

Monthly Newsletter of  
THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY EMMAUS COMMUNITY  
NOVEMBER, 2009

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

***PLEASE JOIN US!***

**CHRYSALIS FLIGHT** – Nov 5-8, Camp Overlook

- Send Off – Thurs, Nov 5, Glovier Chapel
- Candlelight – Sat, Nov 7, Agape Hill
- Closing – Sun, Nov 8, Glovier Chapel

**NOVEMBER, 2009**

- DODU – Sat, Oct. 31, 9:00-12:00, Asbury UMC
- Board Meeting – Thurs, Nov 12, 7pm, Asbury UMC
- Gathering – Fri, Nov 27, 7pm, Asbury UMC

**DECEMBER, 2009**

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

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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)***

**Community Lay Director:**



**Welcome to our new members of the Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Community from Walks 67 & 68!!** I pray all of you, including the faithful servants of Walks 67 & 68, have rested and are enjoying your Fourth Days. Our "Fourth Days", (all the days after our Walk to Emmaus), never end just as our journey of growing closer to God and furthering His kingdom never ends. Our heavenly Father is an awesome and powerful God. He gives us strength when we have none; joy in seeing a beautiful sunrise or rainbow, and peace in times of trial. As we travel this journey together as brothers and sisters in Christ may we as members of the Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Community continue to nurture, support and help each other to a closer relationship with God. May we lean on each other as we become stronger and bolder disciples in spreading the Word, and strengthening our local churches. I invite all to please join us as we share Christ's love with the world. I am blessed by being a member and serving the Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Community. I look forward to seeing you at future community events.

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

### **Community ALD: assistant lay director...**

*"Weave, weave, weave us together, weave us together in unity and love... the Christ in me greets the Christ in thee... in one big family..."*

We've just come off two amazing Walk weekends. God never disappoints. His love is so evident in the testimonies of the pilgrims, in the faces at candlelight, in the works of His servants at Camp. The golden thread that is woven throughout the whole weekend experience, nay, the whole Emmaus local and worldwide movement, is PRAYER. Prayer is the chief means of grace during the three days. Be it the whispered prayers of the speakers as they wait on the porch before walking into the talk room or be it the loudly spoken prayers of the community as they partake in communion before the Candlelight event – PRAYER carries the transforming power of God to reach souls and change lives. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Back in 1998, as an inexperienced teamer, I encountered a beautiful answer to prayer by God. Then, as it still is currently, there's a beautiful SVEC tradition whereby team members are

given pilgrim's names who have committed to the upcoming Walks in order to surround and cover them in prayer. These are obviously names of total strangers – no one has any information about the pilgrim other than the registrar and their sponsor. That stranger's name is dutifully lifted up in prayer by the team member daily, for weeks ahead of the Walk.

In 1998, my prayers for this pilgrim/stranger were for who they were already in Christ, for what God had done in her life and for what God was still planning to do in her life. There were prayers for openness to the grace and guidance that God wanted to give her on the upcoming Walk. Fervent prayers were sent to heaven for stretching out the time so that she would get all the chores done at home before coming to camp. There were prayers that her family would be very well taken care of while she was away from them.

On Thursday of the Walk weekend the hours ticked slowly by and, at various times that afternoon, the name of that sweet pilgrim would float into my consciousness and I would send up quick prayers for her. Finally it was time for the pilgrims to start arriving at Camp. Team members hovered around the gravel path waiting to swoop down in love on unsuspecting pilgrims to help them by carrying luggage, garment bags, cosmetic cases etc. When it was my turn to greet the next new pilgrim, I flashed my warmest smile and held out my hands to snatch away a sleeping bag, pillow and some other heavy sack. As we walked together to the registrar's table, we casually chided each other about who had the heaviest parcels. I admired her sense of humor, quick wit and radiant personality. There was time to introduce ourselves before she registered and, when I asked who she was, my eyes immediately flooded with tears when she responded with the very name that had crossed my lips in prayer every day for the last few weeks.

Out of 25 new pilgrims, God saw fit to make her the very first one I would meet that day. He showed me, in no uncertain terms, that hearts are woven together through prayer – even with perfect strangers. *“Praise be to the name of God forever and ever, wisdom and power are His”* (DANIEL 2:20).

*Marlene Chandler  
Community Assistant LD*

## **Walk #67: God – 19 the evil one - 0**

“Svec” Walk #67 is completed. God has Prevailed!!

