

Monthly Newsletter of  
**THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY EMMAUS COMMUNITY**  
August, 2009

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**AUGUST, 2009**

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

**SEP, 2009**

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

*It will be team anointing at gathering in September*

*LD's for Fall walks are Lora Buracker and John Packard*

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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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://sveconline.org)***

Greeting Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



*What a busy time we are in; summer coming to an end, preparing for school plus other daily activities. I think of times past and new beginnings. The last several months have been challenging for me. I have seen and felt God's presence so strongly while caring for my Mom during her final days on earth. Now my faith provides the blessing of knowing she is in heaven and I will see her again. Resolving her earthly, physical legacy while grieving the absence of this strong, faithful, loving woman is difficult; so many things to do and no time to do them. Perhaps some of you can identify with this situation.*

*PS 127:1 says, unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vein. Mom faced challenges I could not imagine, yet she persevered, her faith carried her through. When recently she was asked, "Where is God in all of this (her illness)?" She paused a moment and slowly, yet confidently said, "He is here, all around, in everything." I share this with you to emphasize how we live our lives, what we say, the priorities we choose, have a lasting impact on so many. What will your legacy be? Joshua 1:8-9, calls us to meditate on His word; be bold and strong and not frightened or dismayed for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. We are called by God to share His wonderful gift of limitless strength, peace, and joy with the world through our everyday lives.*

*Spend time with God – let Him quiet your heart and mind from the myriad of challenges and activities you face. Is He leading you to sponsor someone for an Emmaus Walk or young person in grades 10-12 on a Chrysalis Flight? Are you feeling led to serve in the Kairos community?*

*Please pray for our community, share in the celebration as we praise God for the work He is doing in the lives of so many. As long as we remain faithful all things work for His glory – even when we may not understand how. I pray you have a role model like my Mom to help you develop the faith to follow His lead and know, "He is in everything and everywhere." I look forward to seeing you at Community Gatherings, the August picnic and walk activities.*

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

## **Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship...**

At our recent United Methodist Annual Conference, Bishop Schnase's book "*Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*" was referenced quite a bit. The Five practices are: Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-taking Mission and Service and Extravagant Generosity. If ever there were words to describe all that Emmaus is and does - Bishop Schnase hits the target directly!

- The Practice of "Radical Hospitality" brings to mind exactly what we do at Emmaus. Bishop Schnase explains radical hospitality as when we "genuinely engage people, listen to them, and help them feel accepted, respected, connected, needed, involved and loved." Sound familiar?
- Passionate Worship is experienced each and every time pilgrims, team and community members, clergy and non-clergy are "gathered". We celebrate that gathering of God's people with the sacrament of Holy Communion.
- Intentional faith development and the tools for us to use on our journeys are explained and emphasized during each of the 15 talks.
- Risk-taking service and mission to our brothers and sisters in Christ is evident before and behind the scenes on every Walk.

The Lord pours His extravagant generosity on us throughout the whole 72 hours at camp. All of these elements combined together makes for a vital, healthy, functioning and thriving Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Community! I challenge you to keep these practices before us as we strive to transform the world by making disciples of Jesus Christ and fulfill the Emmaus mission.

*Marlene Chandler*  
*Community Assistant LD*

## **Emmaus Board of Directors -- Nominations**

On behalf of the entire Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Community we wish to extend our appreciation to all of the nominees for the board of directors. The following are the names that will be placed on the final ballot:

- Sharon Benson
- Jeanne Bosserman
- Nancy Goulart
- Esther Malloy
- Lisa Garner
- Shelby Haley
- Peggy Packard

We thank each nominee for their willingness to serve.

All community members are encouraged to participate in the vote to be taken at the annual family picnic on August 29<sup>th</sup> at Blessings Lodge. If you can not attend and wish to cast your vote, please complete the enclosed mail-in absentee ballot or speak with any board member before the picnic date!

We serve a mighty, powerful God who will not let us fail as long as we turn to Him for guidance and strength. Praise the Lord!

## **Greetings from Walk #67**

The Team building for our SVEC Walk #67 Men's Walk is well under way. The dates for the Walk are Oct 8-11.

We thank the volunteer reunion groups that offer to serve lunch for the Team meetings, the only open date is Sept 26. If you are interested in providing a meal and serving in this way, please contact John Packard at 578-2428.

Through the Team building process, I have been amazed at the number of folks that have not only stepped up to serve, but also many that seemed to be awaiting my call. God has been working on this Team a lot longer than I have.

