

August 2012

Upper Room
EMMAUS
of the Greater Fredericksburg Area

Gatherings *(2nd Saturday of each month)*

August 11th

Lake of the Woods Church

September 8th

Melrose UMC

Board meeting at 1:30 pm

Fellowship at 3:30 pm

Gathering at 4:00 pm

Please bring snacks to share during fellowship time.

We are looking for churches to host Gatherings for 2012.

If you are your church's Point of Contact for hosting, please email our CLD Chris Campbell at chris@ewg.org so arrangements can be made.



Directions to Lake of the Woods Church

1 Church Lane

Locust Grove, VA 22508

Directions from Fredericksburg:

Take Route 3 West approximately

15 miles. Turn left onto Lake of the Woods Way. Turn left onto Lakeview

Pkwy. Continue for 2 miles to left onto Church Lane. There is a slight right to stay on Church Ln. The church will be on the right.

Fall Walks

The team building for FE-88 and FE-89 is in process. Please be in prayer for these two teams and for the pilgrims that God wants on these walks.

And speaking of pilgrims - we need some for the Fall walks. Is it too early to be thinking about pilgrims?

Nope! And never too early to pray for someone that you think would benefit from going on a Walk to

Emmaus. And its not too early to ask them either. Pilgrim applications are available from the community

website: <http://www.fredwalk.org>

UPCOMING EMMAUS WEEKENDS

Walk

FE-88 (M)

FE-89 (W)

Dates

October 25 - 28, 2012

November 8 - 11, 2012

Weekend Lay Director

Mike McDonald

Terry Cook

From the Community Lay Director

I am back from a mission trip to Iquitos Peru and it was amazing. We had only planned on two objectives. Primarily we were doing construction on a church in one of the poorest areas of the city called Belen. The second was to show God's love to the children of that neighborhood. God had a few other things for us as well.

There were many talks from Emmaus that I saw – rather than heard. There were many examples of Christian Action. We helped fix the building that will be the neighborhood church and we played with the kids. We showed the love that God has shown us. We colored, played soccer, played volleyball, held kids and loved on them.

One thing that was noticed by Tim Patrick who was there two years ago was that the fathers then had nothing to do with their children. That has changed. The local church we were working with keeps bringing in missionary teams and the example of playing and loving on the children is changing parental behavior in Belen. That's Changing Our World.

I saw the Body of Christ coming together as a Christian community to accomplish the tasks at hand. Some used their gifts to work with the kids while others worked on the building. We joined with the local church members to help work on the building – its amazing what a machete can do in the hands of someone who knows how to use it.

A highlight of the trip for me was Antonio. He had come to the hotel where we were staying to sell us trinkets. What

he ended up with was a relationship with Jesus. Saturday morning we prayed to bring a man to Christ while we were in Peru. Sunday morning, Antonio was putting his faith in Jesus. You might call that conversion Sanctifying Grace. He has a long way to go in understanding his faith – but don't we all.

Antonio kept coming back each night to learn more about the Bible and his newly found faith. He was led thru parts of the Gospel of John. I'll call that Grow Through Study. He now has a Spanish version of the Bible that he can read from.

You don't have to go to Peru or another foreign country to experience these talks. You can experience them right where you are. Your mission area could be just down the road. It could be your neighbor. It might be someone in your own family.

Being on this mission trip brought back memories from my walk. Do you want to re-experience your walk? Try pulling out your notes. Pull out your agape bag. Come to Candlelight or a Gathering. You can also give a similar experience you had on your Walk to someone else - sponsor a pilgrim. Even put in a teaming application – teaming for the Spring walks will be here sooner than you think.

De Colores,
Chris Campbell
Fairview at River Club
FE-70
Table of Peter

HELP WANTED

Our Emmaus Community is looking for volunteers to fill several vacant coordinator positions. If you are interested in serving in any capacity, please contact Chris Campbell chris@ewg.org

Thanks for your help!

Thank you so very much for the time and effort put in by our 2011-2012 team of volunteers which make this community run. This community would not run without the work put in by the many volunteers we have. Some are listed on the second to last page of the newsletter but there are so many that assist in those ministries. The community thanks you.

From the Community Spiritual Director

Herein is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. (1 John 4:10 - 11)

So...I have been meditating lately on our great God. John MacArthur states that a proper Christianity begins with a proper view of God, a very "high" view of who God is, who we are in light of who God is, and what God has done for us. To that end, this past week in my personal meditations I have been thinking about "the amazing grace of an amazing God." (Catchy title huh?)