Now the focus must REALLY begin. Up on the hill, we learned how to pray to God, how to study God’s word, and how to be His hands and feet. Now all we have to do is.... make it happen!!

As the Lay Director (God was the DIRECTOR, as He reminded me time and time again), I just want to thank all those folks that worked either on the team or behind the scenes to make Walk #67 yet another great Emmaus Walk. Y’all provided us with plenty of food, lots of agape, lots ‘o love on that candlelight walk, and continuous prayer that we could feel. God provided us with perfect weather, colorful leaves, 19 excited pilgrims, and answers to all those prayers.

To the pilgrims, our most recent members: We welcome you to the Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Community. You have already witnessed some of the power God uses through this community of believers. Isn’t it amazing!! But there is more. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a lot of information on upcoming events. Please participate where you can. The door is now open for a lot of other ways you can serve; but, as I said in my Perseverance Talk: even if all you do is go home and become more active in your own Church, we have been successful as an Emmaus Team.

To all: Tim Armentrout is already working on the Men’s Spring Walk #69. If he calls you to serve on the team, please be open to this. If your heart is right, it will be one of the most rewarding things you will do. We need pilgrims for Walk 69. Lora has very few applications on hand for our next walks, and there are up to 30 spots available. If you know of someone that you believe could benefit from a Walk to Emmaus, please ask them: pray about it and present them with an application, then leave it in God’s hands. Let’s all try to begin building the next pilgrim list now.

God is Good, all the time,

*John Packard, Lay Director, Walk 67  
Table of Providence*

## **Greetings from Walk #68**

All the Time - God is Good! SVEC Walk #68 was yet another God-filled, amazing weekend. Although the weather was not optimal, the fire that was burning within ALL of us was beyond anything I can compare. We had all 30 pilgrims able to attend, and although some illnesses were beginning, with the help of our warriors in the Prayer Chapel, God took care of us. Candlelight provided us with 199 faces of Jesus despite the damp, cold weather. Thank you to all that provided agape and worked behind the scenes. Also thank you to all who graced us with your presence at send-off, candlelight and closing.

*Blessings to all, Lora Buracker  
Lay Director SVEC Walk #68*

## **Community Spiritual Director:**

**“O you of little faith.....”** Jesus used that phrase on several occasions recorded in Matthew’s Gospel (6:30, 8:26, 14:31, 16:8) to call attention to the “little faith” that His followers— and especially His 12 disciples— all too often demonstrated. I just recently had a moment of “little faith” myself.

On Saturday of Walk #68, the weather was dreadful. Even the forecast was dreadful: it called for clouds, cold, rain....and SNOW possibly! All day long, all we had in Page County (where I live) was clouds and cold, but no rain. Keeping in mind the Candlelight that was scheduled for that evening, and believing that cold, rainy, wet weather would likely result in a greatly reduced— and disappointing— turnout of the faithful, I prayed all day, asking the Lord to please hold back the rain/snow, at least until Candlelight was over and everyone was home safely.

Just as I made my way to Camp Overlook from Luray, the rain began to fall in earnest....and so did my heart! And I thought to myself, “This is just great; some answer to prayer THIS is!” I hoped that once I slipped over the Massanutten Ridge, the rain would stop; but indeed it did not. With a sense of having been let down by the Lord for reasons I couldn’t begin to comprehend, I continued on to camp.

Once I arrived in Glovier Chapel (and shook the rain off), I could not help but notice how the chapel was filling up with the faithful despite the weather. Once the pilgrims were in and lined up at the front, I waited to hear the head-count of those who had come out

in love and support of them. I did not hear it, but learned the next day that it was 199.

That's right: 199! And here it was all I could do to believe that we would be doing well if 35-50 of us showed up...if even that many! To say I was wrong in my assessment is to make one of the great understatements of all times!

In all of this, our God—through the SVEC— taught this man of “little faith” a valuable faith lesson: that the power of Christian love isn't concerned with “trivial” things like cold, rain, wind, etc. Those with a faith greater than mine are able to look past those things as they keep their eyes on “the target,” which is to make a profound and never-to-be-forgotten statement of Christian love to the pilgrims— and team— of Walk #68. I'm sure it was lost on none of them the adverse conditions that seemed to matter not a bit to those who came out.

