

JULY

2015

UPPER ROOM EMMAUS

of the Greater Fredericksburg Area

FE-99 (M)
Nov 5-8, 2015
Dan See

FE-100 (W)
Nov 19-22, 2015
Mary Lee Hensel

UPCOMING WALKS
AT CAMP HAPPYLAND

SHARE ABOUT YOUR 4TH DAY

What is God doing in your 4th day? How has He used your Emmaus experience to change your life? Please email your testimony to Mary Lee Hensel at mlhensel59@gmail.com to be included in this monthly newsletter.

2ND SATURDAYS

GATHERINGS:

July 11th

Stafford Crossing

August 8th

Melrose UMC

September 12th

St. Matthias

October 10th

First Christian

SCHEDULE:

2:30 pm Board meeting

3:30 pm Fellowship

4:00 pm Gathering

Please bring snacks to share during fellowship time.

If your church can host a gathering, please email the CLD Terry Cook at mktyck@gmail.com

GATHERING DIRECTIONS:

Stafford Crossing Comm Church
1420 Forbes Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22405

Take exit 133A off I-95. At Route 1, take a left to go North. Make a right onto Layhill Road (at the Valero). Layhill Road turns into Forbes Street - continue straight. The church is on the left, under 0.3 miles from Route 1.

Stay tuned for more info about our October Community Celebration of our 100th Walk to Emmaus!!

FROM THE COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

Dear Fredericksburg Emmaus Community,
Let me start out by letting you know that I am truly humbled to be the Community Lay Director during this exciting time for our community.

I need to be completely honest with you all. I have struggled for the last two weeks to put into words what I would like to convey to the community. I have been praying and nothing was coming to me. Then I started thinking maybe I just need to share how this community has been a big part of shaping my relationship with God.

Sometime in 1998, Vic and Barbara Larson started asking my husband and me to attend this thing called the Walk to Emmaus. They explained that it was a great spiritual retreat and that they believed we would love it. At the time we had young children and were very busy. We put them off, not because we didn't think it would be nice, but we were not the couple to do things out of our comfort zone and going away and being with strangers was totally out of our comfort zone!

Fast-forward to early 2000, the Larson's came to church with pilgrim applications in hand and told us that we were going to sit down and fill them out. So after church we sat down and completed the applications. We told ourselves that just because we filled them out did not mean we had to go. We were called to go in the spring of 2000 but did not go until the fall of 2000. Even though we said yes, we really did not know that we wanted to go. My husband came

back from his weekend and told me that I was going and to make sure nothing got in the way! His advice to me....DO NOT JUDGE the weekend until Sunday.

Even though I didn't want to be there, by Friday afternoon my walls were coming down and I was really listening and God met me where I was and He was carrying me.

After the weekend, my relationship with Jesus was changed forever. I wanted to serve Him and be a witness for Him. I finally knew what it meant to have a personal relationship with God. My husband and I attended every gathering and even came back early from vacation so we would not miss. The gatherings are such a great way to connect with those who walked with you, the team and meet new friends. I could not wait to be able to serve on a weekend. The first step was to volunteer to be a community servant, then to team. I became what some people refer to as a team junkie. I loved teaming! It helped me grow in my faith every time I teamed. Then, I became more involved by serving on the board.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-5 tells us "For everything there is a season...". Around 2007, this is something I was hearing from God in many ways and I did not want to believe it because it meant that something that I loved and was doing to serve Him, I was going to have to step away from. I needed to focus on my children and family and the activities my children were involved in happened on weekends and so that meant no gatherings or teaming for me.

I was feeling the tug to get back involved in the community. My children were older and my weekends were becoming more open. God used many people in the community to confirm that it was time to get back to the gatherings. It has been so great to be back in the "fold" of the community.

If you have been away from the community for a while, please consider attending a gathering, see if it doesn't reignite something within you and bring back memories of your walk.

No matter how long ago you walked, it is an experience that changed most of us forever and we need to remember.

As we go into this fall, the Fredericksburg Emmaus Community will celebrate our 100th walk!! What a true blessing from God to be a part of a community that continues to be servants of God that helps change lives.

As a community we want to mark this milestone with a celebration. If you would like to be involved in putting together this celebration, please feel free to contact me at 540-379-0558 or mktyck@gmail.com.

I look forward to serving you this year and may each of you remember your walk and be inspired to share that experience with others by sponsoring pilgrims.

