

DECEMBER

2015

UPPER ROOM EMMAUS

of the Greater Fredericksburg Area

2ND SATURDAYS

GATHERINGS:

December 12th:

Peace UMC

January 9th: Service Day

Camp Happyland

SCHEDULE:

2:00 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

FE-101 (M)
Apr 7-10, 2016
Ron Jennings

FE-102 (W)
Apr 21-24, 2015
Carol Burke

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.

GATHERING

DIRECTIONS:

Peace UMC
801 Maple Grove Drive
Fredericksburg, VA 22407

Directions from I-95: Take Exit 130 B heading Rt 3 West . Turn Left at light onto Taskforce Dr. Take to end and turn right onto Maple Grove Dr. Church is approximately 1/2 mile down on your left.

*Day of Service
& Celebration!*

Jan 9th

Camp Happyland

9 am - 2:30 pm

YOU'RE INVITED!

A Day of Service and Celebration

The Fredericksburg Emmaus Community will celebrate our 25th anniversary by providing a day of service to Camp Happyland, our walk host for the past 10 years.

When: Saturday, January 9

Location: Camp HappyLand

We will begin work at 9:00 am, take a break for a pot luck lunch around noon, and complete our work by 2:30 pm. **Our main dish is BBQ so please bring a side to share.**

Beginning at 3:00 pm, we will celebrate with a Gathering and Communion.

Our Gathering will include a special event that you will not want to miss!

So that our work can be planned, please respond to
CLD Terry Cook at mktyck@gmail.com.

BOARD CHANGE

Sadly, Stephanie Serrett asked to step down off the board due to commitments that were requiring more of her time at church. We understand and support her decision to first serve her church! We appreciate you and love you!

Monica Warne has agreed to serve on the board until the next election is held. She will also serve as the Treasurer. Monica has served in this capacity in the past and we are excited that she is willing to serve again.

Terry Cook/CLD

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

FROM THE COMMUNITY ALD

“Behold, I am making all things new.”

“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.” Isaiah 43:18

I was blessed to serve on Fredericksburg Emmaus #99 that was held November 5th – 8th. This was the 15th Team I’ve served on and my first experience faithfully following the Emmaus model.

I must admit that I had misgivings. I heard arguments, passionate at times, both for and against the model. The passionate discussions usually centered on Table Chapel and Dying Moments. I wondered how I would feel about the changes at the end of the Weekend.

Early on Friday we took advantage of an extended break as a time to get to know one another at the Tables. When we had the first Table Chapel it was a powerful experience, perhaps because we were already comfortable with one another due to our earlier, unscripted discussions. We had two other Table Chapels, both in response to Talks and both at the request of the Pilgrims. Upon reflection, I don’t recall a more powerful and intense Table Chapel experience. It was not manufactured and was entirely the workings of the Holy Spirit.

At Dying Moments there were a number of readings that were no longer present. I presume they had been added over time but their absence allowed us more time with our thoughts focused on the cross. We

didn’t nail our sins to the cross as we had in the past but in the taking of the bread and laying it at the foot of the cross the Pilgrim response was just as emotional and authentic as I recall from my Walk and previous Teams.

After Candlelight, we gathered in the Chapel for prayer and reflection. The remarks by the Lead Spiritual Director were very brief. Remembering past Walks I was waiting for more when almost as one, the entire room began to move and all of the Pilgrims were on their knees praying in Table families at one of the stations. Trying to keep up, I realized that in the past, we had inadvertently put ourselves between the Holy Spirit and the Pilgrims and the response was far less dramatic than what I now observed.

As the Walk unfolded, I noticed a number of other differences, mostly minor. What I quickly discovered, however, was that the changes actually simplified and enhanced the Emmaus experience and didn’t detract in any way.

Were there things I missed from the old ways...of course. But I found in the model a simple elegance in which the Holy Spirit opened the scriptures to Cleopas and his companion and not the Team. One in which the Holy Spirit moved the Pilgrims’ hearts and not the Team. Isn’t that what we all hope and pray will happen?

John Mann

FE #29

PILGRIM TESTIMONIES

Recently seen on Facebook: Some testimonies that were posted by the pilgrims of FE-99 and FE-100. If you have something to post about your walk – post it on our Facebook wall:

<https://www.facebook.com/fredvaemmaus>

•After walking life's road for about 15 years, not only without Jesus but pretty much the opposite direction, I walked the road to Emmaus over the weekend. It was a life changing experience. I found God and now I wonder how I was ever able to exist without him. Those that have known me over the last 15 years or so, probably have trouble believing me. All I can say is that my life has changed forever and I have personally felt the love of God. I want to feel this way forever. I just need to seek his guidance to try and repair everything I have broken. Repairs don't make the damage go away, they just prevent old wounds from destroying something. If you take care and do it right, the repairs can make it stronger than it ever was before. I'm stumbling through this new way of life, learning as I go. All I want to do is fix the things I have broken.

•My dear friends, I have just returned from an entirely life changing weekend, and my cup truly runneth over. I am overwhelmed by the words of encouragement, prayers I felt, and written words I read over the past three days. I am completely humbled by your love. It was also incredibly special to take this journey side by side with a dear friend from a much earlier season my life! As I spend the next few days processing what has just happened, I want to let you know that through you, I truly understand the meaning of agape.