I very much want to stand up and say “PRAISE THE LORD!” for the 199 brothers and sisters who came out in faith in an impressive number in support of Walk #68, the nasty weather conditions notwithstanding. And I want to thank each and every one of them for reminding me how foolish the exercise of “little faith” really is.

*De Colores! P. Douglas Martin, Walk #50 – Table of Paul  
SVEC Community Spiritual Director (& former man of little faith)*

### **From the Registrar**

Again this fall, we were blessed with an abundance of pilgrims. The gentlemen had 19 pilgrims and the ladies had 30. The interesting thing: I was approached during this walk to let me know that more applications were on the way for the spring. Praise God!

Please remember to get the newest application (check sveconline.org). Get them to your potential pilgrims and get them in the mail (remember: do not promise any walk date – it's in God's time). The sooner I receive applications, the easier it is when it's time for the selection process and invitations to go out. This is an on-going process and doesn't start just a couple months before the Walk - now is the time.

*Blessings,  
Lora Buracker, SVEC Registrar*

**Introducing...**

**Our newest community members of October, 2009!**

**Please come welcome them: Sat, Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, 9am, Asbury UMC.**

**Pilgrims #67:**

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

**Pilgrims #68**

Carolyn Bowers  
Jeanne Bridgeman  
Heather Conway  
Karen Debes  
Tina Doman  
Lori Fox  
Katie Gohdes  
Joanna Hoffler  
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

## **Prayer Vigil**

*"The Lord takes pleasure in me and all who reverently and worshipfully fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy and loving-kindness." PSALM 147:11*

It is with such a grateful heart that this article is being written. Thanks to all of you who gave of yourselves in prayer to cover the recent Men's (#67) and Women's (#68) Emmaus Walks. May you truly be blessed. I know the Lord takes pleasure in you. For, you not only reverently worship and fear Him, but you hope AND show His mercy and loving-kindness in sacrificing yourself for the needs of others. And, we all know these Walks are so powerful because they are so profoundly covered in prayer. Not to mention what it meant to each of these Pilgrims in their journey with Christ. Be still and know that the Lord has His arms around your shoulders and listen to hear Him say..."Well done, good and faithful servant...well done!"

*Michelle Bacon, Prayer Vigil Coordinator*

## **Dear Community,**

I want to thank all that helped give to the Emmaus experience. 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.

*Tracey Calderon, Agape Chairperson*

## **Supplies**

After both walks I am still in good shape on supplies that can be bought locally. If you see deals on notebooks or ink pens we can always use them. Other than that I think we are fine for a while. 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](mailto:gary.fishel@verizon.net) or by phone at 540/269-2372 home, or 540/421-9299 cell.

*Blessings, Gary Fishel*

## **Refreshments**

I would like to thank everyone who helped with refreshments during these Fall Emmaus Walks. Those who brought snack items to Camp Overlook, served the pilgrims on Saturday night after candlelight, helped to make sandwiches on Sunday and for all the delicious treats you brought to the snack table for the pilgrims. Many, many thanks! I would also like to thank Noland Suter for picking up on the Women's closing while Sherri and I were teaming in the Prayer Chapel. The community is such a great team.

There are always opportunities to help with refreshments at the monthly gatherings or at Day of Deeper Understanding. 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](mailto:kcpspp@msn.com)

*DeColores, Kevin Poeckert*

## **Making Music with Friends**

The fall walks are technically over, but the Holy Spirit still reigns. You know, after this walk I believe the world had changed..., or maybe I just looked at it differently?

Thanks to all of the musicians that came through for the closings and candlelight events. Your service to the community and to God is greatly appreciated.

Stay "tuned" for announcements about the 2nd Emmaus Jam session. The Jam sessions are a great way to fellowship and practice the Emmaus songs. They are open to all levels of musical expertise for instruments and voice.

Calling all musicians! I am updating the community music list, so we will be prepared for next year's events. If you play any instrument, including your vocal chords, I would love to hear from you. Keep your fingers and vocal chords loose. There are many of opportunities to share the talent God has given you. DeColores!

*Steve Garner, Community Music Representative*  
*540-241-0278 or [pastorstevegarner@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstevegarner@gmail.com)*

## **Chrysalis**

Thanks to all those who supported our recent Chrysalis fundraiser at the barn which raised over \$1200.00. Thanks be to God. All enjoyed the music, food and fellowship.

