

Upper Room Emmaus

Of the Greater Fredericksburg Area

Vol. 5

May 2006

*And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us,
And establish the work of our hands. Psalm 90:17*

Women's Emmaus #63 Team

Debbie Avis Woodbridge Christian
Sandra Coney Tower of Deliverance
Kate Cook Beaverdam UMC
Terry Cook Fredericksburg UMC
Sandra Crossley All Saints Episcopal
Terri Davies Chancellor Christian
Donna Devericks Fairview Baptist Ch
Debbie Devine Lake of the Woods
Susan Dillard Chancellor Christian
Christopher Fair Antioch UMC
Cindy Flickinger Ebenezer UMC
Maria Fortune Shepherd's UMC
Kathryn Gorenflo Fishersville Baptist Ch
Dawn Kendall Fredericksburg UMC
Jody Lewandowski Fredericksburg UMC
Vonda LiCalzi.....Prince of Peace UMC

Sandie Makely Trinity UMC
Lola McDonald Woodbridge Christian
Becky Patrick Fairview Baptist Ch
Susan Perkins Prince of Peace UMC
Dianne Philipp First Christian Church
LaZalia Richardson....Shilo Bapt New Site
Gary Staddan First Christian Church
Mary Sudduth.....Ebenezer UMC
Becky Thode Chancellor Christian
Charles Tillapaugh Wrights Chapel UMC
Christine Tillman Stafford Crossing
Monica Warne.....First Christian Church
Monica Weadon Fairview Baptist Ch
Sandy Williams Fairview Baptist Ch
Valerie Wiss Fairview Baptist Ch
Sandy Yates Fairview Baptist Ch

DDU & Gathering

Day of Deeper Understanding and new board
members to be elected.

When: May 13th, 2006

Where: Hillcrest UMC

Time: DDU begins at 3:00 pm
Potluck dinner at 5:30 pm
Gathering at 6:15 pm
Board will meet at 12:30 pm

Attendance at a DDU is required to sponsor,
team or serve on the Board.

AGAPE ALERT

Please include five
additional "no-name"
agape in case of last
minute changes to the
pilgrim list. Thank you!

Women's Emmaus #63 Pilgrims

Cynthia Arkord	Ark Ministries Ch of God
Ann Adkins	Fairview Baptist
Jean Allen.....	Colonial Baptist Church
Gwen Anderson	Cornerstone Baptist
Angel Arnold	Remington UMC
Karen Bean.....	Mt Zion Methodist
Robin Bell	Morrisville UMC
Amy Bishop	Grace UMC Hartwood
Samantha Blackburn	Grace Church Frdbg
Debbie Bliss	Hillcrest UMC
Deborah Chambers.....	Old Bridge UMC
Ellen Chapman.....	Shepherd's UMC
Shirley Cornwell	Lake of the Woods
Ashley Curtis	The Church at White Oak
Michelle Earnest	Wilderness Comm Ch
Linda Fallin.....	Ebenezer UMC
Janet Grimsley	Grace UMC Hartwood
Wendy Guizar	Salem Fields Comm Ch
Jessica Headley	The Church at White Oak
Sue Hovey	Fairview Baptist
Becky Johnson	Fairview Baptist
Terri Leitem	Henderson UMC
Tanya Lopez.....	Grace Memorial Ch
Camille MacGregor	Tabernacle UMC
Betty Moyers.....	Fairview Baptist
Dolly Murdock.....	Tapp Mem UMC
Marsha Nolan.....	Ebenezer UMC
Felicia Russ.....	Fairview Baptist
Janet Ryder.....	Mt Zion Methodist
Eva Sachs	Dahlgren UMC
Cathy Scruggs	Shepherd's UMC
Jolynn Swift	Grace UMC Hartwood
Amy Talmadge.....	Presbyterian Ch - Frdbg
Mary Usher	Maranatha SDA Church
Sara View.....	First Baptist – Southern
Donna Wells.....	Fairview Baptist



Schedule for Women's Emmaus #63

Date	Time	Activity at Camp Happyland
Thur. 5/4/06	6:30 – 7:00 pm	Pilgrim check-in followed by Sponsor's Hour
Sat. 5/6/06	7:30 pm	Candlelight – Community will gather for praise, Communion & fellowship. Please bring flowers for the team to use Sunday morning!
Sun. 5/7/06	4:00 pm*	Closing Service

***Please note change of time**

From the Lay Director...

