

Save the Date

WALK TOGETHER

EMMAUS

Women's Walk #178

September 15-18, 2016
Tammy Baker, Lay Director
Jimmy Mayhue, BGC

Men's Walk #179

September 22-25 2016
Scott Mangus, Lay Director
TBD, BGC

CHRYSALIS

David Gaylor, Jr.

Community Lay Director

Boy's Flight #40

April 14-17, 2016
Wasena Muse, Lay Director
Jeremy Skiff, BGC

Girl's Flight #41

April 21-24, 2016
Chris Moses, Lay Director
Vic Moses, BGC

BGC - *Background Coordinator*

✝ Laura Gaylor, *Community Lay Director*

Dear Friends,

As I sat in church and held our Pastor's newborn baby girl, I watched as she was completely content in my arms. She would stretch and coo, snuggle into my arms, wrinkle her nose and sometimes a beautiful smile would light up her face. I was reminded of the contentment we should all have in Christ. To stop long enough to rest in His loving arms, and allow Him to take care of all our needs. To sit for a moment in His Holy presence and think of nothing, but just the quite of spending time with Him.

I wouldn't be able to sit with Him and listen to Him if it wasn't for the time I have spent on Emmaus weekends serving alongside of you. Maybe some of you feel the same way, as you step onto the camp grounds do you feel a contentment in your heart? A knowing that He is there waiting for you? Emmaus has been a place where I could put my faith into action, serving in the background, serving on teams and now serving as your Community Lay Director. God has stretched me and changed me to who HE is calling me to be. Sometimes I believe He has a very good sense of humor when He calls and ask me to do things I do not think I can do. But HE always proves me wrong and I shake my head as I serve in obedience to Him.

I know many of you have served in so many rolls in the community and given tireless hours to come and be the Hands and Feet of Christ to others. The Emmaus Road experience is that journey of walking together.

Let's walk together in April and September as we serve side by side on the Chrysalis and Emmaus Flights/Walks. Let's walk together as we spend time in worship together. I can't wait to see all the ways God will reveal Himself at Camp Easter Seals. Whatever He does, it is going to be Awesome!!

DeColores!!

Laura Gaylor
SWVA Community Lay Director
Walk #52 - Table of the Joyful Spirit

Reunion Groups = Koinonia in Action

† Jo Brooks

Once we returned from our Walk to Emmaus, we learned quickly that living the Christian life alone is practically impossible. The Perseverance Talk introduced us to the idea of a Group Reunion as a way of maintaining contact with Christians who share the vision of a God-directed life.

Through encouragement, mutual support and accountability, Reunion Groups are a way to help not only yourself but others live in Grace—meeting with like-minded brothers and sisters in Christ where there can be mutual, Christ-centered sharing. During our Emmaus weekend, we learned that the Greek word used in the New Testament to describe such sharing is Koinonia.

How blessed were you by your Christian brothers and sisters at your table over the Emmaus weekend? Want more of this 'Koinonia' – this Christ-centered sharing in your life? Consider forming or joining a Reunion Group in the SWVA Emmaus Community.

Jo Brooks
Women's Reunion Groups
geejo@cox.net
540-855-8091

Prayer

† Carole Kesler



As we all know, prayer is a vital part in making each Emmaus Walk and Chrysalis Flight a blessing to all who attend whether in the conference room or in the background.

The weekend is covered in prayer in several different ways. As each talk is given, there are a number of people in the Prayer Chapel who pray with each speaker before their talk, during their talk, and with each speaker after their talk is completed.

A prayer is offered in the kitchen as helpers gather in a circle before each meal. There is also a 72-Hour Prayer Vigil for each weekend. This vigil begins at 7:00 pm on Thursday and ends at 7:00 pm on Sunday with half hour slots offered to the Community. You may sign up for this Prayer Vigil on our website swvaemmaus.org. I encourage you to do so for each weekend.

At the present time, we are in need of someone to maintain this Prayer Vigil on our website. If you feel God tugging at your heart to help with this ministry, please give me a call at 540.309.1209.

Prayer is essential and God hears every one.

Carol Kesler
Prayer Chair



“Christ is counting on you!”

Why Invest In A Reunion Group?

