

Upper Room Emmaus

Of the Greater Fredericksburg Area

www.fredwalk.org

Vol. 12

December 2009

UPCOMING EMMAUS WEEKENDS

<u>Walk #</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Weekend Lay Director</u>
E-78 (M)	Mar 18 – 21, 2010	Art Blankenship
E-79 (W)	Apr 29 – May 2, 2010	Becky Patrick

Do you want to team in the Spring of 2010?

Submit an application now! You can download a form from fredwalk.com or contact the team registrar at k4guj@aol.com.

New community members will need to submit an application and be sure to attend the 4th Day Follow-Up in January 2010.

Help Wanted

The Fredericksburg Emmaus Community is looking for volunteers to fill several vacant coordinator positions, (please see the Volunteer Page). The Supplies Coordinator position is now open. If you are interested in serving in any capacity, please contact Becky Thode at beckythode@comcast.net. Thank you!

The next Gatherings

(Second Saturday of each month)

Dec 12th **Chancellor Christian Church**

Fourth Day Speaker will be Jay McDaniel and Music Leader will be Lola McDonald

Jan 9th **First Christian Church of Fredericksburg**

Fourth Day Speaker will be Ava Hanger

Fourth Day Follow Up will be held in January 16th from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Fellowship at 3:30 pm Gathering at 4:00 pm Board will meet at 1:30 pm

Please bring snack food to share during fellowship time

We are looking for churches to host Gatherings for 2010. If you are your church's Point of Contact for hosting, please email our ACLD Dick Barnett at k4guj@aol.com so arrangements can be made."

Thoughts from the Community Lay Director...

As we enter into the Christmas season, I want to thank everyone for all you do in support of our Emmaus community. Without all of the volunteers for teaming, agape, sponsoring, praying, etc., we could not do the work God has blessed us with doing for the pilgrims during the Weekends.

The board will hold a work session in January to examine how we can keep our covenant agreement with the Upper Room, and how the guidelines can be applied to our community. Please be in prayer for us as we seek to really understand what we should be doing regarding these guidelines. We seek to keep our agreement without becoming legalistic in our approach.

Thankfully, during the Upper Room training that the board attended in September, we do have some measures to help us. We received a list of questions to ask ourselves as we approach the things we do on Walks. These questions can help us determine what we should be doing regarding "gray" areas that are not specifically stated in the guidelines. I believe that these will help not only the board, but also individuals, as we seek to serve on weekends.

These questions are:

Will it glorify God?

Will it move the Pilgrims closer to God?

Is it going to glorify someone on the team or in the community?

Will it detract the Pilgrim from receiving the intended message?

Does it fit the message of the day and the flow of the weekend?

Have a great Christmas,
Becky Thode

Why Epiphany?

Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me

Time and again, I am taught the same lesson in my life; in giving I receive. In 2006 I went to an Emmaus gathering where I heard someone looking for volunteers to be part of a Christian program in a juvenile prison called Epiphany. At the time I didn't feel qualified but I was drawn to the idea of visiting a prison, especially one for juveniles, which I thought must be a lonely place.

I have since spent two weekends doing an intensive short course on Christianity for the young men. On one of the weekends I had a profound experience. The group of boys we had was very open and the Holy Spirit was there right from the start. We were sharing, singing, praying and laughing. One of the young men was very uplifted and kept saying, "I can feel the love". He had a broad smile the whole weekend. He was so bright I could hardly imagine him as a criminal at all, perhaps more like the boy next door.

Before we left many of the boys felt the need to confess. When I heard the crime of the bright young man I felt as though I had been punched in the stomach. I wanted to go on with my happy undisturbed thoughts, high on the spirit; instead I was horrified and depressed. The following day, after returning from jail, I broke down and started to cry. I asked God why I had to hear this young man's sins, *what could I do about it*. God spoke to my heart and said, "You don't have to carry this burden. This is why I sent Jesus, but I need you to be my hands and feet and in this case my ears. He needed you to listen, I do the rest."

