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Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries 540 2MY-CAMP CampOverlook@gmail.com www.CampOverlook.org

With assistance from Overlook, this newsletter is mailed to those who do not use email and will be posted on the Shenandoah-ValleyEmmaus.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 time and expense. It will get information to you more quickly since the newsletter will be published only several times a year. Please email Ron Robey at Robeyhome@gmail.com with your updated information.

Emmaus Walks

Men's Walk #115, April 18-21, 2024

Women's Walk #116, April 25-28, 2024

Men's Lay Director— BJ Smith Women's Lay Director— Beth Morris

Full teams and Pilgrims will be listed on our web site: ShenandoahValleyEmmaus.org



Who Loves You Best?

How do you measure that? Size of a box of chocolates? Roses vs. dandelions? Hugs and kisses? Unmerited love and forgiveness?

The verdict is in. Some of the evidence:

For the greatest love of all is a love that sacrifices all... John 15:13

Also: 1 John 4:7, Romans 8:35, Psalm 36:5, John 3:16, Romans 5:7

"Love is not merely an attribute of God—it is God's very nature. God is not only loving; He is also fundamentally love. God alone loves in the completeness and perfection of love. Thus, if God is love and we, His followers, are born of God, then we will also love. God loves us, so we must love one another. A true Christian, one saved by love and filled with God's love, must live in love toward God and others. The Lord teaches believers how to show His love to others, to our friends, our family, and even our enemies. God's love is unconditional; He loves us simply because He is love." Rebecca Springer, sharing her near death experience published in [Heavenly Encounters: True Stories of Transformation from Near Death Experiences](#)

Emmaus in ACTION - A Gathering Plus!

Feb. 17 10:00-12:00 In the "Talk Room" at Overlook!

Following Saturday's Gathering, many who are able will stick around to help Overlook with a host of over due projects for a couple of hours. They are listed in more detail on the back. [Let the Camp Office know](#) (540 2MY-CAMP or CampOverlook@gmail.com if you will be around for the post Gathering action. We are planning a *nutritious* Pizza Lunch, including salad and cookies to be sure you are energized to get the job done. We anticipate wrapping up all the projects by 3:00 or sooner!

Bring a breakfast snack to share!

A listing of projects is on page 2. Can't make it Saturday? Let Chad know when you can. If groups are not using the facility at that time it would be wonderful to have your help!

Welcome to Chad Hrbek, Interim Director for Overlook

Chad is holding the "fort" until the next Director of Overlook is hired. Christina Gibbs and family returned to North Carolina and her home camp at the end of December.

Chad has a long history with camp, including camper, summer counselor, program director, chaplain, and Chair of the Board. He is presently serving two churches on the one hand and camp with the other!

He is presently looking for hired staff to serve in all areas: food service, house keeping, and summer staff! And of course, volunteers are especially needed with their gifts and helping hands to help get camp back in shape!



Team Anointing

Much is required of our Emmaus Teams—not only considerable time but also many challenges! To meet these demands they need our prayers and the anointing of the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide them.

For the Team Members who can make it, we will have an anointing service at our February Gathering. Training starts the very next two weekends.

Sponsors: Come and See!

There is a remarkable video series called **The Chosen**. It is an authentic telling of Jesus and His disciples. Time and again, someone invites another person to meet Jesus. Often the person has heard of Jesus but does not really know Him. The simple invitation has been, "Come and see." No need to manipulate or coerce, just "Come and see." Jesus has changed my life.

That's what sponsors do. They say, "Come and see." They invite family, friends, colleagues, anyone who will be blessed with a closer relationship with Christ.

[Sponsor Kits](#) are available online. There is even online registration you can share with your pilgrim. Need a Sponsor Kit mailed? Leave a voice message with name and address at 540 434-3539 for Ron. Robey.

The Chosen, is available on DVD, some streaming services or at [Angel Studios](#).



Ground Hog Forecast: *Less than 6 weeks of winter!*

Our Spring Walks will be here before we know it! Please pray about how YOU can “be Christ to others!” Take a moment to pray for our teams and prospective pilgrims. Think about who you might sponsor.

Maybe you'd like to serve at camp behind the scenes, in the kitchen, agape room, prayer vigil, dinner server, ice cream social, lead music, M.C. the Sponsor's Hour or Candlelight, or help stow the gear and return camp to normal following our walks. You can volunteer for these through signups on our website at ShenandoahValleyEmmaus.org.

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Prayer Vigils require 144 slots to be filled! If not you, who?

Prefer the phone?

Call Nancy Goulart (540 405-1133) to sign up for the prayer vigil without going online.

Leave a message for Ron Robey at 540 434-3539 for other sign-ups.

Emmaus in **ACTION** - A Gathering Plus! Feb. 17 10:00-12:00

Following Saturday's Gathering, those who can will stick around to help with one of the following:

Complete painting Faith Cabin (45-60 min.)

Complete painting Dining Hall Block (45-60 min.)

Insulate shower house closet ceiling (60—90 min.)

Insulate Treatment Plant Shed (60-90 min.)

Block & split downed trees (quit by 3 regardless)

(More than we can do in a week! Bring your saw!)

Haul tree branches to back of camp (1– 2 hrs)

Inventory Swank or Ritchie (30 min. each)

Install dry wall Blessings office (lower 2 feet only) (2 hrs)

Clean camp residences in anticipation of new staff (1-2 hrs each)

Transform pallets to crosses for Confirmation Campers (Camp has the saw and the wood!)

Don't forget to let Overlook know you will be there for lunch and what you may be willing to work on.



Thom Bailey alias Paul Bunyan

Contact Us!

Asst. Community Lay Director 2024

Joe Amend

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Fishersville, VA 22939-2140

Web: ShenandoahValleyEmmaus.org

FB: [ShenandoahValleyEmmaus Community](https://www.facebook.com/ShenandoahValleyEmmausCommunity)

Several years ago, a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought himself, 'You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it.' Then he thought, 'Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet.'

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, 'Here, you gave me too much change.'

The driver, with a smile, replied, 'Aren't you the new preacher in town?' 'Yes' he replied.

'Well, I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday.'

When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, 'Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter.'

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians, and will put us to the test! Always be on guard -- and remember -- You carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself 'Christian.'

Watch your thoughts; they become words.

Watch your words; they become actions.

Watch your actions; they become habits..

Watch your habits; they become character.

Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

...Thanks to Tommy Herndon-- forwarded through internet!

Spring Gatherings—

March 2, 10-12 Hopewell UMC Lignum, VA
(East of Culpeper—Locally Hosted!)

April 13, 10-12 Overlook Set up for Walks

May 4, 10-12 Asbury UMC Meet the pilgrims!

Host a Gathering for the Community in your own backyard!

Our Emmaus community spreads over a very large area. The drive to attend a Gathering can take a couple of hours depending where it is. Why not invite everyone to come to you! *Get Started!*

1. Consult with local Emmaus Folk in your area to recruit help and determine the best days and times to offer your Local Hosted Gathering.
2. Organize a leadership team with people to cover the following roles. Your team may be larger but should not be smaller.
 - Gathering Director (over all coordinator)
 - Music Director - Spiritual Director
 - Refreshment Director - Child Care Volunteers (2)
 - 4th Day Speaker (10 minute sharing/witness how God is moving in their life.
 - You may add others as needed

3. Contact Shenandoah Valley Emmaus's Gathering Coordinator and Assistant Community Lay Director, Joe Amend, to request being put on the schedule. We like to move to different regions from month to month rather than having successive Gatherings in the same region.