

## Pastors Need Help!

You have so many challenges to overcome. Declining membership and an aging leadership means you have fewer people to help you. Pressures of finances have resulted in cuts in staff as well. Ministry today is a lot harder than it was a generation ago.

### You don't have to do it alone!

God never intended for church to be a spectator sport. Nor did he intend for pastors to work alone in their calling. God's goal has always been that mature believers in Christ would partner with pastors to serve those in need and make disciples of all.

### What would happen if...

- Your members become inspired and energized?
- People move from sitting in the pews to serving in the ministry?
- Others move from serving to leading?
- Worship and passion for Christ were as contagious as the common cold?

**Footsteps**  
can help!

## What Happens After A Weekend

Pastors and the laity are called to work together to win hearts for the Lord. Footsteps is not just about the Weekends or the changes that occur in a person's life immediately afterwards. The community's focus is the continued growth of the believer for the rest of their life. It's about helping Christians put love and study into meaningful action. As energy and passion expand within your church, there's no limit to what new ministries develop or what long-desired outreach efforts are accomplished. God uses people in ways they never imagined. Faith communities grow when people attend Footsteps.

It only takes a spark to get a fire going. We hope you give Footsteps the chance to spark a wildfire among the believers in your congregation. Pray about who you want to bless by recommending them to attend a Footsteps weekend.

See the Contact information below to discuss how to attend and/or encourage someone for a Footsteps weekend! You will be blessed!

## Contact Information

### WEBSITE

[www.Footsteps-Sand.org](http://www.Footsteps-Sand.org)

### EMAIL

[Footsteps.Sand@gmail.com](mailto:Footsteps.Sand@gmail.com)



## Pastors Introduction



## Who We Are

Footsteps in the Sand is a community of Christians from churches in this area that seeks to bring people closer to Christ, develop leaders for your church and encourage Christian action. We do this by conducting three-day Renewal Weekends.

Our community has held over 200 Weekends here in the Fairfield County area which gives our volunteers the skills and expertise to provide an exceptional retreat experience. Being ecumenical, we promote the unity that Christ prayed for in John 17:20-26, while respecting each church's right to pursue their walk with God in their own faith tradition.

## What We Provide

Most churches today lack the staff and resources to conduct quality retreats themselves. Footsteps provides well crafted Renewal Weekends, staffed by 20 volunteers (including 2 clergy). These Weekends touch the hearts of participants and inspires them to be more active in their home church.

The benefits of a regular retreat weekend fade quickly. In Footsteps, we don't "love them & leave them," but rather provide opportunities each month that reinforce the lessons learned to make a lasting impact in the lives of those who attend.

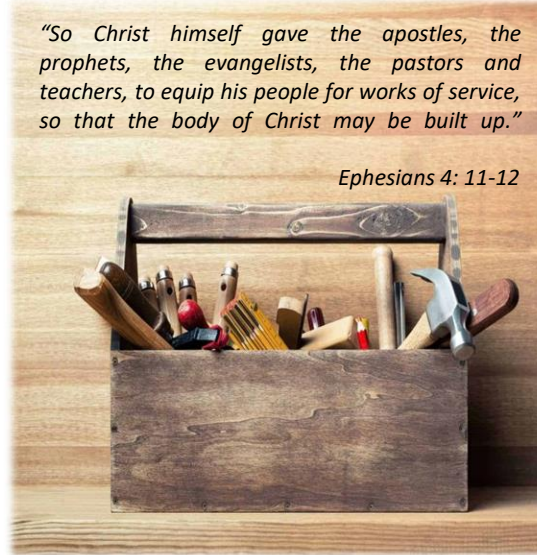


## Why It's Important

You can answer that question yourself. Church membership is declining, and lay leaders are getting older. Now, more than ever, pastors and church ministries need new people to step up into service and lay leadership who are energized and motivated to live out God's love in a hurting world.

*"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."*

*Ephesians 4: 11-12*



## How Do We Equip Leaders?

The Renewal Weekends are essentially a refresher course in basic Christianity. Most of the talks are given by lay people. Participants' hearts are transformed as they listen to people, just like themselves, speak about their personal faith walk and challenges that they have had to overcome. Each follower of Jesus has a unique calling. Footsteps enables them to explore their calling and focus on new ways to offer their gifts in ministry to others in their churches and communities.

## Weekend Snapshot

Footsteps Weekends are lay-led, with the support of two clergy who provide spiritual direction. Weekends are a blend of structure and joyous spontaneity, surrounded by love. Days start and end with chapel services designed to worship God and challenge participants at the same time.

Participants experience the Weekend in a small group of 5-6 people at a table where they will listen to a dozen inspirational talks and then share their response within the small group. By providing a safe and loving environment, people often share at a deeper level than they have ever shared before. The small group bond is further strengthened during two prayer chapels with their tablemates. These are times of prolonged prayer solely within the small group where participants raise up prayers of thanksgiving, prayers for themselves, and prayers for each other. This can be truly life changing as they talk with God in such an intimate way together.

### WEEKEND TALKS

Each talk touches on an aspect of our Christian walk with an opportunity for the speaker to share their own story.

The subjects are that of basic Christianity. The clergy speak about God's Grace, the Holy Spirit, our loving God and how to share your faith with others. Some of the lay talks include Your Christian Walk, the Church, Christian Action, Christian Leadership and how love is the #1 Thing behind every Christian act. We are all used to hearing clergy speak about these subjects, but it is inspiring for the listener to hear lay people speak about their faith walk in such a meaningful way.