



# SonShine Emmaus



March 2010

## Lay Director's Message

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"  
Luke 24:32*

Remember your Emmaus Walk and how you were surrounded by agape love, waited on hand and foot, had plenty to eat, enveloped in prayer, freed from the usual daily tasks?

I want that and more for the pilgrims on the upcoming **Men's Walk #48, April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>**. But you and I know nothing happens on a walk without the support of the community supplying dining room and bed agape, food for the team room, prayer partners on the prayer wheel, and flowers for mananitas. When talking to those who have been on an Emmaus walk, Saturday night candlelight moved them more than many of the other events of the weekend. Seeing their sponsors, friends and family touched them deeply but seeing all the strangers who were showering them with unmerited love all weekend moved them more. For me candlelight was awesome and overwhelming, but Sunday's closing made my head spin. The Abbey's dining room was packed with those people from candlelight but they were dressed funny and were making a lot of noise with joyful music. I remember thinking, "My heart can't take anymore. Will the surprises never end?" (The answer is, thankfully, no they don't; the forth days just get better and better!)

That's what I want for Men's Walk #48 – pilgrims overwhelmed with love and prayers, the community packed in shoulder to shoulder around the candlelight cross and raising the roof again Sunday at closing. We are the hands and feet of Christ for Walk #48.

Check this newsletter for an updated calendar for 2010. The March gathering is Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. If your last name begins with the letters A-L please bring a snack to share after gathering. Look also for the agape rules for walks and start working now on yours to share with the team and pilgrims.

Looking forward to seeing you at Mechanicsville UMC on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Decolores!

*Polly Rowan*

[Polly.rowan@genworth.com](mailto:Polly.rowan@genworth.com) or 804-364-3995

## Pilgrim Applications Needed Next Walk – April 29-May 2

Applications may be downloaded at  
[www.emmaussonshine.org](http://www.emmaussonshine.org)

## Spring into Sonshine

Hello Emmaus Community.

I hope you are all getting ready for the Spring Men's walk. I know it has been a long dreary winter and we are all ready for some Sonshine and flowers, right?

What better way to celebrate the renewal of life than to come out and support your Emmaus Team and Pilgrims help them blossom into transformed and renewed Christian leaders. Emmaus is a great organization and our Sonshine Emmaus family of believers has given and continues to give of ourselves in order to support the ideals of Godly love and selflessness that we have come to cherish. Ideals of love and giving and unity that have nourished many wonderful experiences and friendships, and given new life to God's call in our lives.

Now it is our turn to give that gift to others. We have all been on our own Emmaus walk and we know what an uplifting and life changing experience it can be. And being a team member or support person is an even more rewarding and fulfilling experience. If you have only been on the Emmaus walk you are missing out on the even greater experiences of teaming and gathering in fellowship with those who share your passion for God and the fulfillment that only a spirit filled gathering can bring.

So don't miss out! Let us see you all at the next Gathering in March and at the Men's walk in April. It won't be the same without YOU! God bless you as you have blessed me.

*Michaux Bullock*

*Please use the flyer located at the end of the newsletter!*

## From Tony Western

I am excited to be the Lay Director of the next Men's Walk. It will be here before we know it, however, and there are still positions to be filled. I am in need of a Spiritual Director. If you are willing to serve in that capacity, please let me know as soon as possible.

We are also in need of men who are willing to team on this walk. If you have never teamed before, this would be a great time to try it out. We also welcome experienced teamers. Please let me, Chip Beekman ([pbeekman7@gmail.com](mailto:pbeekman7@gmail.com) or 794-1971) or Maryclay Smith ([msmith620@aol.com](mailto:msmith620@aol.com) or 598-7431) if you are interested.

As always, I ask the Community to keep this Walk in your prayers. We know God has wonderful plans for this Walk. Please consider being a part of it – either on the Team or behind the scenes.

Thank you!

## To All Emmaus Men and Women

All of us who have walked can remember how wonderful it was. There was so much love that was given so freely to you from those you didn't even know.

I have volunteered to run the back ground events for the men's walk and I really need all the help I can get, so please volunteer. The Walk is going to be held April 29th to May 2nd. We need people to help set up on Thursday, as well as during the weekend.

I am also asking for you to be there for the Pilgrims. Their send off on Thursday night, Candle light service on Saturday night and for Closing on Sunday to send them on their 4th day. Please remember that there were many people that supported you when you walked, so let's return all that love back to the pilgrims on this walk.

If driving to the Abbey is a problem, then maybe there is someone going your way that you can ride with. If you are willing to share your love, please call me at 804-598-8780, or email me at [mdw3611@yahoo.com](mailto:mdw3611@yahoo.com). Thank you and God Bless us all.

Melody Latham

## Fourth Day Speakers

If you feel God has put a message on your heart to share, or you know someone who has a special message for our Community, please contact Jenny Piper at [jpiper@att.net](mailto:jpiper@att.net) or 804-763-3704.

