

SonShine

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The Sonshine Emmaus Community Newsletter is published quarterly. All members of the Community are encouraged to assist with creation and publication by submitting Community news, articles of interest, or creative suggestions to:

Fred Hedgecoth
2600 Red Wing Lane
Richmond, VA 23231
or by e-mail at
Predestin8@aol.com

Please submit articles early to ensure inclusion in upcoming issues!

FROM OUR LAY DIRECTOR



reetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I pray His blessings on you and your family.

In the heat and frustration we are facing due to the lack of rain, we hear the question asked, "why doesn't God send us some much needed rain, He knows what we need". Yes He does know what we need, but He also wants us to remember that He is in control, not us. When we get in His way, and we always do, we experience problems. We need to believe that He will supply what He wants us to have, when He wants us to have it.

This fact was shown to us in Sonshine in regards to the women's team for this upcoming walk. God used the prayers and the voices of concerned people to fill the vacancies needed to make a full complement of women for the team.

God supplies us with our needs, but He asks us to be His hands, feet, and voice. "God can save the

world, but not alone". He needs our help. If we just sit on our hands and keep our mouth closed to do His calling, who will see Jesus? How will others know of Jesus if we don't show Him to them, through our P R A Y E R S , WORDS and DEEDS.

Keeping this thought in mind about God suppling our needs, what are your PRIORITIES? Sounds like a good subject for a talk, don't you think?

For me, my PRIORITIES are: Jesus (always), family, church, and Sonshine Emmaus. You may say that there other important things. That's true, but if you put Jesus FIRST before ALL else, the other things will fall in His order. You will notice that I put Sonshine as my fourth PRIORITY. The reason is, I love this community and what Jesus has done for me by being involved with Sonshine.

Think back upon the weekend that you walked the road to Emmaus to see Jesus.

Was He there waiting for you? Did you make the walk alone? Did you experience God's agape love along your journey? Where did this love come from? When you returned home from your walk with Jesus, did you keep all the agape love you received all to yourself? Do you feel the same agape love? Do you miss those who walked the road to Emmaus with you? Do you love your Sonshine community?

What are your PRIORITIES? Is Sonshine so far down the list that you can't find it or is it close to the top?

God bless,

Jim Sims

Lay Director

DECEMBER GATHERING

The gathering for December will be different than our normal gathering. We will have communion as we usually do, but there will be no fourth day speaker and no business to talk about. We will open with communion and the rest of the time will be a time for you (the community) to pray for the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit for Sonshine Community. I hope that you are always praying for our community, but this will be a time when the community comes together as a body in prayer. Please mark your calendar for Saturday, December 21 at 6:30.

God bless,

Jim Sims

SONGBOOK SEARCH

Calling all lost and misplaced songbooks ...
IT IS TIME TO COME HOME !!!!

We are missing a number of our big green songbooks. If you have one at home that needs to be returned to the community, please bring it to the next gathering or contact Jim Sims for pick up (737-4322).

We know songbooks have been borrowed for use in planning talk songs, etc., but our supply for use at community functions is greatly diminished.

We do not want to have to purchase more books if we can return these wandering books to proper use.

Please look around at home and see if you have one of our missing books.

(Musicians - if you have one of these books from the community supply, please keep it for your use at gatherings, etc.)

MUSICIANS NEEDED!

You don't even have to play an instrument! Just be willing to lead the community in song from time to time...

how hard can that be?

Contact Glenda Creamer at (804) 932-9703 to volunteer. DO IT TODAY!

SONSHINE BOARD NOMINATIONS

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE for the SonShine Emmaus community is in the process of putting together nominees for the year 2005. If you have a name you would like to submit to serve on the Board for the year 2005, please contact Liz King. Please remember you must ask the individual if you can submit their name.

The Nominating Committee met on 10/03/02 and the following is the current list of nominees. Please look over this list and be prepared to participate in the official selection process at the last gathering of this year.

Assistant Lay Director: John Wermuth
Secretary: Sharon Mallory
Treasurer: Dina Giese
Spiritual Liason: Bob Gibson

Class of 2005:

Chris Weitzel	Mary Davis
Chris deTreville	Kay Mims
Cindy Ogburn	Maryclay Smith

Fall Walks Ready to Go!

