

Monthly Newsletter of
THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY EMMAUS COMMUNITY
Summer, 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

MAY, 2009

- Board Meeting – Thurs, May 14, 7pm, Asbury UMC
- Gathering – Fri, May 29, 7pm, Asbury UMC

JUNE, 2009

- Board Meeting – Thurs, June 11, 7pm, Asbury UMC
- Gathering – Fri, June 26, 7pm, Asbury UMC

JULY, 2009

- Board Meeting – Thurs, July 9, 7pm, Asbury UMC
- Gathering – Fri, July 31, 7pm, Asbury UMC

AUGUST, 2009

- Board Meeting – Thurs, Aug 13, 7pm, Asbury UMC
- Gathering – PICNIC, SAT Aug 29, Camp Overlook

Monthly Gatherings are held on the last Friday of each month at **Asbury United Methodist Church**, located at 205 S. Main Street (Route 11 North), at the corner of Main and Bruce Streets in downtown Harrisonburg. Travel north on Main Street past the church to Water Street. Turn left on Water Street then another left onto Liberty Street. Turn left into the lot behind the church.

Walk through the gate and enter the building through the door on the lower level. Once inside, go up to the 3rd floor and follow the "joyful noise" to the group in Slaven Hall. See you there! ☺

DIRECTIONS TO CAMP OVERLOOK:

From Washington/Baltimore:

I-95 Beltway & Rt.55 to I-81 South to Exit 257 South on Rt.11, Left on Rt.806, Right on Rt.620, Left on Rt.722

From Richmond/Tidewater:

I-64 West to I-81, then North to Exit 251, follow Harrisonburg instructions below

From Harrisonburg: I-81 North to Exit 251, Rt.11 North, right on Rt.721, left on Rt.717, right on Rt.811, right on Rt.722

Visit our local community online at: sveconline.org

Men's Walk #65 - Women's Walk #66

We welcome our newest community members!

Please come to meet and greet them at our next gatherings!

They are:

<i>Danny Alonso</i>	<i>Holly Baker</i>
<i>Ken Argenbright</i>	<i>Gladys Billups</i>
<i>Jimmy Bunyard</i>	<i>Cindy Blosser</i>
<i>Clint Cash</i>	<i>Cary Burke</i>
<i>Paul Clements</i>	<i>Stephanie Catlett</i>
<i>Ed Craft</i>	<i>Priscilla Chaney</i>
<i>John Crawford</i>	<i>Beverley Coffey</i>
<i>Gabe Curry</i>	<i>Martha Coughenour</i>
<i>Chaz Evans-Haywood</i>	<i>Kim Craft</i>
<i>Pete Gohdes</i>	<i>Allie Crawford</i>
<i>Chris Grefe</i>	<i>Donna Belle Dove</i>
<i>Doug Helsley</i>	<i>Lee Anna Farrall</i>
<i>Rondell Jones</i>	<i>Sarah Grefe</i>
<i>Howard (Mac) McClanahan</i>	<i>Melissa Grider</i>
<i>Jimmy Peterson</i>	<i>Cathy Halterman</i>
<i>Rick Robertson</i>	<i>Lisa Irwin</i>
<i>Daniel Strother</i>	<i>Charon McCarthy</i>
<i>Marv Kelley</i>	<i>Molly McInary</i>
<i>Frank Zimmerman</i>	<i>Lynda McLean</i>
	<i>Deb Mueller</i>
	<i>Bette Rickman</i>
	<i>Edith Ross</i>
	<i>Reese Ross-Berghuis</i>
	<i>Darla Sallade</i>
	<i>Kristi Sirk</i>
	<i>Cheryl Smedley</i>
	<i>Donna Trim</i>
	<i>Peggi Wright</i>

Community Lay Director



Praise the Lord Christ is Risen!

Welcome ladies and gentlemen of Walks #65 & #66.

