

# Upper Room Emmaus

of the Greater Fredericksburg Area

Vol. 10

October 2005

## EMMAUS 60 WILL BE HELD ON OCT. 20-23 AT CAMP HAPPY LAND

October plans to be a busy month for our Emmaus Community. Our gathering this month will be held at Chancellor Christian Church. Please note the change in times: Fellowship at 5:30 and start of gathering at 6:15PM. Teams for E60 and E61 will be introduced at this gathering

On October 20-23 Emmaus Weekend 60 will be held at Camp HappyLand. Please check pages 2 and 3 for team and pilgrim names for agape preparation. Note that the pilgrim list is not complete, please check at the gathering for an up-to-date list.

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### The Next Gathering



- When:           **October 8th**
- Where:          **Chancellor Christian**
- Time:           **Gathering at 6:15 PM\***  
                          Board will meet at 3:30

Fellowship Time preceding Gathering at 5:30 PM. Bring some snacks to share and visit with your Emmaus friends.

**\* Note Change of Time**



### Fredericksburg Emmaus #60 - Pilgrim List

- |                   |                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Jack Baker     | River of Life                |
| 2. Paul Bartman   | Holy Family Nationa'l Shrine |
| 3. Roger Boykin   | Chancellor Christian         |
| 4. Clay Dubberly  | N. Stafford Calvary Chapel   |
| 5. Ken Ervin      | Woodbridge Christian         |
| 6. Paul Fournier  | Liberty UMC                  |
| 7. Dan Himmel     | Fredericksburg UMC           |
| 8. Ed Hovey       | Fairview Baptist             |
| 9. Quinton Jones  | Strong Tower                 |
| 10. George Masten | Bethel UMC                   |
| 11. Mike Maxson   | Grace UMC                    |
| 12. Paul McIntire | Fredericksburg UMC           |
| 13. Trey Talmadge | The Presbyterian Church      |
| 14. Jim Tayman    | Warsaw Church of God         |
| 15. Tim Wallace   | River of Life                |

### Schedule-Men's Emmaus #60 October 20 - 23, 2005

Emmaus #60 invites sponsors, families & community to participate in these events:

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>WHAT</u>
Thurs. Oct 20 6:30pm	Camp Happyland	Pilgrim check-in/Followed by Sponsor's Hour
Sat. Oct 22 7:30pm	Camp Happyland	Candlelight-Community will gather for praise, communion, fellowship & communion. Please bring flowers for the team to use Sunday morning!
Sun. Oct 23 3:30pm	Camp Happyland	Closing - Gather @3:30 for Closing Service @4:00

## Fredericksburg Emmaus #60 Team List

*"Act Justly, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly with your God" Micah 6:8*

Art Blankenship	Table Leader	Body of Christ	Sunday, 11:10 am
Bob Bonshire	Asst. Table Leader	Reading	
Mike Cook	ALD - Friday	Discipleship	Saturday 6:30 pm
Rick Dillard	Music Team	Reading	
Jeff Forsyth	Asst. Table Leader	Readings	
Tony Fortune	Asst. Table Leader	Priesthood of All Believers	Friday 1:00 pm
Alan Hagar	Spiritual Director	Means of Grace	Saturday 10:25 pm
Greg Howard	ALD - Sunday	Christian Action	Saturday 3:15 pm
Larry Lenow	Spiritual Director	Justifying Grace	Friday 2:30 pm
Steve Makely	Cha Coordinator	Reading	
Don Mangan	Asst. Table Leader	4 <sup>th</sup> Day Talk - DDU	
John Mathis	Lead Spiritual Director	Prevenient/Sanctifying Grace	Fri 11/Sun 9:55
Mo Moses	ALD Thursday	Fourth Day	Sunday 2:40 pm
Tim Patrick	Assistant Cha	Reading	
Lemuel Pearsall	Table Leader	Growth Through Study	Saturday 9:00 am
Gene Philipp	Music Director	Reading	
Paul Prewitt	Weekend Lay Director	Perseverance	Sunday 1:00 pm
Wes Pryce	Table Leader	History Talk - DDU	
Pete Schatz	Table Leader	Reading	
Tony Schroth	Asst. Table Leader	Changing Our World	Sunday 8:50am
John Shutlock	ALD - Saturday	Priority	Friday 9:15am
Bill Simpson	Asst. Table Leader	Grouping Talk - DDU	
Ralph Thomas	Spiritual Director	Obstacles to Grace	Saturday 4:45 pm
Larry Tubbs	Assistant Cha	Reading	
Bill Walker	Music Team	Reading	
Dennis Warne	Music Team	Reading	
Richard Warner	Board Representative	Reading	
Jim Weadon	Table Leader	Please Hear What I Am Not . .	
Ralph Williams	Table Leader	Life in Piety	Friday 6:30 pm



