

Upper Room Emmaus

of the Greater Fredericksburg Area

Vol. 5

May 2004

DDU WILL BE HELD ON MAY 8TH

At 3:30 PM at Fredericksburg UMC

Day of Deeper Understanding will be held on May 8th at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church. Plan to take your pilgrim to this important information session which begins promptly at 3:30 in the sanctuary. A potluck dinner will follow in the downstairs church social hall. Current Fredericksburg Emmaus community members are asked to bring a covered dish to share with our newest pilgrims. Enjoy a nice dinner & fellowship.

Following the dinner, our monthly gathering will begin at 6:45. We hope to see all 72 pilgrims from Emmaus 53 & 54 in attendance!

***Board will meet preceding
the DDU at 2:30***

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When is the Next Gathering?



Immediately following the DDU!

When: May 8th, 2004

Where: Fredericksburg UMC

Time: 6:45 PM

Potluck Dinner held at 5:45PM

"Early in the morning Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize it was Jesus....Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

John 21: 4-19

The passage found in the 21st chapter of John is one of my favorites because it tells of the third time Jesus appeared to the disciples after his resurrection. On this occasion the disciples had been out all night fishing without good results. In the early morning they saw Jesus on the shore and he beckoned them to lower their nets on the other side of the boat at which they caught so many fish they could hardly haul the nets in. Furthermore, when they got to shore, Jesus was there with a charcoal fire fixing breakfast and he invited the disciples to sit down and let him feed them breakfast.



I am sure that there are many points of view and interpretations of these passages. For me, I find it interesting that before Jesus reinstates Peter into the fold, he first feeds all of them breakfast. It is as if through his actions Jesus is saying that before he challenges or urges us to move forward, he will feed us with what we need spiritually before he asks us to follow him, wherever that might lead.

I have always wondered what it must have been like for those disciples, or what it would be like for any of us now, if we were to see Jesus in the early morning and he invited us to sit down while he served us the breakfast that he had just cooked. I am sure the disciples were in awe and probably bewildered, but all of them obeyed and let Jesus serve them yet again.

But the story doesn't end there. Right after serving them breakfast Jesus asked Peter three times if Peter loved him and three times Peter responded that he did but at last had to say "Lord you know all things."

In many ways, when I come to one of our Gatherings, I feel as if all of us are being fed through the Holy Spirit that fills the lives of each person there. We are fed through the experience of prayer, of music, of heartfelt fellowship, and especially through the taking of Holy Communion. I never leave a Gathering where I have not experienced the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. With this in mind, I want to encourage all of us to consider what gifts we bring when we come to a Gathering and conversely what the Gathering misses when we are not there. When one of us is not there we truly are missed. I, therefore, would like to encourage each of you to try to come to the Gatherings, bringing with you your unique gifts of love and joy, needs and praises to share in the feasting through the Holy Spirit.

Wes Pryce, Community Lay Director



Board Nominations

From the Nominating Committee:

At the May 2002 Gathering the Emmaus Community will elect members to the Board of Directors. This will include four lay persons (two women and two men) and one Spiritual Director. Each of these persons has agreed to serve if elected. The term of office is three years.

The Nominating Committee has recommended and the Board has approved the following persons to stand for election:

Women:

Jane Carwell
Monica Warne

Men:

Bob Bonshire
Mike Cook
Eddie Patten
John Shutlock
Richard Warner

Spiritual Director:

Mark Dunn

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We praise God and give thanks for the service of those who will be leaving the Board in June. They are: Wes Pryce, Maria Fortune, Susan Perkins, and Gene Philipp.

From the Community Spiritual Director...

As I write this we are in the midst of the Easter season. What a blessed time of year, but we can celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ daily. We gave out a booklet on Easter Sunday by Max Lucado entitled, "Give it All to Him." It is a wonderful story about new beginnings. Isn't it great how we can have a new beginning every day in Christ Jesus?



Think back to 1986. Ronald Reagan was in the White House, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was at 1,750, and Duran-Duran was at the top of the pop charts. This was also the year that the Khian Sea, an ocean-going barge containing seven tons of ash from incinerated household garbage, set sail from Philadelphia to dispose of its load in an overseas landfill. Sixteen years later, the Khian Sea has at last returned to Philadelphia—with its original load of ash.