I pray you arrived on the mountain with open hearts and minds and left filled with God's love and grace. May the closer relationship you developed with Christ over this special weekend continue to grow and flourish. Remember the Emmaus Walks are not just weekend events, they are meant to lead you into a stronger, lifelong relationship with Christ. We are called to be His disciples, to strengthen our churches and be living witnesses of agape love for the world in which we live.

I encourage you to be active in your churches and in the Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Community. Let this community support you as you grow in your discipleship; become involved in sharing the agape' love you experienced; attend Day of Deeper Understanding, and community gatherings. **STAY CONNECTED!** The prayers, love and support of this community are strong and powerful!

May God's peace be with you and His face shine down upon you in all your Fourth Days. I look forward to seeing you at future community gatherings and activities.

DeColores, Melanie Stanley
Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Walk #22A

Come to Gatherings – last Friday night each month!

For our gathering on Friday, May 29th, Pastor David Palmer will be our 4th day speaker. Please come! Our summer gatherings are scheduled for Friday June 26th and July 31st.

In August, we will have our annual family picnic at Camp Overlook picnic shelter on the last Saturday of the month-August 29th. We hope to see all of you each month when we come together to celebrate with fellowship, praise, and communion!

“Where DO we go from here?”

In these times of economic uncertainty – the old adage “If you fail to plan – you plan to fail” comes harkening back with a vengeance. As the people of SVEC 2009, we are to plan and to cast a vision for where we will be in 5 years, in 10 years. How will we, with God’s help, enhance, improve, develop, increase what is already in place? Read below Zechariah 1:1-18

PEOPLE: Zechariah 1:2, 3 – “Therefore tell the people: This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Return to me’ declares the Lord Almighty, ‘and I will return to you.’” Our message will not change. The Emmaus guidelines are specific in what they dictate – “The purpose of Emmaus is a lifetime of discipleship, bringing new life to our churches and conveying grace where we live.” (The Walk to Emmaus Directors’ Manual, pg. 92) We are to be about reminding people to return to Christ and to be trophies of His grace.

PATROL: Zechariah 1:8 – “During the night, I had a vision—and there before me was a man riding a red horse! He was standing among the myrtle trees in a ravine. Behind him were red, brown and white horses.” We are persons whose spiritual lives have been renewed and strengthened through Emmaus and are called to become leavening influences in our local churches as well as active participants in God’s mission to the world. We are to join God where He is already at work and to serve Him “on patrol”.

PRAYER: Zechariah 1:12, 13 – “Then the angel of the Lord said; “Lord Almighty, how long will you withhold mercy from Jerusalem and from the towns of Judah, which you have been angry with these seventy years? So the Lord spoke kind and comforting words to the angel who talked with me. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT QUALITY BY WHICH NOTHING CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IN HIS NAME. Let’s not just spin our wheels but do mighty works. “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord Almighty.” (Zech. 4:6). Soak all we do in prayer.

PLAN: Zechariah: 1 16 – “Therefore this is what the Lord says: ‘I will return to Jerusalem with mercy and there my house will be rebuilt. And the measuring line will be stretched out over Jerusalem,’ declares the Lord Almighty.” How do I envision SVEC in the next 5, 10 years? Reaching out to even more churches!

Currently there are only 11 non-UMC Churches on our list, with 38 United Methodist churches represented. Will we plan to send

out members two by two to non-UMC churches to recruit pilgrims in the future? Expanding the Emmaus movement throughout the Shenandoah Valley is an attainable goal. Furthermore, Kairos and Chrysalis are two entities that have recently shown up on our radar screen. What are their priorities for the future? Can we provide prayerful, careful thought, time, energy and insight to Kairos and Chrysalis and still develop servant leaders for Emmaus? Very possibly! How? Plan!

