

Upper Room Emmaus

of the Greater Fredericksburg Area

Vol. 1

January 2005

FREDERICKSBURG EMMAUS TO CHANGE WEEKEND CAMP SITE

Changes are in the air for our Fredericksburg Emmaus community for 2005. With the closing of Camp Easter Seals this month, our future weekend walks will be held at another site. Our community lay director, John Mann, has more information in his article on Page 2. Please continue to pray that God will lead us during this process.

Another change in our normal weekend format will be the addition of an extra women's walk this spring. Emmaus 57 will be held March 3-6 and Emmaus 59 will be May 12-15, 2005. Note the change of date for Emmaus 59.

May you be blessed in the New Year!

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The Next Gathering

When: January 8, 2005

Where: Fairview Baptist

Time: Gathering at 6:45 PM

Fellowship & Food at 6:00 PM
Bring some food to share!

Board will meet at 4:00

My Parking Place

*What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen.
It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see. Hebrews 11:1*



I work in Northern Virginia. My office is in a large complex with eight high rise office buildings and literally thousands of workers. Parking can be a real challenge at times.

From my first day at this location, though, I've parked in the perfect parking place. It's sheltered from the weather and just a few feet from the door to the elevators that take me to my office. On the coldest and wettest of days, I don't need to wear a coat or carry an umbrella because of the location.

About eight months after I began working at this location I arrived and rounded the corner in the parking garage to pull into my parking place. I almost ran into another car in my parking place. I couldn't believe it . . . in my parking place! There must have been a hundred open spaces at that hour of the morning, and he had to take my parking place.

The next morning, I drove a little faster on the way in to work. It didn't help though; my parking place was taken. I got up a little earlier the next day and drove faster still. No luck, my parking place was taken again.

I worried about that spot for weeks. One evening I was walking to my car to come home. My hands were full with a brief case, a bag of something important, a cell phone and other things. I sat them all down to open the door and load up. It occurred to me that where I was parked, though a few steps further away from the elevators, had a lot of space to open the car door to load and unload. Not only that, it was protected from other car doors that are carelessly flung open when the occupant is in a hurry . . . no more odd looking paint spots on my door! My new parking place, I learned, was just as good as the old and perhaps better in some ways.

Many of us are bothered by change; particularly when the change is forced on us by others. Camp Easter Seals is the perfect place for an Emmaus Walk. But Camp Easter Seals is closing this month. Don't they know what this will do to our Community? How can they do this without consulting with us?

It's a big change, but as we worry about the way things were, good things are happening all around us. We've found another location; and though it is a lot different than Camp Easter Seals, there will be many aspects of the new site to appreciate. As we plan our Walks to fit in, we just might pay a little more attention to all of those things we took for granted over

the years at Camp Easter Seals. Perhaps we'll discover, or rediscover, the spirit of Christ, where before we missed Him because of our familiarity with all that happens on the Walk. Perhaps this new location will open doors for some in our Community in ways yet to be discovered. Perhaps it will cause us to rely more on God and less on our imperfect selves.

Change doesn't have to be bad; quite often, good things are the result. Camp Easter Seals was the perfect place; but our new site will become the perfect place in God's time. Look at this time as an opportunity to rediscover God's gifts to each of us that are received through the Walk to Emmaus. Use this time to understand what God intended for each of us to discover. It's time to move forward and not to look back.

Now if I can just keep people from sitting in my pew at the early worship service!

DeColores,

John Mann,

Community Lay Director

Information Corner

DEADLINE for submissions to the February newsletter is January 15th. Please send your articles to editor: Barbara Simpson, 9 Lockhart Circle, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
Email: bnbsimpson@aol.com

Next Gathering

Feb 12th Fairview Baptist

Interested in Joining a Reunion Group?

Call Sandy Crossley, our Group Reunion
Coordinator at 703-221-6977

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

"The auctioneer asked, "Are you ready, men?"

The warehouse owner shouted out the starting price, "Dollar-fifty."

The auctioneer began with the amount set by the warehouse manager and began with his tongue-twisting song, "Daaah-laah Fif-teeeee Daaah-laah Fif-teeeee Daaah-laah Fif-teeeee Daaah-laah Fif-teeeee Daaah-laah Fif-teeeee GOL-den leaf."

Each buyer followed the auctioneer along the rows of 150 pound piles of tobacco as he called out for them to pay a penny or two more each pound.

"I got 80, can you go one, can you go one, can you go one, 80 EX-ee," the auctioneer called, indicating that Export had bought the bail for \$1.80 per pound. The row took him less than ten seconds. "Get around get around get around," the auctioneer cried as he neared the end of a row, numbers flowing from his lips faster than light speed. "Eight-eight-eighty dollars, and the five ... eighty-three, EX-port... One six oh, can you go 58 to go, 57 to the CO-op."

A buyer grunted and the sale was all over. Buyers bid with a slight hand motion, a grunt, a nod, or even a mere look. The warehouse manager ran behind them struggling to keep record of the final bids on a note pad.

