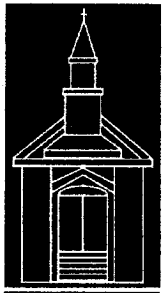


Upper Room Emmaus

of the Greater Fredericksburg Area

Vol. 12

December 2005



The Next Gathering

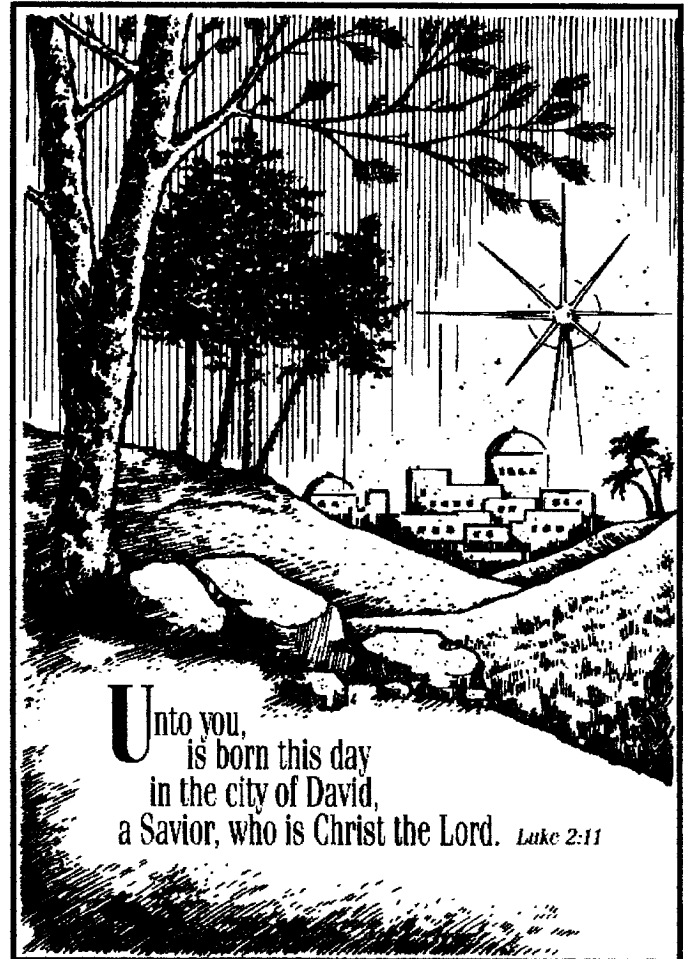
When: December 10th
Where: Chancellor Christian
Time: Gathering at 6:15 PM
Fellowship Time at 5:30
Board will meet at 3:30

Please bring snack food to share during fellowship time.

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May you have a
Blessed Christmas
Season



Unto you,
is born this day
in the city of David,
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. *Luke 2:11*

From the Lay Director . . .

I walked on E34 way back in November 1999. It seems incredible that it's been six years since that weekend. The theme for E34 was "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a small child." Matthew 18:3 tells us that we need to become humble like a child. Matthew 19:14 says that the kingdom of heaven belongs to those who are like children. I'm sure we've all heard sermons preached on the humble, unquestioning faith of children. But we're adults. We have a difficult time not questioning and being humble. So how can we be like "a small child?"

My great-nephew Zach is the small child that I would most want to be like. Zach is almost six years old. He is a child who is absolutely delighted by the world and everything in it. He always smiles. He tenderly helps take care of his two sisters - his twin, Jessie, and his younger sister, Abby. Whether he's playing a game, going for a walk, reading about trains, or building something, that is his "favorite thing." He gives himself whole-heartedly to whatever he is doing and is not easily distracted. He's sensitive to the feelings of others. He doesn't hesitate to say, "I'm sorry" if he's done something wrong. He forgives and forgets. He's always ready for the next exciting adventure.

I can learn so much from Zach. Yes, there are many distractions in my life and the world is not always delightful from my viewpoint. But I can look for the delightful things and concentrate on them. I can give myself whole-heartedly to Jesus and not allow other things to distract me. I can forgive more and care more. I can say, "Yes, Lord, I'm ready for the next exciting adventure!"

Take a look at the small children in your life. Learn from them. Thank God for them. A kingdom full of Zachs really would be heaven.

