

SonShine

www.emmaussonshine.org

January 2007

Message from the Lay Director

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wow!! The year is 2007. Where has the time gone? It seems that only yesterday we were preparing for Y2K and wondering what impact the turn of the century would have on all the computer-driven facets of our lives. As we get older, the time seems to go by much faster. We are no longer teen-agers or "young adults." We are moving quickly toward middle-age...some more quickly than others.

As we approach our golden years, God continues to teach us the hard lessons we will need for the future. We don't know what God has in store for us before we make our heavenly journey, but we can be comfortable in the knowledge that he is now preparing us for the missions he has for us.

My Dad, Paul Miller, made his final journey on December 7, 2006, at the age of 96. For the last few years, his body was failing, but his mind was active and sharp. As we watched his body deteriorate, we wondered how long he could live. He missed my Mom, his love and soul mate of 67 years. He said often that his greatest desire was to go to be with her. We questioned why God would allow him to endure such mental and physical discomfort. We just didn't realize that God wasn't finished with him yet.

This week, I finally got the nerve to go back to the nursing home to visit the residents and staff that we've come to know so well in the last 6 years. I was almost overcome by the outpouring of testimonials to the witness of my Dad in his last months. I was amazed at how many lives he touched in this limited environment. I have now started to understand that God kept my Dad where He wanted him so he could finish the work God had for him to do.

God isn't finished with us yet, either. We may not know our mission, but we should be in prayer that we will have the strength and wisdom to respond when God presents an opportunity. We should pray for discernment to recognize each opportunity, which often comes in the form of a challenge.

I am thankful for the blessing of serving as Lay Director this year. Thanks to each one of you for your prayers and help. As we start another year, I pray that God will continue to bless our Community and its leadership. I pray that we, as a Community will recognize opportunities and respond in the way that God has prepared us. Remember, He isn't finished with us yet!

DeColores,
Kirby

SonShine Emmaus 2007 Calendar

January 20 Winter Theme	5:30 PM 6:30 PM.	Board Meeting Gathering – Election of Officers – Bring Snacks
February 17 Valentine Theme	5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Pot Luck Dinner Gathering
March 17 Luck of the Irish – Wear Green	5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Board Meeting Gathering – Bring Snacks
April 21 Easter Theme	5:30 PM 6:30 PM.	Pot Luck Dinner Gathering – Introduction of Women’s Team
May 17 – 20		Women’s Walk # 43
May 17	6:30 – 6:45 PM	Pilgrims Arrive
May 19	5:30 PM	Board Meeting (Tentative)
May 19	6:30 PM	Gathering & Candlelight at the Abbey
May 20	3:30 PM	Community gather at Abbey for Closing
June 16 Wear Emmaus Colors	4:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Day of Deeper Understanding Pot Luck Dinner Gathering
July 21 Wear Red, White & Blue	5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Board Meeting Gathering – Bring Snacks
August 18 Beach Theme	5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Pot Luck Dinner Gathering
September 15 Hat night	5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Board Meeting Gathering – Bring Snacks
October 11 - 14		Men’s Walk # 44
October 11	6:30 – 6:45 PM	Pilgrims Arrive
October 13	6:30 PM	Gathering & Candlelight at the Abbey
October 14	3:30 PM	Community gather at Abbey for Closing
October 20 Wear Emmaus Colors	4:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Day of Deeper Understanding Pot Luck Dinner Gathering
November 17	5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Board Meeting Gathering – Bring Snacks
December 15	6:30 PM	Gathering

Watch for more updates in future Newsletters and on the website www.emmaussonshine.org.

Walks are held at the Abbey and other activities are held at Mechanicsville United Methodist Church.

At Large Members

Class of 2007

Dean Pittman (Clergy)
Glenda Creamer (Music)
Suzanne Bullock
Addie Lee Kelley
Brenda Atkins
Henry Van Gils

Class of 2008

Russell Williams (Clergy)
Jeanne Bluford (Music)
Chip Beekman
Suzie Verbeke
Page Allen
Tommy Davis

Class of 2009

Bobby Gibson (Clergy)
Bill Sisson (Music)
Jeff Marsh
Bob Cartwright
Debbie Gillis
Sharon Perkins

We are working toward a board this year of 15 members who will chair the various committees. These chairpersons will appoint others to assist them with their tasks

In an effort to comply with National Guidelines, we will be looking to change the structure of the Committees. Updates will be sent to everyone via a newsletter once the board meets and recommendations are made. The Lay Director will appoint a committee to review the by-laws and make recommendations to the board regarding the new structure.

According to our by-laws, we will vote on the at-large members and officers at the next gathering. Committee Chairs are appointed by the Lay Director. If you cannot attend and wish to nominate someone else to serve on the board, or if you wish to volunteer to serve on a committee, please send your nomination to: SonShine Emmaus Community, P. O. Box 55, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-0055 by January 18th so we can get all mail prior to the gathering on January 20th. A proxy is provided below for your use.

PROXY

_____ I agree with the slate of at-large members listed above.

_____ I do not agree with the slate of at-large members listed above.

_____ I recommend the following to serve on the Board as an at-large member(s).

Recommendation(s): _____

I am willing to serve on a committee: _____ Yes _____ No

Sign your Name

Bring to the January 20th Gathering, or mail to: Sonshine Emmaus, P. O. Box 55, Mechanicsville, VA 23111 by January 18th so it can be received in time for the gathering.

DATES FOR 2007 WALKS

Women's Weekend – May 17 – 20, 2007

Men's Weekend – October 11 – 14, 2007

Team and Pilgrim Applications Needed

Please pray to see if God is leading you to team or sponsor someone for the walks next year. Applications are on the web site www.emmaussonshine.org and should be mailed to SonShine Emmaus, P. O. Box 55, Mechanicsville, VA 23111.

ATTENTION FORMER TEAMERS

We are trying to establish a database that shows the following:

When you teamed

What position you held

What talk you gave

Example: John Smith, Teamed Richmond 5, Assistant Table Leader; Sonshine 1, Table Leader, Talk on Christian Action; SonShine 5, ALD, Talk on Priorities; Sonshine 10, ALD, 4th Day Talk.

If you have teamed, please e-mail this information to kdmiller54@verizon.net

SonShine Emmaus Community

P. O. Box 55

Mechanicsville VA 23111-0055

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