There was something special about the harvest season when the farmers and buyers came to the town's warehouses to buy and sell the year's crop tobacco. The farmers had tilled the soil, planted, tended, pulled, and cured their crops, and at last it was time to reap the fruit of their labor. Farm trucks drove to town overloaded with tobacco wrapped in sheets of burlap. The harvest was tied down with ropes,

but sometimes men or entire families rode on top to steady the load. They would line up near the several warehouse doors waiting to unload before the sale.

My Dad and I shared the love of listening to the auctioneer auction the tobacco. Dad and I would walk the few blocks from his gas station and step inside the open warehouse doors. Quietly, we stood as close as we could to hear to the auctioneer's golden tongue.

There would be men gathered, dressed in denim overalls, flannel shirts, muddy work boots, and a strange assortment of hats. Some smoked pipes, cigarettes, or cigars while others chewed. They stood very still, only their eyes moved with the flow of the auction. Although they came to hear the auctioneer for different reasons, they all listened to him carefully as he spoke. His word was final.

**AUCTION
SALE
TODAY**



As I reflect on the auctioneer, I am reminded of the crowds that came to see and hear Jesus speak. They too came for many reasons. Matthew wrote in Chapter 4, Verse 23: "Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people."

Large crowds came to hear Jesus teach, preach, to see and receive his healing. He didn't speak too fast. He spoke in plain terms that everyone could understand. He was concerned about their understanding, so He taught them. He wanted people to be whole so he healed them. He wanted them to understand His commitment, so He preached to them.

**DAILY
BIBLE
READING**



I'm sure many have made lists of changes to make this new year. To tell the truth, I have pondered this very thought myself. Similar to the auctioneer sealing the bid and shouting, "Sold", the year 2004 is over. It's time to start afresh, a new beginning for the new year. After serious prayer, I would like to offer a common goal for all of us. It's one that will challenge us and provide us a guaranteed blessing. I am suggesting we read God's word daily and make an appointment with Him to listen to Him speak to us each day of the year. Yes, I'm speaking of reading our Bibles. He has provided us with a timeless message that will renew our lives. It does not matter why we come to listen. He has a message of hope, love, and salvation for each one of us. His word is final and everlasting.

Your Brother in Christ,
Dennis Perkins



Board News



November 21st was a memorable day. Many of us read in the paper that day that Camp Easter Seals was up for sale and all of our Walks scheduled for 2005 were canceled. What a shock! As you might guess, the Board had a lot to accomplish to get back on track. With God's help, it appears that we have been able to recover with only minimal disruption to our schedule. The details are still being worked, but it looks as if we will be able to use the Salvation Army's Camp Happyland which is located just 18 miles from Central Park. The Board has given approval to proceed with the signing of contracts and payment of deposits for our 2005 Walks. We hope to have all of the details worked out by the January Gathering and will present them to you at that time.

The schedule for our Calendar Year 2005 Walks is shown below. The change in Walk location to Camp Happyland will cause only one schedule change and that's to the dates for E59.

- E57 (Women's Walk): March 3-6, 2005 (WLD: Sandy Williams - E34)
- E58 (Men's Walk): April 14-17, 2005 (WLD: John Mann - E29)
- *E59 (Women's Walk): **May 12-15, 2005*** (WLD: Terry Cook - E39)
- E60 (Men's Walk): October 20-23, 2005 (WLD: Paul Prewitt - E29)
- E61 (Women's Walk): November 10-13, 2005 (WLD: Maria Fortune - E32)

The Treasurer, Monica Warne, reported a balance of \$5,632.32 in the bank as of Nov. 30th. This is after paying the bills for both E55 and E56 with Camp Easter Seals and with the Upper Room. We thank you for your faithfulness in supporting God's work in the Emmaus Community.

During the Board meeting, we listened to the Walk Critiques for both E55 and E56. There were many important points made by Joe Reed and Alice Harding. The Board will begin to address these points in the coming months and in ways to make this information more readily available for future Walks.

Dennis Warne reported progress of the 4th Day Ministry Committee on the Pilgrim selection and sponsorship guidance. They have some more work to do, but hopefully will be able to provide final recommendations to the Board at either the January or February Board meetings.

Board New Continued . . .

The Emmaus Directory is in the final stages of review. We have made a concerted effort over the past few months to update addresses including announcements in the Newsletter and a Return Service Request from the Post Office. This month, the Board authorized the reproduction of the updated Directory. Hopefully, we will be able to have it ready to distribute at the January Gathering.

For the January and February Gatherings, we will meet at Fairview Baptist Church.

On behalf of the Board, may your New Year be filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit!

John Mann
Community Lay Director

AGAPE BAGS . . . Sew Beautiful!



Remember when you saw your agape bag for the first time? God filled that eye-catching bag with love letters just for you. Will you help make a pilgrim's walk special? You can buy brightly colored rainbow striped fabric (check the craft section at your local fabric store or WalMart), cording, bright shoelaces to donate. Or you can make agape bags; they are sew simple to make (12" wide and 15" tall, please). Say "I'll help!" -just call Diana Farrar at 540-372-7535 or e-mail her at HRHDiana@juno.com.