Here's the latest information you'll need to help make these walks as great as yours was! Remember that general agape is always needed as well as your presence and participation at Sponsors' Hour, Candlelight and Closing! At the time of this newsletter's printing the Pilgrim lists are incomplete. You can update this list by contacting our Registrar (Debbie Gillis) or the Walk Lay Directors (John Wermuth and Betty Jo Sims)

Mens' Walk October 24th-27th, 2002

PILGRIMS

Meachaux Bullock Chuck Graves
Bobby Casler Tom Harris
David Cox Jeffrey Marsh
Michael Davis Paul Ogburn
Mark Deal John Wajciechowski
Chester Gabel Tony Western
Don Gannon

TEAM

Rodney Ballard Jim Murphree
Duane Brankley David Ogburn
Jeff Carty Mark Peters
John Coker Bill Sisson
Tom Davis Tom Slayton
Paul Davis Greg Stephens
Bobby Gibson Henry Van Gills
Bill Giese Tom Verbeke
Robert Lewis John Wermuth
OJ Mallory Chris White
Gene Mims Steve Vacca

JESUS

Womens' Walk November 7th-10th, 2002

PILGRIMS

Beverley Bahen
Wanda Bishop
Barbara Brooks
Kathy Brooks
Margaret Gillis
April Goniwicha
Maryhelen Hayden
Leigh Hilldrup
Donna McLamore
Nancy Reese
Donna Touchette
Vicki Weiss

TEAM

Carolyn Carty Kathi Sanford
Mary Deal Glenda Creamer
Susan Hammond Kathy Terry
Betty Jo Sims Olivia Cook
Maryclay Smith Nancy Robinson
Arlene Booker Lois Miller
Charlene Tyler Patti Kaloski
Suzy Verbeke Suzanne Bullock
Melanie Stephens Jackie Cahill
Jim McClung Suzanne Huddleston
Russell Williams Cindy Ogburn

JESUS

The following is a sample letter that can be used by sponsors requesting agape from pilgrim's friends and family.

date

Dear (name),

I am writing to you with some exciting news about (pilgrim's name)! Perhaps you have already heard that (he/she) will be going on a once-in-a-lifetime Christian experience called the "Walk to Emmaus". (pilgrim's name) will go on the (men's/women's) walk (dates). I have the honor of being (his/her) sponsor.

The "Walk to Emmaus" (e-MAY-us) is 72 hours of spiritual renewal with many beautiful gifts and surprises. One such surprise is the mail that those who attend receive from their loved ones during the course of the weekend. As (pilgrim's name)'s sponsor, I am responsible for contacting relatives and close friends and asking each of them to write letters.

Since we want this to be a total surprise, it is very important that you not mention the letters to (pilgrim's name). Although (he/she) did provide your address and phone number to me, (he/she) believes I will just be letting you know about the retreat so that you can be enthusiastic and supportive.

Now, here's a bit about your letter. I'm asking you to write a letter to (pilgrim's name). This is an opportunity for you to privately express your appreciation of (him/her) and what your relationship means to you. You might recall some happening that has been special for the two of you. It need not be a serious time, as humorous events are often the most treasured. These sealed letters of love will be read during a private time only by those to whom they are addressed.

Please help me to make (pilgrim's name)'s "Walk to Emmaus" special by doing the following:

Write a letter to (pilgrim). Sign it and seal it in an envelope.

Address it by writing only "(pilgrim's name)" on the front of the envelope.

Put the sealed letter in a larger envelope and mail it to:
(your name and address)

Please make certain that I receive the letter by (deadline day, date). This way, I can make sure it gets to the proper place on time. Remember your letter should be a complete surprise to (pilgrim's name), so please help make it special by "keeping mum" until after (he/she) returns home.

If you should have any questions please don't hesitate to call me at (phone number).

With God's love and mine,

Ima Christian

AGAPE INFORMATION

As you begin working on your agape for the fall walks, we would like to remind you about the types of agape that are needed. Personal notes are the best - remember those notes you received from persons in the community - some from folks you did not even know who took the time to write you a personal note! Bookmarks, pass-it-on cards, poems, etc. are great to encourage a person throughout the weekend.