DeColores,
Terry Cook
FE 39
Table of Gentleness

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM JUNE

| | |
|---|--|
| Aging parents | Jeremy Farrar and family – traveling from Alaska |
| Al Bliss – Healing of back and freedom from pain | Karen & family traveling (daughter of John & Kitti Mann) |
| Angela Bliss Tolbert – Healing of Chiari Syndrome and relief from migraines | Kathleen Holladay – back healing and healing from pain |
| Betty Jo Sims – healing from knee surgery | Mary Lee Hensel – moving decision |
| Chris Fair - thanks for 40 years of marriage to my best friend | Melissa and family – (daughter of Mary Lee Hensel) |
| Dawn Riley – healing from Stage 3 Breast Cancer (sister-in-law of Susanna Jett) | Men & Women in the Armed Forces |
| Diana Phillips – good test results | New Emmaus Board Members |
| Doc Holladay – healing and strength | People suffering from the floods and drought |
| Employment needs | Revival in the community |
| Fall 2015 Teams – FE-99 and FE-100 | Test results are good news |
| Gail Porias – Ordination | Those dealing with weather related disasters |
| Gene Phillips – continued healing | Tracy – health (daughter of John and Kitti Mann) |
| Geneva Hackler – overall health and relief from pain (mother of Debbie Bliss) | United Methodist Annual Conference |
| | United Methodist Churches who may be saying farewell to a pastor and welcoming a new one |

WHY SERVE ON AN EMMAUS TEAM?

Why do I serve on Emmaus teams? God calls me to serve. I am blessed to have been called to team on every women's walk since FE 89. I pray daily that the Lord continues to lead my path as I continue to say yes to this commitment.

What better way to share His message of Agape love, Christian education, and amazing "God moments" than to allow the Lord to send me to use my talents to serve Him on an Emmaus weekend? "I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" Through teaming, I can share in Isaiah's great commissioning to go where God sends me and to say "Yes".

Didn't our Lord ask His best friends to teach His word and to go and make disciples? On a Walk to Emmaus weekend, I become a part of building members of the Body of Christ, so that they return to their congregations enlightened disciples burning with the fire of His word. Although the demands and responsibilities of discipleship are great, He never requires of me anything which He does not enable me to do. I can do all things through Christ!

Teaming allows me to work with some of the most Christ-centered people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing; people who know all of the words to the song "Pass It On" and sing it to the top of their lungs because those words embody the foundation by which they live; people who proudly wear tie-dye and a silly hat to demonstrate the joy and beauty of God's amazing love for us; people who have locked arms with me and become lifelong friends as we walk together with our Savior sharing His word.

Teaming is a gift God has given to me. I praise Him every day for that gift!

Beth McBride

St. Matthias United Methodist Church

FE 89/Table of Faithfulness

TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED:

We are looking for more team members for upcoming walks. If you would like to be on a team, please attend the next 4th day follow-up, if you haven't attended one, and fill out and send in a team application. There are team applications available at the Gatherings, and one can also be downloaded from the fredwalk.org website.

If you are interested in being on the music team, please let us know. I am sure there are many of you who are very talented and would bless the music team and pilgrims, but if we don't know about your gift, we don't know to ask you to be a member.

Blessings to all of you, Mary Lee FE - 44

JUNE BOARD NOTES

At the June 11, 2015 meeting of the Upper Room Emmaus of Greater Fredericksburg

Area Board, new members were welcomed; Rosemary Blankenship, Tammi Ellis, Matt Green, John Mann and Stephanie Serrett, and exiting members were thanked for their service; Debbie Bliss, Mary Lee Hensel, Doc Holladay, Betty Jo Sims and Chris Wells. Board manuals were turned in and new members will receive their manuals at the July Board meeting or thereafter.

Board position Elections/

appointments: Terry Cook was elected as Community Lay Director; Pastor Chris Fair was elected to continue to serve as Community Spiritual Director; John Mann was elected to serve as Assistant Community Director; Stephanie Serrett

will serve as Treasurer; Diana Farrar will serve as Secretary.

Treasurer's Report: Debbie Bliss, Treasurer, showed a savings of \$1,167 by combining spring walks. Also, the books will be audited before the new Treasurer takes them over. A new badge machine will be purchased for the community as the old one is wearing out.

Pastor Chris Fair, Community Spiritual

Director, noted that the Upper Room Emmaus manual allows for our community to determine the criteria for clergy eligibility. In light of that, he is heading up an initiative to meet with clergy in the Fredericksburg area, some of whom have served in the Emmaus community in the past, to encourage clergy participation in the Fredericksburg Emmaus community.

WALK FEES AND DUE DATES

Application Fee \$25 – Due when you submit the completed application. If this fee is not included with the application the application will not be counted as valid until fee is received.

