



Sonshine Emmaus



April 2008

Lay Director's Message

How fast time goes by! It seems like just the other day I was writing to you. I hope the celebration of our Risen Savior was meaningful for everyone. I was recently reading a book about Jesus. It stated that in the forty days after His resurrection, He had shown himself to more than five hundred people. I wonder if as the Body of Christ, we can give those in need of Jesus a clear vision of who He is and what He desires for them. I believe the Walk to Emmaus is one great way that we can do that. We each know the Power of that weekend. May the "burning in our hearts" urge us to make Him visible to those we know and love.

Now for a little business. The Board decided, based on the current number of Men's Pilgrim applications, to postpone the Walk in May and to see if we can have the Men's Walk in the fall. We are checking into different locations and dates to see what is available. **Please** keep praying for God to show you who He wants you to sponsor. We still need applications for there to be a Men's Walk. Another note of business. We have our 15th Anniversary Celebration coming up in June and still no one to coordinate that effort. Do you have time to work with a few others to plan this important event? Please call me and let me know if you can help. Time is of the essence.

If you have not been to a Gathering lately, you have been missing a blessed time. The music, message, food and fellowship have been truly uplifting to me and many others. The only thing missing is you.

My prayer for our Community and for each of you is that our Risen Lord will bless us immensely and abundantly as our hearts burn for Him and His people. May the way we choose to live our lives reflect His Awesome Presence.

De Colores, Henry Van Gils

Bylaws Update

The Board has reviewed and approved new Bylaws which are based on the national model established by the Upper Room. Copies of the new Bylaws were handed out at the March Gathering for the Community to review and to vote on at the April Gathering. If you would like to have a copy of the new Bylaws, please contact Tammy Van Gils at 798-7802. We can email, snail mail or fax a copy to you. If you have questions regarding the new Bylaws, please contact Page Allen at Pallen@pageallenlaw.com.

Kairos Cookies

Some men in our Community are teaming up on upcoming Kairos Walks. They are looking for donations of cookies. There are strict rules about what is allowed and about packaging, so please refer to the October newsletter on the website for details or you can call Tom Verbeke at 272-4618 for the Kairos Walk April 24-27 or Chip Beekman at 288-1418 for the May 15-18 Kairos Walk. They need A LOT of cookies!

Agape Request

In an effort to meet the Emmaus model, our Community is requesting that all Agape given at Walks match- Pilgrim and Team. So if you are giving WWJD bracelets, you need to have enough to cover the number of Pilgrims and also Team. Larger more personal types of gifts can be given to the Pilgrim by the Sponsor on the way home after the Walk. So what are we to do with all the odds and ends of Agape that we have stored in a closet? We found a good home. Suzy Verbeke is collecting these miscellaneous Agape items for Camp Rainbow. This Camp is for the mentally challenged and meets in Blackstone, VA. Would you please bring your various, low quantity items to the next couple of Gatherings for Camp Rainbow or you can call Suzy at 272-4618 to arrange pick up or delivery? Your gift of love would be greatly appreciated!!

Reminders

- Please bring a non-perishable donation for the VA Food Bank to the next Gathering.
- Please note the change in the Calendar in regards to next month. We will be meeting at Mechanicsville UMC (not out at the Abbey).
- Please make sure to fill out a Team Selection Form and get it into the hands of Paul Beekman. This will greatly aid the formation of Teams. You can reach Paul at 288-1418.



Calendar

April 19-	5:00 Board Meeting 6:30 Gathering & Snack M-Z*
May 17-	5:00 Board Meeting 6:30 Gathering & Snack A-L*
June 21-	5:00 15th Anniversary Dinner 6:30 Gathering
July 19-	5:00 Board meeting 6:30 Gathering & Snack M-Z*
August 16-	5:30 Pot Luck 6:30 Gathering
September 20-	5:00 Board Meeting 6:30 Gathering & Snack A-L*
October 11	at Abbey- Women's Walk Times TBA
November 15-	4:30 DDU 5:30 Pot Luck 6:30 Gathering
December 13-	To be determined

***Snacks provided by last names beginning with A-L or M-Z**

**All meetings and Gatherings at:
Mechanicsville United Methodist
Church**

Sonshine Emmaus Community
P. O. Box 55
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