Please be sure to get one of the NEW edition purple Worship books at one of the Gatherings this summer, as that is the book we will be using for the Walk.

We still need pilgrims!! If you have been thinking about asking someone, please do it now. Our Walk is far from full, and we want to give the gift of Emmaus to as many men as possible.

Please keep us in your prayers.

*John Packard, Lay Director, Walk 67*

## **Family Picnic**

Please plan to join us for our Summer Gathering which is always a family picnic at Camp Overlook! This year, we will gather at Blessings Lodge on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm for our annual picnic. Please bring your family, your lawn chairs and a covered dish to share and join us for this fun family time.

## **From the Registrar**

Blessings to all from SVEC Registrar: things are perking along as far as applications go. Please, continue to pray, pray and then pray again for the potential pilgrims - registered and unregistered. Be sure that all applications are signed by the pilgrim, sponsor and PASTOR. Remember to mail to the Fishersville address (Tim Armentrout, Treas) and he will forward them to me. If a potential pilgrim has not received a confirmation letter from me - PLEASE let me know - sometimes things fall through the cracks.

*Lora Buracker  
pchsmusicmom@aol.com*

## **Refreshments**

It Summer time!!! Time for cookouts and picnics. Let's remember during our busy summer time activities to schedule in our SVEC picnic coming up August 29th at Camp Overlook. Bring your favorite summer picnic dish. And coming up quickly is our fall walks in October. The refreshment committee will be in need of help during both the men's and women's walks. Be in prayer as to how you or your reunion group can help during these walks. The community is such a great team.

There are also always opportunities to help with refreshments at the monthly gatherings. 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*

## Supplies

Many thanks to all who responded to the request for lanyards and other supplies. I understand I have over 200 lanyards on the way and some notebooks as well. If you want to buy some supplies now is the time. Many stores are running school supply specials at this time. It takes about 60 of each item per walk. Thanks again for your support. Please contact me if you have something you'd like to do. 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*

## Prayer Vigil

*"Softly, tenderly... Jesus is calling. Calling for you and for me."*

Do you remember this old Hymn? Isn't it just as true today? Jesus is never forceful, but is always softly and tenderly calling for you and for me to serve Him. When we listen, He provides new opportunities for us constantly. Another song comes to mind when I think of the enormous sacrifice that He made for you and me. From a song Michael English sings called "*Had It Not Been*", the verse says

*"Just suppose God searched through Heaven and couldn't find one willing to be the Supreme Sacrifice that was needed just to buy eternal life for you and me. Had it not been for a place called Mt. Calvary... Had it not been for the old rugged cross... Had it not been for a man called "Jesus", my soul would forever be lost."*

We all owe Him our eternal gratitude. And, we may offer ourselves for others in the sacrifice of prayer during the upcoming Men's (Oct 8-11) and Women's (Oct 15-18) Emmaus Walks this fall. Sign up to pray for one half hour (or more) from wherever you are. You may sign up by attending Emmaus Gatherings at Asbury UMC in Harrisonburg the last Friday of every month and/or going online to sveconline.org and clicking the Prayer Vigil prompt. Or you may contact Michelle Bacon at (540) 631-0809.

Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling. Will you answer Him today?

*Michelle Bacon, Prayer Vigil Coordinator.*

## **Hello to a great community,**

I know it is summer and vacations are happening but some things never go on vacation. For example, the Emmaus Community and the upcoming walks, preparations for them are already underway. I know in Agape World, angels are working on letters, placemats and of course agape gifts. I am very thankful for those who all year long are thinking about what to make and have things ready before the next walks. Speaking of that, agape bag material is needed. Agape bags are made from very colorful material by the hands of some very dedicated individuals. If you cannot sew that is fine! The Agape World is in need of the colorful material (which can be an agape gift in itself)! If you see any rainbow material or really colorful material while you are shopping please pick it up and I'll be sure to get it to those who do the sewing. If you are willing to sew, let me know. I will give you measurements or use your own agape bag as a sample. Approximately 60-80 bags are given out on each set of walks. This is just one way to help but there are many more - the walks take many hands and feet of Christ to accomplish them. Have a great summer!!! *Blessings,*

*Tracey Calderon Agape Coordinator*

## **Shenandoah Valley Chrysalis**

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

On July 18, a concert benefiting the SHENANDOAH VALLEY CHRYSALIS was held at Sunset Drive UMC in Broadway featuring Steve Garner, Luray UMC praise band, and other Chrysalis folks. Everyone enjoyed an evening of fun, fellowship, and music. A free will offering to help with Chrysalis expenses totaled \$2,178.43! Our God is an awesome God.

