



FOOTHILLS EMMAUS COMMUNITY

Newsletter/July 2017

Upcoming Events

July 21st Gathering
Immanuel UMC at
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
1351 Main Street
Wellford SC 29385

Please remember that just like your walk we will have plenty of Agape snacks. So don't forget to bring some snacks to the gatherings to share with the community

July 21st
Immanuel UMC
Wellford, SC

August 18th
First UMC Laurens
Laurens, SC

September 15th
Buncombe Street UMC
Greenville, SC

October 20th
Maudlin UMC
Maudlin, SC

November 17th
Covenant UMC
Greer, SC

December 9th
UMC Covenant
Spartanburg, SC

I read a devotion the other day about the Gulf Stream in the Atlantic Ocean. The Gulf Stream runs out of the Gulf of Mexico and up the American coast. For years, sea going ships would use the Gulf Stream to slingshot their way into the middle of the ocean on their way to Europe.

It's an amazing thing, this strong current like a monstrous river that flows right through the ocean. The devotion said that we as Christians should be like the Gulf Stream, looking like everyone else but having a clear and strong direction that others may not possess. We should be the kind of people that are assured we are walking with Christ. We need to be so close to Christ that people will want to know what we have and they'll want to be like us.

Good words there but, I think there is another aspect to our call to be like the Gulf Stream in our Christian lives. I have sailed in the Bahamas with our church's Boy Scout troop two times. The second time I went, we flew to Nassau and sailed out of that port. The first time I went, we drove to Miami and sailed from there. The difference? Coming out of Miami, we had to cross the Gulf Stream as we traveled east. If you want to rock and roll on the seas, cross the Gulf Stream! We weren't going with the flow, we were going against the flow.

Maybe that's the other part of being a Christian, being tough. Being tough and loud when we encounter injustice or brutality. Being tough and loud when political correctness threatens to water down our beliefs so much that they are meaningless in our culture. It's our job to go against the flow of our world. Thank God we have a community called Emmaus to help us do that. Thank God we have a tool called the walks to offer and expose other people to the cause of Christ!

Thank God for all of you who make our community the loving, Christ led gathering of "against the flowers" we are!

David Stubbs

BLESSED — TO BE A — BLESSING

Message from Spiritual Director



I went to a conference earlier this year in Denver, CO where there were approximately 800 ministers and Christian Educators. The theme of the conference was "God With Us in the Chaos" and the scripture text for the week was Psalm 46 and Mark 4:35-41. I know in the "busyness" of life we find ourselves almost daily in chaos that consists of regular meetings, parental duties, family duties, work or volunteer responsibilities, driving on I-85 or Woodruff Rd. in Greenville, and even commitments to our churches.

I was reminded throughout the week of the texts of the Psalm and Mark that God is with us both in the times of calm and peace, but also when our lives seem out of control and chaotic. When the storm arose while the disciples were in the boat on the sea, and Jesus was sleeping in the stern, the disciples panicked and were afraid for their lives. Of course, Jesus calmed the storm and the lives of the disciples were spared. We too, can lose sight of our Lord, even when we are doing what God calls us to do as we serve Him.

One minister in Denver told a story of when he was the Director of Camps and Conferences early in his ministry. He was in a beautiful place in the mountains of North Carolina and found a place outside to sit alone with God. He said as he looked up at the vast beauty of the mountains and they were sort of shaped like that of someone smiling. Then he realized the mountains were smiling at him and he discovered it was God who was smiling at him. He said, "God was inviting me to rest in the crook of His smile."

So, I invite you to be reminded of the messages of the Psalm, "God is our refuge and strength...and to be still and know that I am God," and of the Gospel of Mark as Jesus rebuked the storm by saying, "Quiet. Be still." I pray that you will find yourself resting in the crook of God's smile even when you are in the chaos of life.

Allyson Helvie,
Community Spiritual Director

Foothills Emmaus Community



Our goal is to strengthen Church Leaders
through a Christ led Pilgrimage know as
“Walk to Emmaus”

Visit our website below for more information and upcoming events.

www.foothillsemmaus.org

Share the Gift



Thinking about who you can sponsor on the next walk?

The Upper Room has released a great video with testimonies that explain what happens before, during and after an Emmaus weekend. You can view this video online, and share the link with anyone you would like to sponsor.

Click on the link or copy and paste:
<http://vimeo.com/8697255>

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