As I read the Upper Room's Lenten Reflection for April 8, I was struck by these words:

"Our times cry out for a mass movement of compassion. This urgent need coincides with the goal of the Christ-following life, for unless our faith makes us compassionate, it can hardly be called Christian."

Well, of course, I thought, who could argue with that? Haven't we all witnessed situations that "cry out" for compassion? We can see the need every day on our televisions and in our newspapers. And of course we have compassion! "Those poor people," we may say. "How awful!" "Someone should do something for them." "I must remember to pray for them." Then we shake our heads and go about our business. Long-distance compassion is easy.

But what about those situations we actually see all around us every day? What about the neighbor who lost her job? Or the co-worker whose child is sick? Or your teenager's best friend who seems so full of anger? Or the family living in the homeless shelter? Or the pregnant teenager in your church? Close-up compassion is harder.

Compassion is more than an emotion. It's more than feeling sympathy for another's situation. True compassion requires an effort to alleviate another's suffering. The gospel accounts of Jesus' ministry say repeatedly that Jesus "had compassion" for people. When he had compassion, he didn't just say, "How awful!" He did something about it. He fed people who were hungry. He healed people who were sick. He taught lost people how to find life everlasting.

If we are to be followers of Christ, we, too, must "do something about it." Think about the Christian Action talk you heard on your weekend. "Make a friend, be a friend, bring your friend to Christ." The talk isn't called "Christian ACTION" for nothing! Christian action is intentional. It requires a plan. The world is crying out. What can we do today to show compassion?

Rosemary Blankenship

For just as the BODY without the SPIRIT is dead,
so FAITH without works is also dead.
James 2:26



June Newsletter
Submissions Deadline is
5/20/06

Please send to:
brooke@fergumungus.com

UPCOMING WEEKENDS

Walk

Emmaus 63 (W)
Emmaus 64 (M)
Emmaus 65 (W)

Dates

May 4 – May 7, 2006
Oct 5 – Oct 8, 2006
Nov 9 – Nov 12, 2006

Lay Director

Sandie Makely
Dennis Warne
Monica Warne

Praises & Petitions

PRAISES:

E-62's wonderful weekend
 The team of E-63
 Family
 God's love, mercy and grace
 Our marriage
 Financial worries gone
 Kitti
 My husband's health
 Grace's college acceptance
 Craig and Tony's walk
 All of God's awesome work
 God's work in my husband's life
 God's protection of my daughter
 My wife
 I love you God
 The health of my beautiful daughter

My job – the joy to be able to do what I love
 Our new brothers who joined our community after E-62
 The opportunity to sponsor a friend on E-62
 Those unnamed souls who do the work of God
 The love and kindness in the Emmaus community
 My wife and I being closer than ever before
 The love and support of my family on a daily basis
 The church family who have visited my mom Anne and for
 God's healing
 A wonderful wife Terry and two great kids, Jonathan and
 Emmaleigh
 Roger's walk on E-62 and becoming the spiritual leader of our
 family
 God's presence and comfort in so many situations
 God, my parents, Terry, and the staff of The Downtown Salon

PETITIONS:

Sophia
 Epiphany team – Hanover 13
 Bob
 The Emmaus community
 My mother-in-law Anne
 My friend John
 My son Charles
 My wife and me
 Bethel UMC
 Ann's health
 Le's health
 Redemption for family
 My whole family
 The Williams
 My church
 Linnea's health
 Gene's doctor visit
 The Church at White Oak
 Emmaus leadership
 Youth and Chrysalis
 Lost loved ones
 An abusive husband