PROCLAIM PROMISE: Zechariah: 1:17 – “Proclaim further: This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘My towns will again overflow with prosperity, and the Lord will again comfort Zion and choose Jerusalem.’” These are comforting words from scripture especially in our troubling times. God promises that our towns (and the people in them) will again prosper. That means you, me, SVEC! Let’s be ready! Prepared people, patrolling in prayer and planning to proclaim the promises of God! Ready for the future! Let us cast a vision of reaching non-UMC churches with the purpose of Emmaus to create stronger churches for the glory of God! (Holy fist-pump inserted here!)

Marlene Chandler, Assistant Lay Director

TEAM MEMBERS OF WALKS 65 & 66

Dear team members,

The awesomeness of our God is so special that words cannot describe the things He does for us and the opportunities He provides us with to be in service to Him. Just in sharing the generosity of one man who came to camp and repaired the road to Agape Hill and his willingness to give of himself as he did created an opportunity for all of you to contribute to the cost of the gravel that was needed to make the road as nice as you seen it when you came to camp. Your generosity brought in over a \$1000.00. It is through mission minded people that a lot of the work gets accomplished at camp. Saying those two simple words “THANK YOU” doesn’t seem like enough but you all know how very much the camp family appreciates your support. May God richly bless both teams and may we as a team be the hands and feet to those who come this spring to the Walk to Emmaus.

Humbly serving our Lord, Gary Fishel

Administrative Board Meeting

Board meetings are held at Asbury UMC in Harrisonburg. Our next board meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday – June 11th and July 9th - at 7:00pm.

Childcare

Volunteering to provide childcare for an Emmaus event is a great opportunity to extend Jesus' love to our Emmaus community! Please contact Alison Crosby at (540) 746-4566 or sweetagape1@yahoo.com if you feel led to volunteer.

Alison Crosby

Walk Events

I want to thank everyone who assisted with our recent walks. Anyone who would like to help with the fall walks in October, is welcome to contact me the month before (September). Available opportunities include: sponsors hour, candlelight, serving dinner, entertainment, etc. Experience the joy of being Jesus to them!

Stacy Lam, sjdlam@yahoo.com, 540-421-9593

Pilgrim Sponsors: Registration/Application

Currently, we have approximately 35 women's applications on file - to completely fill a walk, it can often take many more. This being said, we have 9 men's applications on file...

Pray, listen, and pray again. God has the final determination for walk participation, we all know that. But, unless we are willing pray and listen, WE, the Body of Christ, are not opened to offering pilgrim applications.

I LOVE being the SVEC Registrar - it is truly humbling and completely fulfilling. I enjoy the communications with the potential pilgrims and am always anxious to meet them at the Registration Table.

Thanks to all of you who sponsor, those that have sponsored and those about to sponsor. God's Blessings,

*Lora Buracker
pchsmusicmom@aol.com*

Sharing His Love

OH WOW!! I want to thank all that helped give to the Emmaus experience. I am never surprised about what happens but I am always amazed! I am sure that all of us whether we were pilgrims, team, or behind the scenes felt and saw the great things only God can supply. I am always humbled and thankful for the hard work of the Emmaus community at these walks. I do pray that you had a great time up on the mountain learning about, listening to or helping Christ. The experience is different for everyone. Just take the knowledge you have acquired, mull it over and enjoy it.

Blessings, Tracey Calderon

Supplies

While supplying walks, I find there is a lot of different things to deal with. Most of which involve high prices and not much selection. When you need 60 of each item for each walk it doesn't take long to realize there is a lot of legwork involved in trying to get the quantity and price that is affordable. In looking ahead to future walks, we'll need more lanyards for the crosses. If a reunion group would like to crotchet some of these, please let me know so we don't have to try to purchase them. My thanks to Don Bowman for his work as supply person for the past 3 years and to his mom for making enough lanyards for these walks. As I work through this job, I ask for your prayers and patience as I try to inventory and economize as much as possible. May your fourth days be special and may God bless you in all you do. I look forward to seeing you at gatherings and at the walks. You can reach me by email: gary.fishel@verizon.net or by phone at 540/269-2372.