Have you ever sat and thought just about the "amazingness" of grace? More specifically, have you ever thought of God's "amazing" ability to love wretched people such as you and me. The truth of Scripture is this: there is no redeeming quality in you and I that God should even want to love us, He is under no obligation to love us, and He would be perfectly justified in not loving us, yet He chooses to love us. There is a passage of Scripture that totally astounded me the first time that I read and comprehended the meaning of it, and it still continues to amaze me to this day. In Genesis 8:21, God declares a covenant that He will never again curse the ground because of man "even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood." To be sure, this is shortly after the flood when the face of the earth was cleansed from the results of man's sin and here already the testimony of God is that the inclination of the heart of man is evil from childhood. We are sinful people and desperately wicked. When Isaiah comprehended the glory and righteousness of a Holy God he cried out in anguish: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts! (Isaiah 6:5)" We are a sinful people in the presence of a Holy God and we should be altogether undone, left completely devoid of any merit whatsoever on our part.

Is it any wonder that John declares that this great love of God toward us is the very definition of love itself? It is God's love toward us - totally underserving of it - that defines the very essence of love and defines how we are to love one another. Specifically, we are to love each other, not regardless of merit, but in spite of the lack of merit. Jesus makes a simple, yet profound point in His "sermon on the mount." Namely, Jesus points out that anyone can love those who treat them well. Even the pagans and the tax collectors (the lowest people on earth in the eyes of the Jew—totally devoid of redeeming qualities), even these people love their enemies. Accordingly, what have you done that is so special if you love the people that are nice to you, or love the people that treat you with love? Rather, what Christ calls us to, as a

result of God's love for us, is to love our enemies, to love and pray for those who treat us horribly, who spit in your face, who curse you, who mock you, who treat you poorly, love them anyway and pray for them with all your might. This is the love that we are called to. This is the love that turns a world upside down. This is the type of love that challenges people in their dismissal of God. This is the love that leads people to the foot of the cross and into repentance.

So, how do we learn to love like that? Let me take you to the book of Ruth. The beginning of this book tells us about the loving devotion that Ruth had for Naomi, her mother-in-law. In Ruth 1:16, Ruth makes an oath to Naomi that wherever she went Ruth would follow and that she would die in the same place that Naomi died. Then, Ruth prayed that God would judge her severely if she allowed anything but death to separate her from Naomi.

What is so amazing about this is—despite the speculation you may have heard in a sermon somewhere—there is absolutely no reason given to us in the text to justify this type of loving devotion on the part of Ruth. Moreover, in a passionate speech to her two daughters-in-law Naomi makes it clear that by going with her there are no good options for the future in front of them. Orpah and Ruth are at a crossroads in their lives, they must choose to return home or to continue on with Naomi. It is only Ruth who chooses to remain and is subsequently rewarded for that faithfulness. Ruth's love and devotion toward Naomi is without rhyme or reason and demonstrates the truth of the Old Testament hesed of God.

Hesed is a Hebrew word that has the essence of a deep, abiding, loyal, covenant keeping love. In its fullest context it has the idea of keeping a covenant promise, not out of a sense of obligation, but as a product of one's love toward another. I will do what I have promised, not because I am compelled to, but because I want to out of my love toward you. This is the love that God has toward us and that He then commands that we have toward one another. It is a kind of love that goes totally against every grain of rational thought of the world. It is the kind of love that causes a man to love the murder of his father and to identify this former murderer as grandpa to his children.

Last month I challenged each of you to turn your world upside down for Christ. The way that begins is by allowing the love of God to flow through to the point you have a genuine love for your enemies. It happens when you allow the hesed of God to flow through you to touch the lives of those who are devoid of real love. Will you allow God to plant His love deep in your heart?

Jim Muhlenkamp

Prayer Requests from July Gathering

North Stafford Baptist Church	Healing for Myrtle	Daphne & George
Outreach event Aug 23rd	Grey a home	Unchurched
Ashley, Blake and Merlin as they begin new chapter in Reno, NV	Work as a lay pastor	Epworth UMC
Sean permit on Monday	Travel mercies for vacations	Bethel UMC
Kara	Our Military	Wellness ministry
Carole's son and family, continue to bless pastor	Norm - walk FE88	Direction for future
Stafford Crossing - new building - 1st service 29th	Storm victims	Daughter & Husband
Geneva's health	FE 88 & 89	Job needs
Jill and family	Health Issues	House
Michael wise choices	Job success for Diana	Lynn to be found
Move to Florida	Cija - healing	Prayers to end gossip and rumor in our community
Mary health	James's sister, to come out of coma	Prayers for relationships that are ending and relationships that are beginning
John's BP	Amethyst Heart - pray they win	
	Round 2 of Battle of the Bands	
	Ken & Trina and family	

Fourth Day Testimony

A year after my walk I decided to start teaming and immediately saw a huge need for female musicians for the weekend walks. Through a series of events that I can only conclude were God sent, I wound up with the inspiration to play guitar, a teacher who was willing to put up with the idiosyncrasies of a middle aged student, and the craziest thing of all- a free guitar landed in my lap. My goal was to learn to play, then to help Emmaus music teams, and ultimately to play at my church. I started out with zero confidence but every step of the way has been bathed in prayer by my wonderful Emmaus family. As a result I have been able to support other musicians at gatherings and on the weekends. Prior to my walk I was terrified to stand up and speak in front of people, much less play music. I give all the glory to God for where I am today, and I am so grateful for the many, many hands He has sent to encourage me on this journey to help lead His people in songs of praise and worship.