† Bob Rose

At the beginning of our Weekend, we were uncomfortable individuals who felt awkward in our isolation. But by the end of the third day we felt we were part of a larger Christian Community. During those wonderful three days we were blessed to become a Family. The transformation didn't happen by accident, but by a combination of leadership and service. Time, purpose and prayer produced a commitment to the Table Community. The tables and cabins became a place where we came together by eating, sleeping, working, praying, and worshipping together.

Imagine being on a Weekend without experiencing this closeness! Living our Fourth Days without a Reunion Group would be like being on a Weekend sitting by yourself. How easy to leave the camp and those three days become a nice time away from the world – just like many other “spiritual retreats” we have attended. This time is a gateway to so much more than that!

In the Kairos Community, we tell the residents that the power of a “Prayer and Share Group” is necessary to withstand the evil that is all around them living in that prison environment. If we look at our own lives, we are just as assaulted living “outside the bars” as they are in their confinement. We need the strength of a reunion group to stand strong as Christian men and women in this sinful and hurting world. In Kairos we say that the heart and soul of the ministry is the creation of the “Prayer and Share Group”. The Emmaus Community is no different!

The Reunion Group is the best way to keep our Christian lives growing, be more effective in our Christian Walks and to stay connected to the wonderful gift that we call the Walk to Emmaus.

“Where two or three are gathered in My Name, there I am also” – Guess it's not by chance that the grouping card suggests you open with the “Prayer to the Holy Spirit”. He is always with us, so why not welcome him into our conversations, our plans, our cares and our prayers.

As Eduardo Bonin, one of the founders of the Cursillo movement in Spain around 1948 (the father of all Fourth Day movements), once said *“Group Reunions are not held so that there may be people to attend Cursillo, but that the Cursillos are held so that there are people to make a Group Reunion. Cursillo is the best means we know of, for putting the soul at the necessary level to begin to make Group Reunion.”*

How can we improve and create a better community of Reunion Groups? The following are some ideas to consider:

- **Register** – give the Board members for Reunion Groups your group information - time, location, and contact person with their contact information. We will put this into our database and add to our website for easy reference.
- **Split** – if your group is 8 to 10 and the attendance is consistent this makes it hard for everyone to share in the time allowed. I know that this can be hard after forming personal relationships with those in the group. Don't think of it as a death, but a birth of a new group that has an empty chair that is an open invitation for new people to join.
- **Break Off** – consider one of your more experienced members to leave your group for a period of time (approx. 3 months) to start another group from some pilgrims who just came off a walk. One word of caution – you are just there to assist and advise – the new pilgrims must take ownership of this group!
- **Contact those you already know** – your sponsor, those from your Church who have attended a Walk, team members or others you have met from the community to form a group.

Contact the Emmaus Board for any way we can assist you. We have a primary contact for men and women to assist you with finding a reunion group.

Bob Rose
Men's Reunion Groups
brose1150@aol.com
540-529-0953

Sponsorship

† Gloria Gaylor

You can't have sponsorship without prayer. The first and most important part of sponsorship is prayer. You need to be open to who God wants you to sponsor.

Remember the purpose of Emmaus is to encourage, equip, and empower new church leaders. In doing this, we are better able to spread the Good News. We need to be faithful to God.

The SWVA Emmaus Community has had a great impact in Roanoke and the surrounding communities.

A great deal of the Emmaus people have had a direct impact on their churches, workplaces, and community at large. They have also brought new ideas to strengthen the Emmaus community.

So I ask you to please be in prayer for guidance as to who God would lead you to sponsor.

DeColores!

Gloria Gaylor
SWVA Walk to Emmaus #55
Table of Mary



Pastor's Corner

† Carol Johnson, *Community Spiritual Director*



...For I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need

and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:11-12

Right now, where you are in your life, can you say that you are truly content? Contentment does not mean happiness. Happiness depends on outward circumstances. It means being content with what we have and not trying to get what we want.

Contentment is an attitude. It's appreciating the small, everyday things of life that we often take for granted. We may not be in a good place right now but we can choose to be content with what we have or be constantly dissatisfied and looking for the next thing.

