

Monthly Newsletter of
THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY EMMAUS COMMUNITY
Fall, 2008

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

DECEMBER, 2008

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

JANUARY, 2009

- Board Meeting – Thurs, Jan 10, 7pm, Keezletown UMC
- Gathering – Fri, Jan 25, 7pm, Asbury UMC

FEBRUARY, 2009

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

WALK SCHEDULE

- 2009 Spring dates are April 16-19 and 23-26
- Fall dates are October 8-11 and 15-18
- 2010 dates are April 15-18 & 22-25 and Oct 7-10 & 14-17

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



Community Lay Director

Welcome new members of the Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Community from Walk #65 & 64 and Chrysalis Flights #2!

What a mighty work God accomplished on those amazing walk weekends. Innumerable prayers lifted & fulfilled; multiple altar settings; seemingly endless agape' gifts; camp buildings set up and cleaned before and after; over 130 faithful servants reflected Christ's light at candlelights; and Praise God, lives changed. I believe God would smile and say, "Well done good and faithful servants."

We now approach the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. What a precious gift we received. We are also preparing for the spring walks and seeking volunteers willing to do God's work on those weekends. Volunteers may contact any board member to volunteer or sign up through our web site at www.sveconline.org. Janet Wager and Brian Marchand are forming God's teams for Walks # 65 & 66.

Your Emmaus board is also transitioning to the new board for 2009 with election of the Community Lay Director, Assistant Community Lay Director and Community Lead Spiritual Director occurring January 9th. Please keep all these activities in your prayers. Your community board desires input from you; please contact any board member with suggestions and questions.

May God bless you, our churches, and Emmaus Communities worldwide as we strive to do His will and fulfill the mission He calls us to. (Mk 16:15) Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

DeColores, Melanie Stanley
Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Community

The Precious Stone

Kaylea is a delightful twelve-year-old, full of life and laughter. She glows with the innocence that belongs to the young alone. She is my niece, the daughter of my wife's brother, and she, along with her parents and others, shared an Outer Banks beach house with us during our October vacation.

It has become a Harris family tradition during our twice-yearly visits to the North Carolina coast to ride the ferry to Ocracoke Island and spend a day sight-seeing and shopping. Nestled among the shops and restaurants there are several places that sell pirate-related materials (Blackbeard is said to have once lived on the island). In one of the shops I saw Kaylea's eyes light up at the sight of a treasure box brimming with bright, colorful polished stones. There were little cloth bags with pull ties, and a sign that said "\$2.99 per bag, must be fully closed." So we set about the task of choosing as many stones of different colors as we could fit into the bag.

She found twenty stones that she really liked, but we could only fit fifteen into the bag. I watched as she carefully considered which stones to keep, and which to put back. This was my gift to her. I was feeling wistful, remembering not too many years ago when my own daughter's eyes had lighted up at the sight of that very same trunk.

I paid for the gift and handed the bag to Kaylea. At our next stop Kaylea pressed some-thing into my hand as she said, "Here, Jim, this one's for you," then skipped off to join the others. I looked down and saw in my hand a lovely polished green stone which I knew she had particularly liked.

As I started to place it in my pocket I was struck with an understanding of God's relationship with me – with all of us – that I had never fully realized before. Kaylea's simple gift of gratitude, her return to me of one of the stones which I had given to her, touched me deeply and filled me with joy; and then I knew: our simple act of giving to God a portion of what he has given to us fills him with joy as well.

Finally I get the words of **2 Corinthians 9:7**, "*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*"

I felt exquisitely loved by Kaylea in that sweet gift, and I know that our own simple acts of love-and-gratitude-filled-giving must surely make God's heart swell with joy as well.

*Blessings,
Pastor Jim*

Gathering

Let us ring in the New Year focusing on praising and worshipping our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. At January gathering, Sherry Waddell and her praise and worship team, "*Sing Blessings to God*", will be joining us for a special praise and worship segment.

We invite everyone to wear "de colores". Come brightly, cheerfully and praise-fully dressed. We will have our normal praise and worship too!!! Social time!!! Communion!!! and maybe even a snack or two!!!

We welcome our newest members, pilgrims from the Fall Walks, as well as old faces that we have not seen in a while. So... COME ONE, COME ALL, for an Emmaus Hug, reunion with your Emmaus brothers and sisters, and special time with our Lord. What a wonderful way to begin 2009!

Chrysalis Flight

A big thank you to all those involved in making Flight #2 such a wonderful success!! Especially to those who filled in those last few spots on the prayer vigil in the wee hours of the morning. The Agape came pouring in and the caterpillars loved every bit of it!!! Many of them commented on the Agape and how much it meant to them at closing. We had approximately 100 people at candlelight - that was fantastic!!! I would especially like to express my deep appreciation to all those who made financial contributions to Chrysalis - what a blessing each of you are to me, this team, these caterpillars, and our community as a whole. Your generosity enabled us to cover all the scholarships needed, pay our bills fully, and have a little seed money for upcoming activities and events. God Bless each and every one of you!!