*"Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."*

*1John 4:11*

In our society, we tend to use the word "love" very loosely. We love ice cream. We love our pets. We love our parents, our spouses, our children. We love our new car or our favorite well-worn jeans. Surely we don't mean to attach the same value to our spouses or children as we do to ice cream or jeans. Yet what we mean can easily get lost if we do not have a standard for what love is.

The Oxford English Dictionary contains 25 entries for the word love. Many of those entries have multiple subsections. No wonder our society has a difficult time understanding love! We, however - as the body of Christ - have a very clear standard for defining love. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes on Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) That standard of love, set by Almighty God and demonstrated in the flesh in Christ, is expanded and made even more clear in 1John 4:11: "Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." The body of Christ is meant to be different from society. It is meant to be the hands and feet for the selfless, giving love - agape love - that Christ demonstrated on the cross.

Over the past month, the body of Christ - as individuals and as churches, locally, across the country, and throughout the world - has shown agape love in responding to the needs of the thousands of people suffering as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Those who are receiving food and medical attention and housing may never know who provided for their needs. Most of those who have responded will never be recognized individually. Their names and photographs won't be on the evening news or in the weekly news magazines. Yet they will have made a profound difference in the lives of hurting people.

On a smaller but no less significant scale, we in the Emmaus community have an opportunity to show agape love to the pilgrims who come to an Emmaus walk. The pilgrims may never know who made their beds or filled their glasses or wrote them letters. The names and faces of those who served in so many ways won't be on the evening news. Yet the community will have made a profound and eternal difference in the lives of the pilgrims. And that's better than ice cream any day!

Decolores,

*Rosemary Blankenship*

Community Lay Director





The Board met prior to the September gathering with 13 members present. Secretary Diana Shiflett submitted the minutes from the August meeting. The minutes were approved. Treasurer Monica Warne reported a checking account balance of \$12,620.73 with \$7,287.13 in operating funds. Monica also reported that she is finalizing contracts with Camp Happyland for the upcoming fall walks.

Richard Warner has arranged a visit to Camp Happyland for E-60 and E-61 weekend lay directors and cha coordinators to see several newly constructed dormitories that may be used on the fall walks.

Steve Makely and Richard Warner are working on an inventory of community-owned equipment. Steve and Lola McDonald, Community Music Director, are leading a committee to research and to make recommendation to the board for purchase of additional equipment for community use.

John Shutlock is working with several community members to update our Fredericksburg Emmaus website. One goal of this group is to make our community

newsletter available in electronic format for those who prefer. This could save the community a considerable amount of money by reducing the number of newsletters mailed each month.

The Board finalized the gathering schedule for the remainder of 2005. The schedule appears in detail elsewhere in this newsletter. Please note that the November gathering is scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend to accommodate E-61 which is scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of that month. Please also note that a DDU is scheduled for November. Pilgrims must attend a DDU before they can sponsor or team. If you have sponsored pilgrims who have not yet attended a DDU or if you are sponsoring pilgrims on the upcoming fall walks, mark your calendar now and plan to accompany your pilgrims to the DDU.

If you have questions or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the Board. I look forward to seeing you in October.

*Rosemary Blankenship,*

Community Lay Director



All Hurricane Katrina victims & survivors and their families  
7 those who are helping  
Bob to have his shortness of breath healed  
Randy to be able to stop smoking  
The Atkinsons family in the loss of their husband and father  
Mark undergoing therapy for paralysis  
My new grandson's parents to become involved in a church  
A job for my daughter who is heading for divorce  
My children to get the right church  
A family member with cancer  
Our government  
Zinna who has a kidney infection  
Chickie who has breast cancer  
Billy with a brain tumor-pray it is not malignant  
My granddaughter to come back to the Lord.  
My sister and brother-in-law to forgive and open their hearts.  
Teachers and students.  
My daughter.  
My mother who is 98 and refuses to accept the help she needs.  
Theresa who has cancer.  
Glen.  
Willie recovering from surgery.  
Jill and Lynn and their families.  
Broken marriages to be healed.  
Our country, our president, and our troops overseas.  
The three Gibson boys who lost both their mother and father in a tragic accident.  
My son Brian to begin to trust God through the difficulties he is currently facing.  
My employer who struggles with cancer.  
My mother who grieves the loss of her husband

