

Upper Room Emmaus

of the Greater Fredericksburg Area

Vol. 8

August 2005

AUGUST GATHERING AT MELROSE UMC

AUGUST 20TH AT 3:00 PM

Community picnic @ 1:00 pm before Gathering
Bring a covered dish to share
Hamburgers and hot dogs provided

TAPESTRY OF FAITH - AUGUST 13TH

Plan on traveling down the road to our August gathering where we will be meeting at Melrose UMC in the Northern Neck area. Please note change of date - The Gathering is on August 20th so we can all attend this year's Tapestry of Faith at Hylton Chapel on August 13th. Twice the fun this month!

Please see a special invitation on Page 2 from Alice and Randy Harding, members of Melrose UMC. On Page 3 you will find information on Tapestry of Faith.

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The Next Gathering



When: August 20, 2005***

Where: Melrose UMC

Time: Gathering at 3:00 PM

NOTE CHANGE OF TIME!



AN INVITATION TO THE EMMAUS COMMUNITY

Welcome to Melrose UMC

In 1996 Charlotte Headley was the first person from Melrose UMC to attend Fredericksburg's Walk to Emmaus. Since that time over 40 people from Melrose have attended the Walk. Attending the Walk to Emmaus has changed the spiritual lives of these people and in turn has changed the spiritual life of Melrose. We have spread the spirit of the Walk to Emmaus to other churches in the Northern Neck resulting in close to 90 people having attended the Walk since 1996. Some of these people have participated in the Walk in different communities or have attended Cursillo or Chrysalis.

Several members of the Northern Neck's little community have attended gatherings, candlelights, and closings. Close to 20 members have teamed on different walks serving in different positions. However, the distance from the Northern Neck to Fredericksburg prevents more participation by the majority of these people.

We have enjoyed the hospitality shown to us by the many churches in the Fredericksburg area. And now we are pleased to be offering that same type of hospitality to the Fredericksburg community for the August and the September gatherings which are to be held at Melrose UMC. Team members of E-56 got to see a part of that hospitality as different community members provided lunch for each of the team meetings that were held at Melrose.

We invite each of you to take the relaxing ride from the hustle and bustle of the city to the countryside of the Northern Neck. Let us welcome you with outreached arms ready to embrace you in God's love. If you have any questions about these gatherings, please contact Alice or Randy Harding at (804) 529 7854.

Alice Harding

Melrose UMC

Fredericksburg Emmaus #28

Table of Faithfulness

Randy Harding

Melrose UMC

Fredericksburg Emmaus #31

Table of Luke



Tapestry of Faith

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus

The weekend you are experiencing is one of many in our area offered by groups that have their roots in the Cursillo movement. For years these groups or communities held their weekends, then followed up with monthly gatherings, each by itself. In 2001, the first large-scale gathering combining all these communities was held at the Hylton Memorial Chapel in Dale City, Va.

We called it

TAPESTRY

in Faith

A Fourthday Celebration

We followed that up with Tapestry II in August of 2002, Tapestry III in August of 2003, Tapestry IV in August of 2004 and are pleased to announce that

Tapestry V

Is scheduled to be held at
the same location on Saturday

August 13, 2005

This is your invitation !!

Relive your weekend as you meet with hundreds of others who have shared a similar experience. We will have inspirational speakers, and lots of music along with great fellowship and much, much more.

Check your newsletters and community websites
for more information as the date approaches.

DeColores

"... to prepare God's people for works of service ..."

Eph. 4:12

Serving



OTHERS

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

Each month as we begin the Board meeting, we remind ourselves of our purpose by reading aloud the above statement from our by-laws. This statement of purpose should be foremost in our minds as we look forward to our upcoming Fall walks (Men's Walk E-60, October 20-23, and Women's Walk E-61, November 10-13). Whom do you know who could be *inspired, challenged, and equipped for Christian action* through the Walk to Emmaus? That is a question that deserves our serious consideration.