Sponsorship Fee \$220 – Due, (not mailed, but in the Treasurer's hands), no later than one week before the Walk, but preferably earlier. It is not acceptable to bring the Sponsorship Fee on the night the Walk starts. A check must be written to Camp Happyland the morning of the Walk and is deposited the next day. Therefore, for Emmaus to be good stewards and to be in line with strong business practices, you must send your fees in a minimum of one week before the walk. This fee is tax-deductible, (because you personally are not receiving anything tangible in return). You will be sent a letter, showing your donation, in January of the following year.

Team Fee - \$220 – Due, (not mailed, but in Treasurer's hands), no later than one week before the Walk, but preferably earlier. It is preferable that this is given to the Board Rep, for your Walk, during teaming.

Mail to: - All payments, applications, fees, correspondence, etc... should be mailed to P.O. Box 42094, Fredericksburg, VA 22404

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at DHBLiss@cox.net or 540-371-4886.
DeColores, Debbie H. Bliss/FE-63 Table of Victorious Violets

REUNION GROUPS

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

Email Chris Wells at cdwells50@gmail.com

S Bethel UMC Men's Group
7:30 am

Bethel UMC Woodbridge, Va

POC: Brian Lewis

703-590-9343

bb3253@aol.com

St. Matthias Reunion Group

1st Sunday of each month

12:15 - 1:30 pm

St. Matthias Social Hall

POC: Tammi Ellis

M Ladies In Waiting
Meets Every Other
Monday

In Falmouth

POC: Vonda LiCalzi

540-446-2682

Rainbow Group
(Women)

First Monday Of Month

10:00 Am

Lake Of The Woods

Location Varies

POC: Barbara Miller

540-972-7418

T Great Is Thy Faithfulness
7:30 Pm

Prince Of Peace UMC

Manassas, Va

POC: Lloyd Biller

703-590-1512

Reunion Bible Study

10:00 Am

North Stafford Baptist

POC: Karen Campbell

540-658-0468

campbells_6@yahoo.com

Lord's Lions & Lambs Group

6:00 Pm

First Christian Church

POC: Mike Remington

540-373-7716

first.christian.church@verizon.net

Th

His Joyful Croakers

9:00 Am

Hillcrest UMC

POC: June Riel

540-710-5949

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

Uptown Bristersburg
Believers

2nd And 4th

Thursdays 7:00 Pm

Mt. Horeb UMC

POC: Chris Wells

540-788-3068

cdwells50@gmail.com

**ELECTED OFFICERS:
(THRU JUNE 30, 2016)**

Community Lay Director:

Terry Cook

Assistant Community Lay Director:

John Mann

Community Spiritual Director:

Chris Fair

Spiritual Directors:

Rosemary Blankenship

Michael Selph

Secretary:

Diana Farrar

Treasurer:

Stephanie Serrett

Manuals Coordinator/Historian:

Beth McBride

Agape Coordinator:

OPEN

Board Members:

Karen Campbell

Gregg Snyder

Dan See

Ron Jennings

Ed Hayner

Tammi Ellis

Matt Green

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Please contact Terry Cook at mktyck@gmail.com if you are interested in helping the Emmaus community through any of the various volunteer positions listed for the period of Aug 2015 - Sept 2016.

To send a prayer request to our daily internet prayer chain, email

Debbie Bliss at dhbliss@cox.net or fredemmausprayers@yahoo.com

To become a Daily Prayer Warrior, email Chris Campbell at chris@ewg.org

**COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS:
(SEPT 1, 2014 - AUG 31, 2015)**

Communications Support Coordinator:

Mary Lee Hensel

Website & Database Administrator:

Chris Campbell

Newsletter: Brooke Ferguson

Daily Prayer Chain Coordinator: Debbie Bliss

Fourth Day Support Coordinator: Chris Wells

Fourth Day Advisory Committee:

Mary Lee Hensel & OPEN

Fourth Day Follow-Up/Reunion Group Coordinator:

Chris Wells

Team Selection Committee: Ed Hayner

Team Registrars: Chris & Karen Campbell

Pilgrim Registrar: Lynda Swanlund

Gathering Support Coordinator: Mary Lee Hensel

Hospitality Coordinator: OPEN

Music/Equipment Coordinator: Mitch Mitchell

Weekend Support Coordinator: Debbie Bliss

Community Servant Coordinator: Doc Holladay

Community Baker: Sandie Makely

Supplies/Transportation Coordinators:

Chris & Karen Campbell

Prayer Vigil Coordinator: OPEN

Placemat Coordinators:

Mary Lee Hensel & Diana Farrar

Snack Agape Coordinator: OPEN

Agape Bag Coordinator: Karen Campbell

Name Badge Coordinators:

Gary Adkins & Dianna Wells

Fourth Day Packets: Diana Farrar