Blessings, Gary

Refreshments

We thank everyone who helped with refreshments during our recent walks: those who transported items to camp, served the pilgrims after candlelight, helped make sandwiches on Sunday and for all the delicious treats you brought. Many thanks! Special thanks to Noland Suter for picking up on the Women's closing when I was out of town. This community is such a blessing!

There are always opportunities to help with refreshments at the monthly gatherings and any Emmaus event. If you would like to get involved, I would love to hear from you. You can call me at 540-234-0847 or e-mail me at kcpspp@msn.com

DeColores, Kevin Poeckert

Loving God, Loving Each Other, Making Music with Our Friends.

How sweet the sound of the instruments and the singing that is sure to follow. Wow, we serve an awesome God who continually amazes us, and when we become too comfortable in our own little boxes, he does something to move us closer to him. The 2009 spring walks were a prime example of that fact. The Godcident with the singing of "Lion of Judah" at closing is a prime example of God at work in multiple people at multiple places at the same time. Incredible!

Special thanks to all of you that volunteered to lead, play your instruments at the Walk 65 & 66 candlelight and closing events. A super duper special thank you to Butch Washer for volunteering to assist me with music on the Men's Walk #65. Butch is such a wonderful friend of mine and faithful servant of God. Butch and Debbie did some major schedule rearrangements to be there for the weekend and teaming.

Also, I want to thank the team and pilgrims on Walk #65 for giving their will to the Holy Spirit. I still have some slots open for leading music at gatherings and the fall walks. Don't hide your light under a bushel, let Christ shine through you.

Some exciting news is that the first **Emmaus Jam Session will be held on Friday, June 12, 2009 at 7:00 PM** at the Keezletown UMC fellowship. Bring your instruments, voices, hands for clapping, toes for tapping and of course snacks to share. The jam session will be one third training and two thirds praise and worship of our awesome God.

Also, the Chrysalis Board is planning a benefit concert on July 18, 2009 to raise money for the upcoming Chrysalis walk in November. The time, location and other details will be announced soon. Stay plugged into the e-union site and the SVEC web page for details on all of the upcoming events

*Steve Garner, Community Music Coordinator.
540-241-0278, stevegarnermusic@yahoo.com*

Shenandoah Valley Chrysalis

We held a restructuring meeting in April. A new board is in place and plans are being made to bring our Chrysalis Community together with our Emmaus Community to be a strong source for carrying on God's work. Working together, we can show the love of God to a hurting world. Working together, we can be a strong witness to God's amazing grace by our actions as well as our words of encouragement.

All the Chrysalis committees now have chairpersons and, like Emmaus, there are plenty of opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ. When you see that sign up sheet or get that phone call asking for your help, say yes to working for Christ as well as helping to bring a young person to a closer relationship with God.

A Flight (sophomore thru senior in high school) is coming up on Nov.5th thru the 8th for both girls and boys. Sponsoring a young person is a wonderful way to show God's love to them. Please keep the Chrysalis community in your prayers and help whenever you can. Your financial support would also be very helpful as a lot of the team members are college students and paying all of the teaming fees is very hard for them. Expenses for putting a Flight or Journey together adds up quickly. As you can see, there are multiple ways you can help. I pray that you will consider serving in some way and may God bless you in all you do.

Flying with Christ, Gary Fishel

Calling All Clowns

A very meaningful part of every Chrysalis weekend is what is known as "Clown Communion". This is a skit where two clowns convey a powerful message of God's love, all in mime, to the caterpillars. Several people have spoken to me about learning how to do this. I would like to set up a training session, maybe on a Sat. afternoon. If you are interested, please contact me and I will let you know the date and time.

*Fly with Christ, Peggy Packard
peggypackard926@yahoo.com*

540-896-2797 (home), 540-828-0890 (church)

A Message from the Community Spiritual Director

Psalm 27:14: "Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!"

Psalm 37:7: "Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him; do not fret..."

Micah 7:7: "But as for me, I will look to the LORD, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me."