We continue to give pilgrims agape on three occasions - Friday agape bag, Friday night bed and Saturday night bed. The team also gets agape on Thursday night. You should mark your agape accordingly. Sorting and bundling it by occasion and putting envelopes in alphabetical order helps the agape chas get their job done quickly and efficiently. Everyone in the community should be sending agape to these walks. Please send enough for 25 pilgrims and 23 team members, if possible. Remembering all the pilgrims and teamers, not just your friend or sponsored pilgrim, spreads the love!!

Please limit gifts to small items - a coffee mug, small book, T-shirt, suspenders, key ring, bracelet, necklace, etc. Large items will be held and sent home with the person (pilgrim or teamer) on Sunday evening. **PLEASE - - DO NOT GIVE A PILGRIM A ROOSTER PIN AS AN AGAPE GIFT.** The community gives each pilgrim a rooster pin at cross presentation. Thanks in advance for your work to gift our pilgrims and teamers with bags and beds full of love on these special weekends!!!

FROM OUR CLERGY

A husband and wife were having a discussion about their past as parents. The wife expressed concern that her husband had been too strict with their children when they were growing up. She shared that when the children had misbehaved that he was extremely stern with them. She went on to explain that the children had often shared their concerns with her and that they loved and respected him as their father, but felt that he had little or no compassion for them when they were guilty of bad behavior.

The revelation of this information concerned the husband and he began to wonder if, in fact, he had been too strict. His thoughts led him to think about God, our ultimate father, and how He reacts to His children's bad behavior. Does God have a stern demeanor when we have misbehaved? Or, is He compassionate with us? Well, the Old Testament examples a stern reaction to the Jews as they misbehaved. Or, was His action toward them because He had tried everything else and received no positive response, and therefore, had to respond with a

stricter method. I believe that answer is 'yes.' God tried many compassionate methods of discipline, but only responded sternly when His children refused to change.

In today's society we find many who believe that God is too stern and refuse to accept Him because of this belief. They believe that they are not worthy of His love because they cannot live up to His expectations. I'm not speaking of just non-believers, but of many believers who have experienced the joy of a 'Walk to Emmaus' weekend. And I believe that this may be one of the reasons

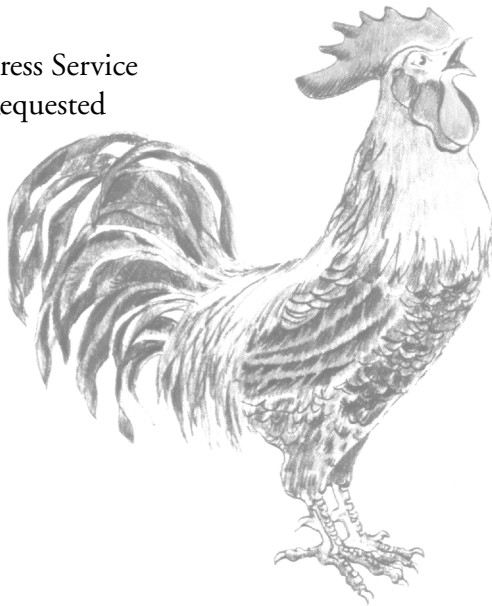
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Sonshine Emmaus Community

P.O. Box 55
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Non-Profit
Auto
US Postage Paid
JC Designs

Address Service
Requested



'from the clergy' cont'd...

why many have experienced a great 'high' on the weekend, but could not keep the 'high' weeks and months after their weekend experience.

Jesus gave us the example of God's love for us in His parable of the prodigal son. God allows us the freedom to express ourselves independently of Him, yet waits patiently for us to return to His loving arms. He does, in fact, discipline us when we've gone too far. Revelation 3: 19... 'I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent.' His discipline is out of love for us, just as the earthly father has been accused of.

Parenting is a most difficult experience in life. Each of our children came without instructions, therefore many of us have used the trial and error method, when the instructions have been there all the while. God's love and direction will lead us to a great discovery of being a child (His child) and parenting at the same time.

Don't ever think that your Heavenly Father doesn't love you or that you're not worthy of His love. The truth is simple. God, your Heavenly Father, loves you more than you can ever understand or accept. He wants nothing but the best for you and is willing to extend Himself to great lengths for you. Trust in His love even when you're going through difficult times. His love is more powerful than any difficulty.

Bill Sisson

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER?

Be sure to notify Jerry Cooney at 795-2976 or by e-mail at JerryCooney@netzzero.com