

THE MESSENGER

June 2009 Lynchburg/Central Virginia Emmaus

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June Gathering
6-13-09
Heritage UMC
Fellowship Potluck at 6:00 pm
Worship & Communion at 7:00 pm

As Gathering Committee Chair, I would like to invite all of the Community to our potluck dinner and worship events for June. Please bring your favorite dish! We will provide childcare for the worship portion of our Gathering. Please join us.

De Colores!
Debra H. Francis, LCVA Board

Team Selection Committee Updates:

The Team Selection Committee will be meeting Monday, June 8, 2009, to start the team selection process for both the Men's and Women's Walks for Fall 2009. We are asking the Community to be in prayer for our discernment and obedience. We also want to know about your interest and availability, so get your interest forms in right away! God is doing great things in our Community, and with your prayers he will continue to bless us.

De Colores!
Jan Guthrie

Community Day of Deeper Understanding June 6, 2009 Heritage United Methodist Church 9am – 1pm

All are welcome to attend. I want to remind you, before you sponsor a pilgrim on a walk you will need to attend a Day of Deeper Understanding. Topics to be discussed are, Sponsorship, Agape, Lynchburg Website, Committees, Serving on the Board, How to be an active member, Reunion Groups, How to be part of a Team, Monthly and Weekend Community Gathering.

Sponsors of pilgrims attending walks 61 & 62, this is a reminder that it is your responsibility to make sure your pilgrim is aware of the Day of Deeper Understanding and that they attend.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me direct at dmartin1971@att.net

God's Peace,
Donna Martin

And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

—Luke 24:32

Model, Manual, Covenant...oh my!

I know that in our community we have heard these words countless number of times. I know (not just as a board member, but as community member 1st) that these words can leave negative feelings with us. What do they really mean to us as a community and how do we know as community members that we are truly doing things the “Emmaus” way? How about this word “flavoring...what does this word mean and how does it affect us as community members? We, as a board and as a community have spent quite a bit of time discussing these issues over the past 5 years.... that is a long time and we can often wonder if we understand it any better now, then when we first started talking about being a “Model” community.

Each member of your active board has a book called an Emmaus Manual, it contains the following sections: ‘The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus’; ‘Director Manual’; ‘Three-Day Schedule’ and ‘Talk Outlines’. Also attached to this manual is ‘The Upper Room Walk to Emmaus of Lynchburg/Central Virginia by Laws’, which all nonprofit organizations have to have. Nashville (this is where the headquarters of Upper room Emmaus is located) has a copy of these By Laws on file for our Emmaus community.

As your current board we have spent time over the last 6 months reading the manual. At the board meetings, a section of the manual is assigned to the Board members to read. We spend time at the board meetings discussing these sections and what we are currently doing in the community to ensure that we are keeping to the covenant that we signed in the being of the year. As a board we thank you for the trust that you have in us to ensure that we are following the rules and regulations. With all that said...

The model, manual, covenants, flavorings... these are not “secret words” that only the board has privy to. Communication and honesty is the key in any organization to making people feel “apart” of and accepted. Do you want to know what the Emmaus Manual has to say? It is available for you to read! Contact me and I will get you a copy. When an individual is selected to be a Lay Director for an upcoming walk they are given a Lay Director manual which contains the ‘Director Manual’, ‘Three-Day Schedule’ and ‘Talk Outlines’, it is stressed to the Lay Director how important it is to read the Manual in full. Each walk has a Board Rep who is a silent observer to ensure that the manual is being followed and the integrity of Emmaus is kept. Also, each member of the team is issued a manual with information about the jobs that need to be performed. It is everyone’s responsibility to stay informed and to ensure the integrity of The Walk to Emmaus, this thing we love so much.

Here is the truth of the matter, we are all human beings. Some times as a community we get into such a habit of doing something the same way that we believe that it’s the only way that something can be done. We might adopt this as the “model” when perhaps it really is just a flavoring of the Lay Director’s choice or someone’s opinion on how to do something. We, as human beings, are so afraid of change...we are creatures of habit. This does not just happen in Emmaus, but in churches, work and even in our own homes. My prayer, my hope is that each community member becomes informed, that we as a whole stay opened to new ideas, that we stay opened to change, that we learn to communicate in such a way that information is exchanged freely without the threat of hurt feelings. We learned in the talk ‘Changing Our World’ that change starts with us as individuals. I hope we keep that in our minds as we walk our 4th days as a part of this Emmaus community.

If you have a question about how something is done, please do not hesitate to contact a board member or me. We want to hear from you. There is no “bad” question...you as community members are allowed to have questions and ask them. We want, as a board (and hopefully as a community), to insure the integrity of the Emmaus Weekends and community life. If a question about how we do something is asked, the 1st thing I am going to do is look in the manual to find out why we do that thing. If the answer is found in the manual I will let you know where and why we do it. If I can’t find it in the manual I will then do some research as to why we started to do it. If it is a flavoring and a better way can be found to perform that task, after some discussion with the board and/or the community perhaps we will change or modify that flavor.

The only way we can ensure any of this happening is with open and honest communication. We want to hear from you! My personal contact information is:

dmartin1971@att.net

540-977-1594 (home) 540-874-4478 (cell)

2568 Blue Ridge Springs Rd

Blue Ridge, VA 24064

If you feel more comfortable sending your questions to our PO Box, it is listed below:

L/CVA Emmaus – Attn: Board Questions

PO Box 11942

Lynchburg, VA 24506 - 1942

Can’t wait to hear from you

God’s Peace

Donna Martin, Walk #10

L/CVA Emmaus CLD

And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

—Luke 24:32

REMEMBER THE FALL WALKS COMING UP!

MEN'S WALK # 63 SEPTEMBER 24 – 27, 2009 JOHN SEAQUIST; LAY DIRECTOR

WOMEN'S WALK #64 OCTOBER 22 – 25, 2009 JUDY TABOR; LAY DIRECTOR

Don't let these walks sneak up on you! **Start to sponsor now!** You can get a pilgrim application by going onto our website <http://www.lynchburgemmaus.com/>

Click on "New Resources Page", we have both PDF and Word versions available
Once your pilgrim has completed their part of the application and you have completed your part of the application mail to:

L/CVA Emmaus – ATTN: Registrar
P.O. Box 11942
Lynchburg, VA 24506 – 1942

Do you feel lead to team on either of these weekends?
Please go to our website and fill out a 'Teaming Interest Form'.
These forms are also in PDF and Word versions. You can fill out a Word version right online
and email to Jan Guthrie

jguthrie@liberty.edu

or mail to:
L/CVA Emmaus – Attn: Jan Guthrie
P.O. Box 11942
Lynchburg, VA 24506 – 1942

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET AND NEED COPIES OF EITHER OF THESE APPLICATIONS PLEASE CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER AND WE WILL SEND TO YOU

Canceling a walk demoralizes the team, hurts the community at our core, and deprives us of
new community members

The team selection committee will do their part of the job by putting the teams together
The members of team 63 and 64 will do their part of the job by building a strong team for God

Community, let's do our part of the job by sponsoring pilgrims.

Let's not let another set of Fall Walks be canceled



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—Luke 24:32