Contentment - drinking a good cup of hot coffee or tea; bread baking in the oven; spending time with family or friends; having a quiet time with the Lord; a beautiful sunset or sunrise; planting a garden; taking a walk. We could fill a page, couldn't we?

The Psalmist says - Bless the Lord, O' my soul, and forget not all his benefits. Psalm 103:2

Can you say that you are truly content with your life?

DeColores!
Carol

Capital Campaign

† Lisa Huffman

What a year 2016 started out to be, WOW! With the blessing of transitioning to a new camp and along with other expenses, your Board of Directors initiated a Capital Campaign. Our goal is to raise \$11,000. Because of generous donations from you—our faithful community members, a spaghetti dinner and the ongoing Kroger Community Rewards Program, we have raised nearly \$5,000 dollars.

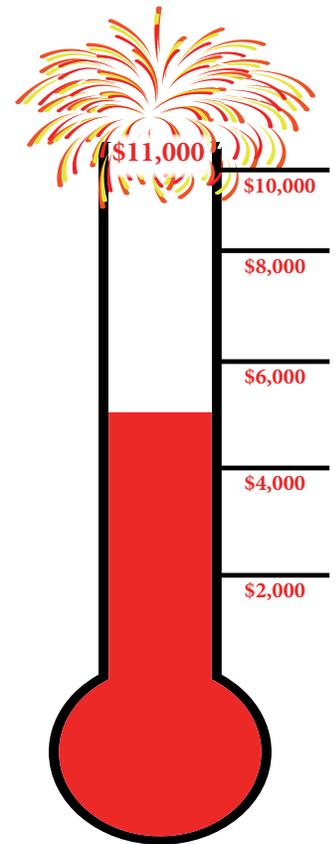
The funds received thus far, along with funds from our general fund have allowed us to purchase a new trailer for storing and moving our supplies for Emmaus Walks and Chrysalis Flights. The trailer will also be used for programs that are in BETA mode from the Upper Room that we pray to participate in the future.

Fortunately, we have the need to meet the goal of \$11,000 to continue as a functioning and growing Community. If you have already given to this Campaign, we praise you and thank God that you were able to do so. With only \$6,000 left to raise, I invite 60 people to pray about giving \$100 or 120 to give \$50. If you are still praying about a donation, your Board is praying alongside you.

Donations may be mailed to:
c/o Phil Brown, Treasurer
PO Box 12265
Roanoke 24024 Roanoke VA

Or you may visit swvaemmaus.org and click on the Red Heart to make a donation via PayPal
**Donations are tax-deductible.*

Lisa Huffman
SWVA Walk to Emmaus #100
Table of Ruth



Let us not become weary in doing good,
for at the proper time we will reap a
harvest if we do not give up. Therefore,
as we have opportunity, let us do good
to all people, especially to those who
belong to the family of believers.

galatians 6:9-10

Camp Adventures

† Bobby Jones

At the end of February, I made an adventurous journey to Douglas, Georgia. It was there that I made a purchase for a trailer to use in the transition from our storage unit housing our Emmaus and Chrysalis Weekend Supplies to Camp Easter Seals.

I will comment just a bit about Douglas, Georgia, where the trailer factory, Cargo Trailers, pretty much is the entire town. It is a huge place and with some really nice folks working there. Cargo Trailers turns over and moves out the door at least 20 trailers a day. We had the opportunity to meet several folks from as far away as Leavenworth, Texas buying a trailer there because of the direct from factory savings. These trailers also offer a 5-year warranty. God was with us the entire trip as we traveled over 1,300 miles total.

I would also like to thank everyone for your generosity in giving monetarily and in surrounding the trip with your awesome prayers for a safe trip down south and back. We had an uneventful trip, without a single glitch. The weather couldn't have been better either – not a drop of rain just rays of sunshine. This was a smooth, but tiring 15-hour adventure.

We hope to get the trailer outfitted with shelving and then schedule a trip to the storage unit so we can organize and sort through the supplies to make the transition to Camp Easter Seals.

I know we are all looking forward to our new home in New Castle and all of God's blessings there. I hope this little update finds each and every one of you blessed beyond belief, that is only what HIS amazing grace offers.

In His Holy Name,

Bobby Jones



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