

Greater Fredericksburg Emmaus Community Newsletter--May 2025



**Greetings! Praying that you all had a meaningful Easter season.
This month we have a message from another of our board members!**

Hello Emmaus Family,

I want to introduce myself as one of your board members. I have served on the board since 2024 and walked on FE-107. I'm 46 years old and married with 2 children, one going on 18 and one that is 25. I have enjoyed serving on the board after being voted in at the end of 2023.

Like many of you, the walk changed my life, and my 4th day has been amazing. After walking, I became the president of our Men's Group at church, started a GriefShare program at Hillcrest which I ran for 4 years, took over planning our Community Events at Hillcrest and it has made me a better husband and father. Going on the walk let me set a lot of "baggage" aside by laying it at the foot of the cross and has made my walk with God, Christ and the Holy Spirit a much deeper one. I am so blessed to have been given the opportunity to walk and join such a loving community of believers that I can share my Faith with.

Kind Regards,
Chris Czubowicz
FE-107

Upcoming dates to put on your calendar!

May 12, 14, 19, and 21--Face to Face Encounter at Carmel United Methodist Church in Kinsale, VA--Join us if you are able, especially those in the Northern Neck!

- *Candlelight event on 19 May at 1:30 PM*
- *Closing session at 1:30 PM on 21 May.*

Saturday, May 10th at River Club Church, 10835 Tidewater Trail, Fredericksburg! Fellowship begins at 3:30 and our gathering begins at 4:00.

Every second Saturday--Community Gathering-Fellowship at 3:30 and gathering at 4:00 pm. Stay tuned for upcoming locations!

October 9-12--FE-124 and FE-125 will be at Camp Rappahannock (formerly known as Camp Happyland).

New Exciting Opportunities to Support Upcoming Walks!

Dear Emmaus Family,

Do you remember your Emmaus walk? Do you remember the power of that walk and how it encouraged and strengthened your faith? Do you remember coming back to church and wanting to be more involved in the life of the church?

The Emmaus Walk has been important to each of our lives and continues to be an important ministry to those who will take future walks. For many years, the fees that are raised from Pilgrims and Team fees have not covered the cost of the walk. Generous giving has helped offset some of the costs, but we are still well short of meeting our goals. The Board has investigated alternative locations but none of them fit our needs, are any less expensive, and do not have what Camp Happyland has to offer. We are looking at ways to help offset these shortfalls. We have already moved to a combined walk to utilize areas of the camp that are used by both the men and the women but it is not enough.

We are asking for donations that will go strictly to funding the cost of the walk. We have set up 4 levels of giving: \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$200. Sponsoring the talk room for a day is \$200, the prayer chapel is \$100 per day, golf carts are \$50 per day, and \$25 will cover the cost of the various materials and supplies we need.

Your tax-deductible donation will go to offsetting the cost of the walk. Please write "Emmaus Donation" in the memo line and bring it to a gathering or mail it to Fredericksburg Emmaus, PO Box 42094, Fredericksburg, VA 22404. If you want to give cash, please write "Emmaus Donation" on an envelope and bring it to one of our upcoming Gatherings.

Please help us by considering giving an offering to provide the experience you had on your walk to MANY future Pilgrims!

De Colores!!

Your Emmaus Board of Directors



If you are interested in participating on a team, we would love you to complete an updated teaming application. You can do that online at this link: [Fredericksburg Emmaus & Face to Face Application for Teaming](#) or you can print and complete [Team Application \(Updated 2-2017\)](#). Clergy can indicate interest with this form: [Clergy Team Application](#).

Face to Face Encounter 5

The FTF-5 is being held next week at Carmel United Methodist Church in Kinsale, VA. The Encounter dates are May 12, 14, 19, and 21.

What is Face to Face?

The goal of Face to Face – 5 (FTF-5) is to provide an Emmaus experience for persons 60 years or older. FTF-5 is an adaptation of the Emmaus retreat model tailored to meet senior people on their own terms. The sessions offer exciting and hospitable opportunities for Christian learning. The sessions feature systematic theology, tasty refreshments, lots of laughs, and several surprising personal encounters, memorable spiritual breakthroughs! Just as most of you experienced on your Walks.

