

Monthly Newsletter of
THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY EMMAUS COMMUNITY
Summer, 2008

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

JULY, 2008

- Gathering – Fri, July 25, 7pm, Asbury UMC

AUG, 2008

- Board Meeting – Thurs, Aug 14, 7pm, Keezletown UMC
- Family Picnic – Sat, Aug 30, 5pm, Camp Overlook

SEP, 2008

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

Monthly Gatherings are held at **Asbury United Methodist Church in Harrisonburg** on the last Friday of each month.

Follow these directions to the parking lot. Park in the lot behind the church. Enter from Liberty Street:

-North on Main St: left on Bruce St at church; go left on Liberty St. Enter lot at 2nd or 3rd entrance.

-West on US 33: left on Mason St, right on Water St, left on Liberty St, pass Bruce St, enter as above.

-South on US 11: you will be on Liberty Street, enter as above.

-South on US 42: left on second street (Bruce St) past US 33, and right on Liberty.

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

This is a busy time of year with children out of school, family vacations, mission trips, gardening, etc. I have found I must focus on ensuring my devotions and quiet time with God is not compromised. When was the last time you reflected on the questions listed on your Service Sheet? When have you felt closest to God? When have you responded to God's call to be His disciple? When was your faith tested through failure? What's your plan for spirituality, study and action? The Service Sheet starts with this statement, "Christ needs you. He needs you committed in faith, so that you may witness that faith in Christ with your brothers and sisters through ..."

It is through the involvement of committed Christians that our community continues to exist. It takes all of us to do God's work through the Emmaus Walk weekends and thereafter. Are you participating through prayer, agape', serving on the weekend behind the scenes or on team? Are you prayerfully sponsoring pilgrims? Are you continuing to nurture those you sponsored in the past? When was the last time you attended Gathering? Would you serve on the community board of directors?

I have asked you and myself many questions in this article. Please ponder them and I hope you will be led to continue supporting this community and be blessed by your involvement. If you have been away for a while please come and join us again. We, the board want to build on previous work by this community. Won't you help us, and join us in perpetuating this loving body of Christ and powerful instrument of God's? I look forward to seeing you at July Gathering, August 30th picnic and walk weekends. Please keep our upcoming fall walks in prayer. Most importantly stay close to our Lord.

Deut. 10:12 "What does the Lord require of you but ... to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul."

*DeColores, Melanie Stanley
Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Community*

Music

Where would SVEC be without music? Music ministers to us. Music touches our souls; inspires us; heals and soothes mind, body and spirit; changes our moods; speaks to our hearts; says to God what we want to say but can't find the words ourselves. It is so awesome for all of us to share our hearts and to become one body through our voices and musical instruments, praising and worshipping our awesome God as individuals and as one body simultaneously.

SVEC Community Members please join me in thanking both the musicians who have so graciously stepped into the Music Director position and those who have provided back up at recent Gatherings. Their willingness and their talent are greatly appreciated.

Musicians: I have responded to the request of a couple of our musicians to provide song sheets of a sampling of Emmaus Songs so that they could practice. They felt this would help them become more comfortable playing Emmaus Songs. I look forward to the time when they will feel comfortable stepping into the Music Director position at a community event. Just let me know when you are ready!! I bring this up just in case there are others who would like some practice songs too. We can never have too many Music Directors. And right now, we definitely have too few!

Would you be interested in a brief training/jam session with an experienced Emmaus Music Director? The purpose would be to support and strengthen you at whatever level you are to help move you toward being comfortable as a back-up person or to be a Music Director at our various community events. I would like your thoughts on this idea.

Definitions: (just so we are all singing from the same sheet of music)

Music Coordinator: Board Member who ensures that there is a Music Director and back-up musicians for each community event.

Music Director: One who leads the music at a specific Emmaus event.

Back Up Musicians: Those who support the Music Director at a specific event.

I praise and thank God for each and every one of you!!!! Your music **IS** a ministry.

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

Annual Picnic – Saturday August 30th, 5:00PM!

We are looking forward to our annual evening of food and fellowship at Camp Overlook. The Community will provide the paper products and drinks for our picnic (paper plates, cups, plastic tableware, bottled water and 12 oz. soft drinks). You may bring tea or lemonade if you prefer. Each member should bring one or two meat, vegetable, or dessert dishes for the meal. We will gather at the picnic shelter August 30 at 5 p.m.

Also, it's time to consider what you can do to support the Fall Emmaus Walk. The Refreshment Committee will need two groups to serve the after-candlelight ice cream socials. Please prayerfully consider how YOU can help and call Noland Suter at 540-269-2591 to volunteer.

*DeColores, Noland Suter,
Refreshments*

Board Nominations

The following persons have been nominated to serve on our Board of Directors for the upcoming year.

All of us, as members of this community, have the responsibility to vote for our new board members each year. This vote takes place at our annual family picnic at camp each summer.

Please plan to attend and cast YOUR vote! Bring your family and share in the good food, fun, and fellowship.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, you are asked to complete and return this absentee ballot:

...And the nominees are...