Then I remembered Jesus telling his disciples that if they wanted to be near him they needed to take up his cross and follow. In an instant I knew exactly what he meant. We are the body of Christ in this hurt and suffering world. I was taking up his cross. Once again, I felt that my work in the prison had given me a powerful gift that I might never have truly understood otherwise.

Treasurer's Report

As the Community Treasurer I have been asked to give a brief report on the health of the Community Finances. Let me start off by saying that the overall financial health of the community is strong. With that said, we have a number of issues that the board will be discussing and making decisions on in the coming months.

As you may or may not know, the Salvation Army has informed us that we can continue the use of Camp Happyland for the foreseeable future with a couple of stipulations. The first is we work around their schedule when booking our weekends. This is not a big deal since we are already doing that. The second is that they have raised our costs by 10% across the board on everything except meals. This is actually good news in that the meals constitute almost 50% of the cost of a weekend and had those been raised 10% it would have had a much larger impact on us. The board will be carefully evaluating the new costs of the weekends.

The board will also be discussing and implementing a scholarship policy. This is a good idea as it will give us a policy that will allow everyone to see how the scholarship program works. It is also a required segment of our covenant with the Upper Room.

As a matter of general information and openness I want to let you know some of the expenses that the Gathering, Candlelight, and Sponsorship offerings are used for. First, there are expenses related to the weekends that are not covered in the team and pilgrim fees, such as: purple books, 4th day packets, photos for the team and pilgrims, general supplies such as pens, pencils, colored markers, poster paper, glue and tape. There are corporation fees, state license fees, insurance and CCLI license fees, (so that we can use power point and overheads for music). Despite the fact that we have reduced the amount of hard copy newsletters sent out each month, we still have costs associated with its monthly distribution so we incur an expense there. The list goes on and I will be happy to explain any expenditures to anyone that wants to know more.

The board would like to communicate an open door policy with regards to our finances. This will ensure that the community can hold the board and its officers accountable in being good stewards of the money provided to carry on the work of this community.

Thank you & De Colores,

Mike McDonald

Please pray for:

Son's search for job	The Pilgrims and Team of E-77	Keith & Jane
Randy's health	Rob's health	George and where the Lord is leading him
Daniel & Chris	Blessings for E-76 & E-77	Pastor Bill
Alexander	Dawn's health & strength	Chris Alexander
Joyce & Archie	Grandma	Jourdan
Amos	Teresa	Ashley
My great nephew Cycle	Jobs for the unemployed	Our nation and global healing
Daphne	Too much work and not enough time	None of God's children are lead astray
My son Charles & his family	School	Our faith always be stronger then our numbers
Bethel UMC	Daughter & grandchildren	Chris Alexander
E-77	Mother-in-law, lungs	Ryan Gislo
Becky Thode	Mother, hip surgery	Family health
Ken & Trina	Brother, cancer	Getting through financial troubles
Spence O'Conner	Husband, schedule	Blessings on E-77
Emmaus as a whole	I desire wisdom and financial blessings	Mary, Wilfred, John, Lynda.
Desirae Curtis	God's grace with my career and love life	Christopher, Christian,
Mary & Wilfred Usher	Heal and bless my family and friends.	Langston, Marilou, Mare, Gladys & son, Betty & son
Amanda Curtis	All on the Emmaus	Uncle Roger (JC)
Anne Limrick	Diana, difficult pregnancy	Adela Harlow & husband & family, in death of her brother-in-law
Mary Mahr	Daniel	Pilgrims E-77
The Emmaus Team & Pilgrims	Les Howze	John Bradham--Serious-Please!!
Janet's Health	Chris Alexander	
Carol's test result for a lump found	Health	
The Emmaus Board	My ministries	
Our Servicemen, our Country		
Sick in Nursing homes		

Please give praises for:

My parents	For the 1 st Gathering at Stafford Crossing Community Church
Randy	My daughter's church
Glen & Ethan	KUCC in Atlanta, GA, they moved into their own church building.
Ellen Cowart	

Community Volunteers & Board of Directors

Community Lay Director **Becky Thode***
Lead Gatherings & Candlelight, Host Weekend Sponsors' Hour/Closing, Chair Emmaus Board &
Assign Nominating Committee Coordinator

