

Monthly Newsletter of
THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY EMMAUS COMMUNITY
OCTOBER, 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

OCTOBER, 2009:

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WALK EVENTS!

- No October Gathering or Board Meeting
- Send Off – Thurs, Oct 8 & 15, 6pm, Glovier Chapel
- Candlelight – Sat, Oct 10 & 17, 8pm, Agape Hill
- Closing – Sun, Oct 11 & 18, 4pm, Glovier Chapel

NOVEMBER, 2009

- Chrysalis Flight – Nov 5-8, Camp Overlook
- Board Meeting – Thurs, Nov 12, 7pm, Asbury UMC
- Gathering – Fri, Nov 27, 7pm, Asbury UMC
- DODU – Sat, Oct. 31, 9:00-12:00, Asbury UMC

DECEMBER, 2009

- Board Meeting – Thurs, Dec 10, 7pm, Asbury UMC
- Gathering – None ***Merry Christmas!***

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



***PRAISE the LORD!** What an exciting time we are embarking upon. Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Community Walks #67 & #68, under the capable leadership of John Packard and Lora Buracker are about to start. Think back to your special weekend, your "Walk to Emmaus," won't you help make the weekends of Oct. 8-11, 15-18, 2009, equally special for the pilgrims of these walks?*

Opportunities abound to be the hands and feet of Christ for those individuals God has called to Agape' Hill. Let's shower them with God's love and agape' as our Emmaus Community is known to do. Be an agape' fairy, help clean up/ set up, make sandwiches on Sunday, serve meals, attend candlelight, PRAY!! You will find contact information for coordinators of agape', walk events, refreshments, worship, etc. on the SVEC web site. You may also sign up for the 72 hour prayer vigil on line at sveconline.org.

Sponsors, remember Day of Deeper Understanding on Oct. 31, 2009, at Asbury UMC in Harrisonburg. You are responsible for bringing your pilgrim. I also encourage you to bring them to the gatherings so they can see and visit with brothers and sisters in Christ from their walks and the SVEC.

Blessings upon all of you. PRAISE the LORD, a mighty work is about to occur to further His kingdom. ☺ See you there.

*DeColores, Melanie Stanley, Community Lay Director
Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Walk #22A*

Fall Schedule

There will be no Gathering in October, no Board meeting in October due to the Walk events. DODU is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 31, 9:00-12:00, at Asbury. Our November Board meeting is Thursday, Nov. 12 and Gathering is Friday, Nov. 27. In December there will be NO Gathering since it falls on the Christmas holiday. Hope to see you at camp for the walk events!

Basking in the Love of the Father

As many of us are doing these days, teaming has become a lifestyle. There are those serving on the men's Emmaus team # 67, the Walk scheduled for October 8-11 and the women's Emmaus team # 68, with the Walk scheduled for Oct. 15-18. There are those serving on the Kairos prison ministry team with that Walk scheduled at Augusta Correctional Facility for October 8-11. There are those serving on women's Chrysalis Flight # 3 team with that Flight scheduled to happen November 5-8. Whew!

That means that there are approximately 100 members of the Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Community committed to serve in one capacity or another on a team now undergoing practice sessions to get it absolutely right in the eyes of God. They are giving God their excellence.

Someone shared with me once that he had had the chance to experience other Emmaus communities, behind the scenes on the Walk events as well as in the Talk Room. That person revealed to me that he had not experienced a more dedicated and well-trained Emmaus team and community than our own Shenandoah Valley Emmaus community. Whoo –hoo!

Both the Emmaus and the Chrysalis Team Canon states, "I will remember at all times that I am no more important than any other person on this weekend". "I will remember that the pilgrims are the main reason for my presence and my prayers". "I will remember at all times that I am no more important than any other person on this Chrysalis experience". Remember these words when we are challenged by the late nights, thin mattresses and trying to sleep amongst the melodious snoring. Remember these words as Friday drags s-l-o-w-l-y by. Remember these words when we have to do cabin sweeps all the way down to Charity. Remember these words when guitar strings break over and over and over.

God sees your tremendous efforts and He holds all of you so dear to His heart. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose". "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God" Thank you for giving of your precious time, energy, lives and hearts to this valuable tool we call the Walk to Emmaus and it's supporting ministries, Kairos and Chrysalis. **God is so proud of each of you. How much more so is your Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Community! Whoo-hoo!**

Marlene Chandler
Community Assistant LD

Greetings from Walk #67

The men of Walk 67 have completed three training sessions as of 9/11/09. The fourth and final training day is September 26.