The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus offers the following guidelines for choosing potential pilgrims:

Church leaders (pastors and laypersons) who will bring new vision, commitment, and understanding back to their congregations and who need the renewal and grace Emmaus channels;

Dependable church members who are the quiet backbone of the church;

Less active members who need their awareness of grace rekindled and their commitments renewed;

Christians who are hungry for "something more" and who want to grow spiritually;

Members and leaders who represent a cross section of the church and who will help Emmaus remain theologically sound, centered on the essentials of our common faith, and open to different perspectives;

Respected laypersons and clergypersons whose participation, support, and leadership will encourage others to take the Walk and will build a sound, balanced leadership base for the movement in the community; and Members of diverse congregations, denominations, and ethnic groups.

(2nd ed., 2001, pg. 14-15)

Serving Continued . . .

Sponsoring a pilgrim on an Emmaus Walk is a significant undertaking for both sponsor and pilgrim. As a sponsor, you will have many responsibilities before, during, and following the Walk. The Emmaus community is an effective instrument for Christian action because of the dedication and service of the individual members of the community. The purpose of Emmaus is carried out every day through our service to God in our homes, our churches, our workplaces, and our communities. We have been prepared. Let's serve.

Decolores,

Rosemary Blankenship

Community Lay Director

Hanover Epiphany #12

Oct 8-10, 2005



Epiphany Lay Director Joe Reed is seeking volunteers to team for the upcoming Epiphany weekend to be held at the Hanover Juvenile Correction Center in Hanover, Virginia. Cost to team is \$85.00. We will start teaming in September 2005. Location of team meetings is undetermined at this time. (4 team meetings)

Epiphany is an ecumenical Christian ministry. It has been developed for young people who are in the custody of a state juvenile justice system. Epiphany (An Awakening) is to offer incarcerated juveniles an opportunity to change their lives and value systems through a three-day short course in Christianity and an ongoing follow-up process.

We are in need of Table Moms, Table Dads, Spiritual Directors and Assistants, Musicians, and behind the scene support personnel (Agape/Food Runners)

If interested, please contact Joe Reed at 540-657-8598. You can also email him at AmbPk95@adelphia.net.



The July Board meeting was a time of sharing information and planning for the year as new and continuing Board members joined around the table.

Community treasurer Monica Warne reported a checking account balance of \$12,049.17 as of June 30. That figure represents \$6,690.57 in operating funds, \$2,878.38 in Chrysalis funds, and \$2,455.22 in scholarship funds. Several payments will be due in the next few months, including pilgrim fees paid to The Upper Room, insurance, and music licensing fees.

The Board received the unhappy news that Debrina McKeen is stepping down as Community Music Director. Debrina has served the community in this capacity for several years and has blessed us with her talent and her leadership. On behalf of the Board and the community, I would like to thank Debrina for her service, her music, and her smile. Recommendations for a new Community Music Director were discussed and we hope to have someone in place by the August meeting.

The Board discussed establishing board members as coordinators to work on

specific tasks or to act as Liaisons with particular volunteer community positions. Several Board members volunteered to serve.

Vonda LiCalzi will serve as Fourth Day Speaker Coordinator and will be recruiting individuals to present the Fourth Day talk at gatherings. If you would like to volunteer as a Fourth Day speaker, please contact Vonda.

Jane Carwell will serve as Fellowship Coordinator for gatherings. She will communicate with host churches to plan refreshments, supplies, and clean up for gathering fellowships. Please continue to bring snacks to share during the fellowship time.

Steve Makely will serve as both Music Coordinator and Equipment Coordinator. He will work with the Community Music Director and community musicians to provide music and necessary equipment at Emmaus events.

A list of community volunteers appears in each newsletter. If you would like to assist with any of these positions, please

Board News Continued . . .

contact me or the person listed in the newsletter.

The Board finalized plans for the August and September gatherings at Melrose UMC in Lottsburg on the Northern Neck. The August gathering will be on August 20th and will begin with a community picnic at 1:00 pm. The community will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. Please bring a dish to share. The gathering will follow at 3:00 pm. The September gathering will also begin at 3:00 pm with the usual fellowship *following* the gathering. Bring a snack to share during the fellowship.

The Board discussed moving monthly gatherings to an earlier time so that everyone can get home at a more reasonable hour. No decision has been made but please let any Board member know your views and suggestions.

The Board will meet at 11:00 am in August and at 1:00 pm in September at Melrose UMC. Please lift up the Board and the Community in your prayers. I look forward to seeing everyone in August.