•Dearest Family and friends: As many of you know I spent 72 hours with the most amazing group. The walk to Emmaus has changed me in so many ways. Words cannot express how grateful I am to my family and to my brothers and sisters in Christ. As I continue on my journey I am humbled by your love. As another 4th day started I am still in awe of the amazing experience. God Bless each and everyone both seen and unseen who had a part in the planning of our weekend. It is with a grateful heart I thank my sponsors who saw something in me that I didn't even know existed. I love you ladies and I am so proud to call you sisters! De Colores!

•I had such an amazing, life changing journey this weekend!! Words cannot even explain it.....I am truly speechless. Thanks so much to my sponsor for encouraging me and sponsoring me to go!! And to my husband for his love and encouragement for me to go even though there were times that I questioned going and for being my rock and best friend and I am so glad we can share our experience together now that we have both taken our walk. And to all my new sisters and brothers in Christ. Love y'all and miss y'all already!! De Colores!!!!

•I lived the past 3 days without any watch or way to tell time or access to my phone. WOW what a wonderful experience. Let me tell you we are in the presence of a wonderful and loving and awesome living GOD!!!! I made some wonderful new friends and got to know some old friends better. If you had any part in my last 72+ hours Thank you!

NOVEMBER BOARD NOTES

The Board of Directors of the Fredericksburg Emmaus Community met on November 14, 2015 to update the Community By-Laws. Our opening devotion was given by Terry Cook, Community Lay Director, on Ephesians 6, the Full Armor of God. Pastor Rosemary Blankenship opened the session in prayer.

The January 9, 2016 Gathering is to be held at Camp Happyland for a service day, a day of giving back to Camp Happyland, from 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. with a potluck lunch being served, BBQ provided. Attendees are asked to bring a dish to share. Community members will be treated to a special surprise. Wear your work clothes! We will be painting!

The Weekend Lay Directors for the Spring Walks have been chosen. Ron Jennings will lead the Men's Walk, FE#101, April 7-10; Carol Burke will lead the Women's Walk,

FE#102, April 21-24. Members of the Community who have attended their 4th Day Follow Up Training are eligible:

- #1. To serve on an Emmaus team (first time teamers serve on the Servant Team)
- #2. To sponsor a pilgrim on the upcoming Spring Walks.

All are encouraged to pray for God's direction. Teaming and sponsorship applications are available on the website, www.fredwalk.org.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Reminder: 4th Day Follow Up Training will be held Dec. 12, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at Andrew Chapel UMC.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Farrar
Secretary to the Board

The Purpose of the Upper Room:

The purpose of the Upper Room is to renew the church as the body of the risen Christ in the world through the renewal of Christians as faithful and committed Disciples of Christ.

The Purpose of the Fredericksburg Community (per by-laws):

The Purpose of Fredericksburg Emmaus shall be to inspire, challenge, and equip church members for Christian action in their homes, churches and places of work, and the world community through the Emmaus experience.

WHY I SERVE ON AN EMMAUS TEAM

I serve on Emmaus weekends because the Spirit of God works through Emmaus and He calls me to serve. Our first experience with Emmaus is on “our” Walk (there’s a saying, if that don’t set you on fire, your wood’s wet). We learn a little more how to open ourselves to the leading of God’s Spirit and some of us think right there on our weekend, “I want to do this! I want to help make a weekend like this happen!” That’s what happened to me.

When I am in the team meetings, I feel the Spirit moving through the talk previews, the prayer times, the singing of songs that praise our Almighty God, the communion meditation and sharing the time of communion with my sisters and brothers, thinking again of what our Lord Jesus did for us. Regardless of the position we are serving in, as we all seek God’s direction, He leads, He moves, so sweetly that sometimes I just cry with the beauty of it all.

Emmaus weekends and the time of preparation in the team meetings give me (us!) an opportunity to serve, sacrifice, praise, fellowship, eat!, sing, pray, further God’s kingdom, learn anew about God’s grace and to get to know brothers and sisters in the faith that I likely would not meet. Some of my dearest friends are friends I made through Emmaus.

God is there, among us, as we serve. Where God is, is where I want to be!

Diana Farrar

NC#36

Table of the Awakening Wildflowers

(And boy, did God awaken me!)

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 contact:

Monica Warne

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)**

Board of Directors:

Terry Cook (2017) - Community Lay Director

John Mann (2018) - Assistant Community Lay Director

Chris Fair (2016) - Community Spiritual Director

Diana Farrar (2016) - Secretary

Monica Warne (2018) - Treasurer

Members At Large:

Karen Campbell (2016)

Gregg Snyder (2017)

Dan See (2017)

Ron Jennings (2016)

Ed Hayner (2016)

Tammi Ellis (2018)

Matt Green (2018)

Rosemary Blankenship (2018)

Billy Showers (2017)

Beth McBride (2017)

Note: Year in parenthesis indicates the year the individual comes off the board.

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: OPEN

Fourth Day Advisory Committee:

Mary Lee Hensel & OPEN

Fourth Day Follow-Up Coordinator: Gregg Snyder

Reunion Group Coordinator: OPEN

Team Selection Committee: Ed Hayner

Team Registrars: Chris & Karen Campbell

Pilgrim Registrar: Debbie Bliss

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