Since we can accept Pilgrims until two weeks before each walk, please keep the applications coming in. Even if they come in late, we can begin building a group for Walk 69 next Spring.

We have been blessed with wonderful Talk previews. I am amazed at how God has matched the Talks with the right people to deliver them. I feel the Talks have been just outstanding. Other Emmaus Team members agree.

Our overnight Teaming with the members of Walk 68 was a real treat. With Lora's help, we even arranged to have both a combined Worship service on Saturday morning and a combined Table Dynamics session Friday night.

We will continue as a Team to persevere through the planning process and we are all anxiously waiting the weekend.

Please be a willing servant and assist us during the Oct 8-11 Walk weekend. There are many ways you can serve. Just read the articles in this newsletter for ways you can help. Please come to Candlelight. Do you remember what it was like when you walked down that path of lights and smiles and song? Please be willing to share this thrill with the Pilgrims of Walk 67.

John Packard, Lay Director, Walk 67

Greetings from Walk #68

Why are always so amazed at what God can do? Especially if we just turn it over to Him? Team #68 came together without a hitch and has blended beyond belief. We have already shown how powerful we are as a team when prayers need to be lifted, and yet we are amazed!

As we prepare for our last teaming, we ask the community to continue lifting us and the pilgrims in prayer. Great and mighty things will be happening - and yet we are amazed!

PLEASE join us for send-off on Thursday evening; come sing "Jesus, Jesus" on Saturday night; and come hear about our weekend experiences from the pilgrims at closing - you will be amazed!

Blessings, friends.

Lora Buracker, LD Walk #68

Introducing...

Fall Walks #67-#68 October 8-11 & 15-18, 2009

Pilgrims #67:

Dick Alderfer
Brad Barnett
Rob Berkebile
John Brishcar
Thomas Carrier
Sean Coffron
Mike Derflinger
William Doman
Steve Downs
Alan Laughlin
Patrick McCarthy
Lynn McCoy
John McCoy
Neil McLaughlin
David Miller
Justin Morris
Mark Prince
Dave Seals, Sr.
Wayne Smedley
Terry (Coach) Waters
Chad Barker

Team #67:

Packard, John (LD)
Armentrout, Tim
Bassett, Dan
Bearden, Bill*
Cairns, Rob
Churchill, Randy*
Clements, Paul*
Dillard, Jim
Dillard, Scott
Evans-Haywood, Chaz*
Fishel, Gary
Fisher, Bill
Garner, Steve*
Hinton, James
Martin, Doug
Robb, Jeff
Ryan, Eric
Seals, David
Stone, John
Strother, Jim*
Turner, Tim*
Veenis, Jay
Wager, Doug
Wallen, Mil
Washer, Butch
West, John
Wieber, Paul
Wink, Buzz*

Pilgrims #68

Carolyn Bowers
Jeanne Bridgeman
Heather Conway
Karen Debes
Tina Doman
Lori Fox
Katie Gohdes
Joanna Hoffer
Kanille Lapore
Donna Lotts
Jody Martin
Betty McCoy
Catherine McLaughlin
Meredith Miller
Julie Nitzsche
Ann Patterson
Ellen Prince
Mona Ritchie
Marty Robertson
Pam Robertson
Rosalie Russell
Sharon Smith
Stacey St. James
Lisa Steele
Barbara Thompson
Diana Vann
Pat Walker
Tina Wilson
Erin Woodard

Team #68:

Buracker, Lora (LD)
Buracker, Penny
Callison, Shawn
Churchill, Janis
Coffelt, Lisa
Dillard, Jenny
Duncan, Neda
Eagle, Donna
Early, Glen
Ennis, Debbie
Grim, Chris
Keith, Gail
Kelley, Hannah
Malloy, Esther
Marchand, Sherry
Martin, Ellen
Poeckert, Kevin
Poeckert, Sherry
Purdham, Paige
Seal, Tancy
Smith, Beth
Stallard, Diane
Talbot, Carrie
Talbot, Bob
Tester, Mary Jane
Vetter, Judy
Wallen, ,Dianna
Washer, Deb
Wink, Sherry

From the Registrar

As the Walks are fast approaching, the applications are decreasing.....how sad. As a community, we must be vigilant at offering applications to potential pilgrims - not just before a Walk hoping an applicant can "get in" - but throughout the rest of the year. We should not, as the Body of Christ, only be visible and excited March and April and then again Sept and October. As Disciples, we must be visible and excited ALL THE TIME!

