

REMINDERS

The 2008 Walk Dates are:
May 15—18 and October 9—12

OOPS!!

A mistake was made last month on the Pilgrim Applications that were mailed with the newsletters. Both sides of the application contained the Pilgrim information and failed to contain the Sponsor information. Please download one off the website or call Tammy Van Gils (804-798-7802) to receive a correct application. Sorry for the inconvenience!!

**Remember Team and Pilgrim Applications are always available on our website-
Www.emmaussonshine.org
And at the Gatherings.**

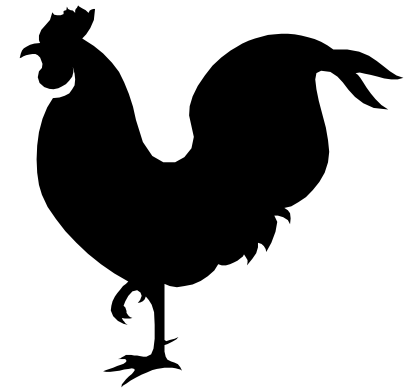
If you have questions or comments,
please feel free to contact:
Connie Beekman- Cpbeekman@comcast.net
Or
Henry Van Gils- 798-7802

Thank you to all of those who made cookies for the Kairos Walk!! God Bless you!!

*Please send newsletter info to: Tammy Van Gils
via Email: RememberCalvary@cs.com
(please note Emmaus in Memo)
or Fax 804-798-6015 or by phone 798-7802
By the first of the month*

Sonshine Emmaus Community
P. O. Box 55
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Sonshine
Emmaus
Newsletter



November 07

Www.emmaussonshine.org

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Lay Director's Message

Greetings Friends:

Finally – we got some much needed rain. Praise God! Maybe we will have a Fall season after all instead of going from Summer straight into Winter. As I think about the season we are in, however, I cannot help feeling that something is missing. For a very long time, each Fall and Spring has held the promise of Emmaus Walks – the excitement building as we prepare for a new group of pilgrims who will come to experience the Grace of God in a real and, hopefully, a lasting way. I always feel honored to be the hands and feet of Jesus during those times. When there is no Walk, a certain amount of joy is gone from the season and there is that feeling of loss and regret. If we are to have our Walks in May and October of 2008, it is up to each of us to make a conscientious effort to share our Emmaus experience with the people in our lives. Chip and I have sponsored 9 people in the past 13 years. In each case, we have not done a whole lot of “selling” to get them to go. They have simply observed our enthusiasm and love for the Emmaus experience and have been close enough to us to trust us when we extended the invitation. All of them have looked forward to their weekends. During those years, however, some have become very active in the Emmaus community and others have faded away. The difference has been the level of commitment that has been built in them as they have made the decision to return time and again to serve on Walks and to sponsor their friends and loved ones. The teaming process and working behind the scenes on the Walk weekend are the ways in which we begin to really know and to care deeply for each other. Other than our reunion groups, it is hard to know each other on a one-on-one basis. However, once we do better know and care for those in our community, we begin to ANTICIPATE the monthly Gatherings when we can see each other between Walks.

With that being said, we need to let you know that we will meet as usual on Nov 17th, but we **will not have a Gathering in December**. Instead we are planning a big celebration – our “Emmaus” New Year on January 19th – complete with decorations, music, FOOD (of course), and maybe even the ever popular costume contest. We urge everyone to set aside that date to attend the Gathering. We want to start 2008 with the first of many JOYFUL Gatherings. We need your smiling face to make that happen.

Please come in January prepared to vote on our new nominees to the Board or send your proxy to us. The class of 2010 is listed in this newsletter as having agreed to serve our Community for the next 3 years. Some of them have been called upon to lead us in music and in worship. Others will be asked to serve on the committees that are necessary to support the Walks. Still others will be elected to serve as officers on the Board. We count on all of them to conduct the business necessary to keep us running smoothly and ALL of them count on you for support and assistance with their appointed tasks. Please prayerfully consider where you would most like to serve and seek out a Board member to let us know. There is a place and a task for each of us – and you know what they say about many hands...

During this month when we give thanks, I give thanks to God for the opportunity to serve you this past year. I have formed some friendships with members of this community that are precious to me. I look forward to forming more of those in the years to come. Please know that you can call on me whenever I can be of help – whether I’m on the Board or not. I count it as a joy and a privilege to serve you.

God Bless You – Connie

Calendar

November 17th 6:30 Gathering *

December 15th **No Gathering**
See Lay Director’s Message

January 19th 6:30 Gathering

All Meetings and Gatherings at:
Mechanicsville United Methodist Church

*Bring snacks– Last Names L - Z

Thank you for your willingness to serve!

Class of 2008	Class of 2009	Class of 2010
Russell Williams	Bobby Gibson	Bruce Lake
Jeanne Bluford	Bill Sisson	Betty Jo Sims
Chip Beckman	Jeff Marsh	Chuck Martin
Suzie Verbeke	Bob Cartwright	Morgan Harrell
Page Allen	Debbie Gillis	Jean Naumann
Tommy Davis	Sharon Perkins	Tom Verbeke