Romans 8:25: "But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

Isaiah 40:31: "...those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

When I was a little boy my Mom often referred to me as "wiggler-worm" because I could not hold still; I was eager to go and do. In my teens a relative pointed out that my constantly pumping leg during our canasta games was a giveaway that I had good cards and was impatient for play to proceed so I could win.

At 7:30 a.m. Thursday morning, April 23rd, as I was preparing to feed our outdoor cat on our deck my right foot slipped on a wet spot (caused by my trying to save time) but my left foot remained firmly planted on dry surface resulting in a torn tendon at my left knee. I was taken by ambulance to Augusta Medical Center and surgery was performed at 4:30 p.m., to repair the tear. I have been at home for most of the past three weeks. Recently the doctor moved me from using a walker to a cane, and I can drive for short distances; and I am finally able to preach again as. I will have to wear a knee-immobilizer for at last another 4-6 weeks.

I am learning, the hard way, to wait on the Lord. All of us get impatient, or wish to take short cuts. I would encourage all of us to slow down and take more time for prayer, meditation and other things of real value. I can tell you that while my accident has been a huge inconvenience for me and my family, it has been an even larger blessing.

Thank you for all of your prayers.

Blessings to all, Pastor Jim

Emmaus Newsletter

The Emmaus newsletter belongs to you the community. The newsletter is not just for board members but for our whole community to use as well. We invite you to share a God moment, a 4th day moment, etc.

To submit articles, contact our editor, Nancy Goulart at 540-298-1779 or email: Singingsecretary2006@yahoo.com.

Many thanks and many blessings,

*In His Joyful Service,
Nancy Goulart, Emmaus news editor*

How Can I Help??

You are invited to participate in our Emmaus community in the following ways:

- Music: what instrument? _____
- Entertainment: sing, dance, comedy, other _____
- Serve on a Team (*please complete a team application*)
- Serve on a Committee:
 - childcare, worship, refreshments, music, other
- Support Walks Events by helping with:
 - set-up/clean-up, food preparation, serving meals,
 - agape, 72-hour prayer vigil, candlelight set-up,
 - assist weekend coordinator

If you are interested in more information about any of these volunteer positions, please contact any board member. We'd love to help you get connected! God bless!

Please complete and tear off this volunteer sheet and get it to one of our board members today! Thank you for giving to the Lord!

Upper Room Walk to Emmaus of the Shenandoah Valley

PO Box 282, Fishersville, VA 22939

Board of Directors: Second Thur each month

Monthly Gatherings:

Augusta mini gathering	First Friday each month
Front Royal mini gathering	Third Friday each month
Harrisonburg main gathering	Last Friday each month

Emmaus Walks:

Spring 2009 (men/women):	Apr 16-19 & 23-26
Fall 2009	Oct 8-11 & 15-18
Spring 2010	Apr 15-18 & 22-25
Fall 2010	Oct 7-10 & 14-17

Day of Deeper Understanding: TBD

Chrysalis:

2009 Chrysalis Flight #3	November 5-8
Journey	TBA

Visit SVECONLINE.ORG for directions, calendar, & information.

Emmaus is also featured on the Camp Overlook website at
WWW.GBGM-UMC.ORG/CAMPOVERLOOK/

Learn more about the International Walk to Emmaus!

Go to WWW.UPPERROOM.ORG/EMMAUS

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Upper Room Emmaus of the Shenandoah Valley

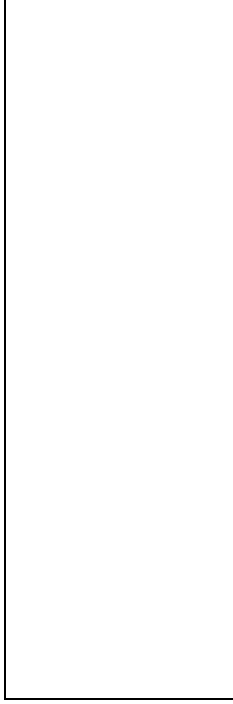
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