Pray for the upcoming walks and also pray for the pilgrims called by God to be part of this experience. Also pray for potential pilgrims - those applications we don't yet have.

*Blessings,
Lora Buracker, SVEC Registrar*

Prayer Vigil

"We have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God."

Colossians 1:9-10

As followers of Christ, we are called to pray without ceasing. As the Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Community, we have all experienced first-hand the power of prayer and the agape love it represents. As our Fall Walks are approaching, I encourage all of you to pray for the pilgrims, team and the weekend for ½ hour. Wherever you may be at the time, pray for these walks and the people God called to be there. There is no doubt that so many of you will be praying for these weekends anyway. So, I encourage you to take a minute and sign your name to the prayer vigil.

Remember what it meant to you when you saw all the names of so many faithful servants praying just for you. Wouldn't you just love to do the same for the pilgrims coming to walks #67 and #68? If you are feeling that little tug at your heart as you read this, then you can sign up at gathering, or online by going to www.sveconline.org and clicking on the Prayer Vigil prompt. It is so simple to do, but such a huge sacrifice for others. It means so very much. So, sign up today. Thanks; and God bless you throughout your Fourth Days.

Michelle Bacon, Prayer Vigil Coordinator

Refreshments

Summer is almost over and fall is quickly approaching. It is time for the Fall Walks. As we prepare for the upcoming fall walks, we need to plan our help for the many activities of the walk weekends. I am honored and humbled to serve the Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Community in this capacity.

Think back to your own walk... Do you remember that awesome candlelight walk on Saturday night? And then the wonderful time afterward with the ice cream and socializing. Now you have an opportunity to serve, as you were served. The refreshments committee needs two small groups to serve the after-candlelight socials, often referred to as the "ice cream social". Fruit, nuts, cookies, etc. are usually included with the ice cream.

Also a few people are needed to help make sandwiches for closing on Sunday afternoon from 2-3PM in the Agape Hill kitchen. Help is also needed to clean up and pack after the weekend. This is an important job that doesn't take long at all if we have enough help. Many hands make light work.

Remember the snack table outside the talk room? A few suggestions for those treats that are so important for each weekend. If you bring a treat in a container that you want returned, please mark it with your name and phone number so that the weekend coordinators and clean-up crew will know how to get a hold of you. Many folks are using the disposable plastic containers with lids, they work well.

There is always good fellowship and fun on an Emmaus Weekend. If you can help with any of the refreshment activities, please contact Kevin Poeckert at 540-234-0847 or via e-mail at kcpspp@msn.com.

DeColores, Kevin Poeckert (walk #59, table of Mark)

Supplies

Thanks to all who responded to my request for supplies. I am currently well stocked on most supplies. Thanks again for your support and contact me if you have something you want to give. 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

The walks are coming ...the walks are coming!!!

There are once again many opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ. Each walk takes many people behind the scenes as well as the members of the teams. Thinking about getting more involved with Emmaus? I suggest volunteering a few hours at camp to see the way things are put and kept together during a walk. All you have to do is get in touch with one of the board members or chairperson to let them know when you can come help. Many, many hands and feet are needed as well as prayers!

Blessings,

Tracey Calderon Agape Coordinator

Chrysalis Agape

I hope everyone is remembering the Chrysalis Flight that will take place this November while gathering agape gifts for Emmaus. There will be a girls flight and you know they will loooooove any and all trinkets and treasures.

Please contact me before the end of November with any plans you have to provide items so all of us on the Chrysalis board can make plans in plenty of time.

*Fly With Christ, Jennifer Strother
jennstrother@yahoo.com, 540-490-1812*

Shenandoah Valley Chrysalis

A Flight (sophomore thru senior in high school) is coming up on Nov.5th thru the 8th for girls. The boy's flight had to be canceled so please pray for the girl's flight to be a success. Sponsoring a young person is a wonderful way to show God's love to them. Your financial support would 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. There are multiple ways you can help with Chrysalis. Please keep the Chrysalis community in your prayers and help whenever you can.

Another benefit concert for Chrysalis has been arranged for Sunday Sept 27 from 6-8pm with Bobby Ford and Steve Garner providing the entertainment. We'll meet at "The Barn" close to Natural Chimneys with hot dogs, baked beans, chips and some desserts for an evening praising and worshiping our God. A free will offering benefits our Chrysalis community. See you soon!

