was a king, I but a lowly woman of Nazareth. He smiled & said, "Hear my words, oh woman. You will bear a child, of God, who will save his people & you shall call his name Jesus, for he is God with us, Emmanuel. Go now & wait & remember, His kingdom shall have no end. Oh favored one, look to God & fear not the future. Blessed one, sing a song of great joy." With these words he became once again a part of the light, and the light closed upon itself, raced toward the sky & became as if a new star in the heavens. Now each night as I look upward, I search for that star & seem to hear soft words in my heart, "When the time is fulfilled, the star will return & lead others to your gift, the Christ child."

Agnus Dei

An Advent Meditation

...and I turned and behold I saw in heaven three large thrones which appeared as one. Two were empty and in the middle throne was one who's face shone with the radiance of a thousand suns, and around the three thrones were 24 smaller thrones and in them were 24 elders 12 before the throne and 12 after. And the 24 elders were gathered in prayers to the one whose light illuminated all heaven. And this was the prayer they prayed, "Blessings of mercy and grace be to the blind of the earth." And they were singing "praise be to the one who is Almighty and merciful, just and gracious."

Then suddenly there appeared in the midst of the assembly an angel hovering just above the heads of the elders. The angel's voice was as six thousand trumpets. And the angel said, "The time has come! The Committee meeting has been called to order and those assembled have begun. Let us attend to the work of the Lord." Then there appeared in the assembly a large cube and in that cube could be seen a group of mortals sitting around an old table and talking. And one of the Elders turned to me and said, "Who are these whose lives we are looking upon?" "You know" said I. The Elder replied, "These are a committee of the First Church. They are meeting to discuss their work which concerns Agnus, a child of God."

While the elder was speaking there appeared beside the cube in which the committee was meeting another smaller cube. In it was a woman walking down the street with a baby in her arms. Her hair was matted and she was thin and pale from hunger, shivering in the cold. She was such a pity to look upon that I turned my eyes. Then one of the elders said, "Look! Who is she?" And scared I said, "You know lord." And the elder said, "She is Agnus. Agnus Dee, a child of God."

Then one of the Elders said, "Listen for the time is approaching and if you are unaware or not awake you will miss it for the kingdom comes as a thief in the night!" So I looked and behold I could hear the talking of the people in the meeting: "How is the work coming on the Cantata?" said the one at the head of the table. "Very well. We should be ready by Christmas Eve." "Good! John, have we fixed that leak in the narthex?" "Yes, but the..."

Then I looked up and saw Agnus and her baby walking down the street. As the snow fell she passed brightly decorated windows with lights and brightly dressed mannequins. Then she came to one window with a plastic fireplace and a fake fire letting off a glow. She pulled her baby closer to herself as she stared at the glow of the fire and the snow fell around them like unanswered prayers. She closed her eyes and looked up.

Then in heaven there was a trumpet blast and the elders got up from their thrones and bowed to the throne of the one like a thousand suns. And I looked and on the throne to the left appeared one who was like a Spirit as bright as the one on the other throne. But the throne on the right remained empty. And the elders all sang "Praise to the Holy one who is always with the people of the earth." The one on the throne to the left stood and approached the cube in which the committee appeared. Then the Holy one reached into the midst of the people in the meeting and touched a woman on the shoulder. All of heaven was silent.

"...seems to need more work. I think we should have a training meeting for the group leaders." Then the one speaking turned to she who the Holy one had touched. "Elizabeth, what do you think?" "I'm sorry. I wasn't listening. I have had something on my mind. I hope this isn't out of place, but there's this woman. I've seen walking down the street by the church sometimes. Every morning like clock work she comes by us. She looks as though she hasn't had a bath. I have seen her at the soup kitchen at St. John's, and she's always alone except for her baby boy, and she is always hungry. I'm just wondering if there isn't something we can do for her. She has a little baby with her. He can't be more than six months old." "You said she was headed to St. John's?" "Yes, but I wonder if she has a decent place to stay. She has probably been staying in the shelter for homeless women. It would be good if she had a better place to stay. Especially at this time of the year." "Elizabeth, I know how you feel, but what can we do? We are so small. Big churches like St. John's can afford to take on tasks like feeding the hungry, and we are willing to help. We support the homeless shelter. If you like I could call them up if you want to volunteer there too." "No, I'm not talking about shelters or soup kitchens, I'm talking about a home where a child can be kept warm. Not a cot in a woman's dormitory." "I wish there was something we could do preacher, but we are having problems with our own roof much less providing a roof for every unwed mother on the streets." "I think we need a special campaign to try to..."