If you missed the concert, another is being planned for Sep. 27<sup>th</sup> at "The Barn" close to Natural Chimneys. So mark your calendars.

*Flying with Christ, Gary Fishel*

## **Loving God, Loving Each Other, Making Music with Friends**

What a time we had at the Chrysalis benefit concert on July 18th. Thanks to everyone for your generous hearts and special thanks to Allyson Shayner, Rebekah Riggs, friends of Chrysalis, Luray Praise & Worship Team, everyone who brought refreshments, Sunset Drive UMC for being such a wonderful host and a great big thanks to Gary Fishel for being such a good sport by singing the "Bull Frogs & Butterfly" song. Gary we all love you, but you may want to hold off, just a little longer before you quit your day job. 😊. The Camp needs you too badly to let you go.

The next Chrysalis benefit Concert will be at 5:30PM on September 27th at the Old Barn in Mt. Solon, VA. Food begins at 5:30 with the singing to begin at 6:00PM. As of this writing I am still working on the musical servants to join me at this event, but I will let you know more details a little later.

I still need help with leading the music for the Candlelight and Closing services for the men and women fall walks. If you can help out, please let me know. God will provide.

We are so blessed to have so many outstanding musicians in the SVEC. I and the community thank each of you for your willingness to serve God in a way that brings so much joy to so many. Thank you for your faithful service!

Keep your fingers and vocal chords loose as there are many opportunities coming up to share the talent God has given you. Pass your gift forward. Christ is counting on YOU! *DeColores!*

*Steve Garner, Community Music Rep.*

*540-241-0278 – [pastorstevegarner@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstevegarner@gmail.com)*

*(Please note e-mail change)*

## **Double Your Agape Efforts for Chrysalis!!**

A Chrysalis Flight is scheduled for this November and Agape gifts will be needed in abundance. Remember how much you enjoyed all those little trinkets and gifts on your Walk? Well, teens love them even more!! If your Reunion Group makes or purchases agape, please consider upping the quantities. Thanks for your added efforts to make the Flight one to be remembered!

*Jenn Strother, Chrysalis Agape Chair*

## 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. Submit articles to Nancy Goulart, editor at 540-298-1779 or email: Singingsecretary2006@yahoo.com.

*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:

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 31<sup>st</sup>, 9am-12noon

### Chrysalis:

2009 Chrysalis Flight #3	November 5-8
Journey	TBA

Visit [SVECONLINE.ORG](http://SVECONLINE.ORG) for directions, calendar, & information.

Emmaus is also featured on the Camp Overlook website at  
[WWW.GBGM-UMC.ORG/CAMPOVERLOOK/](http://WWW.GBGM-UMC.ORG/CAMPOVERLOOK/)

Learn more about the International Walk to Emmaus!  
Go to [WWW.UPPERROOM.ORG/EMMAUS](http://WWW.UPPERROOM.ORG/EMMAUS)

### **INTERNATIONAL WALK TO EMMAUS NEWSLETTER**

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Subscribe to printed newsletter by sending name and address to :

Upper Room Walk to Emmaus, 1908 Grand Avenue, PO Box  
340004, Nashville, TN 37203-0004.

*(Be sure to put Emmaus in the address or mail will be delayed.)*

For details, call toll free at: 1-877-899-2780, or

E-mail: [Emmaus@upperroom.org](mailto:Emmaus@upperroom.org)

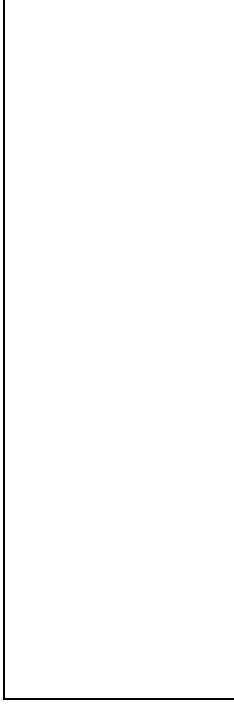
**Upper Room Emmaus of the Shenandoah Valley**

c/o SVEC Treasurer,

PO Box 282

Fishersville, VA 22939

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August, 2009