

Footprints— In the Footsteps Of Jesus!

SC Foothills Community February
2009

A Message From the Community Lay Director

The beginning of a New Year brings about the pursuit of new resolutions, new dreams and new beginnings. We make plans to lose weight, improve our tempers, quit bad habits and improve our lives. In most cases, we fail and go back to our old ways. By now, many of us have already forgotten our resolution and have gone back to our old ways.

So this year, instead of making a promise to do something I have made a promise **not to do** something! I am not going to forget why I am here and I am not going to forget that I am here for a purpose! I am not going to forget that He sent his Son for you and me! I am not going to forget that like the disciples, I need to spread the word of Jesus in my daily walk!

We are facing difficult times. Across our country there are many people that have lost jobs, homes, and savings. There are hundreds of thousands of people around the world who don't know where their next meal is coming from, many dying of starvation even as you read this! There are millions of people around the world who would sacrifice just to be able to read a Christian Newsletter, to attend church, to own a bible or to be able to pray without fear!

Now more than ever we need to help others through these times. We need to pray, to worship and to be Christ in the World just as we have been taught!

Emmaus is one way to strengthen your walk with Christ. As each of us has seen on our walks we have been brought closer to the Lord and as a Disciple of the Lord we need to go forth and teach others.

The spring walks will be here before we know it. The teams have begun training. We as a Christian community need to be in prayer for those who are on the team. We need to support them with our service and we need to be there for them during the weekend walks.

I invite you to promise NOT to do something else this year! Promise not to forget that there are people in our church, Sunday school class and our community that can benefit from the walk. Identify those people and after careful prayer, consider inviting them to be a part of the walk. I would like to see the walks overflowing with people as we have in the past, Christians yearning to feel the love of Christ and of this community.

But I also ask each of you to make a promise not to forget why you are here and what is required of you. **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matt 28:19)**

Decolores!

John MacKeil

Foothills Emmaus

Chair

Christ Js Counting on Us!!!!



We're on the Web!

WWW. Foothillsemmaus.org

We are fast approaching the most exciting time of the year for our Emmaus community. The spring walks are close upon us. Team training has already begun and committees are hard at work. One important task remains for everyone. It is time to sponsor pilgrims!

In the business world someone has said, *"Nothing happens till somebody sells something."* If we translate that into the Emmaus experience it would be, *"Nothing happens till somebody sponsors somebody."* There are a lot of things that contribute to the success of a Walk but nothing takes the place of sponsoring. All our work would be in vain if we had no pilgrims.

It is really late now to begin talking to someone about the upcoming walks but if you have already been talking to someone and praying for them, now is the time to follow up. The spring walks are close upon us! (You will need to go for the quick sell. Try some of these: **"This offer ends tomorrow!"... "Only two days left! ... "Call right now and we'll double the offer!"... "You'll never see deals like this again!)**

Good news has to be shared. When Jesus comes into our lives-- or anytime God does a new thing in our lives, we want to tell everybody. We want everybody to experience what we have experienced. and know the joy that we know. The late Bishop Bethea told about a man who was converted at a revival. He decided that he wouldn't tell anybody about it but after two days he found he just couldn't

keep it to himself! That's the way Christianity has grown from a few Christians two thousand years ago to the millions who claim Christ today. Somehow, however, the excitement wanes over time and we don't feel the urgency to proclaim the good news that we once felt. Thankfully, the Holy Spirits refreshes and revives us and "... restores the joy of our salvation." (Psalm 51:12)

Many pilgrims are so excited after their walk they can't wait to tell everybody. We leave the week end with a mental list of all the people we want to sponsor. But then we find out that they're as suspicious and fearful as we were. Some even think



"The measure of a Christian is not in the height of his grasp but in the depth of his love."

God knows the right time. Maggie and I worked four years in one church and sponsored one couple. We attended every gathering and worked on several walks but only one couple was interested in joining us. Several years after we left, that one couple finally sponsored one more and they sponsored more than a dozen in no time at all. It was all a matter of God's timing.

And remember the most important ingredient of the process is prayer. Pray for

your pilgrims before you talk to them and keep on praying till you wave to them on the bus. Then sign up for the 72 hour prayer vigil and pray throughout the week end. Our Lord is ready to do a wonderful thing in our community. Let's do our part! De Colores !