Decolores,

Rosemary Blankenship

Community Lay Director



'HAIL, O FAVORED ONE'

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Luke 2:19



Christmas has always been an exciting time of the year. When I was very young, there always seemed to be a mystery about the season. Perhaps part of this was the shorter days, cooler weather, all the little lights, a visit to Santa and candlelight communion Christmas Eve at First Christian Church. It amazed me that Santa could travel over the whole earth and leave presents in each home. Each Christmas morning there were presents under the tree.

Those were simpler days which seem so long ago. Now I wonder what the very first Christmas was like to each of the Biblical characters. For instance, how about Mary? She was a peasant girl about 15 years of age living in Galilee nearly 2,000 years ago. The angel Gabriel made a very unexpected visit and said several strange things.

"Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

"You have found favor with God."

"You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus."

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you."

What would your first reaction be to such a heavenly visitation? Mary was "greatly troubled" at the initial greeting and considered what it meant. God was calling her to do something impossible which could spell social ostracism. Her response to God's call rings down through the centuries: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be to me according to your word."

Her words speak strongly of obedience and surrender. Seeing Christmas through her eyes could mean the same for us. Will you be fashioned by God and allow Him to use you for the impossible?

May your Christmas be Christ filled,

Pastor Gary Staddan

Community Spiritual Director



The Fredericksburg Emmaus Board met at 11:30 am on November 19, 2005, at Spotsylvania Presbyterian Church with 14 members present. Gary Staddan led in an opening devotion and prayer.

The minutes of the October 2005 meeting were presented by secretary Diana Shiflett and were accepted.

The treasurer's report was presented by treasurer Monica Warne and was accepted. and lists our total assets as \$14,8451.34. Those assets include \$9,604.74 in operating funds, \$2,878.38 in Chrysalis funds, and \$2,358.22 in scholarship funds. Current liabilities include pilgrim fees to be paid to Upper Room Emmaus in December of \$1,410.00; payment to The Salvation Army for E61 of \$8,167.00; payment for new community sound equipment of \$1,299.98; and newsletter printing costs of \$150.00. As you can see, our current liabilities exceed our current operating funds. If you have outstanding pilgrim fees, please take care of payment as soon as possible. If you have any questions about fees, please contact Monica.

The 4th Day Ministry Team submitted several documents for approval, including an updated Fredericksburg Emmaus history

talk and an updated team application. The Board approved these documents.

John Shutlock reported on the Fredericksburg Emmaus website. One of the goals for the website is to make current pilgrim and team applications and the monthly newsletter available online. John continues to work with John Mann, Mark Dunn, and Robert Fulkerson on the site.

Paul Prewitt presented an evaluation of E60. One concern expressed was that Sunday personal agape be very clearly marked as to whom the agape is from. This makes it easier for the Agape Cha to ensure that important family and friend agape is in the Sunday envelope rather than in the "take home" bag. The overall comment was "It was a blessed weekend with clear evidence of the presence of the Holy Spirit in all of the worship, talks, chapels, meals and special events for the pilgrims, team and community." Thank you, team and pilgrims of E60.

Sandie Makely presented the proposed cadre for E63. Rosemary Blankenship presented the proposed cadre for E62 on behalf of Mo Moses. Both cadres were enthusiastically approved.

Board News Continued . . .

The Weekend Lay Director selection committee will meet prior to the December board meeting and bring a report at that meeting.

The Board received with regret Joe Reed's resignation from the Board. Joe expressed the belief that God has a different path for him at this time but he will continue to lift up the Board and the Community in prayer. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Joe for his service in the community and to thank God for the heart of love that He placed in our brother Joe. Please keep Joe in your prayers as he follows the leading of the Holy Spirit. I know he will continue to bear fruit for our Lord.

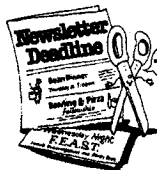
Please remember the Board in your prayers.

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	Shiflett, Mike
Dunn, Mark	Thomas, Ralph
Lawrence, Mark	Warner, Richard



DEADLINE

for submissions for the
December newsletter is
December 17th Please send
your articles to editor:

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



God, put me where, when, how, who, and where
you want me to be
Let me be Jesus this week to Matt and Aaron
Healing for Granddaddy, Bill, Jackie, and Verna
Test results to come back well
My husband, his walk with the Lord, and for him
to get involved with Emmaus again
My daughter and the road she is choosing
My son and his new relationship
My son's girlfriend's salvation
Ron
Finances and tuition for our son
Strength
God's grace to shine on Ryan
Donna to heal from her hurts, both physical and
spiritual
Healing for my mother recovering from surgery
for esophagus cancer
The Lord to speak to me & make the way clear
Our church mission trip to Mexico
Ryan's salvation
Lynda's cancer treatment
Kitty's recovery from surgery
Francy on dialysis
Robin recovering from back surgery
Pam with a shoulder injury and hernia
Leonora's family on her death.
Randy as he continues to struggle with
cigarettes
My son in college
Theresa with cancer
Cacky
Brian
Peace for all
Jackie's health and her family

