



Footprints

In the Footsteps of Jesus



March 2009

Heart Felt Thoughts From Our Lay Director

Springtime!

It has been a difficult time for the daffodils in my yard, they have been up for the past several weeks and despite the cold weather that comes during the evening they still continue to bloom.



Each morning when I look outside, I see them wilted. But as the sun comes up they begin to stand taller and gain their stature, basking in the light, the warmth that the sun provides. And as the end of the day approaches not only have they reached their heights, but new ones have also begun to bloom! Ah the warmth and comfort of the sun, how wonderful it is!

We are not unlike the daffodils! Each of us has experienced cold dark nights in our lives. We wilt under the pressure of the cold and darkness, holding on to survive until help arrives! And then, like the warmth of the sun that those daffodils experience, we find that we have the Light of the World shining on us! And with that light we grow stronger and taller and are able to face the days ahead! And as the Sun warms and comforts, the new flowers begin to grow and blossom into beautiful flowers! So to will the pilgrims as they experience that light!

The Spring Walks are here! We have a good size group of men and women ready to embark on a new opportunity to grow

closer to God! They will have an opportunity to experience what each of us has experienced and take away a renewed and invigorated spirit in their life! May we keep them in our prayers as they travel that road with the two and that stranger who joined them! May they learn who that stranger is and take Him into their everyday life. May they too experience the Son, the Son that will always be there for them to give strength and warmth throughout their days!

I invite all of you to attend the send-offs, the candlelight and closing and witness the growth of these pilgrims in their walks!

Decolores!
John MacKeil



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM

UPCOMING GATHERINGS

- March 20– 7:30
Mauldin UMC
- April 17— 7:30
Host Church Needed
- May 15th— 7:30
St. Mark UMC,
Greenwood

CAMP SET-UP

ATTENTION !!!!!!!
You are ALL needed for set-up and break-down for the up-coming Emmaus Walks. Set-up will be on Thursday, March 5, beginning at 9am. Break-down will be on Monday, March 16, also beginning at 9am. Sign-up sheets will be available at the Gathering on Friday, February 20, at Covenant. If you won't be able to attend the Gathering PLEASE call me at 446-3435, or e-mail me at

(continued on page 2)

Pilgrim Update!!

Great News!!! We have 61 pilgrims registered for the spring walks. We have 29 men and 32 ladies. What a blessing!!! DeColores!





Quilt of Holes

Author Unknown

As I faced my Maker at the last judgment, I knelt before the Lord along With all the other souls. Before each of us laid our lives like the squares of a quilt in many piles; an angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a Tapestry that is our life. But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged And empty each of my squares was. They were filled with giant holes. Each Square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the Challenges and temptations I was faced with in everyday life. I saw hardships that I endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich color and the Bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened. My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of

cloth together, threadbare and Empty, like binding air.

Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the Light, the scrutiny of truth. The others rose; each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been. My angel looked upon me, and nodded for me to rise. My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly Fortunes. I had love in my life, and laughter. But there had also been Trials of illness, and wealth, and false accusations that took from me my world, as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly Judged Me. And now, I

had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was.

I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes. Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded

the many holes, creating an image, the face of Christ. Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, "Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships, and My struggles. Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you."

May all our quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through! God determines who walks into your life ... it's up to you to decide who you Let walk away, who you let stay, and who you refuse to let go.'

When there is nothing left but God, that is when you find out that God is all you Need.



(set-up -con't from pg 1)

therring@wctel.net so that I can put your name, phone number and e-mail address on the list. Please remember that immediately following the Men's Closing the conference room (chairs and round tables) and the dining room a few extra minutes to help.

Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU!
BE BLESSED!

Grace and peace to ALL of my Emmaus family,

Connie <><





A Message from the Spiritual Director

March is a big month for the Foothills Community! Team members who have been working and planning for weeks will finally put their working and planning together and present our Spring Walks. Of course, this means we will welcome a group of new pilgrims into our fellowship. A lot of things have to come together in the next few days. Everyone in the community will have an opportunity to participate in some way.

Prayer is the force that brings everything and everybody together and the glue that holds it all together. Team members are already praying—some nervously like students studying for final exams. Sponsors are praying

that their pilgrims don't "chicken out" at the last minute or be called away by some emergency. Prayers are going up for vans and helpers and good weather. Everyone should be praying somehow. One of the most essential elements of the week ends is the Seventy Two Hour Prayer Vigil. If you haven't signed up at one of the gatherings you can sign up on line. Don't wait till the "good" slots are taken. The 2 AM to 4 AM times require extra commitment.

Pray for all the team members now and after send off you can pray for the pilgrims by name. Some will be anxious about leaving family behind and nervous about spending the week end with new people in a *strange bed*

(If they only knew!) Pray for peace and confidence for them. Pray that everyone will be blessed in a new and special way. We know that Our Lord is preparing a very personal gift for every pilgrim.

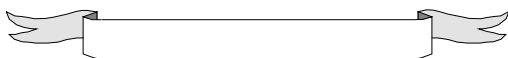
Then back up your prayers with your service. Plan to attend send off and candlelight and help in the kitchen if you can. These simple acts of agape all go together to make the walks the impressive spiritual experience that they have been for so many. May the Lord bless you as you serve in whatever way he calls you.

DeColores
Richard +

Servant Opportunities for the Spring Walks Are



Remember ...being in service to God's pilgrims is being in service to Him!!!



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.

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

The spring walks here! There are still opportunities for you. Contact the committee chairperson to offer your services:

72 Hour prayer vigil— Prayer warriors needed! Contact Bill Houx at 646-9475, sign up at foothillsemmaus.org

or email him at

Agape— Make agape to share with the pilgrims. For more information contact George Yoder at 982-4139 or email



him at yoder-clan@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



Foothills Emmaus Community

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March Gathering!

The March Gathering will be held March 20th at Mauldin UMC in Mauldin. 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!

“Remember how much you enjoyed the snack table on your Walk? Don't let this group of Pilgrims miss out on the joy of the Break Room and the Snack Table” Please sign up to bring re-freshments on this set of walks. Homemade is great but anything will do. Sweets, salty, fruits,...You know what to do. You can bring your contributions to send-off. Help ensure that no one goes hungry during the week-end. Sign-up with Roy Suttles to bring snacks.



Thanks, Roy



Mauldin UMC
100 E. Butler Rd.
Mauldin, SC 29662