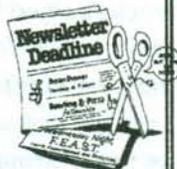
The Holy Spirit to lead my wife and I through a process of understanding and love.  
Comfort for those living in new homes and communities.  
Healing for our daughter who has been diagnosed with spinal stenosis.  
Richmond men's team 80 and women's team 81.  
Shirley's health.  
My dad John, an ALS patient, that he continues with his wonderful outlook on life.  
My mother that God gives her health and strength to help my dad.  
Our youth and youth leaders.  
Upcoming Emmaus walks & upcoming Ephiphany.  
My father James.  
Joshua, Tracey and Malachi.  
Amy as she seeks a job in October.  
Carol who has cancer.  
My completion of Bible college.  
E-60 and E-61 teaming.  
My parents-in-law.  
My grandson with speech problems.  
Janet's health.  
Church building expansion.  
Leadership development.  
Church conference.  
Sarah.  
Health.  
My wonderful wife Linda.  
Ruth's body to be healed in all ways.  
Carolyn and Sean that their troubles will be replaced by joy.  
Mary to not feel so much pain.  
Chris to get the job that will be right for him.  
Our church to reach more of your people in your name.  
Our families and marriages.  
Our pastors.  
Me to lead a team to the Hurricane Katrina area this month.

# PRAISING!

God blessing me through trials.  
My family, my husband and children.  
The addition of a "new son" - an exchange student from Germany living with us for 9 months.  
The team of E-61.  
My sister is trying to stop drinking.  
My health.  
Helping me so much in my rehab sessions for cardiac surgery.  
My husband Randy.  
My two sons.  
My Emmaus family.  
God who is good!  
The men leading E-60 & women leading E-61.  
All the help I had in time of need.  
A good medical check-up.  
A promotion of job title and a raise.  
Healing of rotator cuff tear.  
An opportunity to speak at Andrews Chapel and possibly at Edgewater.  
God putting the teams together according to his plan.  
A new grandson.  
Vacation time spent with family and friends.  
My wife to be teaming.  
Emmaus that brings us closer to Christ.  
The opportunity to team on E-61.

**DEADLINE** for submissions for the November newsletter is October 15<sup>th</sup> Please send your articles to editor:

Barbara Simpson  
9 Lockhart Circle.,  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401.  
Email: bnbsimpson@aol.com



## DIRECTIONS TO CAMP HAPPYLAND



Take Route 3 West (Culpeper) from both North and South exits of I-95. After you pass Central Park and Spotsylvania Mall in Fredericksburg, drive 7.5 miles west on Route 3. Turn right onto Route 610, Elys Ford Road. Drive 9 miles north on Route 610. Just prior to the green Richardsville sign, turn right on Route 619, Richards Ferry Road. Drive 1.3 miles to Happyland Drive. You will see a large Camp Happyland sign. Turn right into the Camp and proceed to the parking area.

Total distance from Central Park is about 18 miles.

Camp Happyland  
21457 Happyland Drive  
Richardsville, VA 22736  
Phone: (540-399-1197)  
FAX: (540) 399-1179

**See you there!**

## *Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,*

Summer vacation was the best when I was growing up. I could sleep late, ride my bike all day, and catch fireflies in the evening. I could stay up later and watch television without being asked by my Mom, "Have you done your homework?" Sporting a short sleeve tee shirt and shorts (shoes were optional), I lived the life of luxury as if I was on a Caribbean cruise.

Life was not all fun and games back then, however. I did have an afternoon paper route, grass to cut, and help my dad at his Service Station. On rainy days, I took my time delivering the fifty-seven "Richmond News Leader" newspapers to my customers, but on nice days, I raced to finish so I could spend the rest of the afternoon with my friends at the community pool.

One weekend, my cousin Larry and I were playing at my house. We were having such a great time, I asked my Mom if he could stay overnight. After checking with his Mom and my Dad, she agreed. We called it camping, but it was really a makeshift bed made up on the floor of our basement. There was a pool table and a Ping-Pong table in the basement, as well.