All children who are not walking with the Lord
Peace for my mom and sister
My future bride Dana to know you & be with you
Our Gulf Coast neighbors
Jill and Lynn and their families
Diana
Kevin to seek a relationship with Christ
Lynn with colon cancer
Him with cancer
Shane
Jim
Audra, Nick, & Michelle in their Christian walk
Kim's health
NSBC
Healing for my employer who suffers from
cancer
The pilgrims and team of E60, E61, E62, & E63
Colleen in her 4th day
Resolution of conflict in the world
Guidance in my work life
Courage and strength
My brother Glenn who is still struggling through
a difficult divorce
Michele's health issues
My mother, Margaret, recovering from a stroke
Upcoming walks E62 and E63
Clemintine and Groveton as they cope with
everyday life
Mike that he might walk next walk
My grandmother, Helen, in the hospital and
very ill
My family
My daughter Kisha to have a closer walk with
God
Peace in the world
The couple who was married today in Annapolis
My father's complete recovery from surgery
New job opportunities for my husband & niece
My grandfather to get better and that his
cancer won't come back
Carol

Prayers Continued . . .



Janet

Churches in America

Strength for my daughter

Health for my wife

My son, mother-in-law, the Cumbers, Laura

Salvation of both my parents and my husband's family

Everyone to be truly thankful

Chrysalis

Epiphany E13 and team

Steve's back

Travel mercies for the mission group from FUMC

John's continued health

My sister Carol with brain cancer

The pilgrims of E60 and E61 in their 4th day

God's blessing on the union of our daughter, Becky, and John on 11/26/05

An unbeliever's heart as his wife struggles with cancer

My church family

Those in need

Amy to find a job in Atlanta

Tracey, Malachi and Joshua

Karen in her walk with God

God's love

My wonder family and friends and the blessings they are to me in my life.

Friends in Emmaus

Family

God's mercies, health, family, friends, and His love and wisdom

Dan's Emmaus walk

God's many blessings

My marriage that I almost threw away 9 years ago today

All the wonderful, dedicated pastors within the Emmaus community

That God was honored and lives changed during E60 and E61

God's love, grace and wisdom

Bringing me and Ann together. Thank you that she is such a blessing in my life

Family, friends, the church, my job, and, most of all, for Jesus Christ

Everyone in the Emmaus community

Safety in travel for our son

Our pastor, John Macon, who served our church for 18 years

Our miracle Ethan who is 7 ½ months old and is here with me tonight

God's mighty grace and many blessings

The miracle of my unborn daughter

Loving understanding parents

Your guidance and mercy

Your awesome love

You are always near. You drew me to the walk to Emmaus, you lifted me and made me new, you gave me a new place, a new heart, and new sisters

UPCOMING WEEKENDS

- Emmaus 61 (W) Nov. 10 - 13
- Emmaus 62 (M) Mar. 30 - Apr. 2
- Emmaus 63 (W) Apr. 27 - 30
- Emmaus 64 (M) Oct. 5 - 8
- Emmaus 65 (W) Nov. 9 - 12

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Standing in the freezing cold, Susan and I combed every Christmas tree lot in the Woodbridge area in hopes of finding the perfect pine or fir tree. Some trees were too bare, tall, short, wide, crooked, spikey or outrageously expensive. After having our hands scratched and prickled by pine needles, sticky from pine rosin, we found the tree. It was not the perfect tree, but I think we were tired of looking, and decided to settle for an average tree that would be functional. After paying for the tree, the lot attendant wrapped it in netting and helped us load it into the back of the truck. Once home, I was on my own as I wrestled the tree into the house only to find it was too tall. I dragged it outside once more to saw off a portion of the trunk and trim several branches, which gave the tree an entirely new look. Finally, I successfully attached the stand and stood it inside the family room of the house. Lying on my back as Susan eyed it from a distance, I turned the tree and adjusted it until I found the tree's best side as it faced into the room.