## **Chrysalis Corner**

Our November 2009 Chrysalis flight #3 has been confirmed! As of this writing, there are 14 caterpillars with expectations of more. The flight will take place on November 5th-8th at Camp Overlook. Some answers to questions concerning events and scheduling:

At 6:15 pm on November 5th, there will be a pizza dinner for the caterpillars, sponsors and team. The sponsors then head down the hill to the chapel for sponsor's hour. The community is also invited and encouraged to participate in sponsor's hour. On Saturday, the community gathers in the chapel at 7:45pm (we're looking for 200 candles) for candlelight! You know how awesome that will be! On Sunday, the community will gather again at 4:00pm to give God the glory for this blessed weekend! You will want to hear these young people testify!

What else can you do?? You can go to [www.sveconline.org](http://www.sveconline.org) and sign up for the 72-hour prayer vigil! You can provide agape – 50 pieces is a good number for Chrysalis – lots of bling! Snacks? these girls are no different than us, they love to eat! So feel free to provide some goodies!

Flight # 3 for girls may be over by the time this article is in print, but I know God is going to bless the girls who have said yes to coming. I also hope that many of you were able to come and show the face of Jesus to them at their candle light. I pray that God will bless you in all you do. Without the Emmaus community, there would be no Chrysalis! For more information, please contact: Gary Fishel, mobile: 540-421-9299, home: 269-2372.

*Flying with Christ,  
Gary Fishel*

## **Chrysalis Refreshments**

WOW!! The Girls' flight is off the ground. Praise God!! With the flight, comes send off, candle light, closing and HOOT's. All of these are opportunities to be a servant of God to our caterpillars and butterflies. Serving refreshments is a wonderful way to show agape love to the young ladies. If you would like to help in any way with the refreshments, either providing or serving, please give me a call or e-mail. You can contact me at 540-908-1729 or e-mail me at [kcpspp@msn.com](mailto:kcpspp@msn.com)

*Fly With Christ, Sherri Poeckert*

## **Emmaus Worship Book -- Notification of Changes!!!**

*"Please take out your "purple" worship books..."*

Substantial changes have been made to our worship books by Emmaus Headquarters. The updated books will now be used at community events. It is important that each community member have an updated book that they bring to community events.

So you may be wondering, how do I get an updated book? We wish to thank an "anonymous reunion group" for donating the funds for the initial purchase of these books. The initial supply will be available at all gatherings at the table where the community shirts and hats are being sold. We ask you only take one per family from this initial supply. Once the initial supply is gone or if you need more than one, additional books are available for \$1.50 which is our cost.

We ask that you help us make this transition as smooth as possible. We thank you in advance for your assistance.

*DeColores, Nancy Sims  
Secretary, Board of Directors*

## **Fall Schedule**

Our November Gathering is Friday, Nov. 27! We hope that many of you will join us in celebration at Asbury UMC in Harrisonburg. In December there will be NO Gathering since it falls on the Christmas holiday.

Board meetings are Thursday, Nov. 12 and Dec 10. Both outgoing AND incoming board members are encouraged to attend.

## **Keep in Touch...**

Please notify us of any change in e-mail address, snail mail address and telephone numbers! We want to keep our records as current as possible. Also, if you are currently receiving a hard copy by USPS bulkmail, and would like to receive it electronically, please inform us with current email and send your request to Tim.

Please Contact: Community Lay Director, Melanie Stanley, mel@shentel.net; Assistant Lay Director, Marlene Chandler, Marlene.chandler@gmail.com; Treasurer, Tim Armentrout, svectreas@ntelos.net; News Editor, Nancy Goulart, SingingSecretary2006@yahoo.com or Secretary, Nancy Sims, harmonyhollowww@yahoo.com.

## ***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 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)

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

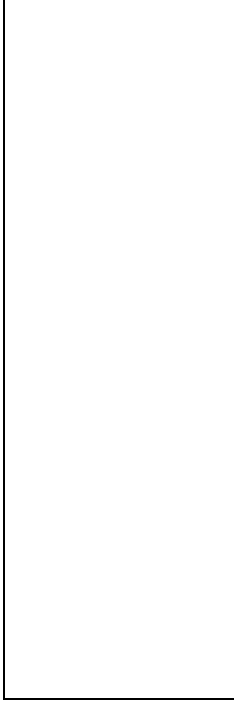
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c/o SVEC Treasurer,

PO Box 282

Fishersville, VA 22939

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November, 2009