



Sonshine Emmaus



June 2008

Spiritual Director's Message

As you may have noticed in the last couple of newsletters there has been much concern expressed for the future of SonShine Emmaus. The concern is manifested in several ways, but the two chief reasons have to do with lack of attendance at the monthly Gatherings and the lack of Pilgrims applying for the Walks. These two seem to me to be closely related. The lack of attendance at the Gatherings, indicate a lessening interest in our ministry and that in turn, results in the failure to recruit new Pilgrims. Bob Gibson and Gene Mims have articulated these problems well in their respective newsletter articles so let me take another tack in regard to the issues.

What do we need to do to reverse these trends? I believe we need to rely more earnestly on the Holy Spirit. In Acts 1:8, Jesus said to His disciples: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." Throughout the dual work of Luke – Acts, the Disciple, Luke connects the presence of the Holy Spirit with the empowerment to witness. In fact, the Greek work for "power" is dunamis, from which our English word, dynamite comes. Also look at the ever widening circle of places of witness. Jerusalem is the place they currently are located. Then the witness spreads to Judea, the province in which Jerusalem is located. Then the witness spreads to Samaria, the province next to Judea. Finally, the witness spreads to the ends of the earth. What we have here is a picture of the ever expanding shock wave of an explosion of dynamite.

I think that the practical application of this has to do with our individual witness. In regard to SonShine Emmaus, this means our individual witness to the Community by showing interest in Gatherings. Attendance at Gatherings tells the Community that we support the ministry. In turn, this interest will spur us to witness to individuals by recruiting them to become Pilgrims or Team members.

De Colores,

Bruce Lake

Pilgrim Application Deadline

The Board has set a deadline date of July 1st for Men's and Women's applications. Please be sure to have your applications in the mail in a timely fashion to reach the post office before that date. A member of the Community approached Henry and offered to financially sponsor up to 10 Pilgrims for the fall Walks. They have requested to remain anonymous. So if you have been hit hard by the gas crunch or the recession that is not really a recession and need some financial help in sponsoring someone, please call Henry Van Gils (798-7802) and let him know. Only two people will know that you received help, Henry and Page, the Community treasurer. Please prayerfully consider who God wants on the upcoming Walks!!

Pray for our Community!

You are cordially invited to
Sonshine's 15th Anniversary
Celebration

When: Saturday, July 19th, 5 PM

Where: Mechanicsville UMC

Barbeque furnished

Other food items provided by the Board

Special Music~Games~Door Prizes

Please bring your Pastor and their Spouse
To meet and learn about our Community.

Reunion Groups!

Here's a list of the reunion groups that I have heard about. If yours is not here, let me know at brenatkins@comcast.net and I'll get yours on the list. If you are not in a reunion group yet, either call one of these listed and start going or START A REUNION GROUP YOURSELF! Maybe an already existing small group that you are in could *become* a reunion group with just some change in the format of your time together. Think about it! The results are worth it!

2nd & 4th Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

7294 Ford Avenue, Mechanicsville
Contact: Addie Lee Kelley, 730-1257

Saturday mornings at 8:00 a.m.

Lakeside UMC, Richmond
Contact: Stony Creery, 266-2048

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Sandston & New Kent
Contact: Jim Sims, 737-4322

Reminders

- *Please note the change in the Calendar for the 15th Anniversary Dinner. The date was changed from the June Gathering to the July Gathering due to a scheduling conflict.*
- Don't forget to bring your odd and end Agape to the next Gathering to be donated to Camp Rainbow. Suzy Verbeke is collecting these miscellaneous Agape items. You can call Suzy at 272-4618 to arrange pick up or delivery. Your gift of love would be greatly appreciated!!

Calendar

June 21-	4:30 Board Meeting 6:30 Gathering & Snack A-L*
July 19-	5:00 15th Anniversary Dinner 6:30 Gathering
August 16-	5:00 Board Meeting 6:30 Gathering & Snack M-Z*
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
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

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He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8