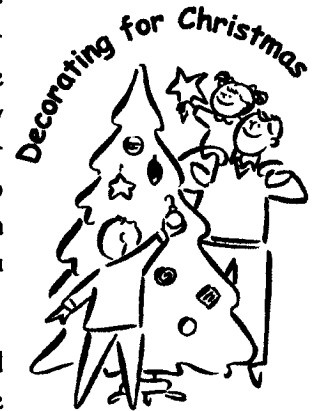
As I began to string the miniature lights, my mind drifts off to another time. It was two weeks before the Christmas of 1961, and I was seven years old. It was time for our family annual adventure to bring home "the family" tree to decorate for Christmas. I do not remember seeing Christmas tree lots back then. Even if there was, I am sure we could not afford one. Only the wealthy folks in town could afford to purchase a tree. Anyway, it was much more fun to take off on the adventure.

My mom, my sister (Sandra), and I would squeeze into Dad's old, red Ford pickup truck. This truck had a starter button on the left side of the steering wheel separate from the key switch. The key only worked the on and off switch. The truck also sported running boards to help one easily climb in. There were chains with hooks on the end to lock the tailgate in the up position and hold it level in the down position. Dad climbed into the cab with us, turned the key, pressed the starter button and we were on our way.

We drove out of town for several miles and turned down a dirt road. My dad got out of the truck, and opened the make-shift barbed-wire gate that held the farmer's cattle inside. Dad pulled up on the lock of rope, that held the two posts together, and pulled the gate to the side of the road. After Dad drove through the wire gate, he climbed back out to make sure the gate was securely closed behind the truck. We drove across the pasture until my Mom pointed to a cedar tree she liked. "That one looks nice," she said. Dad drove over to it, but upon inspection, it was way too tall. We all laughed, including Mom, as she remarked, "It looked the right size from back there!" We drove across the field until we saw a tree that looked the right size, shape, and height. Dad gauged the tree by his six foot height, and said, "This one looks like it will work." With that, he reached into the back of the pickup for the ax. He told all of us to stand back as he began to chop at the base of the tree. Soon, the tree fell, and Dad tossed the tree into the pickup bed.

We drove until we were on the edge of a wooded area. Sandra and I jumped out to gather some running cedar. When we felt we had enough, we laid it next to the felled tree in the back of the truck. We had all we needed, so we headed home.

Dad and Mom strung the lights on the tree, including bubble lights, as my sister and I wove the running cedar around the outdoor lights surrounding the front doorway. After my sister and I finished the "hanging of the greens", we helped decorate the tree with glass ornaments that had been packed away since last year, and we finished it with silver tinsel. Sandra was a free spirit and loved to stand back and toss a handful of tinsel into the air and watch to see where it landed. Shimmering in the multi-colored lights, it would hang on different limbs, in her hair, and on the floor. We laughed and said she was a Christmas tree as we pretended to hang an ornament on one of her ears.



Susan called my name and asked if I was finished with the tree lights. I smiled at her, realizing I had been transported back to the present. I replied, "The bubble, I mean the lights are all on. Are you ready to hang the ornaments?" Soon, we were hanging new and old tree decorations.

It has become a tradition in our home for Susan to hang the ornaments as I hand them to her. I untangle them, making sure each has a hook, and I hold them up and ask, "Susan, where did this one come from?" I know the stories by heart, but I ask anyway. I love to hear about the ones the children made (a six-inch "Super Girl in yellow and black cape and popsicle sticks", a bell made of a Dixie cup and aluminum foil, a beaded angel made by Susan's dad the year Jennifer was born, the hand-painted wooden ones when there was no money to purchase store-bought ornaments, the ones we shopped for our first Christmas together, and the many we have collected through the years

Before we knew it, the tree would be finished except for the "Baby's Breath." We sit back on the sofa in each other's arms as we gaze at the sparking lights and magnificent tree that had been transformed into a glorious vision of Christmas beauty. "That is the prettiest tree I've ever seen!"

Well, I have shared my past and my present Christmas stories, but I have one more story to tell. It is a story from the past that shapes our present and our future.

"And the angel said unto them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!" (Luke 2:10-14)

I hope and pray you take the time to carry on and share your Christmas traditions this year. Most of all, please do not forget that Jesus truly is the reason for the season. He is the Love in our hearts that bring us all together!

Merry Christmas,

Dennis Perkins

nothinglikeflyin@aol.com

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 - Jane Carwell

Community Music Director - Lola McDonald
Community Baker - Vacant
Childcare Coordinator - Vacant
Music Coordinator for Gatherings - Steve Makely

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

Interested in joining or starting a new reunion group?

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