

# Footprints— In the Footsteps Of Jesus

## *Foothills Emmaus Community*

January 2009

## Memories & New Beginnings!

As we begin this New Year and with Christmas just behind us, I want to share a special memory of Christmas's past.

I grew up with mom, dad, three sisters and brother. We were not wealthy, in fact far from it! Dad worked a lot of nights and as much overtime as possible. I saw mom briefly in the evening because she also worked to help support our family. Christmas was not a time when we got many presents but it was a special time of a family coming together.

One special memory I have of Christmas past is of chocolates. My dad loved chocolate and every Christmas he would get some as a gift. It was usually a box of his favorite Whitman Samplers. After dad had opened the "present" he would then share the candy with each of us. For several days after Christmas when he opened that box, he never failed to ask if any of us wanted a piece. He never hesitated to share with us the one gift he always loved to get.

As the years went by we made sure that dad always got his box of chocolates and he never failed to offer it to who ever was around.

I look forward to working with the Emmaus board and with the community in the New Year! I also want to thank those whose terms have expired and who served so willingly. You have made the community stronger and better by your work. We have been blessed by your service!

I ask that each of you keep the board and the community in your prayers. We have made great strides over the years and we are growing stronger! I am excited about this year as we continue on that path! I welcome any suggestions you may have and will always be available to listen to ideas that will make our community better.

I encourage all members of the community, laity and clergy alike, to participate in the gatherings, the walks and the activities of the Emmaus Community. I know that sometimes it's difficult to do but I ask that you make an effort because you are needed

and you are missed! Each of you has been given a gift and each of you can contribute to growing our Christian community. I especially pray that there will be more clergy participating in the community. We need you to work together with us as we grow in the Body of Christ!, The time I spent with my parents and family at Christmas is a memory I will always cherish! Sharing a piece of candy that my dad offered was something I always looked forward to. God gave us the greatest Gift we could ever imagine and He wants to share it with us. This year, won't you give that gift to others by sponsoring, working the walks, your prayers and participation in the Emmaus Community? Don't keep that Wonderful gift to yourself; give the Gift of Jesus to others!

May your New Year be filled with Joy, Love and Happiness!

DeColores!  
John MacKeil  
Community Lay Director

### 2009 Board of Directors

*Chairman— John MacKeil*

*Vice-Chair— Leah O'Neal*

*Secretary— TBA*

*Treasurer— Sherrill Austin*

*Spiritual Director— Richard Hopper*

*Registrar— Laura Keck*

*Housing— Connie Herring*

*Prayer— Bill Houx*

*Kitchen— Lydia Beck*

*Music— Steve Grose*

*Agape— George Yoder*

*Follow-Up & PR— Leah O'Neal*

*Worship— Conway Belangia*

*Transportation— Craig Dittmar*

*Newsletter— Barbara Rambo*

*Literature— Libby Waldrep*

*Refreshments— Roy Suttles*

*Candlelight— Janice Byrd*

### UPCOMING GATHERINGS

- January 16— Advent UMC, Simpsonville
- February 20— Covenant UMC, Greer



## *A Message From the Spiritual Director*

*It is a joy for me to serve again this year as Community Spiritual Director. The Emmaus community has been a great blessing to me and I look forward to the things we are going to experience together this year.*

*Last year was a very good year for me but I know a lot of people for whom it was not so good. Over and over I have heard, "I'm glad this year is over." During the past year my next door neighbor discovered that he had Parkinson's disease and his mother passed away. Our son in law had to have radiation treatments for lymphoma, their dog lost an altercation with a skunk. Both our granddaughters had medical problems and on Christmas day their SUV hit a patch of ice, spun around several times and ended upside down in the median! No*

*one was injured but the car was totaled (with only two payments to go). I know that many of you could tell similar stories. I have spoken to a number of friends who have lost their jobs, some after twenty or more years in the same job. We have all been affected by a worldwide economic crisis and suffered through \$4.00 a gallon gasoline. There a lot of reasons to be glad to see the old year pass and pray that 2009 will be better.*

*Although New Years Day is not a holy day on the Christian calendar the idea of celebrating the coming of a new year and making resolutions is genuinely Christian. This is a marvelous truth of the gospel; that no matter how bad things are, we can forget the past and start over again. Christianity is all about starting over again and*

*again. Our heavenly Father is eager and willing to forgive us all the sins of our past and give us a new beginning. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." Isaiah 1:18*

*Every new year offers the opportunity for starting over. The Walk to Emmaus is an outstanding opportunity for spiritual renewal whether one is a pilgrim on his or her walk, a team member on a walk or serving in some other way. I pray that 2009 will be a good year for you all. I pray that our Lord will do a new thing in your life whatever your circumstances or condition.*

*Pray a lot! Pray for each other. Pray for me. Grace and peace, Richard +*

## Thank You from Dawn

To my Foothills Emmaus family,  
On behalf of the 2008 Board of Directors I would like to wish each of you a very Happy New Year. I hope each of you had a blessed Christmas Celebration with family and friends. It is hard to believe my time on the board has come to an end. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for making 2008 great for the Foothills Emmaus Community. It was a pleasure serving Christ as your leader this past year. Get your applications to Laura

Keck now for the Spring Walks. They will be here before we know it. Thank you all again for a wonderful year and let's give our support to John MacKeil, 2009 Community Lay Director, and the entire Board as they lead our wonderful Foothills Emmaus Community with another successful year. May God bless you all abundantly in 2009! My love goes to you all! DeColores,

Dawn Rampey

2008 Board Community Lay Director

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

*-Clarence Jordan*



**HOUSING NEWS!!!**

To Our Wonderful Foothills Emmaus Community... Yours truly is "over" housing again. And just in case you've already forgotten what that means, I'll be needing LOTS of help getting the camp ready for the Spring Walks. Please be in prayer about this, and sign up as you are led to do so. Sign-up sheets will be available at the January Gathering, but you can certainly call me (446-3435) or e-mail me ([conniepraizinghim@yahoo.com](mailto:conniepraizinghim@yahoo.com)) to let me know if you'll be able to help. As always, thank you, thank you, thank you. Love you all, Connie <>

**GATHERING HOSTS NEEDED!**

We need gathering hosts for April, May, 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](mailto:Conwayb@charter.net).

**How to Sign Up for Servant Opportunities for the Spring Walks**

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](http://foothillsemmaus.org) or email him at [prayer@foothillsemmaus.org](mailto: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](mailto:Lbeck@palmettobank.com).
- Refreshments– Prepare refreshments (homemade preferred) for the snack table. Contact Roy Suttles at 576-8321 or email him at [rlsuttles@charter.net](mailto:rlsuttles@charter.net)
- Candlelight– Help clean up after the candlelight Worship service on Saturday Night. Contact Janice Byrd at 895-4288 or email her at [jfbyrd2@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 [acedittmar@charter.net](mailto:acedittmar@charter.net)
- Housing– Assist with the set-up and break down of the camp for both walks. Contact Connie Herring at 446-3435 or email her at [conniepraiz-](mailto:conniepraiz-)

# *Foothills Emmaus Community*

C/O Laura Keck  
147 Stoddard Mill Rd.  
Gray Court, SC 29645



## January Gathering

The January Gathering will be held January 16th at Advent UMC in Simpsonville. Everyone is welcome! We would love to see some of our friends who have not attended in a while! Be sure to bring a snack to share!

**Advent UMC**  
**2258 Woodruff Rd.**  
**Simpsonville, SC 29681**