Flying with Christ, Gary Fishel

Making Music with Friends

The 2nd Chrysalis benefit concert will be held on Sunday, September 27th. Food begins at 5:30PM and the music at 6:00PM. I am really looking forward to sharing the stage with my good friend and brother in Christ, Bobby Ford. Please come out and support this fund raiser to provide funds for the Chrysalis youth. They are the future of Emmaus and the world.

Stay “tuned” for announcements about the 2nd Emmaus Jam session. The Jam sessions are a great way to fellowship and practice the Emmaus songs. Open to all levels of musical expertise.

Keep your fingers and vocal chords loose. There are many of opportunities to share the talent God has given you. Say yes to serve him and your fellow pilgrims. I still need music leader volunteers for the men’s and women’s candlelight and closing services for the upcoming October walks. Christ is counting on YOU! DeColores!

Steve Garner

Community Music Representative

540-241-0278 or pastorstevegarner@gmail.com

Mini Gathering FR UMC

Front Royal UMC is having mini-gatherings the third Friday of each month. All are welcome. We begin to gather at 6pm. Dinner starts at 6:30pm. We just ask that each person (or family/group) bring a dish or desert to share. Any questions may be directed toward me either by telephone at 540-631-0809 or E-mail (4mbacons@wave2net.com).

Michelle Bacon

What is E-Union?

Did you know that we have an email based prayer line called the eunion? There are a team of Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Community brothers and sisters ready to pray at the moment needed. If you have needs that need to get prayed for, please post them on the eunion. if you are willing to pray, please join the eunion. Either way, contact me at roygnelson@hotmail.com and I can assist.

Roy Nelson, Walk # 29

Emmaus Board of Directors

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME to the newest members of the Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Community Board of Directors. Thank you for your willingness to serve our community in this capacity. Pastor Doug Martin accepted the board invitation to fulfill the vacated term of Jim Harris as Community Lead SD and Doug Purdham accepted the board invitation to fulfill the vacated term of Alison Crosby as childcare coordinator. Those newly elected to the board start their official terms in January and are invited to attend remaining meetings of 2009 to become familiar with the activities of the board. Our newest members include the following: Sharon Benson, Jeanne Bosserman, Lisa Garner, Nancy Goulart, Shelby Haley, Esther Malloy and Peggy Packard. Thank you again on behalf of our Emmaus Community.

Melanie Stanley

A SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

During the Team Trainings for this upcoming Women's Walk, our devotionals have been somewhat focused on Spiritual Growth. We first shared that Jesus knows our hearts. Remember the sisters Mary and Martha? Jesus' words revealed how well he knew their hearts. During an Emmaus Walk weekend, team members, sponsors and the community-at-large are like Martha. As hosts, we are to make sure that preparations are made so that the weekend experience is a blessing for our guests. Our guests, the Pilgrims, come as Mary. They sit at Jesus' feet for seventy-two hours, listening to what He has to say to them through the team, the community, and the Holy Spirit.

As good hosts we should practice hospitality, played out by what is in our hearts. Are we doing this for our benefit (to make us feel good) or do we truly empty ourselves and allow God to work through us? Just as Jesus knew the hearts of Mary and Martha, He also knows our hearts intimately.

Let us ALL seek Him, through daily prayer and study; then we ALL seize the opportunity for Spiritual Growth each and every time our community hosts an Emmaus Walk.

Looking forward to seeing you ALL on the mountain!

*Decolores, Rev. Carrie Talbott, SVEC Walk #24A
Asst. Spiritual Director, SVEC Board of Directors*

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:

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: Oct 31st, 9am-12noon

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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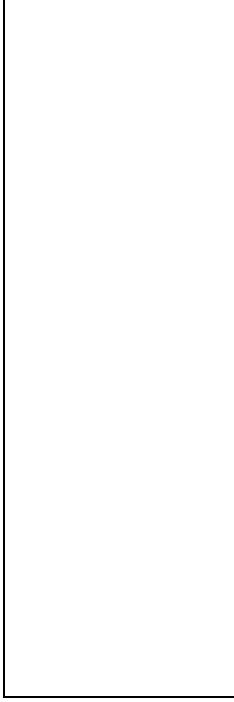
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c/o SVEC Treasurer,

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October, 2009