

May 2007

Footprints

Foothills

Walk to Emmaus



A Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus

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“Why God, why...?”

“...if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us?”
(Gideon in Judges 6:13.)

“...O Lord, why have you brought trouble upon this people?”
(Moses in Exodus 5:22.)

“...Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? –which means, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”(Matthew 27:26.)

The recent tragedy in Virginia brings upon us the age old question of why evil descends on persons considered to be innocent brothers and sisters of the body of Christ. Fear and pain runs through not only close family and friends but it touches you and I as part of the family of God. I am reminded of an article I once read written by Vance Havner from his book titled *Playing Marbles With Diamonds*. I hope it may help our focusing on “Why?”

“After the death of his wife, North Carolina evangelist, Vance Havner was inconsolable. In one of his last books he described it like this: *I think of a year that started out so pleasantly for my beloved and me. We had made plans for delightful months ahead together. Instead, I sat by her bed and watched her die of an unusual disease. She expected to be healed, but she died. Now, all hopes of a happy old age together are dashed to the ground. I plod along with the other half of my life on the other side of death. My hand reaches for another hand now vanished and I listen at night for the sound of a voice that is still. And I am tempted a thousand times to ask “My God, why...?”*

But Havner ends his book with this paragraph:

“You need never ask “Why?” because Calvary covers it all. When before the throne we stand in Him complete, all the riddles that puzzle us here will fall into place and we shall know in fulfillment what we now believe in faith—that all things work together for good in His eternal purpose. No longer will we cry “My God, why?” Instead, “alas” will become “Alleluia,” all question marks will be straightened into exclamation points, sorrow will change to singing, and pain will be lost in praise.”

As children of God, we live on the promises and everlasting arms.

Grace and Peace! DeColores, Luke Mims

Next gathering

May 18 @ 7:30 PM

Grace United Methodist Church

100 East Greenwood Street
Abbeville, SC 29620-2324

Enjoy the Koinonia!

Agape Nook:

Thank you so much for all the wonderful agape given for Walk #34! Keep the creative juices flowing! It is not too early to plan your agape for the fall walks in October. Time sure flies so the walks will be here before we know it. A few things that will help out tremendously:

1. Notify me as soon as possible if you plan to contribute agape
2. Plan so you can bring your agape to the September gathering
3. Prepare a list of names of those involved in the preparation/purchase of the agape
4. 72 items are needed for each walk (144 total)

Separate the items into two separate bags/containers – one for men and one for women

To all Reunion Groups: I would like to update our list so it contains all the active reunion groups so I'm starting at ground zero. Please send me the following information: NAME, TOWN, SHEPHERD/CONTACT, TELEPHONE. Even if your reunion group has been active for a long time and is on the current list, please submit the information. I will list the information I receive in future newsletters. Thanks in advance for assisting in updating the Foothills Reunion Group list.
Libby Waldrep – Agape - Lwaldrep@earthlink.net 864-573-8519

From the 'Chair'

One of the Board's resolutions for 2007 was better communication and to be more informational. In other words, we don't want anyone in the dark – not knowing how things operate or especially how they can become an active participant in their Foothills Emmaus community. This is your community. After all without its members, our community would consist of nothing.

As many of you know Team Selection for the Fall Walks will begin in May. Maybe you're wondering how you might get back into the conference room as an Assistant Table Leader (ATL) or serve in another position. Well, it all boils down to your commitment— your attendance and service. Did you know that one of the duties of the Assistant Chair is to keep track of your attendance and service? According to our by-laws a person must have a minimum of three activities and/or services to even be considered for the team.

For example, if someone comes to five Gatherings, they receive five activity points. If that same person works in the kitchen for two walks and signs up for the men's prayer vigil, they receive three more points. Since we are now keeping attendance at Send-Off and Closing, if they attend these for both the men's and women's walks, they receive four more points. If they make agape for the men's and women's walks, that's two more. Did you come up with 14 points? As you can see, the points can add up rather quickly depending upon your commitment— through attendance and service.

However, just because you have 14 points doesn't automatically earn you a spot on the team or that someone with 10 or even five won't be selected before you. Just like Heaven, points don't earn you a guaranteed spot on the team. We try to make sure the team is reflective of our community as a whole with its vast geographical make-up. And, above all, that it is God's Team through lots and lots of prayer.

We also utilize a One Third-Two Thirds rule in team make up with one-third being experienced people in that particular position and two-thirds being new to the position. This means that of the six ATLs, two have served as ATLs previously and four will be new. Of the six Table Leaders (TL), two have served as TLs and four as ATLs. The four Assistant Lay Directors (ALD) are made up of a past Lay Director (LD), one or two experienced ALDs, and one or two experienced TLs. Music teams can bring in one new person. Spiritual teams can include one new clergy member.

It's not an easy process and it's certainly not perfect, but we do try to be fair. Please bear with us, but most of all, please pray for the Team Selection committee and the Fall Lay Directors, Connie Herring and Brett Chapman.

