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This is the first of a periodic joint venture of Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Community and Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries to produce a newsletter for the Emmaus Community. Overlook, home of Shenandoah Valley Emmaus since the beginning, is assisting with the newsletter providing necessary expertise and assistance with the mailing. Shenandoah Valley Emmaus members, including the Board, Lay Directors, and others will contribute the insights and information this periodical will convey.

The newsletter will be mailed to those who do not use email and will be posted on the ShenandoahValleyEmmaus.org website. If you have received this printed edition and use email, it would be very helpful to have your email address. Over time this saves the community considerable expense and will get information to you much faster as the newsletter will probably be published only quarterly. **Please email Rob Berkebile (rberk51@gmail.com) with your updated information.**

Easter Prayers Luke 24

1. Early in the morning the women went to the tomb where they met angels who proclaimed Jesus had risen.
2. They told the eleven but only Peter went to see for himself. And then...
3. Cleopas and another were walking home to Emmaus pondering all the happenings, confusions, and the significance of the day when they were joined by what turned out to be the risen Christ. Unrecognized, Jesus explained the scriptures that related God's plan for redemption and abundant life. At the end of their journey, He broke bread with them and their eyes were opened! As He disappeared from view they asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the scriptures to us?" All this before Jesus appears to any of the other disciples!

Our Walks to Emmaus capture the same experience! Right on the heels of Easter, we walk together sharing the scriptures and God's plan for our lives. As we draw near the end of our journey on Sunday, we realize our hearts too, are burning within us as we have encountered Christ in a new way.

Do you remember the feeling? We recognized Christ among us through the witness of speakers, through inspiring worship, through the silent witness of dozens of dozens holding a candle for us, and through a *thousand* acts of Agape (including prayers, surprises, snacks, meals, and support given invisibly.) The teams are preparing to re-present Christ now and need all the support we can provide even as others did it for us on our walk.

Do you recall in Luke 22:40 when Jesus asked his disciples to pray while he stepped apart to pray as well? He knew what lay before him and was searching for the strength to *persevere*. But the disciples apparently did not understand how important their prayers could be and all fell asleep.

We have the opportunity to lift such prayers through the 72 Hour Prayer Vigil. Some of the slots will even require staying awake when we might normally sleep. All of them require our hearts, minds and strength to lift this spiritual journey and the needs of the pilgrims and teams to the Lord. I hope we can be counted on better than the First Eleven. We are the disciples today and the opportunity and responsibility are ours.

To sign up for the prayer vigil go to ShenandoahValleyEmmaus.org if you use email. Call Catherine McLaughlin at 434 591-0005 for open slots and manual sign-up.

Emmaus Calendar			
Men's Walk 101	Snd-off 6:45	April 19	
Men's Candlelight	8:00pm	April 21	
Men's Closing	4:00 pm	April 22	
Wmn's Walk 102	Snd-off 6:45	April 26	
Women's Candlelight	8:00	April 28	
Women's Closing	4:00 pm	April 29	
Gathering, Asbury	10-Noon	May 12	
Gathrin, Toms Brook	10-12	June 23	
Gathering, Asbury	10-12	July 28	
Picnic, Overlook		August 25	
Men's Walk 103		Oct. 4-7	
Women's Walk 104		Oct. 11-14	



Expanded New Bathrooms

If you have not been to Overlook for a while you may have missed the modernized, expanded bathrooms— 6 showers & toilets on each side, and spacious. Also, most of the buildings have been air conditioned! Faith Cabin is getting it's make-over this spring. If you can lend a hand call 540 2MY-CAMP!

A Plan for Sponsoring

I just wanted to drop a note to encourage you to sponsor a pilgrim for this Spring Men's or Women's Walks. As you may have heard, the last men's walk was cancelled because we did not have sufficient pilgrims. I can think of a number of barriers to sponsorship. It may be you do not know anyone who would be interested in participating. It may be you don't realize that you know people who would be interested in participating. It may also be you are hesitant to sponsor someone because of the financial cost. Or it may be you are not sure about the logistics of getting your pilgrim to and from the mountain as well as attending to other sponsor's duties. I encourage you to consider there may be people for whom this Spring's Walk might be the instrument for God's love and mercy to bring renewal for those who are in need.



Here is what I do to consider potential pilgrims. I sit down with a pen and paper and brainstorm people who might be willing to go. I pray for them. And then I talk with some other people who have gone to see what they think about my list. I typically work with some other people to plan on carrying out the sponsorship responsibilities. And then I print out a copy of the application form and I ask people to consider going. I briefly go over the weekend and I leave it in their and God's hands.

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? - Romans 10:14

Rev. Luke Smith



For most of us, making a joyful noise is fun and moving, especially when some gifted individuals help us along the way with instruments that keep us in tune and up to tempo.

If you are one of those gifted individuals- we need you! You have heard the more the merrier. The reverse is also somewhat true.. The less the more mournful as we lose our pitch and rhythm!

If you cannot make it more often, please carve out at least 2 dates this year to help with music. You can let Joey Nunez (our Community Music Director) know you are available at 540 830-3385 or joeph.nunez@gmail.com.

And always, just come even at the last minute... the more the merrier!

Come to Candlelight!

Emmaus for Children?

No, but there is something better! Kids and youth need action that tells the story, not 15 speakers. This summer kids will experience the life of Jesus at Overlook, including walking with Someone to Emmaus. Get your kids or grandkids signed-up. It could change their lives!

540 2MY-CAMP

Other contact info on front—top!

Contact Us!

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You Might Miss the Miracle

Do you believe in miracles? Have you ever seen one? It would be one of those moments when the hand of God was clearly in action, shaping people or circumstances to fit God's plan beyond the normal course of events or understanding.

One of my favorite scriptures is Luke 5:17. *One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. and the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. ..*

What happened next was a miracle.

Jesus intervened with the natural course of events and in his compassion, healed the paralyzed man. The friends on the roof saw it all through the hole they had cut. Clearly they had hoped for this. They were believers in the first place or they would not have gone to all the trouble to do this for a friend in need of Jesus' touch.

None the less, don't you think they were filled with awe, wonder and joy when they saw the miracle unfold. Would not such a miracle of their own seeing strengthen their faith in the Son of God. A life had been changed with healing and love. It was the beginning of a new life's journey for one needing Christ's blessing. If you could have been there, would you have taken the time to climb on the roof and peer through the opening and see it happen?

Over these spring Walks, Emmaus folk are *breaking through the roof* to help some new friends encounter Christ in a life changing way!

I hope you will be present Sunday at 4:00 for Closing, to gaze at the miracle that has unfolded for those who have been sharing the 3 days with Jesus.

They will tell of the love received, the healing moments, the conviction for new priorities in life, and the power of living in community with Christ for three days.

Make the effort *to look in* on what Christ is doing at Closing. It will remind you of the beginning of your own 4th Days, warm your heart in a revitalizing way, and strengthen you to walk faithfully forward with Christ. Don't we all need that?

Ron Robey CLD