

A Walk in the

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Footsteps

December 2003 Newsletter

of Jesus

A Note from the Spiritual Director

Dear Friends in Christ,

On the night of our Savior's birth, angels greeted the shepherds proclaiming "peace on earth good will to men." Where is this peace on earth? Our great nation is embroiled in a war that is taking an average of one life a day. The city of Jerusalem and the little town of Bethlehem experience suicide bombings and rocket attacks almost daily. There are no longer any well-defined battle lines or rules of engagement. Terrorists may strike anywhere at anytime. The enemy may be a guerilla or civilian; a teenager or child. There is no place on earth where one can feel truly safe from these unscrupulous warriors.

Were the angels mistaken? Did the shepherds misunderstand? Obviously, the angel chorus heralded something other than the absence of world conflict. As long as evil exists in the world there will be confrontation with the forces of righteousness, and the battles become fiercer and more brutal each day. Coalition forces in Iraq are losing one or two everyday, but we lose more than that to domestic violence and gang wars on the streets of our cities. Where is the peace on earth? Where is there any good will toward men? Serious conflicts arise in homes and Christian churches are being torn apart by controversy and struggles for influence and power. Where is this peace on earth?

The angels did not deceive or exaggerate their claims of peace on earth. The good news that they proclaimed was not a sudden, God imposed environment of universal peace that the entire world would see and feel instantaneously. What God was offering with the birth of his son was the possibility of peace, the prospect for peace; the gift of peace. Before the world had languished in sin and despair. Now there was prospect for a better world; a world at peace, but men and women of good will must choose it. The psalmist has said, "Seek peace and pursue it."

The only place where peace really exists in the world today is in the hearts and lives of those who have heard the good news and chosen to follow the Prince of Peace. Without him there is still no hope for peace. The world which once languished in hopelessness and despair now has a Savior, a hope and a promise. He will come again and make our enemies his footstool. We cannot ignore the ravages of war all around us, but we can endure them in the sure hope that someday evil finally will be overcome and we will know the peace the angels promised long ago.

Grace and peace—Richard Hopper, Spiritual Director, Foothills Emmaus

See you at the Table

"In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned."

Titus 2:7

My husband and I like to do a little ballroom dancing. We are not very good at it, but it is fun. Many times we get our wires crossed and he goes one way on the dance floor and I go the other. Sometimes the steps we are learning are quite complicated and we have to practice over and over and over again. Just when we think we have it mastered, we realize one of us is doing something wrong.

Our Christian life is much like that. We have to "Practice" our faith. We have to "Practice sharing the love of Jesus. We have to "Practice" telling someone our testimonies. We have to practice, practice, practice. Yet we still mess up.

Sometimes when John and I are dancing and I am not paying attention to his cues, he literally picks me up and guides me where he wants me to be.

Remember that God is your guide – never leave home without Him! He will pick you up and guide you where He wants you to be.

"For this God is our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even to the end." Psalms 48:14

Our reunion group is good at this also. We keep each other lifted up in prayer. We share our daily life experiences with each other and encourage each other. We talk about how we handled situations wrong and what to do next time. And we share victories (even small ones) where we handled things correctly.

If you have not connected to an existing reunion group start your own. It only takes 2 people to start an accountability group. Guide each other in your daily walk with Christ and help each other to "Practice, Practice, Practice."

De Colores,
Amy Hanson
Community Lay Director

Notes from the Registrar Robbie Kane:

Sponsoring is one example of how we share Christ's love with one another. The first step of sponsorship is to *pray* for God's guidance and direction. Sometimes people find themselves sponsoring people they had never planned on sponsoring! As my sponsors often say "Scott and Robbie weren't even on our short list."

However, they were praying about whom to sponsor and God led us to them. I hope you have "names on your refrigerator" that you are considering for sponsorship and that you are prayerfully considering being a sponsor. Just remember, while we are about to celebrate the miracle of Christmas, God is still in the "miracle business" and just may be calling you to sponsor someone not on "your short list." Merry Christmas! If I can answer any questions or mail you applications please contact me in any of the following ways: Phone: (864) 967-7736 Mail: 202 Country Side Lane, Simpsonville, SC 29681 or Email: JSKane8@cs.com

**THE BELOW INSERT IS NOT AN ADVERTISEMENT
(IT IS A DESPERATE NEED)!!!!**

Got your Banners in Yet?