Continued healing for Jackie
 Garrett to be saved
 My soon to be baby
 My job
 Doug to fully surrender
 Our finances
 My family to mend
 The church
 My wife
 Randy's leg and back
 Angela
 Van ministry
 Missions
 Healing for Patricia
 Brian
 Peace, health, and love
 Healing for LeRoy
 My health – lump in breast
 Peace in our home
 Joseph to get here safe
 Jill and Lynn and their families
 Brother Chuck

Daughter and son-in-law
 My wife's parents
 My new job
 Carol and Kristy
 E-63 pilgrims and team
 Bill and his family
 Ruth's father and brother
 All non-believers
 Ron who is not very well
 Darrel who is looking for work
 Unsaved loved ones
 Our son to find a good job
 Family's walk with Christ
 Karol's surgery
 Pilgrims of E-62 in their 4th day
 Jim and Jackie
 Jackie's mom
 Son-in-law's new job
 My family
 My sister-in-law's health

God to bless and direct the youth department at Woodbridge Christian Church
 My brothers and sisters to be strengthened with love in their hearts instead of the hatred they now harbor
 Fairview Baptist to be strong and focused on our mission and to help our ministries grow to do God's work at the Family Life Center
 The DeFilippo family whose husband Gene died after being diagnosed with cancer two weeks ago
 God to show us what church to join or to give us a church to pastor
 My wife Gerri to continue to stay healthy and that all of her tests show nothing unusual
 Stu whose wife Daneale went to be with the Lord after a battle with cancer

PETITIONS continued:

The DeFilippo family whose husband Gene died after being diagnosed with cancer two weeks ago
John that the Lord continues to bring peace to him while he is suffering with ALS
Another bountiful postal service food drive on the second Saturday in May
LeRoy, Kitti's dad, as he adjusts to the loss of his wife of 58 years
Healing for Rebecca, my 15 month old grandniece in Atlanta with a large neuroblastoma in her abdomen

My daughter to make Godly choices in her life
Our daughter to do well on her final exams
My granddad is now home with the Lord
My prayer life to be strengthened
Focus on my study habits
Nancy as she copes with cancer
Mike, Gray and Nick as they follow God's path
Men and women in the U.S. armed forces
My husband's involvement in Emmaus
Godly mates for all our children
Land for Mike – that God would show us where he wants us
Satan to be kept out of our lives
My upcoming move and insight/guidance on a roommate
My parents as my stress is passed on to them
Rob and Brigitte, still displaced after Hurricane Rita
My mother and living through Alzheimer's
My mom Anne as she recovers from two heart attacks
Scholarship or grant for Erica to attend VCU
Trow for high blood pressure and knee problems
Healing of my husband's broken foot
Those who don't know God and Jesus' sacrifice
My brother Glenn to return to worshipping at a church again

Healing for John, Sr. and John Jr.
Our church's building committee to do God's will
E-64's proposed team and pilgrim applications
My sister to continue to seek Christ
Revival and healing and cleansing in our churches
My husband's continued good health
Our son as he is going through some tough times
Donna, Tony, Marty, and Gay Lynn
The Briggs family to surrender to Christ
God to handle our situation in Louisiana
Our son, his wife, and unborn baby
Dee Dee with MS
J.J.'s safe return from Germany
My church through a difficult problem
Healing for Margaret and Jackie
Mr. Trembly whose wife Dianne passed away
Safe flight home from Australia for my wife
God's comfort upon my father-in-law in the death of his wife
Cija to come to work at my salon
Thea as she has just lost her husband of 58 years
Matthew to be delivered from homosexuality
Mark to be restored in relationship to us
Tracy to be comforted after her mom has passed away
Janice to be delivered from cocaine and all addictions

Please visit the Fredericksburg Emmaus Community's new website. The address is <http://fredwalk.org>. You'll find lots of information about our Community and our Walks. You'll be able to interactively post your prayer concerns and praises for the entire community to see.

We are now posting the monthly Newsletters on the website so you may download them at any time.

