

Upper Room Emmaus of the Greater Fredericksburg Area

Gatherings (2nd Sat of the month):

January 12th	Fairview Baptist Charlotte St
February 9th	TBA
March 9th	TBA
April 13th	TBA



Upcoming Emmaus Walks:

Walk #	Dates	Weekend Lay Director
FE-90 (W)	April 18 - 21, 2013	Dawn Kendall
FE-91 (M)	Oct 24 - 27, 2013*	Steve LiCalzi
FE-92 (W)	Nov 7 - 10, 2013*	TBA

*Still awaiting final confirmation from Camp on Fall Walk dates

Gathering Info

Board meeting at 1:30 pm
 Fellowship at 3:30 pm
 Gathering at 4:00 pm
 Please bring snacks to share during fellowship time.
 If your church can host a gathering, please email the CLD Chris Campbell at chris@ewg.org

Gathering Directions

To: Fairview Baptist Church
 900 Charlotte St
 Fredericksburg, VA 22401
 From I-95: Take Exit 130A heading Rt. 3 East. After the Rt. 1 overpass, turn left at the next stop light which intersects Route 3 and William St. Continue on William St. to the second stop light and turn Right onto Littlepage Street. Fairview is on the corner of Littlepage St. and Charlotte St.

From the Community Lay Director

In previous newsletters Jim Muhlenkamp, our Community Spiritual Director, has expounded on God's holiness, goodness and awesomeness. In this newsletter he talks about God's omnibenevolence.

This month I want to talk to you about something you probably have never have thought about - the bacon-ness of God. I know some of you are thinking I ate some bad bacon. I assure you that there is no bad bacon. There is turkey bacon, which isn't as good as pork bacon, but it is still bacon and I will eat it.

Bacon makes everything better. Steak – wrap it in bacon – better. Eggs and bacon – way better than just eggs. BLT – you can't even have one without bacon. Even salad – with bacon on top – is much better than salad without bacon. I can go on and on.

God is the same way. God makes everything better. Marriage and family – wrap that in God – much better. Kids that know the love God has for them and are taught to show that love to others – better. Parents that put God first in their lives – better. Relationships – with God – better than without. And church – you can't even have church without God.

Trials aren't fun but they are better with God. The trial might be a broken relationship or the death of a loved one. It could be a job situation or financial strain. God makes everything better. The trial is still a trial they are not fun – but its better to have God than to not have God.

Although I love bacon because it is tasty, even my favorite verse in the Bible has bacon in it. My favorite chapter is Acts 10, but if I had to pick a verse it would be "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

Now you are definitely thinking I ate more than just bad bacon.

It is not a common favorite life-verse. It is not a favorite verse of anyone I know. But that verse has everything to do with God's bacon-ness.

The short version of Acts 10 is that Peter sees a vision of unclean animals and God tells Peter "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean". Clearly, there was a pig on that sheet which is why I consider Acts 10 the "bacon chapter" of the Bible. After the vision repeated itself 3 times, some servants from a Roman centurion named Cornelius came to the door to go get Peter to come with them. Peter then goes into the house of Cornelius and shares the Good News with them and they are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Good Jews, like Peter, didn't associate with non-Jews – let alone go into their house. Good Jews followed the kosher laws and bacon was outside the norm. Peter was being called by God to go outside his comfort zone. He was being called to a place he had never been before. Thus bacon reminds me that I need to step outside my comfort zone. God can probably use me sitting on my couch but He can use me more when I am outside my comfort zone.

Maybe it is just an excuse to eat bacon, (I do love bacon), but I decided a few years ago to try whatever opportunities come my way. Some experiences I like and I continue them, some don't work out so well but were worth trying– but I step outside my comfort zone and give it a try.

I challenge you to love your bacon. What opportunity has God presented to you that is outside your comfort zone? Give it a shot. You might just find out you like bacon.

De Colores,

Chris Campbell
Fairview at River Club
FE-70
Table of Peter

From the Community Spiritual Director

After the U.S.S. Pueblo was captured by the North Koreans, the eighty-two surviving crew members were thrown into a brutal captivity. In one particular instance thirteen of the men were required to sit in a rigid manner around a table for hours. After several hours the door was violently flung open and a North Korean guard brutally beat the man in the first chair with the butt of his rifle. The next day, as each man sat at his assigned place, again the door was thrown open and the man in the first chair was brutally beaten. On the third day it happened again to the same man. Knowing the man could not survive, another young sailor took his place. When the door was flung open the guard automatically beat the new victim senseless. For weeks, each day a new man stepped forward to sit in that horrible chair, knowing full well what would happen. At last the guards gave up in exasperation. They were unable to beat that kind of sacrificial love.

People are drawn to stories like this, or to the stories of the teachers and administrators in the recent Connecticut School shooting running to the sound of gunfire and jumping in front of students to sacrifice themselves. There is something about such stories that just makes us feel good as if the sacrifice is resonating in our spirit and saying that such acts are just right and good. They demonstrate in an amazing, yet imperfect way the very nature of God Himself.

I John 4:8 says, "Whoever does not know love does not know God for God is love." That is followed up two verses later with "This is love, not that we loved God, but that He first love us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

God's love flows from His very nature. It is not something that He feels but is a part of who He is. Theologically this is referred to as Omnibenevolence. Omni – meaning "All" and benevolence stemming from the Hebrew word "chesed" that encompasses the idea of God's "loving-kindness" or "tender loving-kindness." The

Greek word for love, "Agape" means a benevolence that is self-less and sacrificial. It refers ultimately to God's infinite or unlimited goodness.