In the meantime, the Khian Sea had sailed around the world, trying to find a country—any country—that would accept the ash for disposal. The Khian Sea originally had a contract with the Bahamas, but en route the Bahamian government changed its mind and reneged on its contract. Turned away from its original destination, the Khian Sea tried

several other Caribbean and Central American nations without success. Even Haiti wouldn't take it. So then the ship set off to Africa, trying to unload its cargo (for a fee) in Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, and Cape Verde. No go. From there the ship steamed to Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Borneo, and the Philippines. No takers. So they came back to North America, and tried several states. They even tried the Cherokee nation in Oklahoma. No deal.

Some ports turned away the Khian Sea at gunpoint. During its Flying Dutchman odyssey around the world, the crew mutinied, and two executives of the shipping company went to prison for ordering the crew to dump the ash over the side in the middle of the ocean. The ship was sold once and renamed twice, apparently hoping that it could slip its unwanted cargo by a harbormaster under a different name. Finally Pennsylvania agreed to take back its trash and bury it in a local landfill, near where it came from in the first place.

Do you have some garbage you would like to get rid of? Are you having a hard time finding a place to dump it? Most of us have an imaginary bag with loads of life's experiences just weighing us down. Oh, to be rid of this garbage. Well Jesus wants to take it from you. Jesus invites us to come lay down our burdens and instead to

take up his yoke. He tells us it is light and that we can find rest for our souls in Him. Jesus is the good shepherd and he understands you and your burden. He wants to carry your load.

We are told: ¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Heb. 4:14-16)

It's time to take out the trash, in fact just let Jesus have it. That's why He died and rose again so we can have eternal freedom in Him. He has made this provision freely for us so we can have a fresh new day.

Jesus is supreme, in fact has been from the beginning and is now leading the resurrection parade, which makes him supreme to the end. From beginning to end he's there, towering far above everything and everyone. So spacious is he, so roomy, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, through his blood that poured down from the Cross on Calvary.

The redeemed are a case study of what Jesus does. At one time you all had your backs turned to God, thinking rebellious thoughts of him, giving him trouble every chance you got. But now, by giving Himself completely at the Cross, actually dying for us, Christ brought us over to God's side and put our lives together, whole and holy in his presence. You don't walk away from a gift like that! You stay grounded and steady in that bond of trust, constantly tuned in to the Message, careful not to be distracted or diverted from it. There is no other Message—just this one. Every creature under heaven gets this same Message of which we, along with the apostle Paul, are a messenger for this Message. (The Message—Colossians 1:18-23)

Is Jesus your shepherd? Do you really know Him? Have you experienced the abundance of His refreshing spiritual provision? Do you taste regularly of the

*He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms and
carries them close to
his heart.
Isaiah 40:11*



peace that is beyond explanation? Does your soul drink deeply from the fountain that overflows with living water? Does your life exhibit His righteousness? As you walk through the shadowy valley are you

filled with courage because you experience His comforting strength? All this is ours if we simply will receive Christ's refreshment. I pray you will every day.

Mark Dunn

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

"Is Fort Wayne, Indiana home?" I asked the particularly friendly lady on the front row of the airplane as I strapped myself into my jump seat preparing for landing. She smiled and replied, "Fort Wayne is where I live, but I will always call Toledo, Ohio home!"

As I was pondering the meaning of the word, "home," I went to the Dictionary and found the word defined as one's place of residence, a familiar or usual setting, the focus of one's domestic attention, and/or a place of origin.

I usually spend at least three nights a week in hotel rooms. In order to make myself at home, (so to speak), I hang up clothes in the closet, scatter my things around the room, and position some of the furniture to my liking. It's not home, but it is a place that has familiar items in the room. I have learned to be comfortable wherever I am as long as I have food, shelter, and a connection with people that love me. I miss my wife, Susan, and my friends most of the time, but I have learned to accept that I can't always be with them. So where do I call home? Is it where I grew up in Kenbridge? Is it my apartment in Manassas? Is it wherever I rest my head?



In Luke 8:1, it is written, "Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God." In His lifetime, Jesus traveled extensively staying in the homes where He was invited. I'm sure His hosts wanted to hear His message and willingly cared and provided for Him. I'm not sure if once He began his travel, if there was a place or a home to which he returned. As I read and attempt to understand the scriptures, it seems to me that Jesus was comfortable wherever He was.

In John 14:2, the words of Jesus are written, "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you."

After contemplating the meaning of the word "home," I would offer this definition of the word:

I believe that home is the place where you are loved. I have family and friends that love me. God loves me and that encompasses all of His creation. Wherever I travel, I have God's love and the love of my wife, friends and family. Home can be wherever I go, or wherever I am. When I am with God, I am at home. Amen.