We would also encourage you to sign up for the Community's mailing list. When you do, you'll receive the monthly Newsletter via email and you'll be able to read it about a week before the regular copy arrives in the mail. Signing up for email delivery won't stop your paper copy unless you request us to stop. You will also receive other information such as the final Pilgrim roster for each Walk.

To subscribe to our mailing list, send an email to:

listserv@list.fredwalk.org <<mailto:listserv@list.fredwalk.org>>

In the body of the email type: **subscribe news**

That's all there is to it. You will be immediately added to the Newsletter mailing list using the email account that you used to subscribe.

Agape Training

Mark Lawrence

Our Purpose: From the Upper Room: The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servant hood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all." **From our By-Laws:** The purpose of the Fredericksburg Emmaus shall be to inspire, challenge, and equip church members for Christian action, in their homes, churches, places of work, and the world community through the Emmaus experience.

Definition of agape: Agape is a Greek term for unconditional love. It has nothing to do with the worthiness or attractiveness of the receiver. It proceeds from the heart of the giver. Agape love is given with nothing expected in return. You can say, "with no strings attached."

Many types of Agape can be found on an Emmaus weekend but for our purposes here I am going to concentrate on general agape. General Agape is that cool stuff that is given to all pilgrims to demonstrate our unconditional love for them. It should be remembered, what you do for one should be done for all, and should be of equal quality and distribution. Some who are short of time may want to give only to members of their own church, but we want every pilgrim to be treated equally. We want for no one pilgrim to be singled out to receive more than someone else. General agape is distributed for Friday Bag, Friday Bed, Saturday Bed and Sunday going home. There is no such thing as Thursday night Agape since the principle of agape love has not yet been introduced.

For improved quality and effectiveness of agape, things that are hand made or hand written have a dynamic impact. Things that are personalized and signed by hand are next best. This shows that you took time to personally address and pray for each pilgrim. Things that are printed on a computer or otherwise mass-produced are less effective. Also, items that are purchased from places like Oriental Trading Company are nice and accepted, but I think you need to examine them closely for their individual merit and value. Remember, all agape should be Christ centered, Display Christ's love in some way and otherwise build on one's Christian walk. Agape should be edifying and up lifting, not just a toy or gadget. I want to pause here and just say how much I personally appreciate everything the community does for agape. Some of you are truly ingenious, industrious and creative in the things you contribute. You clearly are more gifted and have more time than I have to put these things together.

To help the team and Chas: 1) Please put agape in alphabetical order if names are included. Remember that literally thousands of pieces of agape are being handled in any given weekend.

2) Label it according to the time you'd like it distributed if you want it given at a certain time.

3) No strings attached. Anything with strings should be placed in individual plastic bags. Inexpensive sandwich bags are good for this. I was once given the task of untangling some lanyards that had the pilgrim's names attached by little cardboard price tags on three-inch strings and that had been put into a single paper bag. I spent over an hour untangling this mess. For those of you that have teamed you know that an hour on a weekend can be an enormous chunk of time.

4) Make sure there is enough for all pilgrims. Agape for the team is optional and even discouraged in some cases. Team members have already been on their weekend and therefore receive a lower priority.

Some people have recently suggested that we should concentrate more on the quality of the agape in place of quantity. It is believed there would be less labor required to sort it and it could have a higher impact on the pilgrim. This is a suggestion to think about.

The national model encourages us not to sign the things you provide for general or table agape. Personally, I think it is a great way for new members to get acquainted with community members. I have heard comments from pilgrims from time to time like, "Who is this Brian Lewis guy?" Or more recently, "Who are Mark and Janet Dunn?" I believe it inspires our new members to seek out the current members so that they get acquainted. You need to make your own decisions on this one.

Please remember that these are guidelines and suggestions, not hard fast rules. Please consider the purpose of agape and pray about what you are providing. Pray for each pilgrim as you work on your agape. And send out your love ... No strings attached.