We were having a great time playing games, telling ghost stories, and listening to "Monkeys" records. My mom came down to check on us. She suggested that it was bed time, and we should turn out the lights. We did not put up a fuss, turned out the lights, and laid back with eyes wide open. We were both silent until Larry spoke up, "Are you sleepy?" "No, not at all! Are you sleepy?" I replied. My cousin let out a big sigh and said, "Well, what are we going to do now?" "I dun no, but whatever we do, we can't allow my parents to hear us." After a few minutes of silence, I mumbled, "It's hot in here.

I wish we could take a swim!" Larry eagerly replied, "Yeah, that would be swell!"

Instantly, we both sat up in bed, and stared wide-eyed at each other with sneaky grins on our faces. Without saying another word, we quietly changed into our clothes. We listened for a moment, as we slowly opened the basement door to the outdoors. Once we were in the backyard, we studied the window of my parent's bedroom. The lights were out, and no one was stirring. We turned and started an adventure of moving across town without being seen.

The small town was very quiet except for crickets, locusts, and a few dogs barking in the distance. We knew that we had to be very quiet as we walked in the shadows, down alleyways and backyards, stopping every few minutes to see if we were being followed or if house lights came on. There was a policeman on duty, so we had to stay off of the streets and sidewalks. If he were to spot us, he would surely wake up both of our parents, and we would be toast. Maybe he was taking a nap in the patrol car, with the two-way radio turned up loud enough to wake him if a call came in. He could be looking for us right now, because my parents must have awakened, checked on us, realized we were gone, and called the police. Dad would be angry, and mom would be crying. I would have to sleep on my stomach for weeks.

Minutes seemed like hours as we slowly walked down an alley, across yards, crossing a seemingly deserted street, finally reaching the railroad tracks behind the tobacco processing plant. We could travel faster once there, because there were no street lights. Passing behind the old town jail and under the Broad Street overpass, we never stopped looking over our shoulders.

The time came when we had to leave the tracks

and cut across several more yards. All of a sudden, a car went by. It was the first one we had seen all night. "Oh no, a police car!" I whispered. We ducked behind a stack of bricks and watched until it had crossed the overpass and made a right turn. Relieved that we no longer had to hold our breath, we stood up, breathed deeply, and let out a little laugh.

Climbing a fence, we walked under a few trees, staying in the shadows. The smell of pine rosin filled our nostrils, and pine tags stuck to our feet. Larry stopped me, and said, "I hear something!" Looking around, I noticed everything seemed quiet. Maybe it was a false sense of security, but I pressed on. The next tree seemed to come alive as a white bulldog came out from behind, running, snarling, and growling. "Oh no, It's old man Murphy's dog!" I screamed to myself! We made an about face, and ran so fast we were able to jump the fence we had carefully climbed earlier. I could see the bulldog's teeth shining in the moonlight as we ran down the alley. House lights came on, a screen door squeaked, and old man Murphy shouted at his dog, "Leave those squirrels alone! Get over here and stop all of that racket!" Almost out of breath, but refusing to stop running until we were safe, we laughed as we slipped over a hedge. It had been twice that night that we had been given a reprieve. I hoped the prize was worth all that we had to endure that night.

Time came when we had to cross another main street. Looking both ways, we knew the coast was clear. The moonlit night seemed to be still again as we skipped across the road and passed by the old gymnasium. Our only obstacle was a tall wire fence that we had to scale. It was no match for us. We were over it in no time. Only seconds passed as we stripped down to our shorts, and jumped into the community swimming pool. There was no splashing around, no hand stands, or water games. We laid on our

backs and soaked in the cool refreshing water as if we were two household sponges floating in mom's dish water. Unbelievable as it might seem, we were not disturbed. We enjoyed what we came for, and later slipped safely back through the night, back to my basement.

The bible tells me in Genesis 3:8 of Adam and Eve hiding from God: "Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden." I believe God knew where they were all along, but he called out to them anyway. Adam and Eve had to learn to take responsibility and confess their sin.

The next day, after Larry had gone home and my paper route was done, I rode my bike home. I walked in the back door, said hello to mom, went into the living room, turned on the television and sat down. Mom came in, stood next to me, and stated, "I washed your wet shorts and hung them out to dry." At that moment, I knew my mom knew what I had done. She looked into my eyes, and I shared the story of the moonlight swim.