WE ARE STILL LOOKING AND PRAYING FOR **A FEW GOOD BANNERS!** THE WALKS WILL BE HERE FASTER THAN CHRISTMAS AND CHRISTMAS IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER! SO WOULD YOU PLEASE VOLUNTEER YOUR REUNION GROUP OR JUST GET A FEW OF YOUR FRIENDS OVER FOR SOME EMMAUS FELLOWSHIP AND CHEER MAKING A BANNER FOR THE NEXT WALK! IT IS A GREAT WAY FOR YOU TO RE-LIVE YOUR EMMAUS EXPERIENCE! PLEASE HELP! **WE NEED YOU!** REMEMBER EMMAUS IS NOT JUST ANOTHER CHRISTIAN GROUP **IT'S AN ADVENTURE!** CONTACT ANY **RECRUITER** - I MEAN BOARD MEMBER - OR ROBBIE KANE AT (864) 967-7736 (SOUNDS LIKE AN ARMY AD ☺). THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Notes from the Candlelight Chairperson Christina Turner:

Greetings! Just a note to ask you to remember the wonderful feeling that you experienced on the night of Candlelight as you entered the Church and saw the glow of the love of Jesus filling the Sanctuary. Keep this in mind when volunteers are requested for the March Walks to Emmaus. The job is not hard, it requires no specific skills, only the love of Christ in your heart for your brothers and sisters in Christ. May God bless you and your family this Christmas. De Colores! Christina Turner

CAMELS COMING TO THE DECEMBER GATHERING?

Camille and Clyde Camel (Their names...☺) will be traveling with Zoar's l'il Pals to Trinity UMC, Fountain Inn, on Friday, December 12, at 7:30 PM. They will be speaking and singing to children of all ages about the gift of the King. Following their presentation we will celebrate Holy Communion together and then enjoy a time of fellowship. You bring the cookies, the Board will provide the punch. See you there! Maggie Hopper

Notes from the Kitchen Chairperson Jim Bleakley:

As the year 2003 draws to a close, I would like to thank everyone in the Emmaus community for supporting our efforts regarding the kitchen. This also completes my first year on the board and I am thankful for this opportunity as well. Hope you and yours have a Blessed Christmas and a new year filled with God's joys. Jim and Mary Bleakley
Decolores! jamary@wctel.net

Notes from the Vice Chair Follow-Up and PR Chairperson Dennis Smith:

THE VOTES ARE IN!

The votes are in for the nominees of the 2004 Foothills Emmaus Board. I would like to thank everyone who submitted votes, the turnout was outstanding. Please welcome the following new board members.

Tom Howard Larry Boyer Joanna Neubert Steve Church Ray Williams Jimmy Davis

Congratulations to each of you and we all look forward to your leadership of our community in 2004.
Vice Chairman Dennis Smith

Notes from the Secretary and Newsletter Chairperson Marc Kochamba:

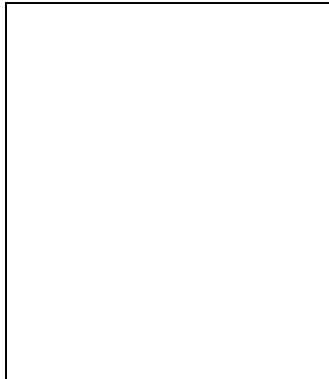
Luke 1:26-28

“In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

In the above verse, Mary had been hand chosen, picked, selected, designated, and singled out to be the Mother of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I could only imagine the butterflies in her stomach the moments after this angelic interaction. I wonder what Mary was doing when Gabriel appeared? How surreal it must have been for Mary to be not only visited by an angel, but then to be told by that angel that you were highly favored by God himself. I bet whatever she was doing she was trusting, serving, and obeying our Lord. Mary did not run away, she was not embarrassed or scared. She was initially unsure of the reason for the visit, but as the story unfolded she became more confident. Mary was chosen to bring to this world the Love of God thru her son The Christ. We too can share with this world the Love of Christ thru our daily experiences. As Christians, we are all asked to trust, serve, and obey just as Mary did. The Lord wants us to trust Him completely without a bunch of conditions or excuses. Our God wants us to serve Him in whatever capacity He chooses for us and for us to rejoice in it. Lastly, we are asked to obey Him in all things. What a great example Mary is for us to be inspired daily to trust Him, serve Him, and finally obey Him in all things.