DeColores!
Bonnie

Pilgrimage of Faith — A Journey through Israel/Palestine
January 28-February 6, 2008
\$2299* From Columbia or Greenville/Spartanburg
For more information, please contact
Rev. Julian Ford @ 803-944-1952 or 803-364-3797

“...upon this rock I will build my church...
Matthew 18:16

The McCormick Chapel Corporation was established in 1994 with a goal of raising funds to build a chapel inside the tall, razor-wire fences of the McCormick Correctional Institution.

At last we are so close to meeting that goal that we must begin to file forms with the state in order to move ahead with the building process.

However, our first filing deadline is approaching fast... the end of May! In order to meet this crucial deadline, we must raise the last \$22,000 by May 14th. If we do not meet this deadline, the building of a chapel inside the McCormick Correctional Institution could be postponed several more months to a year.

It is very difficult for the Christian community inside prison. Everyone who has spent any time ministering there knows this. All these men want is one designated place where they can worship and fellowship in an atmosphere of peace.

I urge each and every one of you to pray about this matter, and if God speaks to your heart, please send your contribution before May 14, 2007 to:

McCormick Chapel Corporation
P.O. Box 489
McCormick, S.C. 29835

If you would like to contribute your services as an architect, etc. or wish to donate specific materials, see the web site listed above and then contact Polly Prather by e-mail or phone 864-391-3515 (leave a message and she will return the call.).

Most of all we appreciate your prayers. Please remember all the men in McCormick Correctional Institution as they patiently watch for God's time to build. Also, pray that this first of several deadlines will be met. And please pray for the Board members as we work through this building process.

Board of Directors Meeting -- Foothills Emmaus -- April 20, 2007 -- Advent United Methodist Church

Attendance: Present- Bonnie Franklin, Luke Mims, Lou Ellen Davis, Dawn Rampey, Libby Waldrep, Craig Ditmar, Gabe Stoepler, Connie Herring, John MacKeil, Bonnie Franklin, Sherrill Austin, Bill Houx

Old Business.

March meeting minutes presented and approved. May Meeting to be held at Abbeville. There will not be a board meeting that evening.

Treasurer's report: Current Balance: \$3,763.53. Discussion of the report was centered on the dedicated fund. This is a fund that includes scholarships and funds from potential pilgrims who did not attend the walk they were scheduled to be on. A discussion on refunds resulted in a motion that all deposits will be non-refundable, non-transferable. A vote was unanimous in favor and was passed. A balance of \$ 800.00 was voted on for scholarships. Reminder that newsletter items are due to Bill Houx seven (7) days prior to the release of the newsletter.

New Business.

Discussion of potential LDIT for the next walk. It was determined that none of the current candidates for the position of men's LDIT were ready to assume the position. A motion to select from the past 5 lay directors to assume that position was made and voted in favor. The motion was that the names of the past lay directors would be emailed to the board to vote on their choice to assume the LDIT position and then the Lay director for the Spring 08 walk. This was to be done by Monday April 23 so that the information would be available for team selection scheduled for April 28. The women's LDIT was voted on and Lisa Smith garnered the most votes (8). Should Lisa not accept the position then the second leading vote getter, Robbie Kane (7 votes) would be asked. Dawn suggested that points should be given for send-off and closing. This may help to increase attendance at these events. It would also give credit to sponsors who attend the send-off and closing. A vote was taken after a motion and second and passed with no dissenting votes. It was pointed out that the board meetings were open to all members of the Foothills Emmaus community and should be posted in the newsletter. The secretary would be responsible for getting the information to the newsletter committee about the board meeting minutes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27pm.

Submitted by: John MacKeil

Please make welcome our new members from Walk # 34

Mike Allen	Kat Harbin	Kevin & Deanna Klump	Mike & Betty Shull	Nelson & Marlene Vassey
Kent Ball	Michael & Mary Helms	Sean Likes	Wille Sligh	Amanda Walden
Anita Bearden	Brenda Hunnicut	Kara Matthews	Penny Sockman	Lynnette Wood
Connie Bitter	Jesse & Lindsey Hunt	Howard & Laura Petree	Carolyn Strom	Will & Emily Yancy
Billy & Sally Boggs	Pam Jordan	Merrie Poston	Debbie Swartzentruber	
Angie Giles	Creig & Mary Ann Kennedy	Bob & Lori Presley	John Tabor	

Foothills Emmaus Newsletter
c/o Bill Houx
6137 Highway 187
Anderson, SC 29625

Come to the Gatherings!

Bring soft drinks and snacks to share with others

**AGAPE
Enthusiastically Accepted!**

If you would like to send articles for the news letter, have an address change, or would like to be removed from the email list, send email to newsletter@foothillsemaus.org.

Our web site is <http://www.foothillsemaus.org/>.

All Gatherings are held at 7:30 PM on the 3rd Friday of each month

This month's Gathering will be at
Grace United Methodist Church
100 East Greenwood Street, Abbeville, SC