- Marlene Chandler
- Gary Fischel
- Steve Garner
- Jim Worley
- Paul Goulart
- Carrie Talbott

Please continue to keep our Board members in your prayers!

Announcing...

Though still in the business of Mid-Summer, our community has already begun to prepare for our upcoming Fall walks. Scott Dillard and Melissa Fretwell have accepted your Board of Directors invitation to serve as Lay Directors for walks #63 and #64 respectively. On behalf of our community we thank them for accepting this opportunity to be God's hands and feet for our pilgrims this Fall. We ask that the community keep Melissa and Scott in prayer and provide encouragement as they undertake the planning and training for the walks scheduled for October 9th-12th and October 16th-19th, 2008.

Agape

Hello, I pray that your fourth days have been full of joy and growing. I am in awe of the experience of each walk and yet, I am most humbled in praise of them at the same time. The walks take many hands to make them a success and we have many opportunities for those hands to become the hands and feet of Christ during every Emmaus weekend.

The time between the walks may seem long - but this is not so for those of us in preparation for the next one. Agape is one of those areas that needs your help. Behind the scenes work is so much fun! You get to act like a secret agent for God and do things on the walk that for the pilgrims, looks like there have been angels on the mountain preparing what happens next. This is true AGAPE ANGELS!!!

Sign up sheets are starting to appear at the gatherings. Can you help for an hour? or more? There is always something to do! If you can not make it to Camp that weekend, there are areas that can use plenty of "before the walk work" to be done. Agape needs the rainbow-colored "agape bags" made - if you don't sew, we have angels that can! If the material is donated to them, they will put the time into sewing the bags. Placemats also need to be colored. And as always, your loving agape gifts (65 for each walk) are always accepted at anytime before the walks. Thank you for your service.

*Many blessings,
Tracey Calderon, 249-3856*

Set-Up/Clean-Up

Help is needed for setup and cleanup for both the men's and women's walks. I will have signup sheets at the next gathering. Please stop by and see when and where you can offer to volunteer! Christ is counting on you!

Gary Lee, Set-up/Clean-up

Emmaus is a Gift

We need YOUR support to keep the excitement ALIVE! We do not want anyone to pass up this opportunity due to personal financial concerns. You may wish to consider a gift to honor a loved one for a special occasion or anonymously sponsor a pilgrim or team member.

In addition to free-will donations, our community also receives income from the sale of our Emmaus shirts and hats. These are embroidered with our SVEC logo and are available for sale at most gatherings! They make an excellent sponsor gift to pilgrims! Remember... Christ is counting on YOU to spread His love! Thank YOU for giving to the Lord!

*DeColores! Tim Armentrout,
Community Treasurer*

Keeping Informed

We want all of our community members to be well-informed and the best way for us to do that is 1) for you to attend gatherings and events [and for board members to attend the monthly board meetings!]; and 2) if all of you keep us updated with any address changes. Please be sure to contact Tim Armentrout, treasurer, or Nancy Goulart, news editor with your current contact information.

One final note: our board members are hoping to purchase a projector to use for power point presentations and to keep at the camp to use for walks events. We are seeking donations to offset this purchase. Please contact a board member today to make a contribution and see how you can help us to meet our needs.

Thank you for your support of our Emmaus community! We all look forward to seeing you at an event soon! Please be sure to cast your vote for our new board members! God bless.

*DeColores! Paul Goulart,
Communications*

Worship

Greetings to my Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is that time of the year again to start thinking about our Fall walks. I am again asking volunteers to come to Camp Overlook to experience the joy of taking time to set up worship altars. This time of preparing an altar setting is very rewarding. It allows you to set the altar and have some personal alone time with God to pray. I personally think it is one of the greatest times that you can experience.

I know what you are thinking. "It is not practical to come to camp for just one altar setting." I agree, that is not practical. So come to camp and spend the day! Agape can always use a little help. You might be able to help the weekend coordinators, assist with walk events, or maybe even help the cooks prepare a meal. There are plenty of opportunities to help! Just stop by in Ritchee Retreat and ask a team member how you can help.

If you are interested in helping with an altar setting, please let me know. My home phone # is 540-564-0184, my cell phone # is 540-246-3731, and e-mail is: bldhdisle1@juno.com.

*In Christ, Bruce Ballengee,
Worship Chairperson*

Childcare

Happy Summer! I hope and pray the warmer weather has given everyone more opportunities to spend time in fellowship with friends and family. During our monthly gatherings, quiet activities will be provided (coloring, puzzles, etc) for the children; parents can just let me know at the gathering if their child/children would like to participate. The community is still in need of volunteers to provide childcare for the closings for the upcoming Men's and Women's walks (all supplies for childcare will be provided). Call a friend to join you and make it a mission goal for the two of you! If you would like to volunteer for a closing (Sunday afternoon of the Men's and Women's walk, about 3:30 to 6:30p.m.) please contact Alison Crosby at 540-746-4566, or at sweetagape1@yahoo.com.