FREDERICKSBURG EMMAUS BOARD ELECTION

New board members will be elected at the gathering on May 13, 2006, at Hillcrest United Methodist Church. If you cannot be at the gathering, you may submit this as an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots must be received by Thursday, May 11, 2006. Mail absentee ballots to:

Fredericksburg Emmaus
P.O. Box 42094
Fredericksburg, VA 22404

Men: Two 3-year terms, one 1-year term – Vote for 3

_____ Dan Dietze

_____ Rick Dillard

_____ Dave Olds

_____ Ralph Williams

Women: Two 3-year terms – Vote for 2

_____ Gerri Bartman

_____ Sandie Makely

_____ Barbara Olds

_____ Sharon Smith

Spiritual Director: One 3-year term – Vote for 1

_____ Jim Muhlenkamp

Board to elect new members in May!

Candidates for two men 3-year positions & one man 1-year position:

Dan Dietze: I walked on National Capital Area Emmaus Community in 1992 on Emmaus 47. I have served on many teams on NCA as well as Loudoun Valley and Maryland. I have also served on Chrysalis teams. I was on the NCA Chrysalis board for 5 years as treasurer. I have served on 3 Fredericksburg teams, the last one being April of last year on E-58. At Trinity United Methodist Church in King George I am serving on Staff Parish Relations and have been a Youth group leader for the past two years. I have been the Ashland District United Methodist Men President for the last two years and I am looking for a change of pace next year.

Rick Dillard: I attend Chancellor Christian Church, Spotsylvania VA. My local church involvement includes Sunday School Superintendent, Youth Director, and a member of the praise and worship team. I'm currently under discipleship of my pastor Mark Dunn preparing for ordination to the eldership of Chancellor Christian. I'm also currently completing my BA in Christian education through Freedom Bible College and Seminary in Rogers Arkansas under an external degree program. My plans are to continue to prepare for pastoral ministry. My involvement in the Emmaus community includes walking on FE 53, serving on teams 55, 60, & 62. I'm also participating on the music teams at gatherings and along with my wife Susan serve in preparing the fourth day packets.

Dave Olds: I walked on Fredericksburg Emmaus #9 in November 1993. I have teamed on 9 teams and was the WLD for Walk #40 in March 2001. I have previously served on the Emmaus Board from 1997 - 2000 where I held the Treasurer position. I'm a member of First Christian Church (on Historic Washington Avenue) where I'm a deacon and hold the Stewardship & Finance position on the FCC board.

Ralph Williams: I have served as a member of Fairview Baptist Church for the past thirty years. I am currently serving as a deacon and as assistant treasurer. I was a past treasurer for ten years. I now serve on a committee for the funding and construction of a Family Life Center for our church. I enjoy mission work that is involved with construction. This past January I participated in a twelve-member mission team from our church that helped build an orphanage in Tuxtepec, Mexico. I had the pleasure to walk on E33. I teamed on E55 and E60 and served as a table leader. Since my walk in the fall of 1999, I have enjoyed many times being a cha. I am blessed by a group of men that have walked to Emmaus and that meet every Saturday morning at our church in a reunion group.

Candidates for two women 3-year positions:

Gerri Bartman: I walked on FE 56 and teamed on FE 59 and FE 61, I attend Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of The Holy Family, Washington D.C. My church activities include Rosary Altar Society and substitute religious education teacher. My community involvement/activities include Make a Wish Foundation, March of Dimes, Cancer Society, Alzheimer's Association, Parents Association. I'm married with 2 children.

Sandra (Sandie) Makely: I walked on E44 and have served on teams in various capacities since then, such as Assistant Table Leader, Table Leader, Agape Coordinator and Assistant Lay Director. I have alsocha'd when not teaming and enjoy making agape for the pilgrims and team. I group every other Thursday with three very spirit-filled ladies. I am currently the Weekend Lay Director for E63. I am active in my church, Trinity United Methodist Church in King George, and serve as the Treasurer and as a lay speaker. I love to serve every summer as a mentor at All God's Children Camp for children of incarcerated mothers.