Lord, You are an awesome God, You have blessed us with your son Christ. You have inspired us through Mary to trust, serve, and obey You in all things! Please direct and empower us daily to do these things! Help us glorify You in all we do! Prepare our hearts today for the birth of Your perfect Son Jesus Christ. Let me not hold back from sharing Jesus with others. Let me show others with my actions, words, and deeds, the love You so freely give me each and every day. Praise The Lord. Amen ☺

It has been a wonderful year for me and my family. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for taking an active part in our growth and the joyful growth of this wonderful community. May 2004 bring you Christ’s joy, Christ’s peace, most of all Christ’s love! Merry Christmas! De Colores! The Kochamba Family



2003 Foothills Emmaus Board of Directors

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| Spiritual Director | Richard Hopper | 877-2277 | rdhopper@juno.com |
| Asst Spiritual Director | Julian Ford | 859-5892 | RevFord@aol.com |
| Chair and Team Selection | Amy Hanson | 226-4790 | hanson2@nuvox.net |
| Vice Chair Follow-Up and PR | Dennis Smith | 292-5188 | discipledad@charter.net |
| Treasurer | Carol Hetzel | 627-8350 | carolhetzel@charter.net |
| Secretary and Newsletter | Marc Kochamba | 286-1475 | kkochamba@charter.net |
| Agape | Kathy Mims | 268-7853 | snick41@aol.com |
| Refreshments | Deedie Belangia | 676-1223 | deedie@charter.net |
| Kitchen | Jim Bleakley | 391-3285 | jamary@wctel.net |
| Transportation | Barbie Cutts | 646-7259 | Not Available |
| Music | Rick Hembree | 463-7775 | rhemrah@msn.com |
| Worship | Maggie Hopper | 877-2277 | rdhopper@juno.com |
| Registrar | Robbie Kane | 967-7736 | jskane8@cs.com |
| Literature | James Peavey | 879-3704 | jjpeavey@juno.com |
| 72 Hour Prayer Vigil | Mike Reid | 463-6446 | usscowpens@charter.net |
| Candlelight | Christina Turner | 472-0993 | turnercarbandy@att.net |
| Housing | Jeff Young | 848-1530 | KLRAY97@aol.com |

Surrender your whole
being to Him to be used
for righteous purposes.
Romans 6:13

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

Please keep the following in
your prayers:

- For our troops, and their families.
- For those out of work.
- For the upcoming walks in March!
- For the teams of the walks!
- For the pilgrims going on the walks!
- For our leaders in our country.
- For the homeless.
- For peace in the Middle East.
- For a wonderful Christmas.
- For the hungry.
- For the oppressed and stressed!

Spring Walks #28

COMING SOONER THAN
WE THINK!!!!

Men's

March 4-7
Lay Director
Roy Suttles

Women's

March 11-14
Lay Director
Christina Turner

**Open Gathering
THIS WEEK!!!!**
December 12, at 7:30 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
Fountain Inn, SC
More Information on the website!
www.foothillsemmaus.homestead.com
864-862-4561
403 S Weston St
Fountain Inn, SC 29644-1945

JANUARY'S GATHERING
ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
EASLEY, SC
7:30 PM

JANUARY 16, 2004

More details in next month's newsletter and on the web!

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE!!!

www.foothillsemmaus.homestead.com

PLEASE SUBMIT ANY SUGGESTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER OR THE WEBSITE
TO: kkochamba@charter.net

**WANT TO HOST A
GATHERING? CALL
MAGGIE HOPPER 877-2277**