Richard +

A Message From the Spiritual Director

we're crazy! Can you imagine that? We realize that sponsoring is more involved than we thought it would be and our enthusiasm dies.

If you feel God is leading you to sponsor someone, don't give up if they resist your first invitation. Don't make a nuisance of yourself but don't give up. Remember that everyone goes when the time is right-- and



Servant Opportunities Available for Everyone!!!

The spring walks are quickly approaching! Are you interested in helping? Sign up sheets will be available at the gathering in February or you can contact the Chairperson of the following Committees:

72 Hour Prayer Vigil

Prayer warriors needed! Contact Bill Houx at 646-9475, sign up at foothillsemmaus.org or email him at prayer@foothillsemmaus.org

Kitchen

Prepare and serve a meal for the pilgrims! Contact Lydia Beck at 468-5586 or email her at Lbeck@palmettobank.com.

Refreshments

Prepare refreshments (homemade preferred) for the snack table. Contact Roy Suttles at 576-8321 or email him at rsuttles@charter.net

Candlelight

Help clean up after the candlelight service on Saturday night the 7th or 14th. Contact Janice Byrd at 895-4288 or email.

jfbyrd2@aol.com.

Agape

Make agape to share with the pilgrims. For more information contact George Yoder at 982-4139 or email him at yoderclan@yahoo.com

Transportation

Assist with the unloading of the luggage at the camp and/or transporting the pilgrims to camp and to Candlelight. Contact Craig Dittmar at 877-3249 or email him at a

cedittmar@charter.net



He Needs YOUR Hands!

Housing

Assist with set-up and break down of the camp for both walks. Contact Connie Herring at 446-3435 or email her at: connieprainghim@yahoo.com

Get Involved ... Be a Servant!!!

We need gathering hosts for April, August & December. Responsibilities of the host Reunion Group is 4th Day Speaker, Special Music, Childcare, Paper Products & Ice for the Fellowship Time.

If your Reunion Group is interested in hosting a Gathering at your Church, please contact Conway Belangia at 676-1223 or email him at Conwayb@charter.net.

Update from the Registrar

At this time, we have 23 pilgrims registered for the Spring Walks. There are 11 men registered and 12 ladies registered. We need a minimum of 15 men and 15 ladies registered for the walks by February 20th. Please mail all completed applications to:

Laura Keck

147 Stoddard Mill Rd.
Gray Court, SC 29645

De Colores!

Laura

Upcoming Gatherings!

- February 20– Covenant UMC, Greer (Pre-Walk Gathering)
NO VISITORS PLEASE!
- March 20– Mauldin UMC, Mauldin
- April 17– Host Church Still Needed
- May 15 - St. Mark UMC, Greenwood
- June 19– Green Pond UMC, Gray Court



Foothills Emmaus Community

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Foothills Emmaus Community

We're on the Web!

www.foothillsemmaus.org

February Gathering

The February Gathering will be held February 20th, 7:30 PM at Covenant UMC in Greer. This is a "Pre-Walk Gathering." Please do not bring visitors; however, we would love to see some of our friends who have not attended in a while! Be sure to bring a snack to share!



Agape.

A small, simple word. Three short syllables representing a gift of love...unearned...yet freely given. Yet, what a powerful impact that small word makes to the pilgrims who receive those gifts of agape. Those often small gifts of agape symbolize the love from our Savior...the risen Christ... to whom the pilgrims are being introduced. Agape gifts also help to introduce the pilgrims to our Emmaus community...a community which the pilgrims have yet to meet. And don't forget how important the agape gifts are as a link to explaining reunion groups to our pilgrims...or how much fun pilgrims have wondering what kind of people come up with names such as the God's Groupies, His Mighty Moos, Ya Ya Sisters, or even The Green Pond SCUM! Agape gifts...such small and simple things, yet, so vitally important to the overall success of any Walk to Emmaus.

With the spring walks approaching so quickly, I urge each of our reunion groups to finalize their agape projects so that they can be collected, organized, and ready for distribution in March.

DeColores!

George Yoder, Agape Chairperson