Assistant Community Lay Director **Dick Barnett***
Gathering Location Coordinator & Chair Pilgrim/Team Selection Committee

Community Spiritual Director **Tom Britt***
Board Spiritual Director..... **Joe Reed***
Board Spiritual Director..... **Rick Dillard***

Treasurer **Mike McDonald***

Secretary **Rosemary Blankenship***
Manuals Coordinator **Rich Thode**
Records/By-Laws Historian..... **Rich Thode**

Communications Coordinator **Vacant**
Website Administrator..... **Dennis Warne**
Newsletter **Brooke Ferguson**
Database Coordinators..... **Bill Moore, Dennis Warne & Dick Barnett**
Team Registrar **Dick Barnett**
Pilgrim Registrars..... **Ralph Thomas**

Gathering Support Coordinator **Jane Carwell**
Community Music Director **Lola McDonald**
Community Baker **Kitti Mann**
Childcare Coordinator **Vacant**
Music Coordinator for Gatherings **Lola McDonald**
Music Equipment Coordinator..... **Vacant**

Weekend Support Coordinator..... **Vacant**
Comm. Cha Coordinator..... **Richard Warner**
General Agape Coordinator **Monica Warne**
Prayer Vigil Coordinators..... **Daphne & George Masten**
Placemat Coordinator **Margaret Filler**
Snack Agape Coordinator..... **Rich Thode**
Agape Bag Coordinator **Diana Farrar**
Transportation Coordinator..... **Vacant**
Supplies Coordinator **Mike & Terry Cook**
Name Badge Coordinator **Steve Makely**
Fourth Day Packets..... **Wilfred and Mary Usher**
Fourth Day Coordinator..... **Dick Barnett**
Reunion Group Coordinator..... **Sandy Crossley**

***Board Members**

(Serving on the Board July 1, 2009- June 30, 2010)

Judy Britt*	Maria Fortune*	Tony Fortune*	George Mastin*
Jennifer McDaniel*	Cam Noden*	Spence O'Connor*	Michael Selph*

Active Reunion Groups in the Fredericksburg Emmaus Community

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

T U E S D A Y	Pastor's Weekly Meeting	7:30 am	
	Call for location		
	Mark Dunn	540-786-4025	
	Great Is Thy Faithfulness	7:30 pm	
	Prince of Peace UMC	Manassas, Va	
	Lloyd Biller	703-590-1512	
	Lakeside Group (Men)	8:00 pm	
	Lake of the Woods	Call for location	
	Vic Larson	540-972-1928	

Interested in joining or starting a new reunion group?

Call Sandy Crossley at 703-221-6977 or email her at slcrossley13@verizon.net

W E D	Lord's Lions & Lambs Group	6:00 pm	
	First Christian Church		
	Gary Staddan	540-373-7716	first.christian.church@verizon.net

T H U R S D A Y	His Joyful Croakers	9:00 am	
	Hillcrest UMC		
	June Riel	540-710-5949	
	His Seekers (Women)	7:30 pm	
	Home of Jane Carwell	Woodbridge, Va	
	Sandy Crossley	703-221-6977	
	Jane Carwell	703-969-4019	tjcarwell@yahoo.com
	Amazing Grace Group	8:30 pm	
	Hillcrest UMC		
	Ed McAdam	540-898-3625	emcadam@cox.net
	Rainbow Group (Women)	10:00 am	(Alternate Thursdays)
	Lake of the Woods	Call for location	
	Barbara Miller	540-972-7418	

F R I	Koinonia Group (Women)	9:00 am	
	Lake of the Woods	Call for location	
	Barbara Larson	540-972-1928	

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

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Directions to Chancellor Christian: 11409 Brock Road
Spotsylvania, VA 22553
540-786-4025

Follow Route 3 West from I-95 approximately 11.5 miles. You will see a VALERO on the left at the stop light for Brock Road (Route 613). Turn left and travel six tenths of a mile. Our building is on the left.