Calling All the Young at Heart

Can you decorate 5 or 10 or 20 or 100 place mats for an upcoming weekend? Maybe you'd like to help, but have no idea how to start or where to get great ideas! Please call Ellen Schertz, Place Mat Coordinator at (540) 891-9593 or e-mail her at ellouisesc@hotmail.com to get set up. You may also buy and donate blank white or solid color place mats. There's room for your gifts at whatever level you choose to serve in the Emmaus place mat ministry. Call Ellen today!





Safety for Mike
 Emma's health
 June's health
 Strength for Trish during the changes that are
 happening in her life
 Hedge of protection around Mike
 Susan's shoulder
 Unsaved family and friends
 My husband to develop a stronger relationship
 with God and to attend church
 Outpouring of God's love in my church to serve
 others
 My children to experience God more deeply
 Ann for healing after surgery
 Emmaus walks 57, 58, and 59
 Health
 Financial blessing
 Safe journey for our children traveling from
 Illinois for Christmas
 My parents to be OK with my decisions
 Guidance for children and family
 Peace
 Our troops
 Sophia
 Guidance for my daughter
 Chrysalis
 Epiphany
 E-57 team preparation and that God will use
 these women to do His will
 Guidance
 Trevor, unsaved son
 Help for son diagnosed with ADHD to find right
 treatment
 Me to feel better after surgery
 John for salvation and safety

Ray's family
 My brother Larry
 My loving church
 My family Tamey and Ciara
 Don and Barb for health, finances, joy in their
 marriage
 My daughter Kristen's marriage
 Me to trust Him more
 Paul's family dealing with cancer, chemo
 treatments, and healing
 My children who lost their father this week
 Health issues
 My friend who broke her knee and will need
 surgery
 Marie, 24 years old and with stage 4 melanoma,
 for hope, peace, encouragement and
 consolation
 Danny to submit his entire life to Jesus
 The Lord to send teamers to E-57
 The Lord to bless Camp Happyland
 Financial blessing
 God to bless the 4th day of E-56 women
 Carl
 Spiritual guidance for pastor
 Strengthened spiritual gifts and guidance for
 Venus
 Spiritual healing and revelation of purpose for
 Luis
 The youth
 Gabriel, a non-believer, going through several
 struggles
 God to touch the hearts of the community to
 step out and team
 Daniel in his struggle
 Little Union Baptist Church
 My marriage
 My wife
 The Fredericksburg Emmaus community
 Melanie whose father passed away this week
 Perry and Kathryn

Our Prayers Continued ...

The woman next door that turns her head
because I'm not like her
The Cook family
My sister as she faces more surgery on her
back
My mother's physical pain to be lessened



Our Praises ...

Sean being baptized on Dec. 26th
Answered prayer
Our daughter's college graduation this
December
God's awesome love
God's strengthening and upholding me
through illness and difficult times
Successful surgery for Hope
The children in our home - Jeremy,
Hope, Donovan, Monique
Many blessings of joy and peace
God for providing
God who is a forgiving God
God opening new doors and opportunities
My wife's new job that she loves and
that is close to home
Answered prayer and unanswered prayer

Fredericksburg Emmaus Board of Directors

Mann, John	Community Lay Director
Blankenship, Rosemary	Assistant Community Lay Director
Shiflett, Diana	Secretary
Warne, Monica	Treasurer
Dunn, Mark	Community Spiritual Director
Carwell, Jane	Shiflett, Mike
Mann, Kitty	Shutlock, John
Petersen, Karen	Staddan, Gary
Reed, Joe	Warne, Dennis
Schertz, Ellen	Warner, Richard

Community Volunteers

Community Lay Director - John Mann

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



Assistant Community Lay Director - Rosemary Blankenship

Gathering Location Coordinator

Treasurer - Monica Warne

Secretary - Diana Shiflett

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 Registrars - Pat & Dick Barnett

Gathering Support Coordinator - Vacant

Community Music Director - Debrina McKeen
Community Baker - Kitti Mann
Childcare Coordinator - Vacant

Weekend Support Coordinator- Brian Lewis

Comm. Cha Coordinator- Richard Warner
General Agape Coordinator - 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 - Rick & Susan Dillard
Fourth Day Coordinator - Dick Barnett
Reunion Group Coordinator - Sandy Crossley



Reunion Groups

**SUPPORT
CIRCLE**

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

His Seekers (Women)

Meets 7:30 PM Fridays
Woodbridge - Home of Jane Carwell
Contact: Sandy Crossley (703) 221-6977

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 Reunion Group

Meets 7:00 PM First Saturday
Remington UMC
Every 3rd month:
March, June, September, December

Contact: Dawn Borja (540) 825-1587 or
email: dborja@marykay.com

Interested in joining or starting a new reunion group?

Call Sandy Crossley at 703-221-6977 or email
her at slcrossley13@msn.com