

November



Give Thanks

November is already upon us and several Holidays are celebrated— Veterans Day and Thanksgiving! Take some time on Veterans Day to personally thank those who are now serving or who have served and always keep them in your prayers. Thanksgiving is a time to share with family and friends. This is a day to be thankful for what we have received. So spend some time that day in prayer and give thanks to the Holy One who has done so much in your life.

There is one thing I am very thankful for and that is the Foothills Emmaus Community! God, through the Emmaus Community, has done great things in my life, and I am forever grateful for the wonderful experiences I have shared with many of you during my years as a member of this community. Emmaus has been an important part of my Christian walk. Like many of you, I have been able to go back and make a contribution to my church in some special ways I never imagined! I feel that this Emmaus community needs people to

continue to make it a place where folks like you and I can come and experience the Love of Christ and the love of others. For this I give Thanks.

This community misses members when they are not present. I understand that not everyone can participate in every single event of the Foothills Emmaus Community. However, I encourage you to reflect upon your experience and what it has done for you and your church. I ask that you try and participate throughout the year. Attend one or two Gatherings a year or pray during the walk weekend, or how about working in the kitchen, sending refreshments or writing some agape letters! Most importantly however: sponsor someone! Without Pilgrims, we cannot have a walk! It would be an ideal situation to have enough Pilgrims signed up for the Spring Walk by the beginning of the New Year, so if you are planning on Sponsoring someone now is the time to get started!

Finally, I want to thank all of you for giving me the Emmaus Experience! As mentioned earlier, the Walk has been so meaningful to me in my life and the people I have had the opportunity to meet and work with! The Walk to Emmaus lives in my heart and will continue to do so, because I believe without it I would not have been able to see how much love Jesus has for me!

I pray that you give thanks to God for all that you have and all that is intended for you in your life. After all, life with God is what we all need and be thankful for.

Decolores

John MacKeil



Have a Great Thanksgiving!

FOOTHILLS EMMANUS COMMUNITY

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COMMUNITY

A Message from the Spiritual Director:

Maggie and I recently traveled to Kennebunk, Maine to visit her sister and celebrate her birthday. Her husband, Scott, is a retired Astronomy teacher who enjoys doing “Star Shows” for schools and other organizations around the northeast. When we visit he likes to get out his telescopes and show me the stars and planets of the universe. On our last visit, he had just acquired a new telescope and a laser pointer that reaches several hundred feet into the sky and appears to reach to the stars. This was helpful to me as he pointed out things of interest in the sky.

He told me about the Native American legend about two constellations, the Archer and the Bear. (I really couldn't see either of them but I pretended that I could to avoid interrupting the story and conceal my ignorance.) According to the tradition, in the fall of the year the Archer shoots his arrow into the Bear. The Bear bleeds and his blood flows down to earth and colors all the trees of the forest. Of course, this is only one of the many legends and myths that have come from the Native Americans, Greeks and other cultures.

Although Scott has aroused my interest in planets and stars and the constellations that they form, I'm afraid I'm a hopeless case in that department. Most of the time I can find the Big Dipper and the North Star and I think I can identify Venus but the only thing I really sure of is the moon.



However, as I stood with this learned man and listened as he searched the sky for things that might interest a neophyte like myself, I once again stood in awe of the wonder of the universe. To think that the light which we see as distant stars originated millions of light years ago and that the Milky Way is actually a cluster of stars so close together that appear to us as a hazy spot in the sky; I can only think, “What a mighty God we serve!” The God that we serve as Christians is the Creator and Lord of the universe! Our Lord Jesus is co-creator of all that we can see! And yet, this same Jesus is present to us individually and intimately. He is aware of every need—hears every prayer. I don't fully understand how this can be but I know it to be true because I have experienced it. Again and again I have felt His presence and witnessed his power at work among us humans.



As we celebrate this Thanksgiving and count our blessings, the Lord Jesus has to be at the top of our list of blessings—for this year and every year. And somewhere in my list will be the Emmaus Community that has led so many pilgrims to a closer relationship with Him and has been a strong support to me and many on our way through difficult times.

Grace and peace.

Richard +

Future Gatherings and Events

December 18th - 7:30

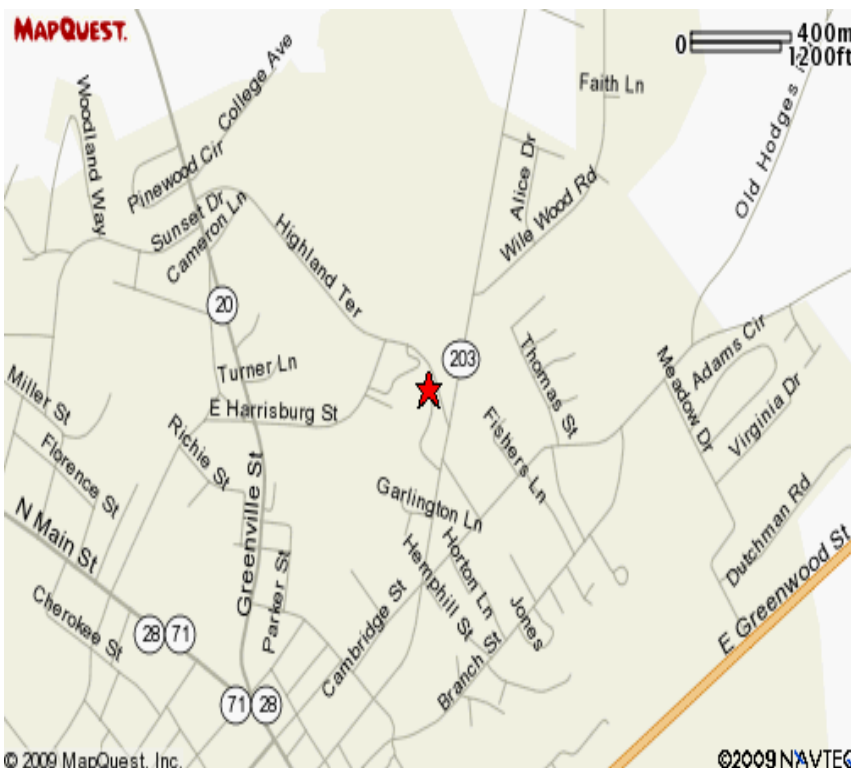
Tranquil UMC - Greenwood

Spring Walks- #39

Men's- March 4-7, 2010

Ladies- March 11-14, 2010

The deadline for applications is February 19, 2010!!!



November Gathering

November 20th, 7:30 PM

Grace UMC

Highland Terrace

Abbeville, SC 29620

Bring Friends and Potential Pilgrims... and don't forget the food!!!!