Barbara Olds: I walked on Fredericksburg Emmaus #10 in December 1993. I have teamed on 7 different teams and was the WLD for Walk #41 in April 2001. I have previously served on the Emmaus Board from 1997 - 2000. I've also served as the Chrysalis Lay Director. I'm a member of First Christian Church (On Historic Washington Avenue of course) where I sing in the choir and the praise band.

Sharon Smith: I walked on E28 and have served on several teams in various capacities since then, such as Assistant Table Leader, Table Leader, Asst. Cha Coordinator and Assistant Lay Director. I was the placemat coordinator for 2 years for the community; I have alsocha'd when not teaming and enjoy making agape for the pilgrims and team. I am active in my church, Fairview Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, where I serve as the 11:00 children's Sunday School director and work with the Acteens. I also help out every summer with VBS at my church.

Candidate for one spiritual director 3-year position:

Jim Muhlenkamp: Associate pastor at North Stafford Baptist Church. Walked on E-40. Teamed as a spiritual director on E-49, E-51, E-52, E-55, and E-59.

MY MOTHER



If I asked you to tell about someone who influenced your life a great deal, whom would you pick? For many the answer would be their mother. I have been influenced by many people over the years. Certainly one of the most influential in my early learning, growth and maturation was my mother. Unfortunately, she died on September 11, 1985. Therefore, she did not see our girls grow into adults and have their own families.

Most of us have fond memories of our mothers. When I was a little boy, my mother was always there to hug, teach, kiss my bruises, heal my hurt feelings and tell me that she loved me. At an early age she told me that my toys needed to go on the shelf in my room. Those with many parts had a designated box. When I had finished playing, each piece was to go back in the box ready to be used the next time. I have continued this practice ever since.

It was my mother who taught me kindness and fair play. I was to treat other people and animals with care and love. Over the years I have found that everyone has feelings, hopes, joys and sorrows. We all should treat one another according to the Golden Rule.

One day my mother mentioned a new subject to me. It was called "history". She explained that I had not taken it in school yet, but that she knew I would love it (either she knew I would like it or she feared the opposite and decided to take the positive approach). Whichever was the case, I am fascinated with the subject! She was right again!

When something new was about to happen, she would sit down and explain it to me. This helped a great deal in being ready for the new experience and feeling like we were in partnership. (Perhaps this should be done more with today's children.)

My mother frequently expressed love for me either verbally or by giving a hug. She did this until the day she died. (Sometimes children are criticized too much and not shown enough love.)

A few months after my tenth birthday, I decided to invite Christ into my life, be baptized and join the church. Mother explained that we would have to attend church each Sunday. Whether she desired to go all along or wanted to get me started right is still unknown. I accepted Christ and we attended each Sunday thereafter.

When I decided to study for the ministry, my mother was supportive. She probably preferred for me to stay in this country. However, she did know and trust the person I would be studying under in Brisbane. She wrote weekly for seven plus years until we returned to the US and settled in New Mexico.

All of this is to remind us that Mother's Day is the second Sunday of May each year. I wish I could hug my mother now and tell her how much she has influenced my adulthood because of those early years. If your mother is still alive, I would recommend you go out of your way to let her know how much you love her.

Thank God For Mothers.
Gary

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

"Watch out or you will get "cooties," the children chanted as Lisa walked in.

Math, reading, writing, and history were not the only lessons I studied in the sixth grade. I learned how cruel children could be to their peers. Due to an illness, I had been out of the classroom for two years. I had forgotten the pecking order that took place in the school classroom. I was shocked to see so many of my classmates fighting for the top position.

When I was growing up, every classroom seemed to have one student that was picked on and teased unmercifully. They were shunned from playground activities, sporting events, and sitting with the in-crowd in the lunchroom. They were given undesirable names like "Cootie, Booger, Tadpole, and Fatty." My heart goes out to the thousands of children that have missed the joy of school friendships and activities, because of childhood insensitivity.