Rosemary Blankenship

Community Lay Director

Fredericksburg Emmaus Board of Directors - 2005 - 2006

Blankenship, Rosemary	Comm. Lay Director
Shutlock, John	Asst Com Lay Director
Shiflett, Diana	Secretary
Staddan, Gary	Comm. Spiritual Dir.
Warne, Monica	Treasurer

Carwell, Jane	Makely, Steve
Cook, Terry	Reed, Joe
Dunn, Mark	Shiflett, Mike
Lawrence, Mark	Thomas, Ralph
LiCalzi, Vonda	Warner, Richard

Community Volunteers

Community Lay Director - Rosemary Blankenship

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 Shutlock

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 - Vacant
Community Baker - Vacant
Childcare Coordinator - Vacant

Weekend Support Coordinator - Brian Lewis

Comm. Cha Coordinator - Richard Warner
General Agape Coordinator - Monica Warne
Prayer Vigil Coordinators - Jane Carwell
Placemat Coordinator - Margaret Filler
Snack Agape Coordinator - Vacant
Agape Bag Coordinator - Diana Farrar
Transportation Coordinator - Mo Moses
Supplies Coordinator - Wes Pryce
Fourth Day Packets - Rick and Susan Dillard
Fourth Day Coordinator - Dick Barnett
Reunion Group Coordinator - Sandy Crossley



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 7:30 AM Tuesdays
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 or
Jane Carwell (703) 969-4019 for directions

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@cox.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 Gathering

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



PLEASE REMEMBER
THESE FRIENDS IN
PRAYER

My grandchildren
Sophia
My mother, Nina
My calling to the ministry
John's walk to Emmaus
Healing for Ann
Help with decisions
Healing in London
Marriages
Our church

Youth facing tough decisions
Kathryn's knee pain to be reduced
God to direct me to a job He wants me to have
My son to find you
Me to be more like Christ
God to guide me as I seek to do His will in my life
My wife to have relief from pain as she is healed
My mother-in-law in Australia
God to push my husband where he should be
Ruth to become stronger and return to her previous health
God to change my heart toward my husband
Families that have lost a loved one during the wars
Fairview Baptist Church as we undergo changes and begin new building construction
Lindsay who has cancer
Garrett to be saved
Trinidad mission trip
All children and babies that do not have enough food to eat
Our world
Susan's sister Carol who has cancer
Susan as she travels to & from the West Coast
Jill and Lynn and their families
Our youth, youth ministries, and Chrysalis
Upcoming trips
Our daughter who is expecting a baby boy
My son's alcohol addiction
My daughter's severe depression
My brother Glen who is enduring a difficult divorce
Everyone and everything

William, Jr., who is dealing with a difficult illness
My brother-in-law and sister-in-law that they will be closer to God as they experience trying times
Those who wish ill toward others that their hearts will be opened to see and receive Christ
New board members as they start working
Mellissa for spiritual awakening
Dustin to come to know the Lord
My son's addiction problem
My friend Clyde who is in need of a job
Jim who is undergoing cancer treatments
Family of John Niston who passed away last week
Epiphany and Joe who is WLD
Lois and Donnie
Angel and Robert and family
Andrea, Jeff and Keith
Family
Church
My husband and me as we prepare for my mom to come live with us
Our daughters Karen, Amy and Tracey, our son-in-law Joshua, and our grandchild Malachi, that they feel God's presence in their lives
My daughter and her husband.
Josh, 18 years old, who will have surgery on July 22
Me to be more submissive to God
My brother Chris to open his eyes and heart
My husband in Afghanistan for a year and for direction and a job when he leaves the Army
Our faith to be strengthened
My son in Afghanistan
The President to choose wisely
The safety of my son in Afghanistan and his bride at home
The Lord to move His spirit in the heart of my daughter
Emma, 18 months old, who has surgery for a brain tumor
My father-in-law's health.
My father John and his upcoming surgery

Prayers Continued . . .