Tony Evans says it this way: "The love of God is His joyful self-determination to reflect the goodness of His will and glory by meeting the needs of mankind."

As you are reading this we have just passed through the advent season celebrating the greatest display of God's love ever given to mankind. God's love was in full display in the manger as He gifted Himself to the world to pay the price for sin that we could not pay ourselves.

Romans 5:8 says, "God demonstrates His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Ponder the magnitude of that statement for just a moment. While we were yet sinners, without merit, desperately wicked, and with no redeeming quality within us that would even suggest such an action, God, as a result of His nature of love, died for us, became our sacrifice, redeemed us and drew us to Himself to restore the fellowship lost by our own pride and sinfulness.

As we begin a brand new year would you take a moment to ponder these things and to marvel with me at the amazing love of an amazing God?

Oh Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the world Thy hands have made. I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great Thou art, how Great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great Thou art, how great thou art.

My God, how thankful I am because of Your amazing love for me. I pray that this year You will make the truth of Your love real in my life and will use me powerfully to demonstrate Your love to those who desperately need to know You.

Jim Muhlenkamp

4th Day Testimony

When I walked on National Capital Emmaus #36, we sang the songs that had been playing in my heart for years, though I'd never heard most of them until that weekend. The singing of "Here I Am, Lord" opened the eyes of my heart to God's call. How could I not respond (with my hand raised high and tears pouring down my face), "Here am I; send me"? Of course, I had no idea where this call would take me, but I was willing to go. God put His song in my heart -- another favorite phrase, from "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing", "Tune my heart to sing thy grace"-- and so I sing.

Then He added the guitar to the call. I ignored that for years until it became unbearable to ignore it any longer, so I picked up the guitar and took lessons. It's not easy; it requires discipline to practice. I'm stubborn and somewhat lazy. Singing is easy; it comes naturally. But God has asked me to step out of my comfort zone to another level to learn something new AND THEN He calls me to help lead music. That's not easy, either, and it's a bit scary, but what an honor to be used by God! He has been my Inspiration, my Encouragement, my Abba. Wherever He calls me to go, whatever He calls me to do, He is there with me, tuning my heart to sing His grace. All because I heard His call and said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Dianna Farrar, Ebenezer UMC, NC36, Table of the Awakening Wildflowers

Prayer Requests from December Gathering

Our country	Fare to Texas	Brad – sister passed away
Friend with liver cancer	Christian & Langston	Loss of baby - Michelle
My church	Jim – peace and healing	Wilfred
Monica, Al & Ricky	Shari & Lois	George – healing and recovery
Prayers for daughter's surgery	Libby – surgery and recovery	Safe travel over Christmas
The leader of our nation	Lorita and Billy – loss of a loved one	Holiday
Ryan – unspoken	Youngest son turning 16. Wants to fit in	Jenn – peace and healing
Jenny – surgery and recovery	People's hearts to turn back to God	Husband – back surgery
God's touch on Daiby's heart (broken engagement)	Melissa – healing	Peace and wisdom for Jandrica
River Club	Salvation for two sons – Leon and Rene	Nick - unspoken
God's healing power for Brett	Teenage son – being a teenager and school issues	I, 200 kids from Salvation Army needing Christmas
For the chance for God to lead my husband	Son getting out of jail – pray for relationships with his children	Nancy, John, Christopher
Co-worker in bad shape after wreck – for witness	Daughter – healing	Military separated from their families this holiday
Maranatha Jazz		God's will
Desire of Jennifer's heart		Business to have work in the New Year
Our economy		My brother Stanley - cancer

Monday

Ladies In Waiting
Meets Every Other Monday
In Falmouth
POC: Vonda LiCalzi
540-446-2682

Rainbow Group (Women)
First Monday Of Month 10:00 Am
Lake OfThe Woods
Location Varies
POC: Barbara Miller
540-972-7418

Tuesday

Great Is Thy Faithfulness 7:30 Pm
Prince Of Peace UMC
Manassas, Va
POC: Lloyd Biller
703-590-1512

Lakeside Group (Men) 8:00 Pm
Lake OfThe Woods
Call For Location
POC: Vic Larson
540-972-1928

Wednesday

Lord's Lions & Lambs Group
6:30 Pm
First Christian Church
POC: Joe Reed
540-373-7716
First.christian.church@verizon.net

Thursday

His Joyful Croakers 9:00 Am
Hillcrest UMC
POC: June Riel
540-710-5949

His Seekers (Women) 7:30 Pm
Home Of Jane Carwell
POC: Sandy Crossley
703-221-6977
POC: Jane Carwell
703-969-4019
Tjcarwell@yahoo.com

Amazing Grace Group 8:30 Pm
Hillcrest UMC
POC: Ed McAdam
540-898-3625
Emcadam@cox.net

Uptown Bristersburg Believers
2nd And 4th Thursdays 7:00 Pm
Mt. Horeb UMC
POC: Chris Wells
540-788-3068

Friday

Koinonia Group (Women) 9:00 Am
Lake OfThe Woods
Call For Location
POC: Barbara Larson
540-972-1928

Sunday

Bethel UMC Men's Group
7:30 Am
Bethel UMC Woodbridge, Va
POC: Brian Lewis
703-590-9343
Bb3253@aol.com

Are you interested in joining or starting a new
Reunion Group?
Email Chris Wells at
wells50@wildblue.net