I remember a student in my class rubbing a thumbtack briskly on a schoolbook until it became very hot. Using the element of surprise, he placed the head of the tack on a girl's neck. The girl let out a yell, and most of the children laughed. The girl suffered a big red burn mark on her neck. She became the focus of teasing for weeks.

One of the popular writing instruments during the sixth grade was a fountain pen. It was a cool writing implement that required a plastic refillable ink cartridge. Writing with this pen complimented your handwriting on school projects. The downside of using this pen was that it leaked when held down too long, or if you moved your hand too quickly. I watched as a boy in class unscrewed his pen and slung it in front of a classmate's face. The girl was humiliated as she attempted to wash the ink from her face.

Lisa was a typical fifth grader. She smiled most of the time, and her head of long brown hair swayed from side to side when she walked. She giggled when asked a question. She was just like the rest of us. She was a student trying to make good grades, friends, and enjoy school. She was not part of the in-crowd, however and soon became the brunt of cruel jokes. Anytime she entered the room or joined a crowd, students would chant, "Here comes Lisa! Watch out or you will get cooties!"

My heart goes out to the countless children that were robbed of a joyful school experience because of the insensitivity of the "in-crowd" and "clicks." Just think of the rewards that could have been celebrated if everyone was included. New talents would have been discovered and new friendships would have been formed.

When I was welcomed into the Christian community, I was shocked to discover many men and women practicing exclusion within the church and church-sponsored activities. I watched as selected men and women were excluded, because they were "different." In other words, everyone is welcome to come to church, but not to participate in all of the activities. In my effort to pass the word about bible study classes, I have asked church members if they were going to participate in a particular class. The response I received was, "Oh, I do not attend classes when (blank) attends." I would ask, "Why?" The typical response would be, "Oh, he snorts when he laughs." or "Don't you remember what he did (blank)?"

There have been countless times in a class setting when I was paired with someone that had been previously left out. I felt nervous, because of all of the degrading stories I had been told. Joy filled my heart as I was blessed by getting to know this person. I remember thinking how I would have missed out, if I had not met this man that God had made in His image.



"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." In John 3:16, God gave His son for the world, not a select few. His sacrifice was

for everyone. There is a place for everyone in God's world. Prejudice is a learned behavior. We are not born with prejudice. It is taught. I believe that being a Christian means we become willing to accept every child of God (with all their similarities and their differences).

I believe if the child and adult were able to speak, they would say, "Please do not call me names. There is nothing funny about drawing attention to my pain. If there is something that I have done wrong, offer me your forgiveness. This is supposed to be the house where all of God's children are welcome. All I want is to be included. I want to serve the Lord with you. I want to learn how to follow Jesus. Put me in the game, I want to play."

The children in my class decided they were not going to tolerate bullies ruling the class. We made Lisa our friend by inviting her to our parties and including her when we played on the playground. If a child would tease her with name-calling, we would stand with her and stop it. This resulted in new friendships forming, and the bullying stopping.

I believe the "Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi says it best: "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen"

Can you think of a time when you were involved in a group that excluded someone? Did you challenge the injustice? W.W.J.D.?

Your Brother in Christ,

Dennis Perkins
nothinglikeflyin@aol.com

Board News...

The Board met at 3:30 pm on April 8, 2006, prior to the monthly gathering. All board members were present.

Diana Shiflett presented the minutes of the March 2006 meeting. The minutes were accepted as submitted. Monica Warne presented the financial report for March. The operating fund has a current balance of \$1,567.05. The financial report was accepted.

The board discussed ways to improve communication within the community. The community depends heavily on volunteers to make sure that all the elements that go into ensuring a successful weekend are taken care of. The board is moving more toward being a working board. Some progress has been made with the board liaison positions with music, training, and gathering activities. The board will continue to consider areas that may benefit from liaison positions and work toward the goal of a specific area of responsibility for each board member.