At that all the elders rose from their thrones and rent their clothes and said, "If the First Church will not help Agnus Dee who will?" The elders wept and all of heaven was silent except for the weeping of the angels. The silence was six hours.

At the seventh hour there appeared an angel. And the angel spoke with the voice of seven thousand trumpets. And the angel said, "The Lion of Judah has conquered and will redeem the poor of the earth." One of the elders said, "Behold, the Lion of Judah. And I looked and I saw the woman. Agnus Dee. With her matted hair and her worn clothes and she was carrying the child. She approached the throne on the right and opened the child's blanket and its face shown like the light of seven suns. Like the light of burnished bronze it shown. And she laid the child on the throne. And all heaven rejoiced in the day of the Lord.





Set your mind on things above,
not things of earth.
Colossians 3:2

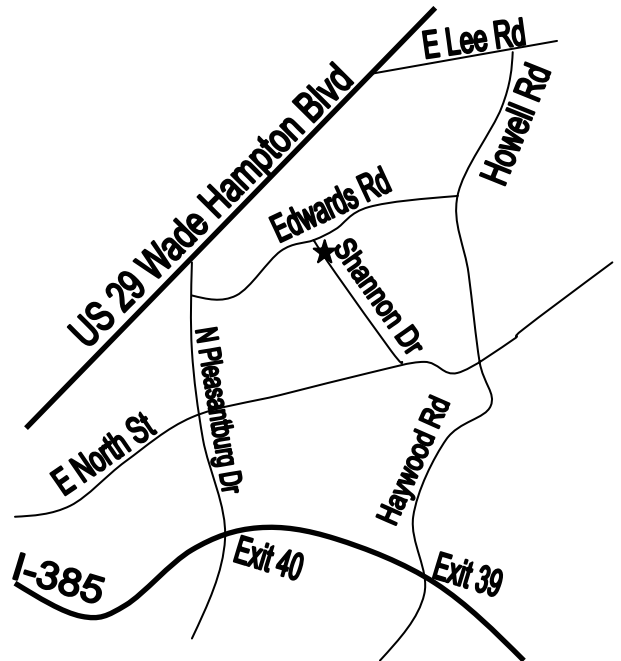


Launch Pad www.DanLtoons.com



Next Gathering:
December 14
at 7:30 pm
Aldersgate UMC
7 Shannon Dr
Greenville, SC

Want to host a
Gathering in 2002?
Contact
Maggie Hopper at
rdhopper@juno.com
864-877-2277



Chrysalis Update

As you all know we have been looking into the feasibility of a Chrysalis community here in the Foothills community. As a logical step we have decided to host a Hoot (gathering) for those Butterflies in the community. We will do this in conjunction with our February gathering. The February gathering will be held at Covenant UMC in Greer. As we meet in the Sanctuary the Butterflies will meet in the gymnasium and have their own music and worship. Then we will gather together for snacks. This Hoot will be an open Hoot for the kids to invite their friends to give us an idea of what kind of interest there might be in supporting Chrysalis. Just a reminder, even though the Hoot will be open the gathering will be closed as we will be discussing business for the walks in March.



Alive and New in 2002

Memorial United Methodist Church in Greer will be hosting a revival January 6 - 9, 2002. The speakers will be our own Rev. George Strait, Rev. John Haney, Rev. Larry Clifton, and Annah Gullede. Special music will be provided nightly. Music will be a mix of styles from praise and worship, traditional southern gospel, to our own Chancel choir. Services begin at 7:00 PM nightly. Child care will be provided. Invite your friends and come prepared for a blessing!
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old is gone, the new has come."
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

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