*With much love and appreciation,
Jenny D.*

Refreshments

Thank you to everyone who helped the refreshment committee during the last three years by helping or filling in at the monthly gatherings, with send-off at the walk, having the after candlelight social, making sandwiches for closing, and staying for clean-up. Without your help many tasks would not have been done. May you enjoy a wonderful Christmas season celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Decolores, Noland Suter

Worship

Greetings to my Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thanks so much for allowing me to serve each one of you this past year. I am looking forward to helping whoever fills this position on the Emmaus Board.

I hope that each member of this community will help the new Worship committee chairperson in whatever capacity that they can. There will be sign-up sheets for the spring walks at the January gathering.

*De Colores, Bruce Ballengee,
Worship Chairperson*

Childcare

Merry Christmas to you and yours in this season of such great joy!

Throughout the Christmas and New Years season we are often blessed with extra doses of fellowship with friends and family, but in the Emmaus Community we all have a great opportunity to have a time of special fellowship each month with our brothers and sisters in Christ, if you are trying to think of a gift to give back to the community, I encourage you to volunteer to provide childcare for one of our gatherings, please contact Alison Crosby at (540) 746-4566 or sweetagape1@yahoo.com for details if you would like to volunteer. This gift doesn't require wrapping paper, gift recites, or braving the stores at 6 am in the morning and is certain to bring a lot of joy!

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed

~Matthew 2:10

*DeColores, Alison Crosby
Chrysalis Journey #6*

Team #66 – Spring '09

As the LD for the next Ladies Walk, I covet the prayers of all of our community, prayers for the formation of the teams (both the men's and women's) and for all of the pilgrims that will be participating in the spring.

I pray that God continues to bless this community and the message of Emmaus.

*In His love, Janet Wager
(Walk 32A, Table of Anna)*

Music

SVEC, please join me in thanking our Emmaus Musicians for supporting the Gatherings and Walks of 2008. Let's extend a bit of extra thanks to those who have willingly stepped out of their comfort zone to assume the role of Music Director.

Let's look at verse 3 of a favorite Christmas carol, There's A Song in the Air. "In the light of the star lie the ages imperaled; and that song from a far has swept over the world. Every hearth is a flame, and the beautiful sing in the homes of the nations that Jesus is King!"

So, in 2009, let us continue our tradition of being the beautiful Community of Christ that SVEC has become. and , in concert with our musicians, let us continue to lift our songs and hearts in praise and worship of God, proclaiming to the world that His Son, Jesus, is King.

May we experience God's peace and joy during this Holy Season and be joyous in greeting ALL with a hail and hearty MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

*Nancy Sims, Community Music Coordinator.
304-249-5464 harmonyhollowvv@yahoo.com.*

Join the eunion

During the Walk to Emmaus, the importance and relevance of prayer is revealed to us, sometimes in ways we have never experienced before. The Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Community is a praying group of Christians from a large area. The eunion is an internet-based way to share prayer concerns and praises of joy to one another. It is an effective and immediate way to get the word out to members of the community and get people praying. There are two simple ways to join: send an e-mail to roynelson@hotmail.com and I will send you an invite, or go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eunion/?v=1&t=search&ch=web&p=ub=groups&sec=group&slk=1> and click on "Join the group".

Roy Nelson, SCEC #29

From Walk Events Coordinator

If anyone is interested in helping with sponsors hour, candle light, or serving dinner on the next walks (in the spring) please contact me.

*Stacy Lam, Walk Events
(540) 421-9593, sjdlam@yahoo.com*

Trivia Corner

Just for Fun: Here is an historical question for the community to answer:

WAS CAMP OVERLOOK THE ONLY PLACE CONSIDERED FOR THE EMMAUS WALKS?

The answer is no. Other locations were considered.

Bruce

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
- 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! Thanks for giving to the Lord!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**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): April 16-19, 23-26, 2009

Day of Deeper Understanding: TBA

Chrysalis:

Flight	TBA
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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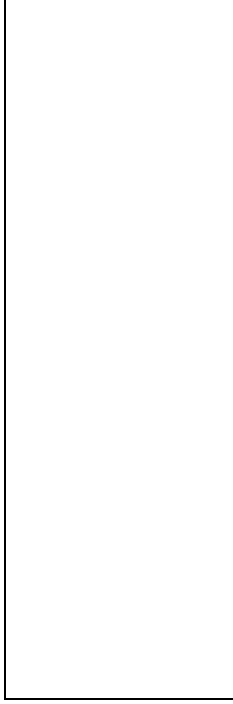
Upper Room Emmaus of the Shenandoah Valley

c/o SVEC Treasurer,

PO Box 282

Fishersville, VA 22939

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Winter, 2008-2009

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