Dennis Warne submitted the report from the nominating committee. The names and brief biographies of nominees for board positions appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

The May and June gatherings will be at Hillcrest United Methodist Church. The next DDU is May 13. The schedule of events for the DDU appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

The next board meeting will be 12:30 pm on May 13th at Hillcrest.

Community Volunteers & Board of Directors

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 **Richard Warner***

Gathering Location Coordinator

Community Spiritual Director **Gary Staddan***

Treasurer **Monica Warne***

Secretary **Diana Shiflett***

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

Communications Coordinator **Dennis Warne***

Newsletter **Brooke Ferguson**
Database Coordinator **John Mann**
Team Registrar **Barbara Simpson**
Pilgrim Registrars **Pat & Dick Barnett**

Gathering Support Coordinator **Jane Carwell***

Community Music Director **Lola McDonald**
Community Baker **Kitti Mann**
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 **Mike Shiflett***
Agape Bag Coordinator **Diana Farrar**
Transportation Coordinator **Mo Moses**
Supplies Coordinator **Wes Pryce**
Fourth Day Packets **Rick and Susan Dillard**
Fourth Day Coordinator **Dick Barnett**
Reunion Group Coordinator **Sandy Crossley**

Additional Board Members

Terry Cook*

Mark Dunn*

Keith Lauer*

Vonda LiCalzi*

Mark Lawrence*

Ralph Thomas*

***Board of Directors 2005-2006**

Active Reunion Groups in the Fredericksburg Emmaus Community

SUNDAY

Bethel UMC Men's Group 7:30 am
 Bethel UMC
 Woodbridge
 Brian Lewis 703-590-9343
 bb3253@aol.com

Interested in joining or starting a new reunion group?

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

TUESDAY

Great Is Thy Faithfulness 7:30 pm
 Prince of Peace UMC
 6299 Token Forest Drive
 Manassas, VA
 Lloyd Biller 703-590-1512

Pastor's Weekly Meeting 7:30 am
 Call for location
 Mark Dunn 540-786-4025

Lakeside Reunion Group (Men) 8:00 pm
 Lake of the Woods – Call for location
 Vic Larson 540-972-1928

WEDNESDAY

Lord's Lions & Lambs Reunion Group 6:30 pm
 First Christian Church
 Gary Staddan 540-373-7716
firstchristianchurch@verizon.net

THURSDAY

Amazing Grace Reunion Group 8:30 pm
 Hillcrest UMC
 Ed McAdam 540-898-3625
emcadam@cox.net

His Joyful Croakers 9:00 am
 Hillcrest UMC
 June Riel 540-710-5949

(ALTERNATE THURSDAYS)

Rainbow Reunion Group (Women) 10:00 am
 Lake of the Woods – Call for location
 Barbara Miller 540-972-7418

FRIDAY

Koinonia Women's Reunion Group 9:00 am
 Lake of the Woods – Call for location
 Barbara Larson 540-972-1928

His Seekers (Women) 7:30 pm
 Home of Jane Carwell – Woodbridge
 Sandy Crossley 703-221-6977 or
 Jane Carwell 703-969-4019

Upper Room Emmaus of the
Greater Fredericksburg Area
PO Box 42094
Fredericksburg, VA 22404

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Directions to Camp Happyland:

21457 Happyland Drive
Richardsville, VA 22736

From Central Park in Fburg: Drive 7.5 miles west on Route 3. Turn right (North) on Route 610, Elys Ford Road. Drive 9 miles north on Route 610. Just prior to the green Richardsville sign, turn right (East) on Route 619, Richards Ferry Road. Drive 1.3 miles to Happyland Drive. You will see a large Camp Happyland sign on the right side of the road. Turn right into the Camp and proceed to the parking area. Total distance from Central Park is about 18 miles.

Directions to Hillcrest United Methodist Church: 2208 Lafayette Boulevard
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
(540) 898-2180

From I-95: Take the Massaponax Exit 126 heading North on Route 1 to Four-Mile Fork. Turn right onto Lafayette Blvd. Continue approx 1.5 miles on Lafayette Blvd. to Hillcrest UMC on the left.