

SonShine

May 2007

www.emmaussonshine.org

Message from the Lay Director

Hello Friends!

Happy Spring!!! And all the changes that it brings – from the weather to the landscape. It cannot come too soon for me – except for the yard work that needs to be done. Often though, the hardest work produces the most wonderful result. It makes the time when you can sit back and enjoy the fruit of your labor that much sweeter.

Already this year your Board has been hard at work. We have begun moving forward to implement the changes that are required of us. We are also taking this opportunity to review our financial situation and make some changes there. We are creating more opportunities for Community participation in the Walks and in the Gatherings. It has been suggested that we make an effort to reach out to the Communities around us to support and encourage their efforts and invite them to do the same for us. I think it's an excellent idea – especially in support of the Kairos, Chrysalis, and Epiphany ministries. And, in addition, we are issuing a challenge to everyone to pray for someone you haven't seen in a while and miss seeing. It would be wonderful if you are led to invite them to come with you to the next Gathering. Please, Please, if you have an instrument and can play it – BRING IT TO THE GATHERINGS AND PLAY!! ALL singers and musicians are welcome to lead us in our worship time – the more the merrier.

Soon we will be forming standing committees that are to handle Walk-related duties that can be performed by the Community (as opposed to the team). Those committees include the following areas: Agape, Facilities, Snack Room/Kitchen, Music/Entertainment, Prayer, Registration, Sponsor's Hour & Candlelight, and Supplies & Literature. There are many community members who are already familiar with one or more of these areas – perhaps are actively involved in them now. You are the ones we will need to teach what you know to others. Please pray about volunteering in one or more of these areas. We need you and want you to enjoy the blessing of camaraderie by working together toward a common goal. I will be taking a little time to explain more of what is involved with these areas in upcoming Gatherings – please come and find out what it's all about.

One of the financial decisions the Board made was to increase the fees for team and pilgrim participants on the Walks to \$190 each. The average cost per participant on a Walk is only slightly below that amount – just for food and housing. As you know, we must also have supplies and other materials during teaming and the Walk itself. In addition, the Community has several expenses during the year that deplete whatever resources we gain from offerings and other contributions. Therefore, it was suggested and approved that we have a fund-raiser this year so that we can have an alternate source of income other than Walk fees. Stay tuned for more information on that event coming soon.

In case you didn't know, one of the guidelines from National that was implemented on the last Walk was to not wear crosses until after the pilgrims receive theirs on Sunday. This is done so that we might be true to the Emmaus Cannon of not setting one person apart (or above) another during the 72 hours. On the men's Walk, the team refrained from wearing their crosses until Sunday. On this Walk, we are asking the Community to refrain from wearing our crosses in the presence of the pilgrims until Closing. We do this in support of the team and, equally as important, to save the Cross Presentation as another of the delightful surprises that the pilgrims will receive. Your cooperation in this regard is greatly appreciated.

May the blessings of the Risen Christ be poured out on you and yours –

DeColores!!

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Work: 804-740-5711

SonShine Women's Walk #43
May 17 - 20, 2007

Pilgrims

Arbogast, Sylvia
Blaha, Amy
Bradley, Carolyn
Creery, Dale
Eastman, Stacia
Harrell, Peggy
Hays, Linda
Latham, Melody

Miller, Becky
Mize, Penny
Sparks, Camilla
Starr, Shirley
Talley, Dawn
Winall, Beth
Wright, Sonja

Team

Allen, Page
Astin, Liz
Bailey, Karen
Bishop, Wanda
Davis, Barbara
Davis, Melinda
Hammond, Susan
Lake, Bruce
Miller, Lois

Mims, Kay
Naumann, Joan
Ogburn, Cindy
Piper, Jenny
Sims, Betty Jo
Teel, Nina
Terry, Kathy
Touchette, Donna
Verbeke, Suzy

Be sure to separate Pilgrim and Team Agape and keep it in alphabetical order. SEE NEW AGAPE GUIDELINES ON PAGE 4

Walk Update

As we work toward the model, we will need more Community help on the weekend. If you are willing to come help sort Agape, set up Chapels, or be a runner, call Connie Beekman at 368-7878 or 740-5711.

Pray for the Women's Walk #43 – May 17 – 20, 2007.

SEE YOU AT THE ABBEY!!

SonShine Emmaus 2007 Calendar

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 BRING FLOWERS
May 20	3:30 PM	Community gather at Abbey for Closing
June 16	4:00 PM	Day of Deeper Understanding
Wear Emmaus Colors	5:30 PM	Pot Luck Dinner
	6:30 PM	Gathering
July 21	5:30 PM	Board Meeting
Wear Red, White & Blue	6:30 PM	Gathering – Bring Snacks
August 18	5:30 PM	Pot Luck Dinner
Beach Theme	6:30 PM	Gathering
September 15	5:30 PM	Board Meeting
Hat night	6:30 PM	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	4:00 PM	Day of Deeper Understanding
Wear Emmaus Colors	5:30 PM	Pot Luck Dinner
	6:30 PM	Gathering
November 17	5:30 PM	Board Meeting
	6:30 PM	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.

SonShine Emmaus
P. O. Box 55
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

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AGAPE CHANGES FOR SonShine Women's Walk #43

When preparing Agape for the walk, please prepare the same thing for all pilgrims. If you write letters, write one for everyone. If you make special Agape, make enough for everyone. If you want to prepare something special for your own pilgrim, SAVE IT FOR THE TRIP HOME.

We all want to do the best we can for our pilgrims, but we should not be a stumbling block for those pilgrims who do not have as many church friends. We want to show Agape Love to ALL pilgrims.

The same applies to Team. If you prepare for one, prepare for all.