*Fly with Christ, Alison Crosby,
Chrysalis Journey #6*

From Walk Events Coordinator

The Fall walks are coming up in October, and we are seeking volunteers to serve dinner on Saturday night of the walk or help with Entertainment or candlelight (help get the lights set up, lead the gathering before candlelight or help clean up after afterwards), help with sponsors hour or gathering after send off. If any of these things look like something you would like to do please contact me. These things will probably fill up quick so don't wait too long.

*God bless you all. Stacy Lam, Walk Events
(540) 421-9593 E-mail sjdlam@yahoo.com*

From Registrar

God is Good! Pilgrim applications are continuing to flow in and invitations have begun. Remember to encourage the pilgrim, but don't promise a walk date. Make sure the application is complete-including the pilgrim's pastor's signature. Also, if someone you know is hesitant about Emmaus, show them Jesus and just quietly give them an application and Emmaus information. Sometimes you don't even need to ask...

*Blessings, Lora Buracker
SVEC Registrar*

Join the eunion

During the Walk to Emmaus, the importance and relevance of prayer is revealed to us, maybe 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&pub=groups&sec=group&slk=1> and click on the "Join the group" button.

*Roy Nelson, SCEC #29
Table of Matthew*

“Don’t Forget Hope” - from Our Spiritual Directors

As I write this I am in the main lobby of the University Medical Center at UVA. The cross-section of humanity has been passing by me. I have seen doctors and nurses rushing past, intent on their work; family members heading for the information desk, many with expression of concern and anxiety; patients, some in wheelchairs, awaiting their ride home, others in drafty hospital gowns holding I.V. poles walked with friends or family members; even children and others who are happy, chatting or playing.

Though all these people may not know each other, they all have one thing in common. Though all are of different races, ages, and genders, they’ve all come to this place seeking help, healing and hope for themselves or others.

I have found, as a volunteer chaplain, that when I am feeling sorry for myself, or think my problems are too heavy to bear, if I go to the hospital, it doesn’t take long to get my perspective back. One does not have to look far in a hospital to find someone with problems far greater than one’s own.

I was here once, feeling burdened by something seemingly insurmountable. As I got on an elevator, I discovered a little girl in a wheelchair who looked to be 8 or 9. I was shocked when I first saw her, because her head was grossly misshaped, as if it had been squeezed between two walls, and was now hopelessly off-center, with one ear in front and one in back. I wanted to look away, and not stare rudely, but I could not move my eyes from hers. They were beautiful: deep, brown, clear and happy. Yes...happy! Then she smiled at me, and all my troubles and worries melted away. I felt tears rush in my eyes, and a lump to my throat, and I could not speak. I would love to have told her how beautiful she was, and how thankful I was to have seen in her eyes the one thing I had momentarily forgotten: hope.

May we never forget that all true hope comes from God. In Romans 15:13, Paul prays: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit”. That is my prayer for each of us.

*Blessings,
Pastor Jim*

Where Can I Get One of Those??

Tee-shirts, sweatshirts and caps are available to purchase with our Shenandoah Valley Emmaus logo! For prices, visit www.highlandapparel.com/svec_apparel.htm Order online or Call Debbie Washer at 540-468-3312 (M-F, 9am-5pm) or 540-468-3311 (evenings/weekends).

Are you looking for a way to serve the community?

DID YOU KNOW THAT the selling of the SVEC golf shirts, t shirts and hats provide a source of funds for us? It would be a blessing to our community if one person or group of people (not necessarily a Reunion Group) felt led to assume responsibility for this. If the idea of stepping into these shoes peaks your interest, please call Debbie Washer for more details. Her contact information is in the preceding paragraph.

The following organizations also sell Emmaus and Chrysalis products and donate part of their proceeds to our International Emmaus Office in Nashville.

- www.doveinc.com, 1-888-848-DOVE (3683)
- www.swansoninc.com, 1-800-251-1402

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:
	Friday, July 25, 7pm, Asbury UMC
	Saturday, August 30, 5pm, Camp Overlook

Emmaus Walks:

Fall 2008 (men/women):	October 9-12, 16-19, 2008
Spring 2009 (men/women):	April 16-19, 23-26, 2009

Day of Deeper Understanding: Sat Nov 8, 9am-12noon

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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E-mail: Emmaus@upperroom.org

Upper Room Emmaus of the Shenandoah Valley

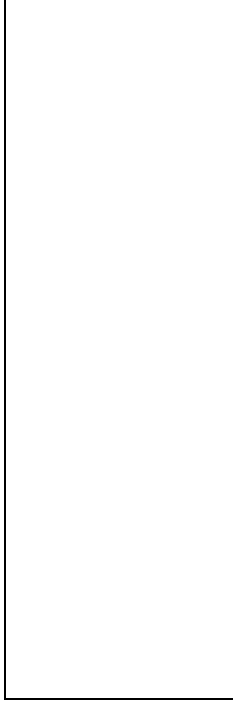
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Summer, 2008