How can I get involved?

FTF-5's Encounter Lay director is Bob Pickett, the Coaches (like assistant lay directors) are Alice Harding and Barry Dillon. Two other important positions, Logistics Lead and Music Lead are being filled by Donna Haynes and Cindy Flickinger respectively.

As with a Walk to Emmaus weekend, we need our Fredericksburg Emmaus Community support. We need folks who are willing to assist the leaders of the Encounter. We need folks to help with logistics, agape, and prayer room. If you can even give us one day of assistance it will be greatly appreciated. This is a great opportunity for those of you in the Northern Neck area to participate in an Emmaus Encounter in your local area. If you can help just show up between 10:00 AM and 4:30 PM on the dates listed above and we will put you to helping bring Christ to the pilgrims. Please contact Bob Pickett at 540-834-3068 or at bob.pickett1@verizon.net if you have any questions.

We also ask the Community to participate in our Candlelight event on 19 May at 1:30 PM and in our closing session at 1:30 PM on 21 May.

FE-124 and FE-125

We have confirmed dates for our next walks! Praise God! FE-124 and FE-125 will be at Camp Rappahannock (formerly known as Camp Happyland) from October 9th-12th. Teams are starting to form now with our Weekend Lay Directors, Pam Hiller (FE-124) and Mike Wilson (FE-125).

Now is the time to also consider sponsoring a pilgrim. It's never too early to talk to potential pilgrims and start getting them committed to the dates and registered. Use this [Pilgrim Application](#) and [Pilgrim Sponsor Kit](#) to get your pilgrims ready!

How can I help with the upcoming F2F5 and FE-124 and FE-125?

Please prayerfully consider ways you can support the upcoming walks through things such as:

- Agape for the pilgrims (and team)–We've included some info on Agape below

- Serving on our servant team, either for the weekend or part of the weekend
- Sponsor a pilgrim (or donate to help sponsor). This is a great opportunity for a small group or Sunday school class.
- Come out to the camp for Sponsor's Hour, Candlelight and/or Closing
- Sign up to pray during the walk: [Please sign up for the prayer vigil for FE-124 and FE-125.](#)
- There are lots of other ways to support and we will be featuring those in our newsletters until the walk dates!

Upcoming Community Gatherings

*Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.*
- Psalm 100:2 -

Our next gathering is this Saturday, May 10th at River Club Church, 10835 Tidewater Trail in Fredericksburg! Fellowship begins at 3:30 and our gathering begins at 4:00. Come early and bring a snack to share for fellowship time!

If you are interested in hosting a gathering at your church, please reach out to David Whitmer at wd40ss@aol.com.

Agape guidelines and suggestions

Sometimes, Emmaus weekends go by in a blur for both the Pilgrims and the Team, but there is one tangible piece of evidence to remind us of great memories and lessons of the weekend . . .

The abundant Agape Letters, Notes, and Gifts! Here is some helpful information on Agape for the walk!

General Agape

Agape should be the same, or as close to the same as possible and be given to everyone (at least to the Pilgrims)

- Do not sign your Agape
 - It is best if the Pilgrims don't know specifically who Agape comes from so they don't thank one Team member but not others
 - Agape is about service to the Pilgrims and not about glorifying the Team
 - Here is a great resource for ideas: [Agape ideas](#)

Other contacts

Reunion Groups

If you are looking for a reunion group or would like to start one and need guidance, please reach out to Betty Laster at iokilaster@aol.com

Newsletter information

If you have information you would like to see included in the newsletter, please contact Joanne Wilson at wilsoninfred@verizon.net or 540-220-1299.

2025 Board Members

Greater Fredericksburg Emmaus Community Board members

Class of 2027—Mark Lawrence (Spiritual Director), Ava Hangar, Betty Laster, John Blosser, Richard Leeper (Assistant Community Lay Director) and Bob Pickett (Face to Face member)

Class of 2026—Brad Phillips (Community Spiritual Director), David Whitmer, Chris Czubowicz, Jenn Bumbrey and Karen Campbell (Community Lay Director)

Class of 2025—Rosemary Blankenship (Spiritual Director), Chris Campbell, Pam Hiller, Dan See and Joanne Wilson