This was the only time I ever slipped out of my home at night without my parent's permission. Maybe it was the fear of being caught again, or knowing I had accomplished something without being caught right away. But the real reason was, I knew I had done something wrong. I had placed myself in danger, and it weighed heavily on my conscience. No matter where I go, I can not hide from God. To tell the truth, I like that He is always at my side.

I pray that if there is anyone out there that thinks they are hiding from God, be assured that God knows where you are. He is waiting for you to come to Him. His arms are opened wide, and forgiveness is a breath away.

Your Brother in Christ, *Dennis Perkins*

## AGAPE BAGS . . Sew Beautiful!



Remember when you saw your agape bag for the first time? God filled that eye-catching bag with love letters just for you. Will you help make a pilgrim's walk special? You can buy brightly colored rainbow striped fabric (check the craft section at your local fabric store or WalMart), cording, bright shoelaces to donate. Or you can make agape bags; they are sew simple to make (12" wide and 15" tall, please). Say "I'll help!" - just call Diana Farrar at 540-372-7535 or e-mail her at HRHDiana@juno.com.

## PLACE MAT AGAPE . . . Help Needed

Would you like to add color to the place mats used by the pilgrims on their Walk to Emmaus?



Many hands are needed to get this wonderful form of agape ready for the fall weekends. The place mats are already preprinted . . . just waiting for color . . . with crayons, markers, colored pencils, etc.

### THIS SMALL COMMITMENT WILL HAVE A HUGE IMPACT ON THE PILGRIMS!

Do you already have some placemats? Please let Margaret know how many you have on hand. Placemats will be available for pickup at the next Gathering!

Questions???? Contact Margaret Filler at 540-582-5907 (H) or 540-850-6293 (C) or at [mfiller@adelphia.net](mailto:mfiller@adelphia.net)

### Fredericksburg Emmaus Board of Directors - 2005 - 2006

Blankenship, Rosemary	Comm. Lay Director
Shutlock, John	Asst Com Lay Director
Shiflett, Diana	Secretary
Staddan, Gary	Comm. Spiritual Dir.
Warne, Monica	Treasurer
Carwell, Jane	Makely, Steve
Cook, Terry	Reed, Joe
Dunn, Mark	Shiflett, Mike
Lawrence, Mark	Thomas, Ralph
LiCalzi, Vonda	Warner, Richard

### UPCOMING WEEKENDS

Emmaus 60	Oct. 20 <sup>th</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Emmaus 61	Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup>
Emmaus 62	Mar. 30 <sup>th</sup> - Apr. 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Emmaus 63	Apr. 27 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup>

### Next Gatherings

Nov. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Spotsylvania Presbyterian
Dec. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Chancellor Christian

## **Community Volunteers**

### **Community Lay Director - Rosemary Blankenship**

Lead Gatherings & Candlelight  
Host Weekend Sponsors' Hour/Closing  
Chair Emmaus Board  
Chair Pilgrim/Team Selection Committee  
Assign Nominating Committee Coordinator

### **Assistant Community Lay Director - John Shutlock**

Gathering Location Coordinator

### **Treasurer - Monica Warne**

### **Secretary - Diana Shiflett**

Manuals Coordinator - Gene Philipp  
Records/By-Laws Historian - Gene Philipp

### **Communications Coordinator - John Mann**

Newsletter - Barbara Simpson  
Database Coordinators - Dennis Warne & John Mann  
Team Registrar - Barbara Simpson  
Pilgrim Registrars - Pat & Dick Barnett

### **Gathering Support Coordinator - Jane Carwell**

Community Music Director - Lola McDonald  
Community Baker - Vacant  
Childcare Coordinator - Vacant  
Music Coordinator for Gatherings - Steve Makely

### **Weekend Support Coordinator - Brian Lewis**

Comm. Cha Coordinator - Richard Warner  
General Agape Coordinator - Monica Warne  
Prayer Vigil Coordinators - Jane Carwell  
Placemat Coordinator - Margaret Filler  
Snack Agape Coordinator - Vacant  
Agape Bag Coordinator - Diana Farrar  
Transportation Coordinator - Mo Moses  
Supplies Coordinator - Wes Pryce  
Fourth Day Packets - Rick and Susan Dillard



## Reunion Groups

Listed below are the reunion groups active in the Fredericksburg Emmaus Community. Please send new group information to Barbara Simpson, editor.

### Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Meets 7:30 PM Tuesdays  
 Prince Of Peace UMC  
 6299 Token Forest Drive  
 Manassas, Virginia  
 Contact: Lloyd Biller (703) 590-1512

### Pastor's Weekly Meeting

Meets 7:30 AM Tuesdays  
 Rotates - call for location  
 Contact: Mark Dunn (540) 786-4025

### Lakeside Reunion Group (Men)

Meets 8:00 PM Tuesdays  
 Lake Of the Woods - call for location  
 Contact : Vic Larson (540) 972-1928

### Rainbow Reunion Group (Women)

Meets 10:00 AM Alternate Thursdays  
 Lake Of the Woods - call for location  
 Contact : Barbara Miller (540) 972-7418

### His Seekers (Women)

Meets 7:30 PM Fridays  
 Woodbridge - Home of Jane Carwell  
 Contact: Sandy Crossley (703) 221-6977 or  
 Jane Carwell (703) 969-4019 for directions

### Koinonia Women's Reunion Group

Meets 9:00 AM Fridays  
 Lake of the Woods - call for location  
 Contact: Barbara Larson (540) 972-1928

### Amazing Grace Reunion Group

Meets 8:30 PM Thursdays  
 Hillcrest UMC  
 Contact : Ed McAdam (540) 898-3625  
 e-mail to emcadam@cox.net

### Bethel UMC Men's Group

Meets 7:30 AM Sundays  
 Bethel UMC, Woodbridge  
 Contact: Brian Lewis (703) 590-9343  
 e-mail to bb3253@AOL.com

### Lord's Lions & Lambs Reunion Group

Meets 6:30 PM Wednesdays  
 First Christian Church  
 Contact: Gene Philipp (540) 898-4917  
 e-mail GeneDiPhil@aol.com

### Remington Gathering

Meets 7:00 PM First Saturday  
 Remington UMC  
 Every 3<sup>rd</sup> month:  
 March, June, September, December

Contact: Dawn Borja (540) 825-1587 or  
 email: dborja@marykay.com

### **Interested in joining or starting a new reunion group?**

Call Sandy Crossley at 703-221-6977 or email  
 her at slcrossley13@msn.com

## REAL HEROES - A DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Sometimes I enjoy watching a good sports event on TV. The Super Bowl is past history as are the Olympics. Many Americans have been and will be glued to their sets cheering for their team(s) and selecting their heroes to put on a special pedestal.

Sometimes I enjoy watching a good movie on TV (admittedly many are not worth watching). We all follow the drama closely hoping certain events will occur with the ending we desire. In the process we find heroes to "cheer" and villains to "dislike".

When I consider our heroes in sports and in the movies I have to stop and think more carefully. These people are paid a whole lot more than you and I. Some end up being poor role models. They became a hero because they can hit a ball, throw one through a hoop, run over a stripe on a field, or portray someone they aren't. In a sense they are all removed from the real "nitty gritty" of everyday life as you and I know it. We only see their public image, but don't really know who they are in their personal lives.

Perhaps we should look again. Maybe REAL HEROES are all around us, but we haven't seen them. The real hero is the mother (job outside the home or not) who takes care of her family in a hundred and one ways, works until late at night with household and children's activities, and then sits up with a sick child at three in the morning. The real hero is the World War II veteran who spent months away from his family either in the Pacific or Europe and literally went through "hell under bombardment" not knowing if he would live or die. The real hero is the person who goes about his job responsibly and faithfully for many years hoping to make a difference, but not knowing the big picture down the road. Come to think of it, real heroes are indeed all around us. One may be you whether you feel that way or not!

In fact we have many unsung heroes in the church. Your Sunday School teacher has to put in time in preparation and then smile for the class even when he or she is hurting on the inside: Our church leaders serve so faithfully without complaining. Maybe one of these could be our role model or hero?

The ultimate hero must be Jesus Christ. His character is something that all of us can look up to and try to copy. He was kind and loving to those in need yet very strong in facing the religious leaders of His day. He lived as an example to His disciples knowing that death on a cross was approaching.

In light of what I have written, I think I will re-examine who the REAL HEROES are amongst us!!

*Gary Staddan*