Your brother in Christ,
Dennis Perkins



Reunion Groups

Listed below are the reunion groups active in the Fredericksburg Emmaus Community. Please send new group information to Barbara Simpson, editor.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Meets 7:30 PM Tuesdays
Prince Of Peace UMC
6299 Token Forest Drive
Manassas, Virginia
Contact: Lloyd Biller (703) 590-1512

Pastor's Weekly Meeting

Meets 8:30 AM Thursdays
Rotates - call for location
Contact: Mark Dunn (540) 786-4025

Lakeside Reunion Group (Men)

Meets 8:00 PM Tuesdays
Lake Of the Woods - call for location
Contact : Vic Larson (540) 972-1928

Rainbow Reunion Group (Women)

Meets 10:00 AM Alternate Thursdays
Lake Of the Woods - call for location
Contact : Barbara Miller (540) 972-7418

Reality Check (Chrysalis Boys/Girls)

Meets 6:15 PM Wednesdays
Fredericksburg UMC

Koinonia Women's Reunion Group

Meets 9:00 AM Fridays
Lake of the Woods - call for location
Contact: Barbara Larson (540) 972-1928

Amazing Grace Reunion Group

Meets 8:30 PM Thursdays
Hillcrest UMC
Contact : Ed McAdam (540) 898-3625
e-mail to emcadam@infi.net

Bethel UMC Men's Group

Meets 7:30 AM Sundays
Bethel UMC, Woodbridge
Contact: Brian Lewis (703) 590-9343
e-mail to bb3253@AOL.com

Lord's Lions & Lambs Reunion Group

Meets 6:30 PM Wednesdays
First Christian Church
Contact: Gene Philipp (540) 898-4917
e-mail GeneDiPhil@aol.com

Remington/Morrisville/Liberty Reunion Group

Meets 7:00 PM First Saturday
Remington UMC/Morrisville UMC
(alternating months):
March, June, September, December

Contact: Linda Butler (540) 727-8044 or
email: lindabutler@windyhillcontracting.com

Interested in joining or starting
a new reunion group?
Call Sandy Crossley at 703-221-6977 or email
her at slcrossley@aol.com

Information Corner

DEADLINE for submissions to the June newsletter is May 15th. Please send your articles to editor:

Barbara Simpson
9 Lockhart Circle
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
Email: bnbsimpson@aol.com

Upcoming Gatherings

June 12 th	Fredericksburg UMC
July 10 th	Hillcrest UMC
August 14 th	Hillcrest UMC
Sept. 11 th	Hillcrest UMC
October 9 th	Spotsylvania Presbyterian

2004 Weekend Lay Directors

Joe Reed	Men	Emmaus #55	September 30-October 3, 2004
Alice Harding	Women	Emmaus #56	November 4-7, 2004

Fredericksburg Emmaus Board of Directors

Pryce, Wes	Community Lay Director
Mann, John	Assistant Com, Lay Director
Philipp, Gene	Secretary
Fortune, Maria	Treasurer
Dunn, Mark	Community Spiritual Director

Blankenship, Rosemary	Reed, Joe
Mann, Kittl	Schertz, Ellen
Perkins, Susan	Shiflett, Diana
Petersen, Karen	Shiflett, Mike
Warne, Dennis	

Interested in Joining or Starting a New Reunion Group?

If you are interested in joining a reunion group, please call Sandy Crossley at (703) 221-6977 or e-mail her at slcrossley@aol.com

Community Volunteers

Community Lay Director - Wes Pryce

Lead Gatherings & Candlelight
Host Weekend Sponsors' Hour/Closing
Chair Emmaus Board
Chair Pilgrim/Team Selection Committee
Assign Nominating Committee Coordinator

Assistant Community Lay Director - John Mann

Gathering Location Coordinator

Treasurer - Maria Fortune

Secretary - Gene Philipp

Manuals Coordinator - Gene Philipp
Records/By-Laws Historian - Gene Philipp

Communications Coordinator - John Mann

Newsletter - Barbara Simpson
Database Coordinators-Dennis Warne & John Mann
Team Registrar - Barbara Simpson
Pilgrim Registrar - Pat & Dick Barnett

Gathering Support Coordinator - Vacant

Community Music Director - Debrina McKeen
Community Baker - Angel Fulkerson
Childcare Coordinator - Vacant