## From the Newsletter Editor

Jenn Navolis is the newsletter editor for 2010. Please forward any information for the newsletter to her via e-mail ([rejoiceagainisay@gmail.com](mailto:rejoiceagainisay@gmail.com)), or phone (804-815-7654). Please provide any information you want included in the newsletter to me by the last day of the month.

Thank you!

## Agape Guidelines

Just a reminder about the most recent guidelines for agape:

**Sponsors** – Please give special individual gifts to your Pilgrim after closing. Please collect 8-12 personal letters from family and friends which will be given in the Agape bag on Sunday afternoon. If there are more than 12, please save and give to your Pilgrim on the way home.

**Community Agape** – The model calls for all community agape to be anonymous. If your reunion group provides agape, the name of your reunion group may be acknowledged. No agape should call attention to any individual person. Agape will be given out as pillow, dining room and talk table agape. There should be enough dining room and talk table agape for both the pilgrims and team. The team generally does not receive pillow agape other than on Thursday night. The team will also receive agape bags.

If you want your agape to be given out at a specific time or place, please note it on the outside of your agape.

If you have miscellaneous low quantity agape items that cannot be used for the Walks, please bring them to be donated to Camp Rainbow. This camp is for the mentally challenged and meets in Blackstone, VA. They would greatly appreciate any items you may have.

## PRAYER WHEEL PLEASE SIGN UP TO PRAY FOR THE WALK!

Even if you cannot come to the Abbey or participate in other ways, you can pray! Please sign up on our Prayer Wheel so the Pilgrims will know they are being prayed over. You may sign up online at:

<http://3dayol.org/Vigil/GetVigil.phtml?pvid=4431&commid=294>

The communities are listed in alphabetical order, so just go to SonShine Emmaus and pick a time. If you enter your email address, you will be sent a reminder email prior to your selected time. If you do not have internet access, you may call Page Allen at (H)804-598-5971.

### 2010 Calendar

Mar 20	5:00 – Board Meeting 6:30 - Gathering & Snack (A-L)
Apr 17	6:30 – Gathering & Snack (M-Z)
Apr 29	6:00 – Send Off & Sponsor's Hour
Apr 30	7:00 – Candlelight & Sign Placemats
May 2	3:00 - Closing
May 22	4:00 – DDU & Walk Critique 5:30 – Celebration Dinner 6:30 – Gathering
June 19	5:00 – Board Meeting 6:30 – Gathering & Snack (A-L)
July 17	6:30 – Gathering & Snack (M-Z)
Aug 21	5:00 – Board Meeting 6:30 – Gathering & Ice Cream Social
Sept 18	5:00 – Board Meeting 6:30 – Gathering & Snack (A-L)
Oct 14-17	At Abbey – Women's Walk
Nov 20	4:00 – DDU & Walk Critique 5:30 – Celebration/Dinner 6:30 – Gathering
Dec	No Gathering

***If your last name begins with the letters indicated next to a specific gathering, please bring a snack for everyone to share. Thank you!***

**All meetings and Gatherings are held at:  
Mechanicsville United Methodist Church  
7356 Atlee Road  
Mechanicsville, VA 23111**

### Board Positions

Community Spiritual Director	Bruce Lake
Asst. Spiritual Director/s	Bobby Gibson
Past Lay Director	Tom Verbeke
Community Lay Director	Polly Rowan
Asst. Community Lay Director	Dina Giese
Secretary	Elaine Jones
Treasurer	Page Allen

### Community Positions

Childcare	OPEN
Community Website	John Wermuth
Fourth Day Speakers	Jenny Piper
Gathering Support	Paul Ogburn
Historian	Suzy Verbeke
Music Coordinator	Sharon Lester
Newsletter – Paper & Email	Jenn Navolis
Nominating Chair	Suzy Verbeke
Outside Community Agape	Dwayne Brankley
Registrar	Suzy Verbeke
Reunion Groups	Brenda Atkins

### Walk Related Positions

DDU Chair	OPEN
Facility Coordinator	Dina Giese
Fourth Day Packets / Agape Bags	Donna Ring
Lay Director – Men	Tony Western
-- Women	Suzanne Bullock
Notebooks, name tags, room name tags	Page Allen
Placemats	Sharon Perkins
Prayer Wheel	Page Allen
Team Selection	Chip Beekman / MaryClay Smith
Walk Background Coordinator	Melody Latham
Walk Supplies	Gene Mims

**SonShine Emmaus Community  
2361 Judes Ferry Road  
Powhatan, VA 23139**

# Emmaus Walks in April and October



Need New Life?

Looking for a new direction in your faith walk? Ask me about the Emmaus Walk Christian Leadership retreat and Community. It will change your life.

Your Name Here