Ron, newly diagnosed with lung cancer, that he
will be able to bring Emmaus to Uganda
My son David in Africa
My cancer to go into remission
Harriet after several back surgeries
Barb with a heavy work schedule



God showing Himself
My son, Jeremy, who turned 16 on July 10th
God's faithfulness and awesome love
Our many blessings
My husband, myself, and my son who were all
blessed with perfect jobs
God providing for us since losing my job
My rapid recovery



INFORMATION CORNER

DEADLINE for
submissions for
the September
newsletter is
August 21st.
Please send your
articles to
editor:

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



Next Gathering

September 10th Melrose UMC

UPCOMING WEEKENDS

Emmaus 60	Oct. 20 th - 23 rd
Emmaus 61	Nov. 10 th - 13 th
Emmaus 62	Mar. 30 th - Apr. 2nd
Emmaus 63	Apr. 27 th - 30 th

Interested in Joining a Reunion Group?

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

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Several years ago, I worked with an Ethiopian man named Mesfin. We became quick and close friends as we worked side by side running a store near downtown Richmond, Virginia. One day as we worked, he shared a remarkable story with me. I am not sure how we got on this topic, but I believe it was when I asked about his family. I could tell it was not easy for him to talk, because his lips trembled as he spoke.

Here is Mesfin's story as I remember it: Mesfin grew up in Ethiopia, went to school, played sports and lived in a single family home with his mother, father, brothers, and sisters, much like most of us grew up in the United States. He attended college, graduated, and became a successful businessman. He studied religion in college, and became a Christian. He married and was blessed with several children.

There was already political unrest in his country when it was invaded by the Russians. This was not the first time his country had been taken over. The Italians and the Germans had control of Ethiopia for years before and during the world wars. Tears flowed from his eyes and ran down his face as he came to this part of his story. When the Russians came in, they killed his entire family, including his mother, father, brothers, sisters, wife,

children, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Somehow, he managed to slip past the soldiers only to be captured later.

During his imprisonment, his captors degraded him saying he was a monkey that lived in the trees and was not worthy to live like a human. He managed to slip past the guards one night, and he ran for over forty days and forty nights. He explained how he only stopped to pray and sleep in two-hour increments. He finally reached an United States Embassy in another African Country. The first ambassador he spoke with refused to help. He did permit Mesfin to stay and work. After years of working inside the embassy, a new ambassador was appointed.

Mesfin shared his story with the new ambassador and persuaded him to allow Mesfin to travel to the United States to live.

It was amazing to me how powerful his relationship was with God in the midst of so much loss and pain. His relationship with God was so strong that even as he ran for his life, he took time to stop, pray, meditate and listen to God. Mesfin shared his hopes, dreams, love of God, and his gratitude for being alive. He showed sadness for his losses, but it was obvious that the tragedy had not left him angry and bitter. There was a spirit in his step and a gleam in his eyes that I had never witnessed before. He was never too busy



to talk with me. He took time to attend church, but most of all, he took time for prayer and personal worship.

As I sat in church last Sunday, I remembered Mesfin's story and began to reflect on my own life. I asked myself several questions: "What have I been doing with my own life? What was important to me? What was I missing in my Christian life?"

There have been several highlights in my life for which I feel richly and spiritually blessed in my service work to the Lord. I had filled my life with busy work, never calculating what God wanted from me. Sometimes I become so busy attempting to create a mountain-top experience for others and seeking that experience to be similar to my own, that very busyness has blocked me from hearing God speak to me. I am not saying that I am wrong in serving as I have, I am suggesting I forgot something!

Somehow over the years, I had forgotten that Mesfin had taught me personal worship was the most important thing in a person's life. Personal worship includes prayer with God or talking with God, thanking and praising God, and seeking His will for my own life. To learn His will for me, I have to take time to meditate on His word and listen. When this important formula is left out of my life, I sever my lifeline with God.

In Luke 10, 38-42, I believe Martha learned what was important in her life: As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, He came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "You are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Mesfin was transferred to another area, and I have not seen him for over 20 years. In spite of everything that had been taken away from him, he left me with this gift. It was the gift of hope, encouragement, and life in the face of extreme trial, disappointment, and loss. It was a gift of love wrapped and ready to give away again and again.

Are you spending time with Jesus as well as serving him? In the midst of serving God, remember to talk, as well as listen to Him in your personal worship. He is talking to you. Are you listening?

In His Service, Your Brother in Christ,

Dennis Perkins