Christine Tillman
Stafford CCC
E-52, Table of Joy

Elected Community Officers: (Thru June 30, 2013)

Community Lay Director.....Chris Campbell
Assistant Community Lay DirectorMary Lee Hensel
Community Spiritual Director.....Jim Muhlenkamp

Debbie Bliss Lisa Green
Doc Holladay Chris Wells

Agape Coordinator.....Tom Dempsey
Secretary.....Ava Hanger
Treasurer.....Carol Burke
Manuals Coordinator/HistorianMike Remington
Spiritual Director.....Gayle Porias
Spiritual Director.....Nancy McDaniel

Community Volunteers: (Sept 1, 2011 - Aug 31, 2012)

Communications Support Coordinator.....Dick Barnett
Website & Database Administrator.....Chris Campbell
Newsletter.....Brooke Ferguson
Daily Prayer Chain CoordinatorTeresa Smith

Fourth Day Support CoordinatorCam Noden
Fourth Day Advisory CommitteeArt Blankenship
Fourth Day Follow-Up/Reunion Group Coordinator.....Richard Leeper

Upper Room Guidelines Implementation.....Dawn Kendall

Pilgrim/Team Support Coordinator.....Carol Burke
Team Selection Committee.....Dawn Kendall
Team RegistrarDick Barnett
Pilgrim Registrars.....Ralph and Sandy Williams

Gathering Support Coordinator.....Ava Hanger
Childcare Coordinator.....Jacob Riley
Hospitality Coordinator.....Kathleen Holladay
Transportation Coordinator.....Chris Campbell

Music/Equipment Coordinator.....Mitch Mitchell

Weekend Support Coordinator.....Jake Riley
Community Servant Coordinator.....Richard Leeper
Community Baker.....Sandie Makely
Supplies Coordinator.....Chris & Karen Campbell
Prayer Vigil Coordinators.....Lisa Green
Placemat Coordinator.....Tom Wells
Snack Agape Coordinator.....Lisa Green
Agape Bag Coordinator.....Karen Campbell
Name Badge CoordinatorGary Adkins
Fourth Day Packets.....Wilfred and Mary Usher

Daily Internet Prayer Chain

We have Prayer Warriors praying daily for the needs and praises of the Emmaus Community. Our Daily Prayer Chain Coordinator is Teresa Smith, Fairview at River Club, FE-37, Table of Patience. Simply email Teresa at fredemmausprayers@yahoo.com with your prayer request and our Prayer Warriors will be in prayer for you! Urgent prayer requests will be handled as quickly as we receive them. If you would like to be a Daily Prayer Warrior, email our website administrator Chris Campbell at chris@ewg.org and ask to be included as a Prayer Warrior.

4th Day Testimony Request

The 4th day committee wants your 4th day testimonies. They don't have to be long, just tell us what God's doing in your 4th day, or how teaming, sponsoring, being involved in a reunion group, or attending monthly gatherings has changed your life. We will review it and if accepted, include it in the newsletter on a monthly basis. So if you'd like to share with us how God has used your Emmaus experience in any of these areas, please email your testimony to Cam Noden at: twonodens@juno.com for review. I'll be looking forward to hearing from you!

REUNION GROUPS

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Lord's Lions & Lambs Group
6:30 pm
First Christian Church
POC: Joe Reed
540-373-7716
first.christian.church@verizon.net

Thurs (cont'd)

Uptown Bristersburg Believers
2nd and 4th Thursdays
7:00 pm
Mt. Horeb UMC
POC: Chris Wells
540-788-3068

Monday

Ladies in Waiting
Meets every other Monday
in Falmouth
POC: Vonda LiCalzi
540-446-2682

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Tuesday

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
7:30 pm
Prince of Peace UMC
Manassas, Va
POC: Lloyd Biller
703-590-1512

His Seekers (Women)
7:30 pm
Home of Jane Carwell
POC: Sandy Crossley
703-221-6977
POC: Jane Carwell
703-969-4019
tjcarwell@yahoo.com

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

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

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

Are you interested in
joining or starting a
new reunion group?

Email Richard Leeper
at richardleeper@netscape.net