Weekend Support Coordinator- Brian Lewis

Comm. Cha Coordinator- Richard Warner
General Agape Coordinator - Lois Myrick/Monica Warne
Prayer Vigil Coordinators - Sandy Crossley/Jane Carwell
Placemat Coordinator - Ellen Schertz
Snack Agape Coordinator - Vacant
Agape Bag Coordinator - Diana Farrar
Transportation Coordinator - Mo Moses
Supplies Coordinator - Wes Pryce
Fourth Day Packets - Tina Cooper
Fourth Day Coordinator - Dick Barnett
Reunion Group Coordinator - Sandy Crossley



Lord, we lift our prayers for:

Emmaus #54

Our families

Continued prayer for all of us and others to help us with the main goal of coming closer to Christ

My family, Jeff, Aaron, & Kendra who will be going on a mission trip in June & July

All the unspoken prayers

Thanksgiving - Loretta Harding is recovering from surgery - continued prayer for healing

Nick Compher as he serves his country in Iraq

For a 13 year old having tests for a tumor on knee

Janice William's parents as they are still struggling with losing their daughter

That my wife's pregnancy goes well

Mike, Diane, Meghan & Ashleigh

My brother who is newly married & that the Lord will abundantly bless him & his new wife

My relationship with my son

My mom, Em Cotter in the treatment of recurrence of breast cancer

My brother, Mike Cotter who is recovering from quadruple bypass surgery John & Todd

Karen Mann as she deals with mysterious headaches - praise for her graduation from seminary on May 10th

Amy Mann as she searches for a job

Tracey & Joshua Farrar as they prepare of the birth of their first child in June
Kristy Hart's husband John as she walks on E-54 - that he would understand the yearning of her heart to be close to Jesus

Rappahannock Independent Baptist Church
Growth at our church

Unsaved loved ones

Christopher in Iraq

My mother, Nora

Kairos #3 at Greensville - all involved

Women going through changes physically & mentally due to natural mid-life events

Bosses, past, present - for their salvation & for them to be representatives in the workplace for Jesus

My nephew, Be Musick who has childhood rheumatoid arthritis

Keel family who had a car accident

Jim Guy in the recurrence of lung condition

Matthew - that the Lord will draw him close again

Jill & Lynn and their families

My Mom, Mary Garfield & her loving spouse

Health concerns for May Schatz

Recovery from a mini stroke for Lalia Galbraith

My sister, Delores - surgery

A new move

God's direction in where to serve in a starter church.

Our prayers continued . . .

May I express full agape love to my mother
-in-law
My brother, Glenn, as he endures the
hardships of divorce. May the Lord's
spirit fill his heart so that he can again
experience God's love
Issues with my job
Guidance in dealing with people in my life
Mercies for my daughter's struggles
The Lord's peace
Kathleen Ives' health
A new job for Pete Ives
Our community Lay Director - Wes Pryce
Sophia Tillapaugh - continued healing
My daughter - that her walk with God is
challenged
My son, Chris who is an alcoholic
Unity among older & younger members of our
church
Veronica Grisson in the passing of her
husband, Rev. James Grisson, Jr.
Emmaus 55
Patten family
Curtis Hazen - deployed to Iraq with Marine
Corp.
Emmaus 55 - team & pilgrims
Our nation, president, military that is
fighting the war on terrorism
That I become more like Christ - Mark
My daughter who is depressed
My niece who just rededicated her life to
the Lord - may she overcome many things
The Lord lead me to my future employment
Good health
A family who needs your love & care
Our children - may they know God's purpose
for their lives & be obedient to His call

Sandy & her family
A friend and her test
President - our country's leader
Our soldiers & family in Iraq
Open the eyes of people that they might
see God & stand and obey His word
Healing for Robert Smith, Carolyn
Dashnow, Cornell Sharperson, Pastor
Norman Jackson
Valerie Prince - a cancer survivor who
suffers with migraine headaches
My friend awaiting a medical decision
That God will lead my friend to Him
Our grandson's ability to speak clearly
Parents-in-law - Clarence & Ellen Roberts
Less stress in my life
Pastor Gary's health
My daughter Melody - job situation
My wife, Janet - health



For a good doctor report
For young love with Nathan & Heather
who are beginning to plan for their
wedding
For the beauty of spring
For the new heart Pam Maas received &
her progress in becoming stronger.
May her kidney function for her
For His peace in the midst of trials